

Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Fund information update at 31 March 2023

What is the fund's objective?

The objective of the fund is to achieve capital preservation and income generation by investing in long-term fixed interest securities. This fund is an actively managed, unconstrained, South African fixed-income strategy that aims to generate consistent and predictable long term returns through investments in high quality income-yielding debt securities.

What does the fund invest in?

Securities will normally consist of a spread of gilts, semi-gilts, loan stock, debentures, debenture bonds, approved securities, notes and liquid assets and any other securities which are consistent with the fund's investment policy.

What possible risks are associated with this fund?

General market risks include a rise or volatility in bond yields, rising interest rates, economic and political risk, inflation uncertainty and duration risk. Where foreign securities are included in the portfolio there may be additional risks, such as potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macro-economic risks, political risks, tax risks, settlement risks, and potential limitations on the availability of market information.

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?

This fund suits investors that are looking for stable income and reasonable capital growth over the longer term.

Income

Distribution Net income is calculated and accrued daily and is declared and distributed quarterly.

Declaration 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December

General fund information

Manager(s) Mzimasi Mabece and Bernard Drotschie

Size (NAV) R 3.16 billion

Classification South African - Interest Bearing - Variable Term

Benchmark FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

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 A

Launch 01 July 2014

ISIN number ZAE000191763

JSE code MDBFA

Minimum investment requirements -

Lump sum R 50,000

Monthly R 1,000

What are the costs to invest in this fund?

Maximum charges including VAT

	Class A
Initial fee (manager)	0.000%
Initial fee (adviser)	3.450%
Annual fee (manager)	0.863%
Annual fee (adviser)	0.000%
Performance fee	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 2022

	Class A
Based on period from:	01/01/2020
Total Expense	0.87%
Transaction Costs	0.00%
Total Investment Charge	0.87%
1 Year Total Expense	0.87%

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.

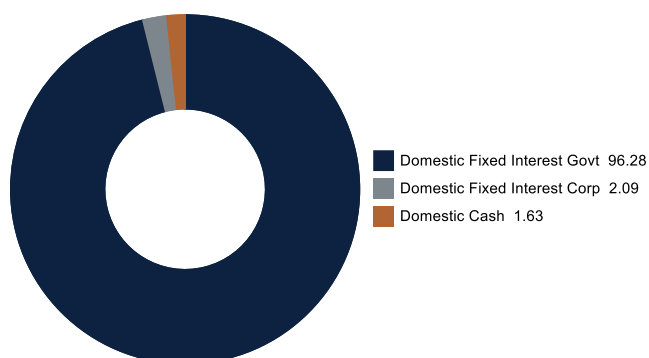
Total Investment Charges (TIC): This ratio is simply the sum of the TER and TC, showing the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the investment of the fund. It should be noted that performance figures account for all costs included in the TIC ratio, so you should not deduct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

Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

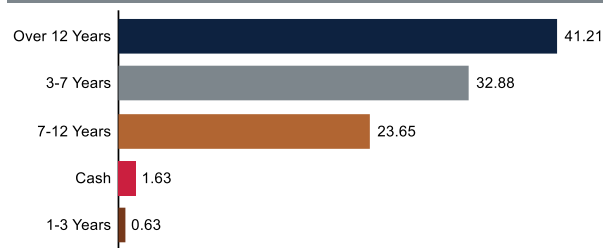
Monthly update at 31 March 2023

Holdings

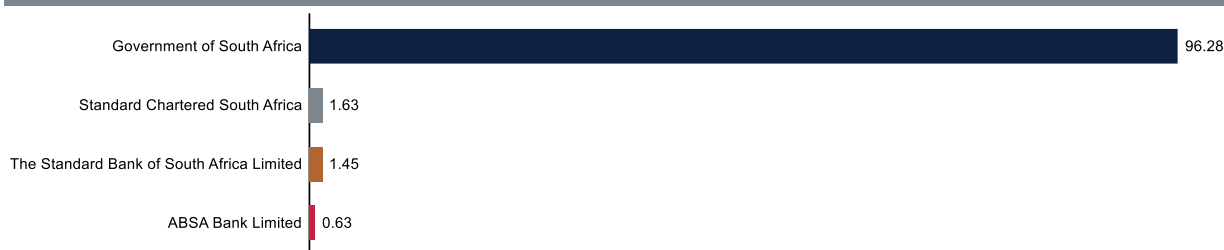
Asset allocation (%)



Fixed Interest allocation (%)



Fixed Interest Top 10 Issuer exposure (%)



Performance and Income

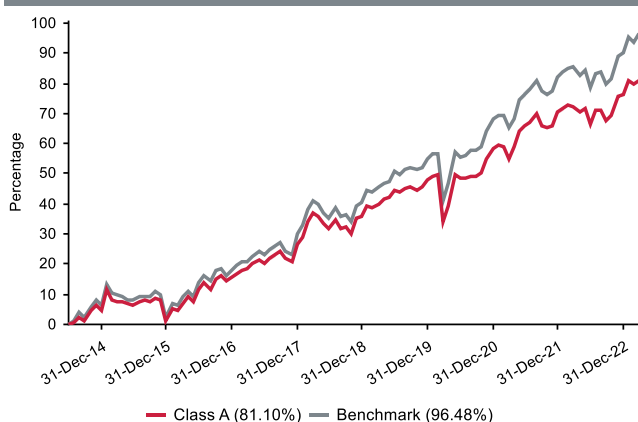
Class A Launch: 01 July 2014

Benchmark: FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

Returns (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	Launch
Class A					
Class	4.97	10.51	5.76	7.79	7.02
Rank/Out of	30/46	26/34	25/28	22/24	17/17
Sector Average	5.26	10.75	6.48	8.04	7.73
Benchmark	5.83	11.63	6.90	8.77	8.02

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

Cumulative performance (%) from Launch



Statistics (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	Launch
Class A					
Positive Months	8	24	39	57	67
Max Gain	8.84	34.94	39.08	69.08	81.10
Max Drawdown	-3.56	-3.71	-10.44	-10.44	-10.44
Highest	7.29	15.64	15.64	15.64	15.64
Lowest	0.31	-1.54	-4.09	-4.09	-5.81

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

Amount declared (cents per unit)

	Class A
30 June 22	1.93
30 September 22	2.05
30 December 22	2.04
31 March 23	1.83
In last 12 months	7.85
In 2022	7.95

Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Quarterly update at 31 March 2023

Who are the investment managers?

Since 1983 Melville Douglas has been delivering superior investment returns across a number of asset classes. As a global boutique investment management company within the Standard Bank Group, we are uniquely positioned to offer domestic and offshore investment solutions. What truly sets Melville Douglas apart is our experienced investment team and our approach to investing – driven by balance, a long-term view and a commitment to fundamental research – which informs our investment decisions across the board.



Mzimasi Mabece

BSc

Head of Fixed Income: South Africa

Mzimasi has more than 14 years financial market experience spanning both quantitative analysis as well as portfolio management and has managed both fixed income and equity funds. Prior to joining Melville Douglas, he was Head of Fixed Income at Mvunonala Asset Managers. He previously held Portfolio Manager roles at Prowess Investment Managers and Old Mutual Investment Group (OMIGSA) and also worked at Sanlam Investments as a fixed income Quantitative Analyst. Mzimasi holds a BSc degree.



Bernard Drotschie

BCom (Hons), CFA®, CFPTM

Chief Investment Officer

Bernard joined Melville Douglas in 2002 as a portfolio manager and analyst, prior to which he worked for Absa Asset Management. He is the lead manager on the Melville Douglas Global Growth Fund (USD) and co-manages the Melville Douglas Balanced Fund (USD) and the Melville Douglas Income Funds. He holds a BCom (Hons) degree in Econometrics, is a CFA® Charterholder and a Certified Financial Planner™ professional.

Fund review

The fund during the quarter performed behind its benchmark and its peers reflecting the volatile quarter this has been. We maintained the duration of the fund relatively neutral to that of the index. On a relative basis, we were slightly long the 12-year + area of the curve and this is the area that underperformed during the quarter.

Market overview

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) continued where it left off in 2022 and in its first meeting of the year (January), hiked rates by a further 25 basis points. This upward adjustment in rates was expected as inflation continued to find resistance to its downward trajectory. By the January meeting, the central bank had increased rates by a cumulative 350 basis points since November 2021, when it began with its tightening cycle. With the central bank having aggressively hiked rates in the past 14 months and inflation continuing to decelerate, albeit slower than what the central bank and the economy would have preferred, the market began seeing the peak of the tightening phase. This view was further entrenched by the rhetoric coming across the Atlantic Ocean, with the US Fed beginning to tone down on its aggressive approach to rates. However, this sentiment all changed with the release of February inflation data. Headline inflation, in February, not only surprised the market by printing higher (7% y/y), but it also reversed direction and accelerated. This print once again proved how sticky inflation is on its deceleration path and this was the second time in six months where inflation had accelerated. In its response the SARB in its March meeting, increased rates by 50 basis points, taking the Repo rate to 7.75%. This was more than the 25 basis points the market was expecting. The decision was split though, with two members of the committee preferring a 25 basis point adjustment. The market now believes that the SARB will continue hiking rates with two 25 basis points increases on the cards. In February, the minister of finance (the Minister), Mr Godongwana delivered the national budget in Parliament. The Minister, unlike others before him, delivered the budget to a country reeling under unprecedented levels of electricity disruptions - loadshedding has had a hugely detrimental impact on the economy, with many small enterprises having to close shop. Companies and households, whose finances allowed them to invest in alternative energy sources to shield them against this scourge, have done so at a huge cost. This loadshedding comes at a time when taxpayers and households in general are under severe financial strain, with the escalated cost of living. South Africans' main interest in this budget was to hear from the Minister what his plans were to relieve them of some of their financial burden and, how he intended supporting the Eskom in keeping the lights on. The Minister did not disappoint and announced some financial burden alleviation plans for the consumer and a debt relief program for Eskom. Some key takeaways from the budget were: There were no changes to tax rates with VAT, Personal and Corporate Income Tax, fuel and RAF levies all left unchanged; To avoid bracket creeps, personal income tax brackets were inflation adjusted; Businesses will be able to claim a 125% deduction in the first year for all renewable energy projects with no thresholds on generation capacity. The incentive will only be available for investments brought into use for the first time between 1 March 2023 and 28 February 2025; Individuals will be able to receive a tax rebate to the value of 25% of the cost of any new and unused solar PV panels, capped at R15,000. Over the next 3 years, government will provide Eskom with debt relief amounting to R254 billion. This will take the form of advances of R78 billion in 2023/24, R66 billion in 2024/25 and R40 billion in 2025/26. These amounts represent Eskom's full debt settlement requirement over the next 3 years. These will be financed through the R66 billion medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) baseline provision announced in the 2019 budget and R118 billion in additional borrowing over the MTEF period. Additionally, in 2025/26, government will directly take over up to R70 billion of Eskom's loan portfolio. Key aspects of the debt-relief arrangement include: Funds will be advanced when Eskom's debt settlements (interest and redemptions) fall due annually; The advance of funds will take the form of an interest-free subordinated loan, to be settled in Eskom shares rather than cash, allowing Eskom to better manage its liquidity position. Loan advances from government to Eskom will be conditional on the repayment of preidentified Eskom debt instruments; Strict conditions have been developed to safeguard public money. The Minister will enforce these conditions, and upon compliance, will allow the entity to convert the loan to government-owned equity; Eskom, without the express permission of the Minister, will not be allowed to borrow further until the debt-relief period ends.

Looking ahead

We believe that inflation has peaked, however it is sticky on its way down and the monetary policy tightening cycle is near its peak. Given the hawkish rhetoric from the central bank's last meeting we believe that the bank will hike rates by a further 25 basis points in its next meeting in May 2023. This should take the repo rate to 8% and to its peak. Beyond this peak, we believe the central bank will hold rates steady for longer (12-15 months) and we expect the SARB to only begin cutting rates in the second quarter of 2024. We expect some level of volatility to persist, given the risk that are still on the table (geopolitical and fiscal risks) but believe the worst is behind us and as such have reduced our defensive position to neutral duration relative to the index. We will continue to reassess our position as risk unwinds and some level of certainty returns but do believe that at current levels, bond yields do offer entry opportunities to lengthen the duration of the fund.

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	Q1 2023	Q4 2022	Change
Domestic Cash	1.63	2.53	-0.90
Domestic Fixed Interest Corp	2.09	2.79	-0.70
Domestic Fixed Interest Govt	96.28	94.69	1.60

The portfolio adhered to its portfolio objective over the quarter.

Fund classes

Class	Type	Price (cpu)	Units	NAV (Rand)
A	Retail	91.19	10,876,918.13	9,918,694.90

All data as at 31 March 2023.

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

Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Important information update at 31 March 2023

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 Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond 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 Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised financial services provider (FSP), FSP No. 595, 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.

This is a portfolio that derives its income primarily from interest-bearing instruments. The yield (if shown) is a current effective yield calculated daily.

This portfolio is a third party named, co-named portfolio. The Manager retains full legal responsibility for this portfolio. A third party named, co-named portfolio is a portfolio bearing the name of both the Manager and the financial services provider (FSP) where the FSP, under an agreement with the Manager, undertakes financial services of a discretionary nature, as contemplated in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, Act No. 37 of 2002 (FAIS), in relation to the assets of the portfolio. Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised FSP, FSP No. 595, FAIS, is the third party manager of this portfolio.

The FSP is a related party to the Manager, the FSP may earn additional fees other than those charged by the Manager. It is the responsibility of the FSP to disclose additional fees to the investor. This document is not advice, as defined under FAIS. Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision.

All performance returns and ranking figures quoted are shown in ZAR and are based on data sourced from Morningstar or Statpro and are as at 31 March 2023.

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 periods of 1 year or longer, where no value is shown 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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