# **SYNOPSIS**

## **PERFORMANCE (TOTAL RETURN)**

	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
Annualised (since 01/04/2008)	10.9%	10.2%
Last 12 months	12.1%	7.8%
Last 3 months	4.6%	2.8%

#### **PORTFOLIO VALUE**

R 9 589.5 million (31/12/2024: R 9 404.5 million)

### 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: Significant allocation to equities overall
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	22	(22)
Foreign assets	59	(61)
JSE property	1	(1)
Commodities	2	(3)
SA bonds	9	(4)
Money market	7	(9)
	100	

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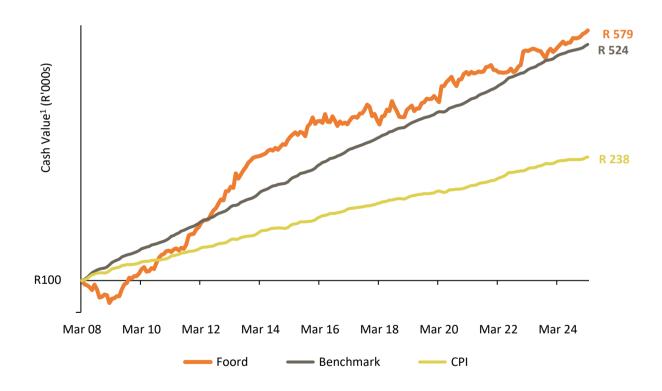
## 1. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

# 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 (01/04/2008)	10.9	10.2	0.7	9.0
15 years	11.8	10.0	1.8	10.3
10 years	7.7	9.9	- 2.2	7.8
7 years	9.9	9.7	0.2	10.0
5 years	10.6	9.8	0.8	12.1
3 years	10.3	10.0	0.3	10.8
1 year	12.1	7.8	4.3	7.3
3 months	4.6	2.8	1.8	-0.8

<sup>\*</sup> CPI + 5% 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 1 year and above are annualised percentages.

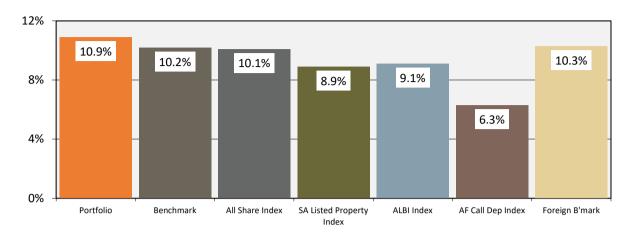


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Current value of R100 000 notional lump sum invested at inception, distributions reinvested (graphically represented in R'000s above)

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<sup># (</sup>ASISA) Worldwide – Multi Asset – Flexible average

# Performance - Since inception (p.a.)



### 1.2 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	5.3	-0.1	0.7	0.8	5.9	12.6
3 months	0.8	-0.1	0.1	0.4	3.6	4.8

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

Returns in percent, calculated on a gross basis

# Quarterly performance comment:

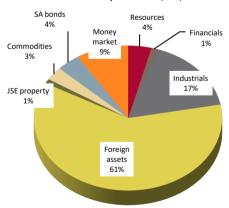
- Global equities contributed positively to rand returns despite a selloff in global markets while global markets
  were down, this impact was more than offset by Foord's conservative positioning within the global funds and a
  weakening rand
- South African equities added to returns with the local bourse 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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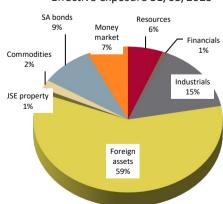
## 2. PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

		Porti		FTSE/JSE ALSI
Mandate		<u>Effective</u>		Weightings
(%)		31/12/2024	<u>31/03/2025</u>	
		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	JSE equities: resources	4	6	5
	JSE equities: financials (ex property)	1	1	7
	JSE equities: industrials	17	15	10
0 - 100	JSE equities*	22	22	22
	Foreign assets	61	59	_
	Foord International Fund	27	28	
	Foord Global Equity Fund	33	32	
	Currency hedge	-2	-3	
	Corporate debt	3	2	
0 - 25	JSE property	1	1	_
	Commodities	3	2	
	SA bonds	4	9	
0 - 100	Money market	9	7	
		100	100	<del>-</del> -
	Total portfolio	R 9 404.5m	R 9 589.5m	_
	*Size distribution of JSE equities	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	Large capitalisation	71	77	87
	Mid capitalisation	1	0	8
	Small capitalisation	28	23	5
		100	100	100
	Exposure analysis	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Foreign</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	Equities	22	46	68
	Listed property	1	1	2
	Corporate bonds	0	3	3
	Government bonds	9	4	13
	Commodities	2	2	4
	Money market	7	3	10
		41	59	100

# Effective exposure 31/12/2024



## Effective exposure 31/03/2025



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#### 3. PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

- Exposure to South African equities decreased 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 weight in foreign assets remains high at 59% measured together with non-rand earnings of JSE-listed companies, total foreign economic exposure is significantly higher on a look-through basis
- Exposure to foreign equities makes up close to half the portfolio however, direct US equity investment remains relatively low due to high valuations that leave little room for error
- The small allocation to foreign government bonds comprises short-duration US Treasuries with a preference for inflation-linked instruments — while listed property is security-specific with an otherwise low weight given unattractive valuations
- Exposure to SA equities remains moderate at 22% ratings for domestically oriented stocks are likely to remain under pressure, given low prospects for economic growth coupled with higher cost of capital
- A small allocation to SA nominal government bonds was maintained given attractive yields however we continue to avoid SA corporate credit assets where we believe risk is 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
- Physical gold ETF position 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		Portfolio at		
<u>parameters</u>		31/12/2024	31/03/2025	
<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
0 - 100	JSE equities	22	22	
	Foreign assets	61	59	
	Foord International Fund*	27	28	
	Foord Global Equity Fund	33	32	
	Currency hedge	-2	-3	
	Corporate debt	3	2	
0 - 25	JSE property	1	1	
	Commodities	3	2	
	SA bonds	4	9	
0 - 100	Money market	9	7	
		100	100	

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

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## 4. EFFECTIVE EXPOSURE AND PORTFOLIO SENSITIVITY

## 4.1 Effective exposure

Asset class	Market value R'000	Option exposure R'000	Effective exposure R'000	Effective exposure %
JSE equities	2,069,783		2,069,783	21.6%
Foreign assets	5,680,408		5,680,408	59.2%
JSE property	93,028		93,028	1.0%
Commodities	212,535		212,535	2.2%
Other assets	28,843		28,843	0.3%
SA bonds	846,881		846,881	8.8%
Money market	657,995		657,995	6.9%
Total	9,589,473		9,589,473	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%
-413,957	-206,978	-103,489	0	103,489	206,978	413,957
9,175,516	9,382,495	9,485,984	9,589,473	9,692,962	9,796,451	10,003,430
-4.3%	-2.2%	-1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	2.2%	4.3%

### **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
1,136,082	568,041	284,020	0	-284,020	-568,041	-1,136,082
10,725,555	10,157,514	9,873,493	9,589,473	9,305,453	9,021,432	8,453,391
11.8%	5.9%	3.0%	0.0%	-3.0%	-5.9%	-11.8%

# 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%
-18,606	-9,303	-4,651	0	4,651	9,303	18,606
9,570,867	9,580,170	9,584,822	9,589,473	9,594,124	9,598,776	9,608,079
-0.2%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%

### 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%
102,625	64,621	30,574	0	-27,522	-52,353	-74,810
9,692,098	9,654,094	9,620,047	9,589,473	9,561,951	9,537,120	9,514,663
1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.8%

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

#### 6. RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT SUMMARY

### **Voting resolutions for Q1 2025**

Foord	۸hca	l+a	Doturn
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Adopt financials
Auditor/risk/social/ethics related
Buy back shares
Director remuneration
Loan / financial assistance
Other

Re/elect director
Remuneration policy

Total count	For	Against	Abstain
1	100%	0%	0%
11	100%	0%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
1	0%	100%	0%
1	100%	0%	0%
5	100%	0%	0%
1	0%	100%	0%

## Foord Global Equity Fund (Luxembourg)

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

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%
7	71%	29%	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 FLEXIBLE FUND OF FUNDS

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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