

Quarterly Report: Nedgroup Investments Select Equity Fund of Funds

See money differently

as at 31 March 2023

Quarterly report: **Nedgroup Investments**



Domestic asset class returns (ZAR)





Global asset class returns (USD)



SA Equity

5.2% Q1 2023

Strong performance from Industrial sector and index bellwethers Naspers and Prosus drove returns

4.9% 1 year

24.2% 3 years

12.3% LT average

SA Property



The property sector continues to struggle with high interest rates and high office vacancy rates

-3.4% 1 year

18.2% 3 years

11.3% LT average

Global Equity

7.4% Q1 2023

Reopening of China led to a strong Jan, with the rest of the quarter boosted by constructive economic data

-7.0% 1 year

15.9% 3 years

8.5% LT average

Global Property

1.0% Q1 2023

Globally REITs lagged equity stocks with the office sector in general the largest detractor

-20.6% 1 year

7.6% 3 years

6.2% LT average

SA Bond

3.4% Q1 2023

SA bond market was resilient despite SA being grey listed and the turmoil surrounding the US and European banks

5.8% 1 year

11.6% 3 years

7.0% LT average

SA Cash



The SARB hiked the repo rate by 25bps in Jan and another 50bps in Mar, taking it to 7.75%

5.7% 1 year

4.4% 3 years

5.9% LT average

Global Bond

3.0% Q1 2023

Bond markets swiftly priced in cooling inflation figures and the possibility of easier monetary policy

-8.1% 1 year

-3.4% 3 years

4.3% LT average

US Cash

1.2% Q1 2023

The US Fed hiked rates by 25bps in Feb and Mar taking the policy rate to the highest since 2007 at 4.75% - 5.0%

3.6% 1 year

1.4% 3 years

3.7% LT average



Exchange rates (Rand spot rate and quarterly change)



US Dollar R17.74



The rand appreciated by 3.0% against the US dollar in March, supported by hawkish tones from the SARB and a weaker US dollar. However, market confidence towards the rand remains low amid political uncertainty and the delayed response to the energy crisis which is not being adequately addressed.



British Pound R21.94



UK headline CPI increased to 10.4% in February from 10.1% the prior month, setting the scene for the Bank of England (BoE) to increase interest rates by 25bps in March, following a 50bps hike in February. The pound is trading in a narrow band relative to the US dollar, that has weakened in March.



Euro R19.28



The ECB raised interest rates by 50 basis points in both February and March. The Eurozone inflation declined to a one-year low in March. The US dollar depreciated by 2.3% on a trade weighted basis in March, with the euro making up c.60% of this index, leaving the greenback 1.0% weaker over the guarter.



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Domestic performance drivers



Global performance drivers





Highlights

- The Budget 2023 confirmed a gross tax revenue overrun of R93.7bn relative to the Budget 2022, enabling improved fiscal metrics for the financial year. R9bn was earmarked for incentives to support residential and business investment in rooftop solar.
- The much-anticipated cabinet reshuffle confirmed Dr Ramokgopa as the new Minister of Electricity.
- Public sector wage negotiations concluded with a two-year deal, with an
 effective increase of 7.5% this year.



Low points

- Fourth quarter GDP printed at -1.3%, a much lower figure than anticipated.
 This brings economic growth for 2022 to 2.0% but also reaffirms the poor momentum going into 2023.
- Credit ratings agency, S&P, downgraded the outlook for the sovereign's credit rating to stable from positive, raising concerns about the impact of the energy crises and the state of network industries on economic growth.
- Headline inflation for the year to Feb 2023 increased to 7.0% from 6.9% in Jan 2023, with core inflation increasing to 5.2%. Both figures were higher than market expectations and reflected continued upward pressure in food prices, while annual medical aid tariff increases led to higher core inflation.



Highlights

- After some upside surprises in the previous month, headline inflation across several regions continued to moderate as the impact from high energy prices subsided.
- The relaxing of China's zero Covid policy resulted in improved sentiment due to "the Chinese reopening effect". This, and a tapering of China's regulatory clampdown on the tech sector, supported a recovery in Chinese shares.
- US employment data confirmed robust and broad-based job growth, with unemployment recorded at 3.4%, the lowest figure since 1969.



Low points

- The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) sparked an exit from depositors and investors, which quickly impacted risk appetite for the broader banking complex and saw bank share prices hit hard. While SVB was a regional bank, largely exposed to the tech sector, with specific nuances, the impact of higher interest rates on their bond holdings and poor sentiment quickly turned a spotlight on other entities with possible vulnerabilities.
- With February marking a year since Russia invaded Ukraine, Russia announced it would cut oil production by 500 000 barrels a day from March in response to price caps imposed by Western countries, while tensions between China and the US regarding alleged surveillance reemphasised that geopolitics remains prominent as an ongoing risk.



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Underlying fund structure















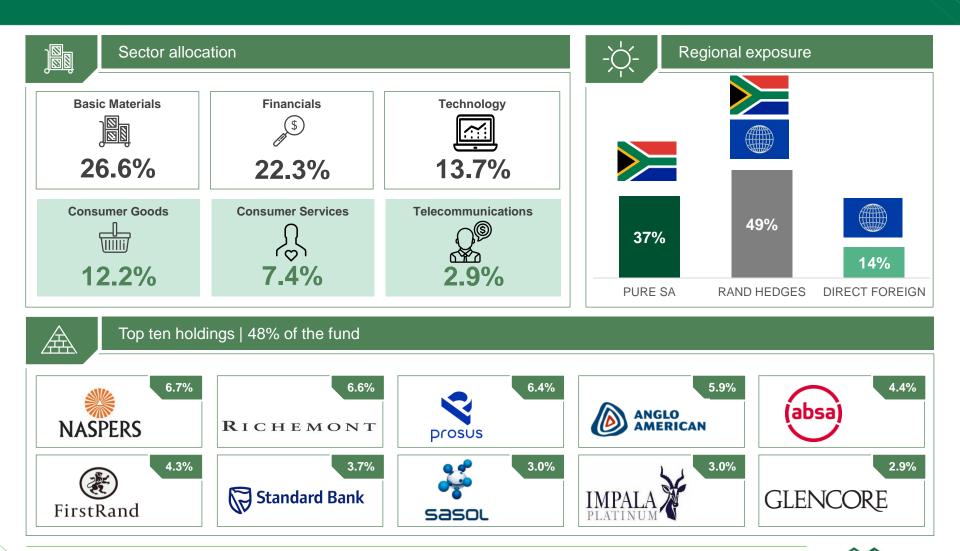
as at 31 March 2023





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Fund performance (clean class)

Q1'23 return

2.9%

Peer group average: 2.3%

1yr annualised return

3.9%

Peer group average: 1.2%

3yr annualised return

20.9%

Peer group average: 21.0%

5yr annualised return

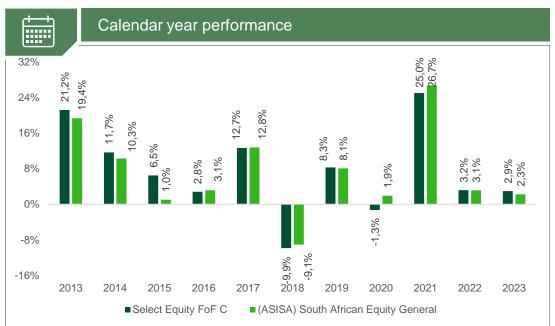
6.0%

Peer group average: 7.0%

7yr annualised return

5.1%

Peer group average: 5.9%





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Risk measures since inception

Rolling 7yr return

89%

Hit rate: outperforming peer group average

Volatility

12.9%

SA equity market: 15.1%

Max drawdown

-29.9%

SA equity market: -40.4%

Sharpe ratio

0.1

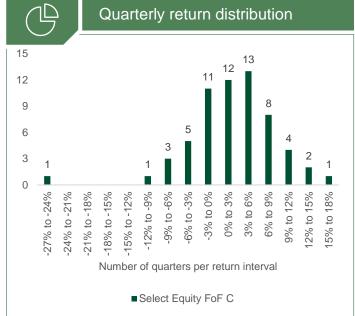
SA equity market: 0.2

% Positive months

65%

SA equity market: 60%





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Underlying fund performance

Key	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Satrix ALSI Tracker	3,6%	20,3%	-2,4%	16,9%	14,2%	13,6%	10.8%	5.1%
Coronation Equity	1,8%	18,5%	-6,5%	16,6%	13,3%	13,0%	8.3%	4.1%
Ninety One Equity	1,2%	17,3%	-7,5%	13,6%	10,9%	12,4%	3.3%	2.9%
Truffle SCI General Equity	-3,9%	12,0%	-9,2%	11,4%	6,3%	11,9%	-2.7%	1.9%
Nedgroup Investments SA Equity	-4,1%	10,5%	-12,8%	7,4%	0,0%	26,4%	-5.5%	1.5%



Positive contributors this quarter

- The rand weakened 4.3% over the quarter, making it one of the worst performing emerging market currencies. As a result, the direct offshore exposure of the fund (held in US dollar) contributed to performance.
- Naspers/Prosus, Richemont, Anheuser-Busch InBev, Glencore and other stocks with global earnings adding value.
- Naspers recovered strongly over the last year on the back of a strong Tencent recovery as investors appetite for Chinese tech shares returned, driven by optimism on China re-opening.
- Similarly, Richemont and Kering (Gucci and Balenciaga) contributed as Luxury goods benefitted over the quarter from the Chinese rebound.



Detractors this quarter

- The resource sector was down -5% for the quarter. China's reopening was insufficient to meaningfully lift demand. Prices were generally weaker.
- Transaction Capital disappointed with the announcement that ongoing economic headwinds had forced a significant restructuring in SA Taxi. Whilst managers attributed limited value to SA Taxi even prior to this announcement, the market reacted brutally; writing down not just SA Taxi but also taking a significant haircut to the overall value of the company.
- SA banks reported another set of strong earnings, but was hurt by negative sentiment to the sector post the collapse of SVB. Absa (-6%) was the worst performer of the big 4, while the rest of the large banks FirstRand (flat), Nedbank (+2%) and Standard Bank (+3%) remained in the green. Capitec (-9%) and Investec (-8%) underperformed.

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	Performance across classes							
	A Class (all in)	B2 Class (lisp)	C Class (clean)	C1 Class (product)	S Class (sip)	Peer group	SA inflation	
Quarter	2,7%	3,0%	2,9%	2,9%	2,9%	2,3%	1,0%	
1 year	2,7%	4,1%	3,9%	3,7%	3,9%	1,2%	7,0%	
3 year	19,5%	21,1%	20,9%	20,7%	N/A	21,0%	5,2%	
5 year	4,8%	6,2%	6,0%	N/A	N/A	7,0%	4,8%	

Costs across classes

	Management fee* (excl. Vat)	Financial planner	Total expense ratio	Transaction Charges	Total investment charges	
A class (all-in)	2.39%	1.00%	2,73%	0.35%	3,08%	
B2 class (lisp)	1.24%	N/a	1,41%	0.35%	1.76%	
C class (clean)	1.39%	N/a	1,58%	0.35%	1.93%	
C1 class (product)	1.54%	N/a	1,76%	0.35%	2.10%	
S class (sip)* 1.13%		N/a	1,56%	0.46%	2.02%	



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