# **SYNOPSIS**

## **PERFORMANCE (TOTAL RETURN)**

	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
Annualised (since 02/01/2014)	7.9%	9.0%
Last 12 months	14.0%	6.8 %
Last 3 months	1.8%	2.5%

#### **PORTFOLIO VALUE**

R 1 314.9 million (31/12/2024: R 1 270.4 million)

## **TRANSACTIONS**

Net purchases of JSE equities, property and SA bonds

Net sales of foreign assets

Sale of commodities

Net contributions

### INVESTMENT OUTLOOK AND PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

World: US economy showing signs of slowing
Tariffs could put upward pressure on inflation
Rate cuts to slow outside of an economic crisis
Earnings growth decelerating
Geopolitical tensions elevated by trade war

South Africa: Growth unlikely without structural reform Energy supply improving but risk of disruption remains Inflation moderating but with upside risks

Pace of interest rates cuts slowing

Portfolio construction: Moderate allocation to equities
Selective allocation to SA equities
Favour companies with pricing power and strong balance sheets
Low exposure to expensive US equities
Low resource weight
Favour inflation-linked TIPS over nominal US Treasuries
Physical gold position hedges global risks

## **EFFECTIVE ASSET ALLOCATION (previous)**

	<u>Portfolio</u>		
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
JSE equities	28	(27)	
Foreign assets	37	(38)	
JSE property	3	(2)	
Commodities	3	(3)	
SA bonds	20	(19)	
Money market	9	(11)	
	100		

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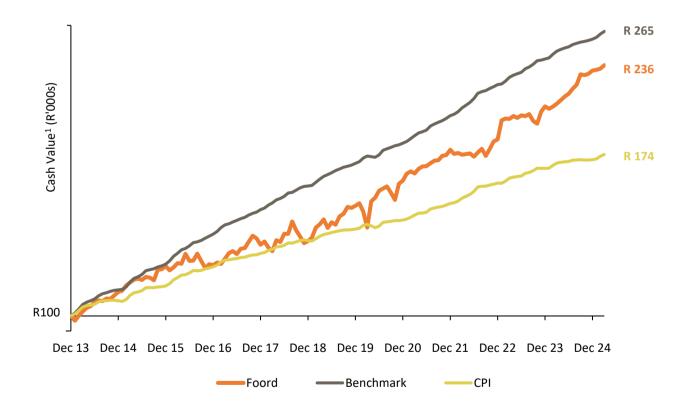
#### 1. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

# 1.1 Total performance to 31 March 2025

	<u>Portfolio</u>	Benchmark*	<u>Variance</u>	Peer Group#
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
From inception (02/01/2014)	7.9	9.0	- 1.1	7.1
10 years	7.7	8.9	- 1.2	6.8
7 years	9.5	8.7	0.8	8.2
5 years	11.7	8.8	2.9	11.9
3 years	10.7	9.0	1.7	8.6
1 year	14.0	6.8	7.2	12.0
3 months	1.8	2.5	- 0.7	0.8

<sup>\*</sup> CPI + 4% per annum

Daily linked total rates of return (capital and income) based on unit price. Returns in percent net of service fees and fund expenses. Returns for periods exceeding 12 months are annualised percentages.

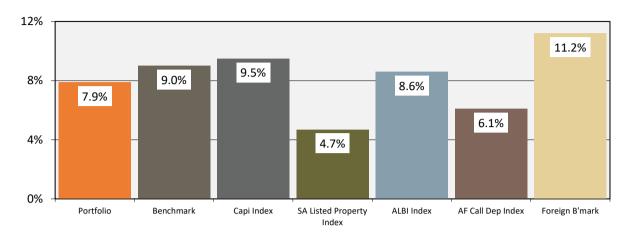


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Current value of R100 000 notional lump sum invested at inception, distributions reinvested (graphically represented in R'000s above)

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<sup># (</sup>ASISA) South Africa – Multi Asset – Medium Equity average





# 1.2 Selection to 31 March 2025

	JSE equities		JSE property		<b>Interest bearing</b>			Foreign assets	
	<u>Portfolio</u>	Capi <u>Index</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	SA Listed Property <u>Index</u> #	<u>Portfolio</u>	ALBI <u>Index</u>	AF Call <u>Dep Index</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	Bench- mark*
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
From inception	7.2	9.5	3.4	4.7	8.4	8.6	6.1	9.9	11.2
(02/01/2014)									
10 years	5.9	9.0	0.5	1.5	8.7	8.4	6.2	9.7	10.6
7 years	9.6	10.7	8.8	2.3	8.6	8.3	6.0	12.2	12.7
5 years	20.6	19.8	14.6	19.0	11.1	11.7	5.8	8.9	9.2
3 years	16.0	9.0	17.6	11.7	10.4	9.8	7.3	8.9	11.8
1 year	25.8	22.9	24.5	19.8	15.3	20.2	8.1	6.8	2.3
3 months	- 1.0	5.8	- 2.1	- 3.5	2.3	0.7	1.8	4.1	- 2.7

<sup>\*</sup> The FTSE/JSE SA Listed Property Index

Asset class returns are calculated on a gross basis, using the modified dietz methodology (compounded monthly)

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<sup>\* 60%</sup> Morgan Stanley World Equity Index in rand and 40% FTSE World Govt Bond Index in rand

## 1.3 Sector contribution to 31 March 2025

(Returns x weight)

	JSE <u>equities</u>	JSE property	Interest bearing*	Other <u>assets</u>	Foreign <u>assets</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
1 year	6.9	0.9	4.4	1.0	2.5	15.7
3 months	- 0.3	0.0	0.7	0.4	1.5	2.3

<sup>\*</sup> Bonds and cash combined

Returns in percent, calculated on a gross basis

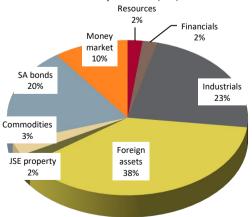
## Quarterly performance comment:

- Global equities contributed positively to rand returns despite a selloff in global markets while global markets
  were down, this impact was more than offset by Foord's conservative positioning within the global funds and a
  weakening rand
- South African equities added to returns with the local bourse up strongly gold and platinum producers led the charge, while Prosus/Naspers was buoyed by the Chinese government's efforts to boost domestic consumption
- SA bonds contributed positively to returns, with the All Bond Index delivering modest gains the yield curve steepened, with yields driven down on the short end given rate cut expectations, while longer-dated yields rose to reflect a rising country risk premium
- US bonds contributed to returns investors seeking safety turned to US bonds, driving yields lower across the US yield curve
- Limited holdings in listed property detracted slightly from performance interest rate-sensitive property stocks responded negatively to rising bond yields
- Cash continued to enhance absolute returns with yields remaining elevated despite inflation moderating, the
   SARB maintains their cautious approach to monetary policy
- The fund continued to benefit from its allocation to gold the gold price crossed the \$3,000 per ounce milestone given rising geopolitical tensions and persistent inflation concerns, reinforcing its safe-haven status

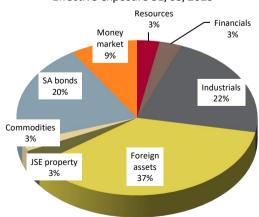
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2. PORTFO	LIO STRUCTURE			FTSE/JSE
		Port	folio	Capped ALSI
Mandate		<u>Effective</u>	exposure	Weightings
(%)		31/12/2024	31/03/2025	
		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	JSE equities: resources	2	3	7
	JSE equities: financials (ex property)	2	3	8
	JSE equities: industrials	23	22	13
0 - 60	JSE equities*	27	28	28
0 - 45	Foreign assets	38	37	
	Foord International Fund	17	17	
	Foord Global Equity Fund	14	13	
	Currencies	4	5	
	Corporate debt	3	2	
0 - 25	JSE property	2	3	
0 - 10	Commodities	3	3	
0 - 100	SA bonds	19	20	
0 - 100	Money market	11	9	
		100	100	
	Total portfolio	R 1 270.4m	R 1 314.9m	
	*Size distribution of JSE equities	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	Large capitalisation	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>–</u> 87
	Mid capitalisation	9	14	8
	Small capitalisation	37	30	5
	·	100	100	100
	Exposure analysis	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Foreign</u>	Total
	<del></del>	<u></u>	<u>~~~</u>	<u></u>
	Equities	28	<u>–</u> 21	<u>–</u> 49
	Listed property	3	1	4
	Corporate bonds	0	3	3
	Government bonds	20	2	22
	Commodities	3	1	4
	Money market	9	9	18
		63	37	100





# Effective exposure 31/03/2025



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#### 3. PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

- Exposure to South African equities increased slightly holdings in domestically-focused businesses were trimmed
  given an uninspiring budget and rising uncertainty regarding the future of the GNU, with future outperformance
  still reliant on long term structural economic growth
- The weighting in foreign assets remains elevated at 37% of the portfolio measured together with non-rand earnings of JSE-listed companies, total foreign economic exposure is even higher on a look-through basis
- Foreign equities are focused on companies with pricing power which are best placed to protect investor capital
  from higher inflation direct investment in US equities remains low in relative terms, given potential earnings
  risks arising from an economic slowdown
- An allocation to SA inflation-linked bonds was increased given attractive real yields on SA inflation-linked government bonds we continue to avoid SA credit assets where we believe risk to be mispriced
- Listed property is limited to a low weighting, given poor fundamentals for the asset class, despite optically attractive yields — sector risks include excess capacity, weak rental trend, consumer headwinds and rapidly escalating municipal costs
- The allocation to foreign government bonds remains low, comprising of short-duration US Treasuries with a
  preference for inflation-linked bonds while listed property also remains low, given sector risks and unattractive
  valuations
- Physical gold position was maintained given supportive fundamentals, a weaker US dollar and the likelihood of nominal interest rates being at a peak — the position provides attractive portfolio diversifying properties during periods of market stress
- Our effective asset allocation is:

Policy parameters		Portfo 31/12/2024	31/03/2025
<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
0 - 60	JSE equities	27	28
0 - 45	Foreign assets	38	37
	Foord International Fund*	17	17
	Foord Global Equity Fund	14	13
	Currencies	4	5
	Corporate Debt	3	2
0 - 25	JSE property	2	3
0 - 10	Commodities	3	3
0 - 100	SA bonds	19	20
0 - 100	Money market	11	9
		100	100

<sup>\*</sup> Currently 50% in equities, property 4%, commodities 8%, government bonds 13%, corporate bonds 3% and money market 22%

N BALKIN/ N HOSSACK/W MURRAY MARCH 2025

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# 4. EFFECTIVE EXPOSURE AND PORTFOLIO SENSITIVITY

## 4.1 Effective exposure

	Market	Option	Effective	Effective
Asset class	value	exposure	exposure	exposure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	%
JSE equities	365,919		365,919	27.8%
Foreign assets	489,773		489,773	37.3%
JSE property	41,946		41,946	3.2%
Commodities	33,169		33,169	2.5%
Other assets	8,409		8,409	0.6%
SA bonds	261,121		261,121	19.9%
Money market	114,526		114,526	8.7%
Total	1,314,863		1,314,863	100.0%

# **4.2 Sensitivity report**

## **JSE EQUITIES**

Change in portfolio equities
Resultant equity change \*
Resultant portfolio value \*
Resultant portfolio change (%)

-20.0%	-10.0%	-5.0%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%	20.0%
-73,184	-36,592	-18,296	0	18,296	36,592	73,184
1,241,679	1,278,271	1,296,567	1,314,863	1,333,159	1,351,455	1,388,047
-5.6%	-2.8%	-1.4%	0.0%	1.4%	2.8%	5.6%

## **FOREIGN ASSETS**

Change in R/\$ exchange rate R/\$ exchange rate

Resultant for. assets change \*
Resultant portfolio value \*
Resultant portfolio change (%)

-20.0%	-10.0%	-5.0%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%	20.0%
21.9872	20.1550	19.2388	18.3227	17.4066	16.4904	14.6582
97,955	48,977	24,489	0	-24,489	-48,977	-97,955
1,412,818	1,363,840	1,339,352	1,314,863	1,290,374	1,265,886	1,216,908
7.4%	3.7%	1.9%	0.0%	-1.9%	-3.7%	-7.4%

# JSE PROPERTY

Change in portfolio property
Resultant property change \*
Resultant portfolio value \*
Resultant portfolio change (%)

-20.0%	-10.0%	-5.0%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%	20.0%
-8,389	-4,195	-2,097	0	2,097	4,195	8,389
1,306,474	1,310,668	1,312,766	1,314,863	1,316,960	1,319,058	1,323,252
-0.6%	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%

## **SA BONDS**

Change in yields

Resultant fixed income change \*
Resultant portfolio value \*
Resultant portfolio change (%)

-3.0%	-2.0%	-1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%
22,265	14,112	6,717	0	-6,112	-11,681	-16,765
1,337,128	1,328,975	1,321,580	1,314,863	1,308,751	1,303,182	1,298,098
1.7%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	-0.5%	-0.9%	-1.3%

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<sup>\*[</sup>R'000]

#### 5. RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT SUMMARY

## **Voting resolutions for Q4 2024**

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**Adopt Financials** 

Auditor/Risk/Social/Ethics related

**Buy Back Shares** 

**Director Remuneration** 

**Issue Shares** 

Loan / Financial Assistance

Other

Re/Elect Director

**Remuneration Policy** 

**Shares under Director Control** 

Signature of Documents

Total count	For	Against	Abstain
3	67%	33%	0%
50	100%	0%	0%
6	100%	0%	0%
20	100%	0%	0%
1	0%	100%	0%
5	40%	60%	0%
5	100%	0%	0%
25	96%	4%	0%
11	64%	36%	0%
1	0%	100%	0%
3	100%	0%	0%

## **Foord Global Equity Fund**

Adopt financials

Auditor/risk/social/ethics related

Buy back shares

Dividend related

Issue shares

Political expenditure/donation

Re/elect director or members of supervisory board Remuneration policy including directors' remuneration

Signature of documents/ratification

Total count	For	Against	Abstain
9	89%	11%	0%
3	100%	0%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
1	0%	100%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
44	100%	0%	0%
9	67%	22%	11%
8	75%	25%	0%

## **Foord International Fund**

Adopt financials

Auditor/risk/social/ethics related

Dividend related

Re/elect director or members of supervisory board Remuneration policy including directors' remuneration Signature of documents/ratification

Total count	For	Against	Abstain
8	88%	13%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
25	100%	0%	0%
5	60%	20%	20%
4	100%	0%	0%

### General comments:

- There are few abstentions. We apply our minds to every single resolution put to shareholders. When there is an abstention it would typically be intentional or for strategic reasons
- We typically vote against any resolution that could dilute the interests of existing shareholders. Examples include placing shares under the blanket control of directors, providing loans and financial assistance to associate companies or subsidiaries and blanket authority to issue shares. On the rare occasion, we have voted in favour of such resolutions, we were able to gain the required conviction in the specifics of the strategic rationale for such activities and could gain comfort that such activities are indeed to be used to the reasons stated
- The firm also has a strong philosophy regarding management remuneration models. We believe in rewarding good managers with appropriate cash remuneration on achievement of relevant performance metrics that enhance long-term shareholder value. We are generally not in favour of share option schemes given the inherent asymmetry between risk and reward typical of such schemes. In addition, we do not believe that existing shareholders should be diluted by the issuing of new shares to management as is the case with most option schemes. We are in favour of the alignment created between management and shareholders when management has acquired its stake in the company through open market share trading and paid for out of management's own cash earnings

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## FOORD ASSET MANAGEMENT (PTY) LTD — FOORD CONSERVATIVE FUND CLASS A

Portfolio report for the quarter ended: 31 March 2025

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS:

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (unit trusts) are generally medium- to long-term investments. The value of participatory interests (units) may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Performance is calculated for the portfolio. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of the actual investment date, the date of reinvestment and withholding taxes. Performance may be affected by changes in the market or economic conditions and legal, regulatory and tax requirements. Neither Foord nor Foord Unit Trusts provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the performance return of the portfolio. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing. Foord Unit Trusts does not engage in scrip lending. Commission and incentives may be paid and if so, this cost is not borne by the investor. A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions is available on request. Distributions may be subject to mandatory withholding taxes. A feeder fund portfolio is a portfolio that, apart from assets in liquid form, consists solely of units in a single portfolio of a single investment scheme. A fund of funds invests only in other Collective Investment Schemes, which may levy their own charges, which could result in a higher fee structure for these portfolios. Foord Unit Trusts is authorised to close the portfolio to new investors in order to manage the portfolio more efficiently in accordance with its mandate.

#### FOREIGN INVESTMENT RISK:

The portfolio may include underlying foreign investments. Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying foreign investments to go up or down. The underlying foreign investments may be adversely affected by political instability as well as exchange controls, changes in taxation, foreign investment policies, restrictions on repatriation of investments and other restrictions and controls that may be imposed by the relevant authorities in the relevant countries.

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