

STANLIB Absolute Plus Fund

Fund information update at 31 January 2019

STANLIB

What is the fund's objective?

The portfolio aims to achieve capital growth over time horizons of three years or longer. Over the short term, it aims to profit from rising equity markets while protecting against capital losses in weaker equity markets.

What does the fund invest in?

This is predominantly an asset allocation fund, spanning local and global assets. Liquid, easily tradeable instruments are used such as shares and bonds, cash and money market that enable the manager to quickly and cost-effectively add or remove exposure to entire asset classes. The fund is hedged to protect against large losses. Fund exposures comply with the Prudential Investment Guidelines for retirement funds as permitted by Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act. The manager may, from time to time, invest in participatory interests or any other form of participation in portfolios of collective investment schemes which are consistent with the fund's investment policy.

What possible risks are associated with this fund?

There are general market risks associated with this fund in order to comfortably beat inflation over the medium term such as price/demand fluctuations, a decline in bond yields, fluctuating interest rates, the poor performance of underlying shares and unstable economic conditions. Where foreign shares are included in the fund there may be additional risks due to currency fluctuations. The effect of these changes will result in changes to the fund value over time. It is expected that relative proportions of income and capital return to fluctuate in accordance with market opportunities.

Risk rating

Conservative	Moderately conservative	Moderate	Moderately aggressive	Aggressive
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What is the suggested investment period for this fund?

Minimum period

1 Month	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years
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Who should consider investing in this fund?

The fund is suitable for both pre- and post-retirement investors as the aim is to produce steady, inflation-beating returns over the longer term. It is appropriate for investors who wish to grow their long term real wealth, but without experiencing large losses. The fund does not target any particular level of income generation.

Income

Distribution Net income is calculated and accrued daily and is declared and distributed semi-annually.

Declaration 30 June, 31 December

General fund information

Manager(s) Marius Oberholzer, Peter van der Ross and Vaughan Henkel

Size (NAV) R 7.18 billion

Classification South African - Multi Asset - Medium Equity

Benchmark CPI +4%

Regulation 28 Complies

Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act sets the limits in terms of the maximum exposure the retirement fund and the individual retirement fund member's savings (i.e. your savings) may have to various asset classes. For more information please refer to the Regulation 28 Guidelines available on our website (www.stanlib.com). This Fund complies with this Regulation.

	Class B1	Class A
Launch	19 December 2005	19 December 2005

This portfolio was originally launched 19 December 2005. This portfolio underwent a mandate change which resulted in a re-classification from the South African - Multi Asset - High Equity sector to the Medium Equity sector. The track record, for performance measurement purposes, is reflected from 1 February 2010.

ISIN number ZAE000074845 ZAE000074837

JSE code SBB1 SBAA

Minimum investment requirements -

Lump sum	R 10,000	R 5,000
Monthly	N/A	R 500

What are the costs to invest in this fund?

Maximum charges including VAT

	Class B1	Class A
Initial fee (manager)	0.000%	0.000%
Initial fee (adviser)	3.450%	3.450%
Annual fee (manager)	1.150%	1.725%
Annual fee (adviser)	0.000%	0.575%
Performance fee	N/A	N/A

Annual fee (manager) – this is a service charge (% based) applicable to each class of a fund, that is levied on the value of your portfolio and includes the **Annual fee (adviser)** fee (where applicable). Annual fees are calculated and accrued daily and recovered monthly from the income awaiting distribution in the fund.

Cost ratios (annual) including VAT as at 31 December 2018

	Class B1	Class A
Based on period from:	01/01/2016	01/01/2016
Total Expense	1.23%	1.80%
Transaction Costs	0.17%	0.17%
Total Investment Charge	1.40%	1.97%
1 Year Total Expense	1.22%	1.78%

Total Expense (TER): This ratio shows the charges, levies and fees relating to the management of the portfolio and is expressed as a percentage of the average net asset value of the portfolio, calculated over the period shown and annualised to the most recently completed quarter. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER should not be regarded as an indication of future TERs.

Transaction Costs (TC): This ratio shows the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the fund's underlying assets. TC are a necessary cost in administering the fund and impacts fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

Total Investment Charges (TIC): This ratio is simply the sum of the TER and TC, showing the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the investment of the fund. It should be noted that performance figures account for all costs included in the TIC ratio, so you should not deduct the TIC from performance figures, the performance is already net of the TIC.

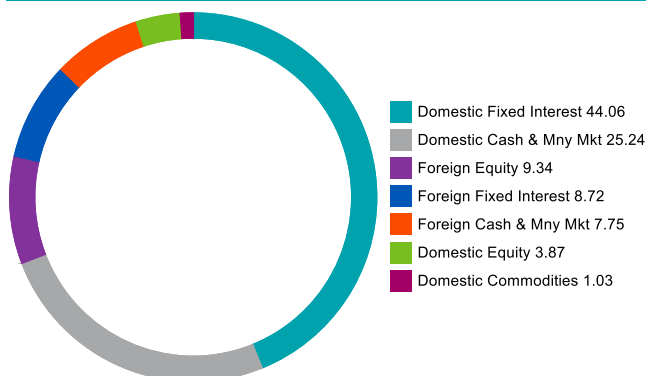
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Monthly update at 31 January 2019

STANLIB

Holdings

Asset allocation (%)



Performance and Income

This portfolio was originally launched 19 December 2005. This portfolio underwent a mandate change which resulted in a re-classification from the South African - Multi Asset - High Equity sector to the Medium Equity sector. The track record, for performance measurement purposes, is reflected from 1 February 2010.

Class B1 Launch: 19 December 2005 Class A Launch: 19 December 2005

Benchmark: CPI +4% (CPI from launch to 31/03/2018)

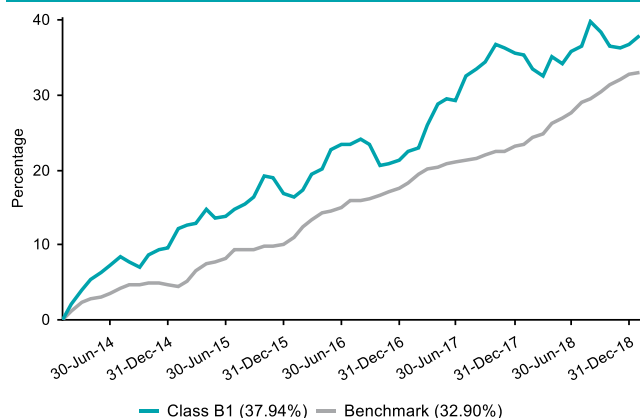
Returns (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	Launch
Class B1					
Class	1.91	5.85	6.64	7.92	8.80
Rank/Out of	10/87	3/71	6/53	19/40	13/37
Sector Average	-0.40	3.91	5.35	7.88	8.30
Benchmark	7.31	6.08	5.78	5.72	5.55
Class A					
Class	1.33	5.25	6.05	7.32	8.19

Returns (%) shown are cumulative for all periods shorter than or equal to 1 year and annualised for all periods greater than 1 year.

Statistics (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	Launch
Class B1					
Positive Months	6	23	41	58	74
Max Gain	5.54	20.24	39.87	73.42	116.59
Max Drawdown	-2.56	-3.01	-3.01	-3.01	-3.01
Highest	8.58	13.27	18.17	18.17	18.17
Lowest	-0.19	-0.19	-0.19	-0.19	-0.19
Class A					
Highest	7.98	12.64	17.51	17.51	17.51
Lowest	-0.76	-0.76	-0.76	-0.76	-0.76

Highest – this reflects the highest 12 month return during the period.
Lowest - this reflects the lowest 12 month return during the period.

Cumulative performance (%) over 5 Years



Amount declared (cents per unit)	Class B1	Class A
23 March 2018	2.17	1.98
29 June 2018	2.77	2.56
31 December 2018	4.07	3.66
In last 12 months	9.01	8.20
In 2018	9.01	8.20

Who are the investment managers?

STANLIB Asset Management (Pty) Ltd, FSP 719, an authorised Financial Services Provider under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act 2002, manage the investments of the fund.



Marius Oberholzer

BCom (Economics and Commercial Law), MSc (Global Finance)
Head of Absolute Return

Marius joined STANLIB in September 2013 as co-head of Absolute Return Strategies. Marius took over as Head of the Absolute Return team in September 2015 and is the lead portfolio manager. He has 18 years of buy side experience with a high degree of specialisation managing absolute return type strategies. Marius' background was developed at TT International in London where he began working in 2000 before moving to Hong Kong in 2004. His primary responsibility was managing TT's Asian Hedge Fund as its portfolio manager as well as providing insights across the firms other investment offerings both on a bottom up and top-down macro basis. Marius holds a BCom degree from Stellenbosch University and an MSc in global finance from Stern Business School at New York University and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



Peter van der Ross

BBusSci, CFA
Portfolio manager

Peter joined STANLIB in January 2016 as a portfolio manager in the Absolute Return team. He has 19 years of buy side experience in the investment management industry. Prior to joining STANLIB Peter was Head of Libfin Investments. Before joining Liberty, Peter was head of investment strategy at Momentum Asset Management and RMB Asset Management. Peter holds a bachelor of business science degree in economics and finance from the University of Cape Town and is a CFA charterholder.



Vaughan Henkel

BSc (Electrical/Electronic Engineering), CFA
Portfolio manager

Vaughan joined STANLIB in 2013 and moved to the Absolute Return team in January 2017 as a portfolio manager. He has 19 years of experience in the investment industry and in various roles including but not limited to, straddling fundamental and quantitative equity research, equity strategy and research management. Vaughan holds a B Sc. electrical engineering, management advancement programme from Wits Business School and is a CFA charterholder.

Fund review

Overall, the fund has delivered the defensive outcome that clients expect during such poor market environments. We largely avoided SA equity throughout the year. After being caught with too much property in Q1, we cut the position, and put a toe back in the water in Q3, only to see more evidence in Q4 of structural issues in the sector that prompted us to withdraw again. We have favoured SA nominal bonds and floating-rate credit for the real yields they offer.

Offshore, we were also fairly light on equity risk, preferring to capture the real yield prospects of emerging market dollar bonds and the safe haven status of developed market currencies. With hindsight, we were too early in adding US equities in December but the position remains within acceptable risk limits.

Market overview

A material pullback in global equity and credit markets occurred in the fourth quarter of 2018. The key question we're asking ourselves now is: "Is this the beginning of the end of this cycle, or is there room for one last rally in risk assets before the next global recession?"

Our indicators suggest it will not pay to take risk at this point. There are massive structural issues, including the over-indebtedness of the SA government and some corporates, unwinding of American and Chinese co-dependence, an ageing labour force and questions around European monetary union. Structural vulnerabilities are being exacerbated by waning growth and the increasing global cost of capital. We believe we face the very real possibility of a global recession within our tactical horizon of 12 months.

Looking ahead

The future is a fan of probabilities, but financial market risks are skewed to the downside. It is possible that 2019 will deliver attractive returns. However, with average (at best) equity valuations, a steady tightening of global financial conditions, heightened geopolitical risks and reasonably attractive real yields on offer from some bond markets, a large position in equities does not seem sensible.

As always, we must remain open-minded and opportunistic. We continue to look actively for evidence that the bull market can continue, but until now those searches have reinforced our cautious stance.

The commentary gives the views of the portfolio manager at the time of writing. Any forecasts or commentary included in this document are not guaranteed to occur.

Change in allocation of the fund over the quarter

Asset type	Q4 2018	Q3 2018	Change
Domestic Cash & Mny Mkt	16.37	-6.17	22.55
Domestic Equity	5.71	24.69	-18.98
Domestic Fixed Interest	62.52	51.87	10.65
Foreign Cash & Mny Mkt	-9.54	4.76	-14.30
Foreign Equity	15.12	6.38	8.74
Foreign Fixed Interest	9.82	18.47	-8.66

The portfolio adhered to its portfolio objective over the quarter.

Fund classes

Class	Type	Price (cpu)	Units	NAV (Rand)
A	Retail	141.16	314,062,345.10	443,331,119.60
B1	Retail	141.58	787,186,216.97	1,114,509,345.84

All data as at 31 December 2018.

Units – amount of participatory interests (units) in issue in relevant class.

Disclosures

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) are generally medium to long term investments. The value of participatory interests may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending.

The STANLIB Absolute Plus Fund is a portfolio of the STANLIB Collective Investment Scheme (the Scheme).

The manager of the Scheme is STANLIB Collective Investments (RF) (Pty) Limited (the Manager). The Manager is authorised in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, No. 45 of 2002 (CISCA) to administer Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) in Securities. Liberty is a full member of the Association for Savings and Investments of South Africa (ASISA). The Manager is a member of the Liberty Group of Companies. The manager has a right to close a portfolio to new investors in order to manage the portfolio more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. The Manager does not provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the return of a CIS portfolio. A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager.

The trustee of the Scheme is Standard Chartered Bank.

The investments of this portfolio are managed, on behalf of the Manager, by STANLIB Asset Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised financial services provider (FSP), FSP No. 719, under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (FAIS), Act No. 37 of 2002.

Prices are calculated and published on each working day, these prices are available on the Manager's website (www.stanlib.com) and in South African printed news media. This portfolio is valued at 15h00. Forward pricing is used. Investments and repurchases will receive the price of the same day if received prior to 15h00.

This portfolio is permitted to invest in foreign securities. Should the portfolio include any foreign securities these could expose the portfolio to any of the following risks: potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds; macroeconomic risks; political risks; foreign exchange risks; tax risks; settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information.

All performance returns figures quoted are shown in ZAR and are based on data sourced from Morningstar or Statpro and are as at 31 January 2019.

Annualised return figures are the compound annualised growth rate (CAGR) calculated from the cumulative return for the period being measured. These annualised returns provide an indication of the annual return achieved over the period had an investment been held for the entire period. Actual annual figures are available on request from the Manager.

Portfolio performance figures are calculated for the relevant class of the portfolio, for a lump sum investment, on a NAV-NAV basis, with income reinvested on the ex-dividend date. Individual investor performance may differ due to initial fees, actual investment date, date of reinvestment of income and dividend withholding tax. Portfolio performance accounts for all costs that contribute to the calculation of the cost ratios quoted, all returns quoted are after these costs have been accounted for.

Statistics - Positive Months: the number of individual 1 month periods during the specified time period where the return was not negative; Max Gain: the maximum gain in a trough-to-peak incline before a new trough is attained, quoted as the percentage between the trough and the peak. It is an indicator of upside risk over a specified time period (quoted for all periods of 1 year or longer); Max Drawdown: the maximum loss in a peak-to-trough decline before a new peak is attained, quoted as the percentage between the peak and the trough. It is an indicator of downside risk over a specified time period (quoted for all periods of 1 year or longer, where blank no loss was experienced); Highest and Lowest: the highest and the lowest 1 year return (%) that occurred during the specified time period (quoted for all relevant classes launched 1 year or more prior to current month end date).

Additional information about this product including, but not limited to, brochures, application forms and annual or quarterly reports, can be obtained free of charge, from the Manager and from the Manager's website (www.stanlib.com).

Contact details

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