

# PRESCIENT FLEXIBLE BOND FUND (A2)

## MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT & GENERAL INVESTOR REPORT

### INVESTMENT AND RETURN OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to outperform both JSE All Bond Index and the STeFI Call Index over time, utilising active bond and cash management combined with strategies which aim to reduce risk over time.

### INVESTMENT PROCESS

The Fund invests in cash and high-quality capital market instruments. A number of techniques are used to generate returns, including duration management, yield enhancements via credit exposure and risk management strategies, where these strategies are designed to provide downside protection.

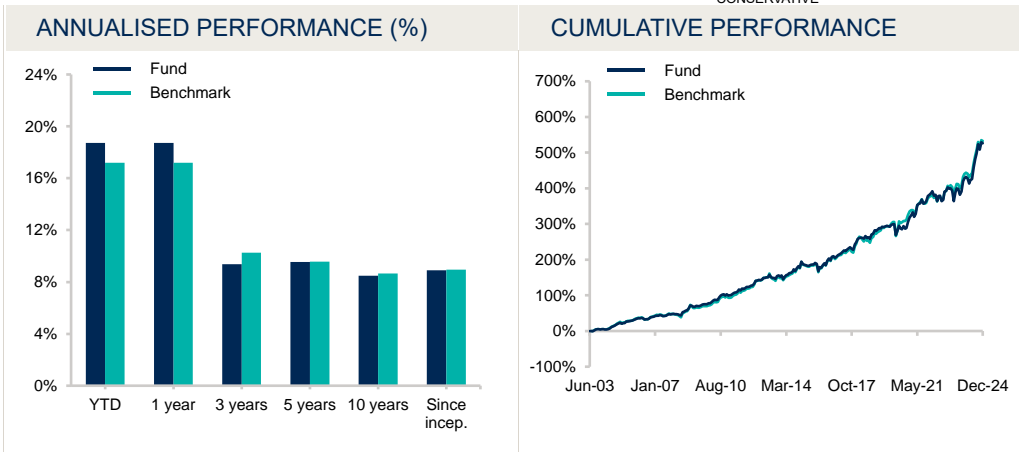
### WHO SHOULD INVEST

Investors requiring a specific allocation to the bond market but is prepared to give the fund manager some discretion to exercise his views on value in the bond market. This Fund is Reg. 28 compliant.

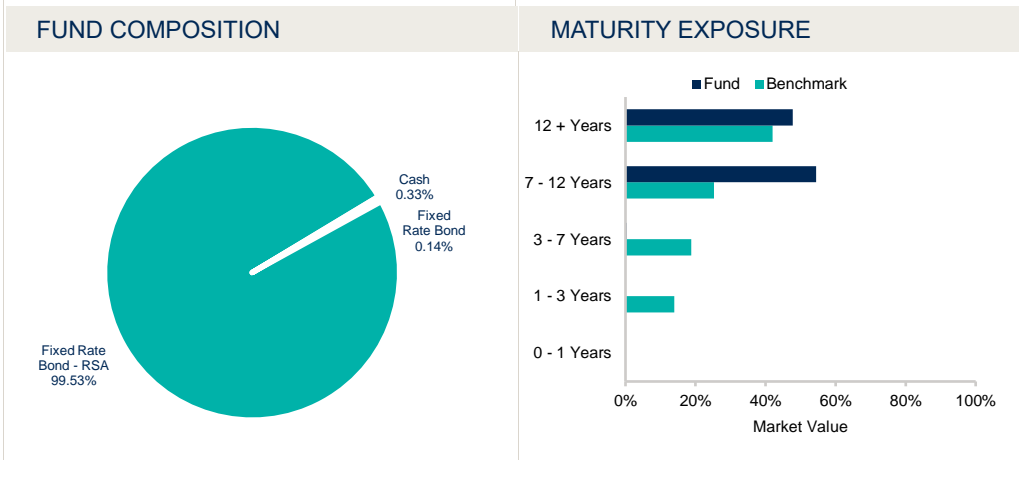
### RISK INDICATOR DEFINITION

This portfolio can invest across the duration spectrum from money market to long bonds, which can result in capital volatility over the shorter term and deviation from the benchmark. It is managed in such a manner that the probability of capital losses over one-year periods is unlikely. This portfolio typically targets a return in the region of 2% - 3% above inflation before tax over the long term.

## RISK INDICATOR



ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)			RISK AND FUND STATS		
	Fund	Benchmark	Current	Fund	Benchmark
1 year	18.73	17.18	Yield (gross)	10.29%	
3 years	9.38	10.25	Average Duration	6.15yrs	
5 years	9.53	9.56	Since inception (p.a.)		
10 years	8.47	8.65	Alpha	-0.04%	
Since incep.	8.91	8.95	Sharpe Ratio	0.33	0.31
Highest rolling 1 year	29.43	26.14	Standard Deviation	6.83%	7.39%
Lowest rolling 1 year	-5.23	-5.61	Max Drawdown	-9.00%	-9.79%



# Prescient

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

31 DECEMBER 2024

## ABOUT THE FUND

### Fund Manager:

Prescient Bond Team

### Fund Classification:

South Africa - Interest Bearing - Variable Term

### Benchmark:

JSE All Bond Index

### JSE Code:

PBQA2

### ISIN:

ZAE000150827

### Fund Size:

R3 bn

### No of Units:

545,432,153

### Unit Price (cpu):

104.54

### Inception Date:

30 June 2003

### Minimum Investment:

R10 000 lump-sum

R1 000 per month

### Initial Fee:

0.00%

### Annual Management Fee:

0.50% (excl VAT)

### Fee Class:

A2

(All performance figures are net of TIC)

### Fee Breakdown:

Management Fee 0.50%

Performance Fees 0.00%

Other Fees\* 0.11%

**Total Expense Ratio (TER) 0.61%**

**Transaction Costs (TC) 0.00%**

**Total Investment Charge (TIC) 0.61%**

\*Other fees includes underlying fee (where applicable): Audit Fees, Custody Fees, Trustee Fees and VAT

### Income Distribution:

30 September 2024 - 4.56 cpu

31 March 2024 - 5.23 cpu

# PRESCIENT FLEXIBLE BOND FUND (A2)

## FUND MONTHLY RETURNS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
2003							-0.41%	-0.33%	2.45%	2.23%	0.90%	0.12%	5.01%
2004	-0.97%	0.88%	-0.16%	-0.74%	0.14%	1.11%	2.03%	2.91%	1.55%	1.90%	1.75%	2.79%	13.92%
2005	1.19%	1.86%	-2.63%	1.72%	0.43%	2.95%	0.61%	0.41%	0.41%	0.69%	1.83%	1.55%	11.48%
2006	0.77%	0.72%	0.03%	0.97%	-0.75%	-2.88%	0.83%	0.27%	1.13%	2.41%	0.64%	1.16%	5.36%
2007	0.75%	1.03%	0.01%	1.09%	-0.32%	-1.66%	0.42%	0.65%	1.64%	1.28%	-0.85%	0.99%	5.09%
2008	0.42%	-0.60%	-0.29%	-0.59%	-1.18%	-0.72%	6.87%	0.90%	1.88%	0.40%	3.50%	5.00%	16.34%
2009	-0.77%	-1.41%	0.16%	1.41%	-0.35%	0.01%	0.99%	1.48%	0.50%	-0.13%	0.26%	1.17%	3.31%
2010	0.42%	1.92%	2.08%	1.17%	-0.35%	0.39%	3.51%	2.80%	0.98%	0.63%	-1.56%	1.50%	14.23%
2011	-1.66%	0.40%	0.47%	1.85%	1.15%	0.46%	1.05%	2.97%	-1.29%	2.31%	-0.42%	1.06%	8.53%
2012	1.57%	0.12%	0.14%	1.57%	0.14%	2.47%	3.13%	0.25%	0.72%	-0.17%	0.77%	1.63%	12.98%
2013	0.07%	0.79%	0.04%	2.90%	-2.73%	-0.81%	-0.20%	-1.15%	3.31%	0.97%	-1.52%	1.22%	2.77%
2014	-4.14%	2.88%	1.87%	0.52%	1.76%	0.27%	1.11%	2.47%	-1.71%	3.26%	1.69%	-1.37%	8.70%
2015	5.96%	-2.44%	-0.67%	-0.09%	-0.66%	-0.09%	1.01%	0.34%	-0.02%	1.49%	-0.84%	-7.15%	-3.58%
2016	4.15%	-0.59%	2.67%	1.84%	-1.83%	4.55%	1.89%	-1.61%	3.16%	0.64%	-1.50%	1.19%	15.28%
2017	1.32%	0.80%	0.78%	1.50%	1.10%	-0.50%	1.40%	0.95%	0.93%	-1.46%	-0.69%	4.60%	11.14%
2018	1.49%	2.92%	0.65%	0.24%	-0.21%	-0.39%	1.91%	-1.39%	0.45%	-1.18%	3.33%	0.62%	8.65%
2019	2.50%	-0.32%	0.87%	1.10%	-0.20%	1.19%	-0.29%	0.46%	0.47%	-0.16%	-0.52%	1.35%	6.61%
2020	0.45%	0.04%	-7.56%	3.35%	3.62%	-1.92%	-0.78%	2.36%	-1.83%	0.63%	4.33%	3.08%	5.28%
2021	1.45%	2.01%	-3.01%	2.03%	5.76%	0.85%	0.18%	2.36%	-2.51%	0.54%	0.98%	3.23%	14.44%
2022	0.70%	0.90%	1.16%	-2.68%	0.57%	-3.71%	3.13%	0.17%	-3.21%	0.93%	4.92%	0.34%	2.92%
2023	2.03%	-0.66%	0.15%	-1.29%	-5.93%	5.12%	2.41%	-0.46%	-3.20%	1.98%	5.76%	1.54%	7.09%
2024	0.79%	-0.79%	-2.68%	1.94%	0.39%	6.19%	4.31%	2.56%	4.44%	-2.38%	3.36%	-0.43%	18.73%

Source: Performance calculated by Prescient Fund Services verified by the FSP  
Date: 31 December 2024

## FUND COMMENTARY

### Market Context

In December, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) reduced the federal funds rate by 25 basis points, signalling progress toward its dual mandate of maximum employment and price stability.

The post-meeting statement was updated to emphasize that the extent and timing of additional rate adjustments will depend on incoming economic data, the overall outlook, and the balance of risks. This suggests a slower pace of future rate cuts compared to earlier expectations.

According to the Summary of Economic Projections (SEP), the median forecast now anticipates two additional 25 basis point cuts in 2025, resulting in a federal funds rate of 3.875%, down from the previously projected four cuts. For 2026, two further 25 basis point cuts are expected, lowering the rate to 3.375%. By 2027, one more 25 basis point reduction is projected, bringing the terminal rate to 3.125%, compared to the earlier estimate of 2.875%.

The updated projections also indicate higher forecasts for both core and headline inflation through 2026, a lower unemployment rate forecast for 2024 and 2025, and stronger GDP growth expectations for the same period.

### Fund Positioning

We currently favour the belly area of the curve. This is primarily held through R2032s and R2037s, which represent around 78% of our portfolio.

### Fund Performance

The Fund underperformed its benchmark during the month and currently offers a gross yield of 10.29 % p.a., compared to 10.09% p.a. for the All Bond Index.

### Contributors and Detractors

The local nominal bond market saw a 0.35% decrease on a total return basis for December, with the 1-3 year segment of the curve outperforming and inflation linked bond market posted gains, rising by 0.76% over the month.

The best-performing nominal and inflation-linked bonds were the R186 and I2058, returning 0.5% and 1.86%, respectively.

### Outlook

South African bond yields continue to respond to pricing impulses from geopolitical developments, Central Bank actions, and their consequent effects on global financial conditions.

For some emerging economies, high risk-free policy rates, combined with a strong dollar and weaker demand from advanced economies, could increase capital outflow pressures—particularly for commodity importers facing higher commodity prices and weaker exchange rates.

These pressures pose challenges, especially for borrowers with currency mismatches between their assets and liabilities, creating a significant "risk-off" environment.

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## GLOSSARY

**Annualised performance:** Annualised performance shows longer term performance rescaled to a 1 year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

**Highest & Lowest performance:** The highest and lowest performance for any 1 year over the period since inception have been shown.

**NAV:** The net asset value represents the assets of a Fund less its liabilities.

**Current Yield:** Annual income (interest or dividends) divided by the current price of the security.

**CPU:** Cents Per Unit to the Glossary

**Alpha:** Denotes the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

**Sharpe Ratio:** The Sharpe ratio is used to indicate the excess return the portfolio delivers over the risk free rate per unit of risk adopted by the fund.

**Standard Deviation:** The deviation of the return stream relative to its own average.

**Max Drawdown:** The maximum peak to trough loss suffered by the Fund since inception.

**Average Duration:** The weighted average duration of all the underlying interest bearing instruments in the Fund.

**Forward Yield:** The Forward Yield is the expected combined income of the instruments in the portfolio over the next year expressed as a percentage of the current value of those instruments.

## Fund Specific Risks

**Default Risk:** The risk that the issuers of fixed income instruments may not be able to meet interest payments nor repay the money they have borrowed. The issuers credit quality is vital. The worse the credit quality, the greater the risk of default and therefore investment loss.

**Derivatives risk:** The use of derivatives could increase overall risk by magnifying the effect of both gains and losses in a Fund. As such, large changes in value and potentially large financial losses could result.

**Interest rate risk:** The value of fixed income investments (e.g. bonds) tends to be inversely related to interest and inflation rates. Hence their value decreases when interest rates and/or inflation rises.

**Derivative counterparty risk:** A counterparty to a derivative transaction may experience a breakdown in meeting its obligations thereby leading to financial loss.

**Liquidity risk:** If there are insufficient buyers or sellers of particular investments, the result may lead to delays in trading and being able to make settlements, and/or large fluctuations in value. This may lead to larger financial losses than expected.

## Information Disclosure

The portfolio has adhered to its policy objective and there were no material changes to the composition of the portfolio during the quarter.

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## DISCLAIMER

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) should be considered as medium to long-term investments. The value may go up as well as down and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS's are traded at the ruling price and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. The collective investment scheme may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager. There is no guarantee in respect of capital or returns in a portfolio. A CIS may be closed to new investors in order for it to be managed more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. CIS prices are calculated on a net asset basis, which is the total value of all the assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions (brokerage, STT, VAT, auditor's fees, bank charges, trustee and custodian fees and the annual management fee) from the portfolio divided by the number of participatory interests (units) in issue. Forward pricing is used. The Fund's Total Expense Ratio (TER) reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication of future TERs. During the phase in period TERs do not include information gathered over a full year. Transaction Costs (TC) is the percentage of the value of the Fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the Fund's underlying assets. Transaction cost is 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.

Where a current yield has been included for Funds that derive its income primarily from interest bearing income, the yield is a weighted average yield of all underlying interest bearing instruments as at the last day of the month. This yield is subject to change as market rates and underlying investments change.

The Manager retains full legal responsibility for any third-party-named portfolio. Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio there may be 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. The investor acknowledges the inherent risk associated with the selected investments and that there are no guarantees. Please note that all documents, notifications of deposit, investment, redemption and switch applications must be received by Prescient by or before 11:00 (SA) for money market funds and the Prescient Optimised Income Fund and by or before 13:00 for all other funds, to be transacted at the net asset value price for that day. Where all required documentation is not received before the stated cut-off time, Prescient shall not be obliged to transact at the net asset value price as agreed to. Funds are priced at either 3pm or 5pm depending on the nature of the Fund. Prices are published daily and are available on the Prescient website.

Performance has been calculated using net NAV to NAV numbers, including actual initial and all ongoing fees, with income reinvested on the reinvestment date. The performance for each period shown reflects the return for investors who have been fully invested for that period. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestments and dividend withholding tax. Full performance calculations are available from the manager on request.

This portfolio operates as a white label fund under the Prescient Unit Trust Scheme, which is governed by the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act.

For any additional information such as fund prices, brochures and application forms please go to [www.prescient.co.za](http://www.prescient.co.za)

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Management Company:

Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd., **Registration number:** 2002/022560/07 **Physical address:** Prescient House, Westlake Business Park, Otto Close, Westlake, 7945 **Postal address:** PO Box 31142, Tokai, 7966 **Telephone number:** 0800 111 899 **E-mail:** [info@prescient.co.za](mailto:info@prescient.co.za) **Website:** [www.prescient.co.za](http://www.prescient.co.za)

### Trustee:

Nedbank Investor Services, **Physical address:** 2nd Floor, 16 Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Roodepoort, 1709 **Telephone number:** +27 11 534 6557 **Website:** [www.nedbank.co.za](http://www.nedbank.co.za)

The Management Company and Trustee are registered and approved under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act (No.45 of 2002). Prescient is a member of the Association for Savings and Investments SA.

### Investment Manager:

Prescient Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, Registration number: 1998/023640/07 is an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP 612) under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002), to act in the capacity as investment manager. This information is not advice, as defined in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002). Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision. **Physical address:** Block B, Silverwood, Silverwood Lane, Steenberg Office Park, Tokai, 7945 **Postal address:** PO Box 31142, Tokai 7966 **Telephone number:** +27 21 700 3600 **Website:** [www.prescient.co.za](http://www.prescient.co.za)

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