



ARCHITECTS OF SENSIBLE INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

MARKET COMMENTARY



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The positive momentum that started in the fourth quarter of 2023 continued into the new year

Many of the prevalent themes of 2023 also carried over into the first quarter, uncertainty over the path of inflation going forward and the most likely monetary policy response. The US Federal Reserve (the Fed) continues to take the lead in this regard and therefore US economic developments remain closely followed. It is however unsurprising that the market is fixated on the timing of when these record high interest rates will be lowered as concerns linger that the tight monetary policy could eventually feed through to the real economy. The South African economy is much more sensitive to changes in interest rates, given the variable nature of our loans and mortgages. Lower global interest rates would provide an opportunity to reduce rates locally if local inflation is under control and so afford the South African economy some much needed breathing room.

The US economy remained strong, surpassing expectations leading to the market expecting fewer rate cuts for 2024

Over the past quarter, we have seen expectations for six US rate cuts in 2024 in January, reduced to three, as the strong economic data continues to come out better than expected. The US economy has positively surprised the market with its resilience despite having the highest borrowing costs in 23 years. The fourth quarter US GDP growth came out at 3.4% (quarter-on-quarter annualised), significantly stronger than the initial 2.0% expected, indicating that the economy remains strong. GDP expanded 3.1% for 2023 as a whole. The breakdown of the growth rate reveals broad based expansion, however the majority of it remains within consumer spending and shows little evidence that the US consumer is under pressure from the high interest rates. The consumer has been supported by a strong job market with the unemployment rate remaining below 4% by the end of the first quarter.

The Fed delayed interest rate cuts due to pricing pressures

The Fed's preferred inflation measure, the core PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditure) Price Index also pointed towards moderating inflation as it fell to 2.8%, the lowest annual increase since 2021. Although top down, the decline looks positive, the breakdown reveals that the services (excluding shelter) price pressures remain. This makes it harder for the Fed to justify cutting interest rates in the near term. The timing of the first US interest rate cut from the Fed was therefore pushed out to later this year as the resilient economic data and above target inflation levels gave the Fed little reason or haste to ease monetary policy.

Interest rates remained steady due to uncertainty, but rate cuts are expected despite sticky inflation

The Fed held two Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meetings over the first quarter. At the January meeting, Fed officials remained cautious stating that they need further evidence to confirm that inflation is indeed cooling sustainably to the 2% target before interest rates are cut. Fed Chairman, Jerome Powell, also reiterated that the Fed remains very data dependent, highlighting the uncertainty on the timing of the first cut, given the evidence that price pressures remain in the services sector. At the March meeting, the FOMC continued to hold interest rates steady at a range of 5.25-5.50%, unchanged for the fifth consecutive meeting at the highest level since 2001. The committee also provided their quarterly economic projections at this meeting, where they continued to forecast three 0.25% rate cuts for this year, this despite inflation coming out stronger than expected over the past quarter. The March FOMC economic projections estimate core PCE inflation to fall to 2.6% by the end of the year.

Local rates were unchanged and elevated pricing pressures delayed the inflation rate returning to its mid-point

Locally, the MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) unanimously decided to leave rates unchanged at 8.25% at both their meetings in January and March. The repo interest rate has now been at this 15-year high level since May last year. The MPC highlighted that inflation risks remain to the upside. In March, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) also updated their economic forecasts, with elevated food, transport and medical insurance price pressures delaying the expected headline inflation's return to the 4.5% mid-point target by one year to the end of 2025. This translated into their projection model forecasting only two 0.25% rate cuts this year, down from three cuts in January's forecast.

South African headline inflation inched up to its highest reading in four months

South African headline inflation increased over the first quarter, with the headline annual rate of inflation rising from 5.1% to 5.6%, the highest reading in four months. Transportation and health care insurance inflation contributed to the increase. In contrast, annual food inflation fell to 6%, the lowest level in two years. Medical aid inflation, which gets surveyed annually by Statistics South Africa in February showed an increase of 12.9% from a year earlier. This also contributed meaningfully to the increase in core inflation to 5.0% from 4.6%.



Figure 1: South African headline inflation



Source: Statistics South Africa, Bloomberg, (2018-2024)

GDP growth increased, but remained weak due to electricity shortages

On the growth side, the fourth quarter's GDP growth data was released over the quarter increasing 0.1% on a quarter-on-quarter basis, narrowly missing a technical recession. Overall GDP only grew by 0.6% for 2023 as the restraints from energy shortages and transport limitations damped growth. The SARB estimates that electricity shortages alone were responsible for -1.5% GDP growth for the year.

South Africa's debt-to-GDP decreased but a longterm solution will depend on reduced government spending or increased revenue growth

Locally, the closely followed Budget was released in February. Overall, the Budget provided some relief to the market as there were no unexpected surprises. In addition, further details of how the funds of the Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account (GFERCA) will be utilised were given, which provided assurance that the funds will be used responsibly. Excess GFERCA funds will be used to reduce the country's debt burden and so freeing up money

from debt servicing to other much needed areas. This translates in the peak debt-to-GDP falling from 77.7% to 75.3% in 2025/2026. However, it is important to note that this use of the excess GFERCA funds is only a short-term solution and that subsequent sustainable reductions in debt will have to come from revenue growth or the reduction in spending. While the expectations for spending showed some restraint, the expenditure estimates were seen as ambitious by numerous market participants. As the growth of the South African economy remains anaemic given all its challenges, concerns remain as to how the ever higher creeping debt levels will be addressed in the longer run.

Geopolitical tensions continues and shipping companies faced costly rerouting

Geopolitical tensions remained in the Middle East as the war between Israel and Hamas continued. In addition, there have been several attacks from the Houthi rebels on commercial ships in the Red Sea, which led to the US and UK military launching airstrikes against the Houthi rebels. This has led to many shipping companies rerouting their vessels around Southern Africa, which takes an extended period of time and is more costly.

FG SCI* JUPITER INCOME FUND OF FUNDS

For periods until 31 March 2024



Performance and quartile ranking in sector | Inception date 15 August 2005

	Year to Date	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years¹	5 Years ¹	10 Years¹	Since Inception ¹
FG SCI Jupiter Income FoF	1.13%	5.19%	8.29%	7.38%	6.90%	7.33%	7.74%
STeFI Composite Index	2.06%	4.20%	8.39%	6.08%	6.00%	6.50%	6.97%
ASISA SA Multi Asset Income Category Average	1.10%	5.03%	8.17%	7.22%	6.90%	7.13%	7.59%
				1 st Quartile	2 nd Quartile	3 rd Quartile	4 th Quartile

¹Data for longer than 12 months are annualised Source: Morningstar, performance for A class shares Annualised returns are period returns re-scaled to a period of 1 year

Underlying funds

- Abax Flexible Income Fund (Nedgroup)
- Granate BCI Multi Income Fund
- Matrix SCI Stable Income Fund

- Prescient Income Provider Fund
- Terebinth SCI Strategic Income Fund (Amplify)

Performance statistics

	Fund ²	Benchmark ²
Highest 12-month performance	11.61%	11.77%
Lowest 12-month performance	3.25%	3.76%
% positive months	92.83%	100.00%

²Source until 31 May 2018: MoneyMate Source from 30 June 2018: Morningstar

The FG SCI Jupiter Income Fund of Funds returned +1.13% in the first quarter of 2024 and +8.29% over the past 12 months, underperforming the benchmark Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Income Index quarterly return of +2.06% and the 12-month return of +8.39%. The Terebinth SCI Strategic Income Fund (Amplify) was the worst-performing underlying fund over the quarter, returning +0.57%. No changes were made to the fund over the quarter.

	Local Equity	Local Property	Local Bonds	Local Cash	Foreign
FG SCI Jupiter Income FoF	0%	2%	47%	45%	6%

^{*}The full registered name of the fund is FG Sanlam Collective Investments Jupiter Income Fund of Funds.

FG SCI* VENUS CAUTIOUS FUND OF FUNDS

For periods until 31 March 2024



Performance and quartile ranking in sector | Inception date 2 July 2007

	Year to Date	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years ¹	5 Years¹	10 Years¹	Since Inception ¹
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF	1.78%	6.27%	9.16%	8.47%	8.12%	7.80%	8.55%
ASISA SA Multi Asset Low Equity Category Average	1.33%	6.82%	8.63%	7.75%	7.29%	6.78%	7.49%
				1 st Quartile	2 nd Quartile	3 rd Quartile	4 th Quartile

¹Data for longer than 12 months are annualised Source: Morningstar, performance for A class shares Annualised returns are period returns re-scaled to a period of 1 year

Underlying funds

- 36ONE BCI Equity Fund
- Abax Opportunity Fund (Nedgroup)
- Coronation Global Optimum Growth Feeder Fund
- Fairtree Equity Prescient Fund
- Granate BCI Multi Income Fund
- Matrix SCI Defensive Balanced Fund (Amplify)
- Matrix SCI Stable Income Fund
- Ninety One Diversified Income Fund

- Ninety One Global Multi-Asset Income Feeder Fund
- Ninety One Global Franchise Feeder Fund
- Prescient Income Provider Fund
- Saffron BCI Opportunity Income Retention Fund
- Satrix Bond Index Fund
- Sanlam Multi Managed Inflation Linked Bond Fund
- Terebinth SCI Strategic Income Fund (Amplify)
- Veritas Global Equity Feeder Fund (Nedgroup)

Performance statistics

	Fund ²	Benchmark ²
Highest 12-month performance	16.83%	17.26%
Lowest 12-month performance	-1.41%	-3.15%
% positive months	72.14%	71.14%

²Source until 31 May 2018: MoneyMate Source from 30 June 2018: Morningstar

The FG SCI Venus Cautious Fund of Funds returned +1.78% in the first quarter of 2024 and +9.16% over the past 12 months, outperforming the benchmark peer group average quarterly return of +1.33% and the 12-month return of +8.63%. The Veritas Global Equity Feeder Fund (Nedgroup) was the best-performing underlying fund over the quarter, returning +10.71%. The decision was made over the quarter to reduce the fund's allocation to South African credit. This resulted in fully redeeming the Saffron BCI Opportunity Income Fund allocation (however the 0.14% retention fund allocation was retained).

	Local Equity	Local Property	Local Bonds	Local Cash	Foreign
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF	14%	2%	31%	31%	22%

 $^{{}^* \}text{The full registered name of the fund is FG Sanlam Collective Investments Venus Cautious Fund of Funds}.$

FG SCI* SATURN MODERATE FUND OF FUNDS

For periods until 31 March 2024



Performance and quartile ranking in sector | Inception date 15 August 2005

	Year to Date	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years ¹	5 Years¹	10 Years¹	Since Inception ¹
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF	1.46%	6.31%	9.04%	9.08%	9.08%	7.76%	9.99%
ASISA SA Multi Asset Medium Equity Category Average	1.60%	7.50%	8.69%	8.03%	7.83%	6.76%	8.70%
				1 st Quartile	2 nd Quartile	3 rd Quartile	4 th Quartile

¹Data for longer than 12 months are annualised Source: Morningstar, performance for A class shares Annualised returns are period returns re-scaled to a period of 1 year

Underlying funds

- 36ONE BCI Flexible Opportunity Fund
- Abax Opportunity Fund (Nedgroup)
- Bateleur Flexible Prescient Fund
- Coronation Market Plus Fund
- Coronation Global Optimum Growth Feeder Fund
- Matrix SCI Defensive Balanced Fund (Amplify)
- Matrix SCI Stable Income Fund

- Ninety One Global Multi-Asset Income Feeder Fund
- Ninety One Opportunity Fund
- PSG Flexible Fund
- Satrix Bond Index Fund
- Terebinth SCI Strategic Income Fund (Amplify)
- Truffle SCI Wealth Protector Fund (Amplify)

Performance statistics

	Fund ²	Benchmark ²
Highest 12-month performance	31.40%	26.41%
Lowest 12-month performance	-18.22%	-15.68%
% positive months	69.96%	66.37%

²Source until 31 May 2018: MoneyMate Source from 30 June 2018: Morningstar

 $The FGSCI Saturn \, Moderate \, Fund of \, Funds \, returned \, + 1.46\% \, over \, the \, first \, quarter \, of \, 2024 \, and \, + 9.04\% \, over \, the \, past \, 12 \, months, underperforming \, the \, benchmark \, peer \, group \, average \, quarterly \, return \, of \, + 1.60\% \, while \, outperforming \, the \, 12-month \, return \, of \, + 8.69\%. \, The \, PSG \, Flexible \, Fund \, was the \, worst-performing \, underlying \, fund, \, returning \, - 2.75\% \, over \, the \, quarter. \, No \, changes \, were \, made \, to \, the \, fund \, over \, the \, quarter.$

	Local Equity	Local Property	Local Bonds	Local Cash	Foreign
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF	27%	3%	26%	13%	31%

 $^{{}^*} The full registered name of the fund is FG Sanlam Collective Investments Saturn Moderate Fund of Funds.\\$

FG SCI* NEPTUNE GROWTH FUND OF FUNDS

For periods until 31 March 2024



Performance and quartile ranking in sector | Inception date 1 September 2014

	Year to Date	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years¹	5 Years¹	Since Inception ¹
FG SCI Neptune Growth FoF	1.49%	6.53%	8.01%	8.26%	9.25%	7.71%
ASISA SA Multi Asset High Equity Category Average	1.63%	7.91%	9.43%	8.46%	8.34%	6.70%
			1 st Quartile	2 nd Quartile	3 rd Quartile	4 th Quartile

¹Data for longer than 12 months are annualised Source: Morningstar, performance for A class shares Annualised returns are period returns re-scaled to a period of 1 year

Underlying funds

- Abax Balanced Prescient Fund
- Bateleur Flexible Prescient Fund
- Coronation Global Optimum Growth Feeder Fund
- Fairtree Equity Prescient Fund
- Laurium Flexible Prescient Fund
- Matrix SCI Stable Income Fund
- M&G Balanced Fund
- Ninety One Equity Fund
- Ninety One Global Franchise Feeder Fund

- Ninety One Global Multi-Asset Income Feeder Fund
- PSG Flexible Fund
- Saffron BCI Opportunity Income Retention Fund
- Satrix Bond Index Fund
- Sanlam Multi Manged Inflation Linked Bond Fund
- Terebinth SCI Strategic Income Fund (Amplify)
- Truffle SCI Flexible Fund
- Veritas Global Equity Feeder Fund (Nedgroup)

Performance statistics

	Fund ²	Benchmark ²
Highest 12-month performance	38.17%	30.65%
Lowest 12-month performance	-11.21%	-10.44%
% positive months	63.48%	61.74%

²Source until 31 May 2018: MoneyMate Source from 30 June 2018: Morningstar

The FG SCI Neptune Growth Fund of Funds returned +1.49% over the first quarter of 2024 and +8.01% over the past 12 months, underperforming the benchmark peer group average quarterly return of +1.63% and the 12-month return of +9.43%. The PSG Flexible Fund was the worst-performing underlying fund, returning -2.75% over the quarter. The decision was made over the quarter to reduce the fund's allocation to South African credit. This resulted in fully redeeming the Saffron BCI Opportunity Income Fund allocation (the 0.09% retention fund allocation was retained). A small reallocation from the Laurium Flexible Prescient Fund to the Bateleur Flexible Prescient Fund was also made over the quarter, in order to neutralise the fund's overall style bias.

	Local Equity	Local Property	Local Bonds	Local Cash	Foreign
FG SCI Neptune Growth FoF	32%	1%	14%	15%	38%

^{*}The full registered name of the fund is FG Sanlam Collective Investments Neptune Growth Fund of Funds.

FG SCI* MERCURY EQUITY FUND OF FUNDS

For periods until 31 March 2024



Performance and quartile ranking in sector | Inception date 15 August 2005

	Year to Date	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years ¹	5 Years ¹	10 Years¹	Since Inception ¹
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF	-0.10%	5.01%	3.84%	8.54%	9.87%	7.07%	10.17%
FTSE/JSE Africa All Share (total return)	-2.25%	4.51%	1.55%	8.11%	9.68%	8.08%	12.13%
ASISA SA Equity General Category Average	-1.77%	4.29%	3.03%	7.06%	7.46%	5.55%	9.71%
				1 st Quartile	2 nd Quartile	3 rd Quartile	4 th Quartile

¹Data for longer than 12 months are annualised Source: Morningstar, performance for A class shares Annualised returns are period returns re-scaled to a period of 1 year

Underlying funds

- 36ONE BCI Equity Fund
- Coronation Global Optimum Growth Feeder Fund
- Fairtree Equity Prescient Fund
- Gryphon All Share Tracker Fund
- Laurium Equity Fund (Nedgroup)

- Ninety One Equity Fund
- Ninety One Global Franchise Feeder Fund
- M&G Equity Fund
- PSG Equity Fund
- Truffle SCI General Equity Fund

Performance statistics

	Fund ²	Benchmark ²
Highest 12-month performance	56.14%	53.98%
Lowest 12-month performance	-31.68%	-37.60%
% positive months	61.43%	60.54%

²Source until 31 May 2018: MoneyMate Source from 30 June 2018: Morningstar

The FG SCI Mercury Equity Fund of Funds returned -0.10% in the first quarter of 2024 and \pm 3.84% over the past 12 months, outperforming the -2.25% quarterly return of the benchmark FTSE/JSE All Share (total return) Index and the 12-month return of \pm 1.55%. The Coronation Global Optimum Growth Feeder Fund was the best-performing underlying fund, returning \pm 8.29% over the quarter. No changes were made to the fund over the quarter.

	Local Equity	Local Property	Local Bonds	Local Cash	Foreign
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF	74%	2%	0%	4%	20%

 $^{{}^*} The full registered name of the fund is FG Sanlam Collective Investments Mercury Equity Fund of Funds. \\$

FG SCI* INTERNATIONAL FLEXIBLE FUND OF FUNDS

For periods until 31 March 2024



Performance and quartile ranking in sector | Inception date 17 October 2007

	Year to Date	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years¹	5 Years¹	10 Years¹	Since Inception ¹
FG SCI International Flexible FoF	6.81%	13.05%	18.68%	10.13%	9.13%	9.51%	9.04%
Benchmark ²	7.46%	13.55%	20.16%	10.27%	10.49%	9.75%	9.90%
ASISA Global Multi Asset Flexible Average ³	7.46%	13.55%	20.16%	10.27%	10.49%	9.69%	9.18%
				1 st Quartile	2 nd Quartile	3 rd Quartile	4 th Quartile

¹Data for longer than 12 months are annualised

Underlying funds

- FGAM Global Cautious Fund
- FGAM Global Growth Fund
- FPA Global Flexible Fund (Nedgroup)

- Ninety One Global Strategic Managed Fund
- Ninety One Global Franchise Fund

Performance statistics

	Fund⁴	Benchmark ⁴
Highest 12-month performance	40.26%	34.52%
Lowest 12-month performance	-16.99%	-15.05%
% positive months	56.85%	59.60%

⁴Source until 31 May 2018: Iress

Source from 30 June 2018: Morningstar

The FG SCI International Flexible Fund of Funds returned +6.81% in the first quarter of 2024 and +18.68% over the past 12 months, underperforming the benchmark peer group average quarterly return of +7.46% and the 12-month return of +20.16%. The Ninety One Global Strategic Managed Fund was the worst-performing underlying fund over the quarter, returning +4.28% in rand terms. No changes were made to the fund over the quarter.

	Global Equity	Global Fixed Income	Global Cash	Global Property	Local Cash
FG SCI International Flexible FoF	62%	22%	12%	1%	3%

	USD	GBP	Euro	JPY	Other	Rand
Currency breakdown	71%	3%	6%	6%	11%	3%

^{*}The full registered name of the fund is FG Sanlam Collective Investments International Flexible Fund of Funds.

Annualised returns are period returns re-scaled to a period of 1 year

²Benchmark before June 2013: 50% MSCI World Index, 50% JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index

Benchmark between July 2013 and July 2015: 55% MSCI AC World Index, 33% JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index, 7% FTSE EPRA Nareit Global Property, 5% Stefi Call

³Current benchmark



MARKET PERFORMANCE

Index	Asset Class	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Last 12 months*	Year to Date 2024*
STEFI Composite Index	Local cash	1.92%	2.07%	2.09%	2.06%	8.39%	2.06%
FTSE/JSE All Bond (total return)	Local bonds	-1.53%	-0.33%	8.11%	-1.80%	4.19%	-1.80%
FTSE/JSE SA Listed Property (total return)	Local property	0.66%	-0.97%	16.37%	3.85%	20.47%	3.85%
FTSE/JSE Africa All Share (total return)	Local shares	0.66%	-3.48%	6.92%	-2.25%	1.55%	-2.25%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR USD	Global bonds	-1.53%	-3.59%	8.10%	-2.08%	0.49%	-2.08%
FTSE EPRA Nareit Global REITs TR USD	Global property	0.94%	-6.50%	15.58%	-1.51%	7.43%	-1.51%
MSCI World GR USD	Global shares	7.00%	-3.36%	11.53%	9.01%	25.72%	9.01%
MSCI ACWI GR USD	Global shares	6.35%	-3.30%	11.15%	8.32%	23.81%	8.32%
US dollar/South African rand (+ weaker rand, - stronger rand)	Exchange rate	6.47%	-0.27%	-2.93%	3.55%	6.73%	3.55%

*Return until 31 March 2024 All performances until 31 March 2024 (Source: Morningstar)



ADDITIONAL FUND INFORMATION

Fund name	No. of participatory interests*	NAV (month-end)*	Total expense ratio (TER)**
FG SCI International Flexible FoF A	10,845,552.53	39.80	1.48
FG SCI International Flexible FoF A1	22.68	38.80	2.04
FG SCI International Flexible FoF B	49,328.61	31.54	3.15
FG SCI International Flexible FoF B1	1,257,746.38	32.71	2.92
FG SCI International Flexible FoF C	11,864,796.46	38.97	1.74
FG SCI Jupiter Income FoF A	28,833,455.97	12.46	1.04
FG SCI Jupiter Income FoF A1	58.60	12.44	1.58
FG SCI Jupiter Income FoF B1	1,162,193.72	12.40	2.48
FG SCI Jupiter Income FoF C	55,505,005.86	12.45	1.32
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF A	4,249,236.86	43.62	1.55
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF A1	17.25	43.57	2.04
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF B	115.55	41.82	3.27
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF B1	32,393.78	42.78	2.99
FG SCI Mercury Equity FoF C	490,491.72	43.60	1.80
FG SCI Neptune Growth FoF A	26,923,663.33	15.90	1.76
FG SCI Neptune Growth FoF A1	49.81	15.88	2.26
FG SCI Neptune Growth FoF B1	1,093,918.71	15.81	3.20
FG SCI Neptune Growth FoF C	2,662,977.63	15.89	1.80
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF A	39,572,073.34	35.50	1.51
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF A1	22.00	35.43	2.03
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF B	116,999.05	35.22	3.24
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF B1	3,352,402.54	35.25	2.95
FG SCI Saturn Moderate FoF C	15,846,116.34	35.45	1.76
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF A	56,096,886.34	19.05	1.22
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF A1	40.09	19.02	1.75
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF B	25,859.32	18.85	2.95
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF B1	2,965,875.56	18.86	2.66
FG SCI Venus Cautious FoF C	30,668,177.44	19.03	1.47

^{*}NAV (month-end) and no. of participatory interests as at 31 March 2024 $\,$

^{**}TER as at 31 December 2023



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