

# PRESCIENT CORE EQUITY FUND (A2)

## MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT & GENERAL INVESTOR REPORT

### INVESTMENT AND RETURN OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to deliver returns close to the FTSE/JSE Africa Shareholder Weighted Total Return Index at low cost. Although the Fund is structured similarly to the SWIX, it can out / underperform the SWIX by small amounts over time.

### INVESTMENT PROCESS

The Fund follows an investment policy which firstly endeavours to follow the composition of the SWIX closely and secondly seeks enhancement opportunities to secure for investors an optimum overall return. In addition to investing in physical assets, the Fund can use derivatives to create exposure to the SWIX or subsets thereof in a low cost and efficient manner.

### WHO SHOULD INVEST

Investors who are seeking long term capital growth through exposure to the South Africa equity market by investing in a fund with a low tracking error relative to the SWIX and who are cost conscious.

### 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	1.48	2.69		
3 years	5.20	5.31		
5 years	6.74	6.96		
Since incep.	6.40	6.60		
Highest rolling 1 year	50.76	51.51		
Lowest rolling 1 year	-21.05	-20.88		

RISK AND FUND STATS (Since inception)			TOP 10 SHARES	
Since inception (p.a.)	Fund	Benchmark		% of Fund
Alpha	-0.20%		Naspers Ltd - N Shares	10.8
Sharpe Ratio	0.03	0.05	Firststrand Ltd	5.4
Standard Deviation	15.59%	15.07%	Gold Fields Ltd	4.7
Max Drawdown	-26.52%	-26.03%	Standard Bank Group Ltd	4.3
Dividend Yield	4.45%	4.51%	Prosus NV	3.6
PE Ratio	21.93	19.44	Anglo American Plc	3.4
			Capitec Bank Holdings Ltd	3.3
			Cie Financiere Richemont SA	3.1
			MTN Group Ltd	3.0
			British American Tobacco Plc	2.8
			<b>Total</b>	<b>44.4</b>

ASSET ALLOCATION		SECTOR ALLOCATION (%)			
		Fund	Benchmark	Relative	
		Basic Materials	23.0	23.0	0.0
		Consumer Discretionary	0.0	0.1	-0.1
		Consumer Goods	8.7	8.7	0.0
		Consumer Services	11.5	11.6	-0.1
		Financials	31.8	31.9	-0.1
		Health Care	2.1	2.3	-0.1
		Industrials	3.7	3.9	-0.2
		Technology	14.4	14.4	0.0
		Telecommunications	4.1	4.2	-0.1
		Utilities	0.0	0.1	0.0
		Cash	0.7	0.0	0.7

# Prescient

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

31 MARCH 2024

## ABOUT THE FUND

**Fund Manager:**  
Prescient Equity Team

**Fund Classification:**  
South African - Equity - General

**Benchmark:**  
FTSE/JSE Africa Shareholder Weighted TR Index (SWIX)

**JSE Code:**  
PCEA2

**ISIN:**  
ZAE000238283

**Fund Size:**  
R722.5 m

**No of Units:**  
570,553,597

**Unit Price (cpu):**  
123.04

**Inception Date:**  
31 December 2016

**Minimum Investment:**  
R10 000 lump-sum  
R1 000 per month

**Income Distribution:**  
31 March 2024 - 2.33 cpu  
31 March 2023 - 2.31 cpu  
**Initial Fee:**  
0.00%

**Annual Management Fee:**  
0.30% (excl VAT)

**Fund Class**  
A2

(All performance figures are net of TIC)

Fee Breakdown:	
Management Fee	0.30%
Performance Fees	0.00%
Other Fees*	0.08%
<b>Total Expense Ratio (TER)</b>	<b>0.38%</b>
<b>Transaction Costs (TC)</b>	<b>0.04%</b>
<b>Total Investment Charge (TIC)</b>	<b>0.42%</b>

\*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
2017	2.48%	-1.49%	2.15%	4.32%	-0.11%	-3.78%	6.43%	2.34%	-2.06%	6.75%	3.20%	-0.35%	21.10%
2018	-0.75%	-1.14%	-5.22%	4.47%	-4.85%	2.75%	0.20%	1.16%	-4.59%	-6.06%	-0.68%	2.93%	-11.80%
2019	2.90%	1.61%	1.28%	5.63%	-5.72%	3.10%	-2.31%	-2.34%	0.30%	2.64%	-1.54%	3.72%	9.05%
2020	-1.81%	-8.90%	-14.30%	14.25%	-0.63%	7.55%	2.59%	-1.00%	-1.69%	-2.52%	8.43%	3.88%	2.62%
2021	4.91%	4.61%	2.62%	-0.15%	1.47%	-2.88%	1.75%	0.38%	-1.54%	2.72%	0.85%	4.65%	20.82%
2022	2.57%	1.89%	1.30%	-4.21%	0.78%	-7.97%	2.18%	-0.47%	-4.97%	5.51%	10.81%	-2.72%	3.39%
2023	8.32%	-2.98%	-1.55%	2.67%	-7.48%	5.04%	4.50%	-4.90%	-3.61%	-2.69%	9.30%	2.69%	8.00%
2024	-2.84%	-2.41%	2.52%										-2.80%

## FUND COMMENTARY

March saw global equity markets extend their gains to close off what has been a sound opening quarter. The MSCI World Index rose 3.21% in March to close the quarter up an impressive 8.88%. Robust macroeconomic data allayed recessionary fears in the wake of a historic rate hiking cycle and the war on inflation. The S&P 500 Index in the US continued to march higher, closing the month up 3.22% and 10.56% for the quarter. In addition to the extraordinary run of the magnificent seven, this solid performance has to a large extent been helped by a strong labour market and consumer spending providing a handy tail-wind to corporate earnings growth. Other developed markets similarly had a positive opening to the year, the Euro Stoxx Index in Europe for instance posted healthy returns, up 4.35% and 7.06% for the month and quarter respectively. The notable plodder, albeit still positive was the UK after the economy fell into a technical recession at the end of the previous quarter. Further east, the Nikkei 225 Index in Japan surged on, gaining 2.17% for the month to close the quarter up 12.28% and just shy of its all-time high. This comes amidst a major shift to conventional monetary policy by the Bank of Japan for the first time in over two decades. Emerging market equities continued to underperform developed markets. The MSCI EM Index having suffered a 4.64% pull back in January staged an impressive rebound to close the quarter up 2.37%. This has been closely correlated with China, where the CSI 300 Index similarly suffered a 5.88% drawdown in January but staged a government support led recovery to close the quarter up 1.44%.

With election day rapidly approaching, the local market has been hampered by sluggish economic data. The initial market relief on the back of the fiscal commitment to reduce the national debt tabled in the budget quickly faded alongside a higher for longer interest rate outlook and stubbornly higher inflation prints. The resources sector made back some of the losses suffered earlier in the year, gaining 13.86% in March to close the quarter down 13.56%. The financial sector is yet to print a positive monthly return this year, down 4.11% and 7.67% for March and the quarter respectively. Industrials have fared better, up 2.39% and 0.21% respectively for the month and quarter.

The FTSE/JSE Shareholder Index closed the month up 2.86%. The Fund was behind the benchmark, up 2.55% (gross of fees) for the month.

### Contributors to Performance:

The positions that contributed most to the absolute performance of the fund for the month were Gold Fields Ltd (+22.47%), Naspers Ltd (+6.42%), and Harmony Gold (+40.42%).

### Detractors from Performance:

The largest detractors from the month's absolute performance were Standard Bank Group Ltd (-8.22%), Absa Group Ltd (-9.43%), and Cie Financiere Richemont SA (-5.87%).

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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.

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

**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 13:00 (SA), 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 **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](http://www.prescient.co.za)

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