

PRESCIENT CORE TOP 40 EQUITY FUND (A2)

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

INVESTMENT AND RETURN OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to outperform the FTSE/JSE Africa Top 40 index. Tracking error to the index is minimised in the process.

INVESTMENT PROCESS

The Fund is an equity index fund where returns are enhanced by taking advantage of low risk arbitrage opportunities in the market. Additional benefits are gained from efficient implementation of cash flows, dividend reinvestments, management of corporate actions, use of future discounts and index rebalancing. The Fund aims to remain fully invested in equities at all times.

WHO SHOULD INVEST

Investors seeking broad based exposure to the large capitalisation sector of the South African equity market. This Fund is appropriate for investors with a long-term investment horizon.

RISK INDICATOR DEFINITION

These portfolios typically hold meaningful equity and/or offshore exposure which may result in significant capital volatility over all periods. Due to their nature expected long term returns are higher than for the other risk categories.

RISK INDICATOR



ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)			CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE
	Fund	Benchmark	
1 year	20.70	18.37	
3 years	9.37	8.65	
5 years	13.51	13.20	
10 years	9.18	9.13	
Since incep.	14.97	14.69	
Highest rolling 1 year	71.18	72.85	
Lowest rolling 1 year	-38.53	-39.70	

RISK AND FUND STATS (Since inception)			TOP 10 SHARES
Since inception (p.a.)	Fund	Benchmark	% of Fund
Alpha	0.28%		Naspers 12.2
Sharpe Ratio	0.52	0.50	Firstrand Limited 7.2
Standard Deviation	16.10%	15.99%	Standard Bank Group 5.4
Max Drawdown	-42.71%	-43.42%	Gold Fields 5.3
Dividend Yield	3.31%	3.32	Capitec Bank Hldgs Ltd 4.7
PE Ratio	15.24	15.19	Prosus 4.0
			MTN Group 3.9
			Anglo American 3.8
			Compagnie Financiere Richemont AG 3.5
			AngloGold Ashanti Plc 3.3
			Total 53.3

ASSET ALLOCATION	SECTOR ALLOCATION

Prescient

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

31 JANUARY 2025

ABOUT THE FUND

Fund Manager:

Prescient Equity Team

Fund Classification:

South African - Equity - Large Cap

Benchmark:

FTSE/JSE Africa Top 40 Index

JSE Code:

PEQB2

ISIN:

ZAE000122156

Fund Size:

R237.8 m

No of Units:

8,723,564

Unit Price (cpu):

909.57

Inception Date:

30 June 2003

Minimum Investment:

R10 000 lump-sum

R1 000 per month

Income Distribution:

31 March 2024 - 6.49 cpu

Initial Fee:

0.00%

Annual Management Fee:

0.30% (excl VAT)

(All performance figures are net of TIC)

Fee Breakdown:

Management Fee	0.30%
Performance Fees	0.00%
Other Fees*	0.10%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.40%
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.01%
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.41%

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

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FUND MONTHLY RETURNS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
2003							10.54%	4.75%	-3.35%	10.08%	-0.99%	8.42%	32.23%
2004	5.34%	0.58%	-1.98%	-2.62%	0.93%	-3.25%	2.24%	9.28%	5.44%	-1.82%	6.88%	1.08%	23.39%
2005	1.16%	5.82%	-0.46%	-5.83%	10.37%	2.92%	6.75%	1.99%	10.33%	-2.41%	1.73%	8.04%	46.86%
2006	8.91%	-4.24%	7.32%	4.50%	-2.19%	4.74%	-1.93%	5.32%	2.34%	4.14%	2.09%	4.05%	40.13%
2007	1.57%	1.01%	6.93%	2.89%	2.11%	-0.27%	1.34%	0.74%	5.46%	4.75%	-2.58%	-5.00%	19.97%
2008	-4.42%	12.42%	-1.71%	4.79%	4.18%	-3.23%	-10.09%	-0.43%	-14.25%	-11.73%	1.81%	0.86%	-22.37%
2009	-4.97%	-10.47%	12.66%	0.68%	11.03%	-3.56%	10.10%	3.03%	-0.20%	6.15%	2.95%	2.32%	30.81%
2010	-3.77%	-0.03%	7.57%	0.03%	-5.32%	-3.36%	6.94%	-4.39%	10.15%	3.19%	0.59%	5.84%	17.17%
2011	-1.98%	2.86%	0.91%	2.12%	-0.50%	-2.39%	-2.83%	-0.11%	-4.40%	11.32%	-1.35%	-0.65%	2.15%
2012	6.02%	1.42%	-1.96%	2.46%	-3.42%	0.83%	3.39%	2.52%	1.63%	5.53%	2.09%	3.24%	26.04%
2013	3.25%	-2.12%	0.78%	-2.46%	9.02%	-6.48%	5.20%	3.41%	4.86%	3.85%	-1.35%	3.28%	22.26%
2014	-2.27%	5.09%	2.18%	1.84%	2.16%	2.46%	1.41%	-1.33%	-2.71%	0.57%	0.65%	-0.95%	9.20%
2015	2.46%	4.50%	-1.33%	4.93%	-3.60%	-0.05%	0.02%	-4.19%	2.06%	7.79%	-3.39%	-1.61%	7.03%
2016	-4.06%	0.04%	6.11%	0.67%	3.24%	-4.08%	-0.11%	1.08%	-1.17%	-2.95%	-0.51%	0.37%	-1.82%
2017	4.84%	-3.93%	3.29%	4.43%	0.22%	-3.61%	7.59%	2.55%	-0.49%	6.68%	1.30%	-1.35%	22.84%
2018	0.13%	-2.31%	-4.26%	5.62%	-2.97%	3.36%	-0.12%	2.34%	-4.84%	-6.73%	-2.66%	4.62%	-8.36%
2019	2.97%	3.51%	1.97%	4.27%	-4.94%	5.41%	-2.58%	-2.87%	0.16%	3.19%	-2.06%	3.44%	12.49%
2020	-1.67%	-8.35%	-10.04%	14.29%	0.36%	8.01%	2.42%	-0.01%	-1.84%	-5.15%	10.54%	3.61%	9.67%
2021	5.32%	5.53%	1.04%	0.74%	1.16%	-2.74%	4.55%	-2.54%	-3.53%	5.24%	5.36%	5.10%	27.50%
2022	1.29%	3.23%	-0.87%	-4.30%	0.31%	-8.67%	3.47%	-1.32%	-5.93%	5.65%	15.05%	-2.14%	3.82%
2023	10.80%	-3.02%	-0.33%	2.71%	-5.25%	2.25%	4.70%	-5.49%	-3.59%	-3.40%	9.83%	1.56%	9.55%
2024	-3.48%	-2.70%	3.14%	3.44%	0.86%	4.59%	4.27%	1.57%	4.33%	-1.34%	-1.09%	-1.06%	12.76%
2025	3.32%												3.32%

Source: Performance calculated by Prescient Fund Services verified by the FSP
Date: 31 January 2025

FUND COMMENTARY

Market Context

Despite the headlines and market turbulence, January 2025 delivered solid returns for equity investors. The MSCI World Index regained its footing after December's dip, closing the month up 3.53%, just shy of its all-time highs. The US market, despite a brief spike in heart rates following China's DeepSeek jump scare during the latest AI arms race episode, was buoyed by strong macroeconomic data and the promise of market-positive policies from the incoming administration. The S&P 500 Index returned 2.78% for the month. Across the pond, European markets, with relatively lower exposure to the technology sector, got off to a strong start. The Euro Stoxx Index delivered an impressive 7.89% return as companies posted positive earnings surprises for the previous quarter.

China's CSI 300 Index bucked the trend, losing 2.26% in US dollars, as market participants brace for a potential tariff-led trade war with the US. Meanwhile, Japan's Nikkei 225 Index closed marginally higher, up 0.72% in US dollars, after the Bank of Japan raised rates by another 25 basis points this month. Broader emerging markets continued to lag behind the developed markets, with the MSCI Emerging Markets Index up 1.79%, making relative valuations increasingly attractive.

The domestic equity market was bolstered by the resources sector, which gained 17.91% this month, bouncing back from a difficult final quarter last year. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index closed the month up 2.32%, while the rand gained 0.93% against the US dollar following the Reserve Bank's decision to cut interest rates by 25 basis points.

Fund Positioning

The Fund maintains maximum effective exposure to large- and mid-cap sectors of the market. This equity exposure consists primarily of top allocations in the financials, basic materials, and technology sectors, with the largest shares in Naspers, FirstRand Bank, and Standard Bank.

Outlook

Our moderately positive outlook for the local equity market remains unchanged. Despite marginal weakening during the month, our valuation and sentiment indicators continue to support this view, alongside improving economic and financial conditions. We remain neutral on the local listed property sector and US equities.

Fund Performance

The Fund has delivered returns in line with, and slightly ahead of, the benchmark index over the past month. This performance is consistent with the investment process and systematic risk-managed investment philosophy employed to achieve consistent long-term outperformance.

Contributors and Detractors

The top contributors to the Funds performance in January were Gold Fields (+30.9%), AngloGold (+34.3%), and Richemont (+30.7%). Detractors included Naspers (-5.4%), Capitec (-5.2%), and Mr Price (-15.4%).

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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.

Dividend Yield: The weighted average dividend yield of all the underlying equity in the Fund. The dividend yield of each company is the dividends per share divided by the price.

PE Ratio: The weighted average price earnings ratio of all the underlying equity in the Fund. The price earnings ratio of each company is the price divided by the earnings per share.

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.

% Property risk: Investments in real estate securities can carry the same risks as investing directly in real estate itself. Real estate prices move in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic and political conditions, interest rates and tax considerations.

Geographic / Sector risk: For investments primarily concentrated in specific countries, geographical regions and/or industry sectors, their resulting value may decrease whilst portfolios more broadly invested might grow.

Equity investment risk: Value of equities (e.g. shares) and equity-related investments may vary according to company profits and future prospects as well as more general market factors. In the event of a company default (e.g. bankruptcy), the owners of their equity rank last in terms of any financial payment from that company.

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

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 **Website:** 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

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 (N0.37 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

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