

The fund was down 4.4% in the third quarter, underperforming the average general equity fund (down 2.1%). It has returned 14.4% pa over the last three years, well ahead of the competitor fund average (13.2% pa). Since its inception in 2004, it is the fourth ranked general equity fund in South Africa, having delivered 14.7% pa since then, with a 7.7% pa return over the last decade.

Economic backdrop

Global economic activity has decelerated but is proving reasonably resilient in the face of very rapid monetary tightening. The US economy is demonstrating surprising strength, with a relatively resilient consumer underpinned by a strong labour market with very low unemployment.

Europe's economy, which has been slow given China's weak economic recovery, should benefit from improving consumer real disposable income due to firm wages and sharply falling inflation. Notwithstanding an extremely loose monetary policy, a very weak yen and weak exports to China, Japanese economic activity has been solid. Japan has improving private consumption and business investment, as well as continued export growth.

The Chinese economy's recovery has fallen well short of expectations after the lifting of prolonged pandemic lockdowns. Although contact-intensive service industries are experiencing a rebound, the property market, manufacturing sector and export industries remain very weak. Near term growth prospects are strong however and should be boosted by government stimulus measures.

Economic activity in South Africa is severely constrained by an inadequate and acutely unstable electricity supply, the underperformance of transport infrastructure, poor service delivery from weak and revenue-hungry municipalities and chronically low business confidence. Additionally, the economic contribution from the mining sector that has benefitted from high commodity prices, is now far weaker. For these reasons, coupled with the sizable government debt burden and a large, unskilled population with high unemployment, we remain pessimistic regarding the structural growth rate for the local economy. Gradual steps taken by government toward economic reforms (now involving more productive private sector partnerships) are vital to stabilise the economy and prevent further decline.

Markets review

Global markets were negative in the third quarter (down 3.4% in US dollars), with Germany (down 7.7%) and Japan (down 6.6%) underperforming. Emerging markets were also weak in the period (down 2.8%), albeit stronger than developed markets, with outperformance from Turkey (up 32.8%) and India (up 2.9%). South Korea (down 6.2%), Brazil (down 5.0%) and South Africa (down 4.4%), however, underperformed.

In rand terms, the local equity market was down 3.5% in the period. Financials outperformed (up 2.0%) with life insurers up 3.9%, banks up 1.6% and listed property down 1.0%. OUTsurance (up 25.8%), Sanlam (up 12.5%) and Capitec (up 9.5%) were particularly positive. Growthpoint (down 9.5%), Nedbank (down 7.7%), FirstRand (down 6.8%) and Discovery (down 6.0%) underperformed.

Resources were negative (down 5.2%), with AngloGold (down 23.2%), Gold Fields (down 20.4%), Implats (down 19.8%) and Anglo Platinum (down 15.6%) underperforming. Thungela (up 24.8%), Sasol (up 16.7%) and Exxaro (up 12.0%) outperformed.

Industrials underperformed the other sectors (down 6.7%) driven by weak performances delivered by Richemont (down 25.5%), MultiChoice (down 22.5%) and MTN (down 18.3%). Truworths (up 39.6%), Sappi (up 12.9%), Mondi (up 11.4%) and Spar (up 10.7%) outperformed.

Fund performance and positioning

Negative contributors in the third quarter included Prosus/Naspers, MTN, Anglo Platinum and Metair. The key positive contributors included Sanlam, Curro, Spur and Exxaro.

Global equity contributed negatively to performance, with Prudential, Bayer and Siemens Energy as key detractors. Aroundtown, the Japanese banks and Sekisui contributed positively.

Our portfolios currently have high exposure to Prosus, Datatec, Sanlam, MTN and certain PGM miners, including Amplats.

Anglo Platinum (Amplats) is one of the world's lowest cost platinum group metal (PGM) miners, due to the bulk of its production coming from its sizable Mogalakwena open-pit mine. It has an extensive high-grade reserve base that makes it the largest global producer, with valuable optionality for growth if PGM prices allow. Mogalakwena's output is uniquely exposed to high nickel and copper content, which are commodities that have a robust demand outlook given their usage in technologies required for growing decarbonization applications.

Amplats also has valuable PGM processing facilities, which enable it to beneficiate its own mines' production and monetise its excess capacity through performing processing for other miners. It can therefore benefit from other miners' investment in production growth, without further capital expenditure of its own. Processing capacity is a barrier to entry for new PGM production as it is prohibitively expensive to build. We expect an environment where PGM demand remains steady and where supply is severely constrained due to a decade of underinvestment and a shortage of processing capacity. In this context, Amplats's low-cost mines and valuable processing facilities are very undervalued at present.

Disclaimer

The Camissa unit trust fund range is offered by Camissa Collective Investments (RF) Limited (Camissa), registration number 2010/009289/06. Camissa is a subsidiary of Camissa Asset Management (Pty) Limited [a licensed financial services provider (FSP No. 784)], the investment manager of the unit trust funds. Camissa is a member of the Association for Savings and Investment SA (ASISA) and is a registered management company in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, No 45 of 2002.

Unit trusts are generally medium to long-term investments. The value of units will fluctuate and past performance should not be used as a guide for future performance. Camissa does not provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the return of the portfolio(s). Foreign securities may be included in the portfolio(s) and may result in potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds. In addition, macroeconomic, political, foreign exchange, tax and settlement risks may apply. However, our robust investment process takes these factors into account. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. Exchange rate movements, where applicable, may affect the value of underlying investments. Different classes of units may apply and are subject to different fees and charges. A schedule of the maximum fees, charges and commissions is available upon request. Commission and incentives may be paid, and if so, would be included in the overall costs. Camissa has the right to close the portfolio to new investors in order to manage it more effectively in accordance with its mandate. Additional information is available free of charge on our website or from Client Service.