

A REVIEW OF INVESTMENT MANAGERS – 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

By T H Friedrich – Managing Director Retirement Fund Solutions Namibia (Pty) Ltd

The monthly review of portfolio performance, as set out in this issue, is now also available on our website at www.rfsol.com.na

1. Introduction

BENCHTEST is a unique technical analysis of popular Namibian retirement fund investment portfolios, produced on behalf of the Benchmark Retirement Fund by Namibian niche fund administrator, Retirement Fund Solutions Namibia (Pty) Ltd. It reflects only extracts from an extensive data base that is available to interested parties who have a need for detailed information to assist them in taking decisions concerning their fund's investments.

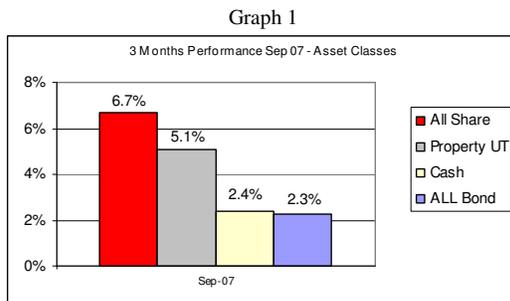
2. An Analysis Of Performance and Portfolio Structures

Why does some managers' performance make sense, others not?

(*This information is provided by Deutsche Securities and local associate, pointBreak.)

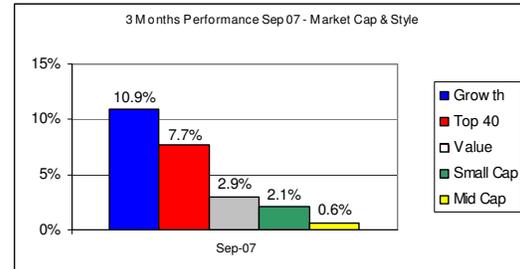
Quarter 3 of 2007

Graph 1 below reveals that for the 3rd quarter of 2007, the best performing asset class was equity ('All Share*' index) at 6.7%, followed by property as measured by the 'Property UT*' index with a total return of 5.1%, cash at 2.4%, and bonds ('All Bond*' index) at 2.3%.



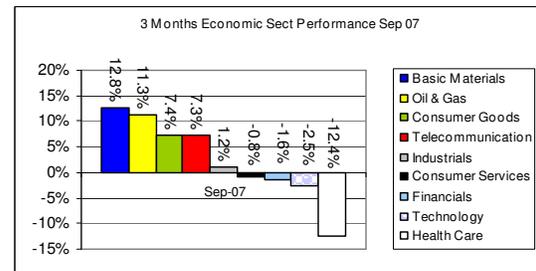
Graph 2 reveals that within equities, 'Growth*' companies (10.9% return) significantly outperformed 'Value*' companies (2.9% return). In terms of market capitalization the tide seems to have turned against 'Mid Caps*' (0.6%) and 'Small Caps*' (2.1%), beaten handsomely by the large caps ('Top 40*' with a return of 7.7%, typically an indicator of investor uncertainty and worry).

Graph 2



Graph 3 below, in turn, reveals that the returns of the main economic sectors within equities were as follows: 'Basic Materials*' 12.8%; 'Oil & Gas*' 11.3%; 'Consumer Goods*' 7.4%; 'Telecoms*' 7.3%; 'Industrials*' 1.2%; 'Consumer Services*' minus 0.8%; 'Financials*' - minus 1.6%; 'Technology*' minus 2.5%; 'Health Care*' at the bottom on minus 12.4%.

Graph 3

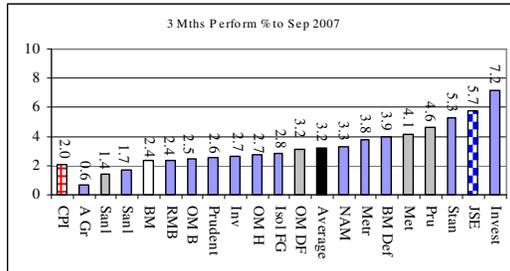


Does this mean that the managers who outperformed this quarter per graph 4 below were overweight equities and more specifically 'Basic Materials*', and 'Consumer Goods*' while being under weight 'Financials*' and 'Consumer Services*' as the sectors with the highest weight?

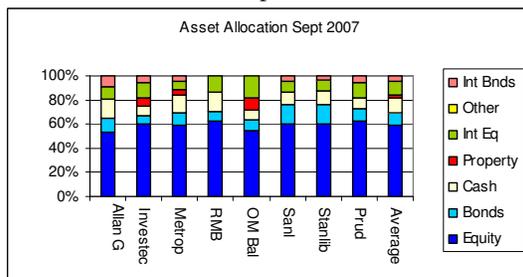
So lets first look at the performances for the quarter as per graph 4 below:

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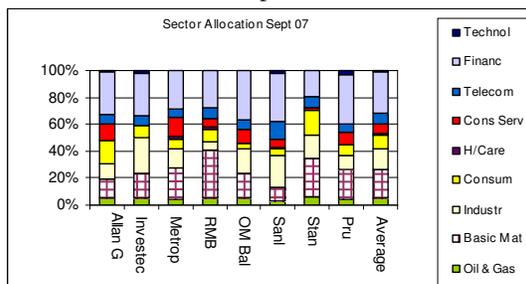
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Graph 4


Graph 5 reflects the following asset allocation of the prudential, managed portfolios in our survey, as at 30 September 2007 (effective exposure where ever the information was made available by the manager). Take note that NAM is no longer reflected as its portfolio will from 1 November not be managed according to a prudential balanced mandate.

Graph 5


Graph 6 reflects the following sector allocation of the prudential, managed portfolios in our survey, as at 30 September 2007. Take note that NAM is no longer reflected as its portfolio will from 1 November not be managed according to a prudential balanced mandate.

Graph 6


Due to its disproportionately high weighting, equity exposure should have the largest impact

on a manager's performance by far. 'Oil & Gas*' and 'Healthcare*' despite their producing the second highest, respectively lowest, returns for the quarter, should only have a relatively small impact on performance due to the exposure to these asset classes being only between 0% and 10%. Focusing on equities and specifically the two best performing and two worst performing equity sectors with typically the highest weightings in this type of portfolio, namely 'Basic Materials*' and 'Consumer Goods*' for adding value this quarter, while 'Consumer Services*', 'Financials*' would have subtracted value over this quarter, Table 1 below reflects the 3 managers with the highest average exposure to equity and more specifically to 'Basic Material*', 'Consumer Goods*', 'Consumer Services*' and 'Financials*' (blue added value, red subtracted):

Table 1

Asset Class	Position 1 % holding	Position 2 % holding	Position 3 % holding
Equity	RMB 63.0	Pru 61.9	Sanl 60.8
Basic Materials	RMB 35.5	Stan 27.9	Met 23.6
Consumer Goods	Stan 18.1	Allan Gray 17.2	In v 9.3
Consumer Services	Met 14.3	Allan Gray 12.5	Old M 9.9
Financials	Old M 36.6	Pru 36.6	Sanl 35.8

Looking at this in relation to the performance ranking for the quarter in Graph 4 above, on the basis of a simple 'bean count', we suggest that RMB and Stanlib (both appear twice in blue) should have produced the highest returns. Stanlib in fact produced second highest return of 5.3% for the quarter, while RMB came in third lowest at 3.4%. Investec (appears once in blue) producing top performance of 7.3%. and Metropolitan, Prudential, Sanlam and Allan Gray all appear once in blue and once in red. Metropolitan produced the third highest return of 3.8% for the quarter, Prudential produced 2.5% Sanlam 1.7% and Allan Gray at the bottom on 0.6%. Old Mutual appears twice in red only yet on a return of 2.5% it produced on par with Prudential. Although this analysis is indicative of a manager's performance, it is evident that the information is insufficient to conclusively explain differences in performance, despite the

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fact that it covers roughly one-half of a manager's total portfolio.

Graph 7 below reflects the results of projected performance based on equity sector and asset allocation of each portfolio, its actual performance and 'projection error' (difference between projected and actual performance) for quarter 3 of 2007. This more detailed analysis also indicates that RMB and Stanlib should have produced top performance as intimated in Table 1, but shows a negative projection error of 2% for RMB and a positive projection error of 1% for Stanlib. On the two opposite sides of the performance table graph for the quarter, Allan Gray reflects a negative projection error of 2.2% and Investec a positive projection error of 3.2%!. High projection errors should be caused by good or poor stock selection and should be cause for concern that would require further analysis:

Graph 7

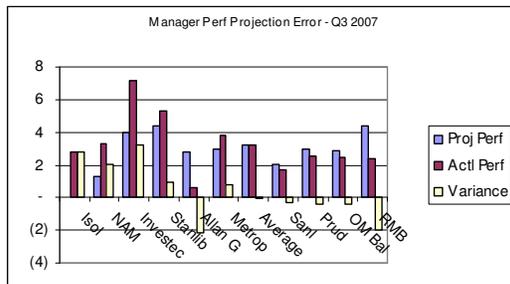

Can one reconstruct manager's performance to see where they had actually gone wrong ?

Table 2 below reflects the average exposure and the projected performance for the 3rd quarter of 2007 for the average prudential, managed portfolio in our analysis and is a good benchmark for measuring the performance of your manager/s:

Table 2

Asset Class	Expos %	Perf %	Weighted Perf %
Equity	60.1	4.1	2.5
Bonds	10.4	2.3	0.2
Cash	11.2	2.4	0.3
Property	2.6	5.1	0.1
Gold	0.0	11.7	0.0
Intern Eq	11.4	- 0.5	- 0.1
Intern Other	4.3	4.1	0.2
Total	100.0		3.2

The projected performance of the average portfolio for the quarter, of 3.2%, represents the actual performance of 3.2% per graph 4.

Drilling down further into equities as the asset class with the biggest impact on performance by far, our average manager presents the benchmark for measuring your manager/s, as per Table 3 below (average exposure):

Table 3

Equity Sector	Exposure %	Perf %	Weighted Perf %
Oil & Gas	4.1	11.3	0.5
Basic Mat	22.8	12.8	2.8
Industrials	13.5	1.2	0.2
Cons Goods	8.9	7.4	0.7
H/care	0.9	- 12.4	- 0.1
Cons Serv	10.6	- 0.8	- 0.1
Telecoms	8.0	7.3	0.6
Financials	29.5	- 1.6	- 0.5
Technol	1.4	- 2.5	- 0.0
Other	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0		4.1

Graph 4 above shows that top performing Investec out performed the average manager by roughly 4% for the quarter, while bottom ranking Allan Gray under performed by 2.6%. Our 'projection error' on these two managers for the quarter is plus 3.2% and minus 2.2%, respectively. This indicates that both managers' performance cannot be reconstructed to any level of comfort.

Based on the portfolio structure of the managers, graph 8 shows where the manager has

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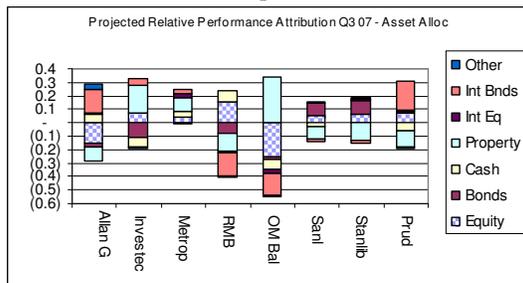
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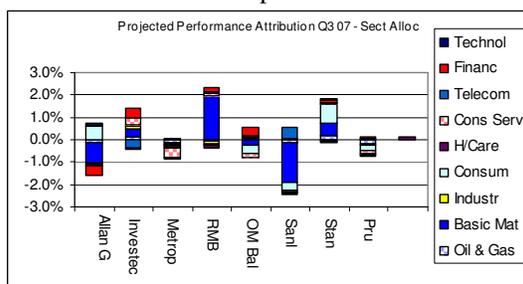
added/subtracted value through asset allocation relative to the projected performance of the average manager in our survey, while graph 9 shows a similar result with regard to sector allocation. This plus the projection error as also overlaid in graph 10, produces the actual performance of the manager for the quarter.

Adding value through asset and sector allocation is a function of correctly predicting cycles and represents a different skill from adding value thorough stock picking, latter being a function of superior analytical skills. The former is usually the result of the ‘top – down’ approach to portfolio structuring while latter is the result of a ‘bottom – up’ approach. Some managers proclaim to have a two directional approach while other proclaim to be ‘bottom – up’ managers only.

Graph 8



Graph 9



So what did Investec do right and Allan Gray do wrong? Well for the level of detail that our analyses considers, we can justify Allan Gray underperforming Investec by 1.3% only, an this in respect of equity. Within equity our information indicates that Investec’s held around 17% in ‘General Mining*’ compared to Allan Gray’s 5%. This sector returned 16.8% for the quarter and based on an equity allocation of

around 60%, this would account for a performance differential of around 1.2%.

How predictable is the managers’ performance?

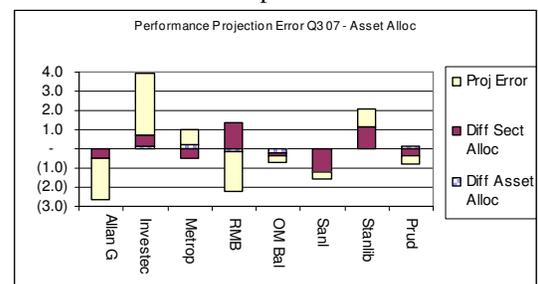
Table 4 shows our ‘projection error’ over the past 3 quarters and should give some food for thought for when a board of trustees reviews its current managers or intends to employ other manager/s:

Table 4

Manager	Q 1 2007	Q 2 2007	Q 3 2007
NAM	(1.02)	1.29	2.08
Investec	0.44	(1.02)	3.20
Stanlib	(2.44)	0.44	0.95
Allan G	1.29	(2.44)	(2.16)
Metrop	(0.26)	1.29	0.80
Average	(0.32)	(0.26)	(0.02)
Sanl	(0.15)	(0.32)	(0.34)
Prud	0.28	(0.15)	(0.42)
OM Bal	(0.62)	0.28	(0.41)
RMB	(0.31)	(0.62)	(2.02)

Graph 10 below reflects the actual out- and under performance of the managers against the average manager, built up by value added/subtracted through asset allocation and sector allocation and projection error. At this stage only Old Mutual does not provide full information to allow an accurate analysis and our information on this manager must be viewed with caution. Projection errors as revealed below can result from the use of derivatives, stock picking, and also from significant portfolio restructuring through the course of a quarter by the manager, or even from valuation problems and should in any event be subject to further enquiry.

Graph 10

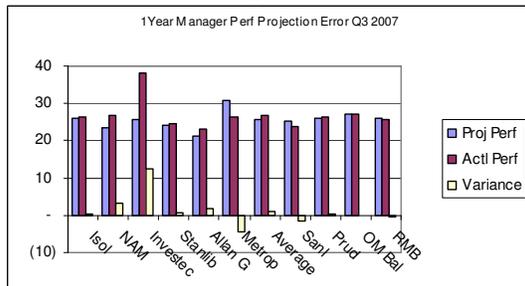


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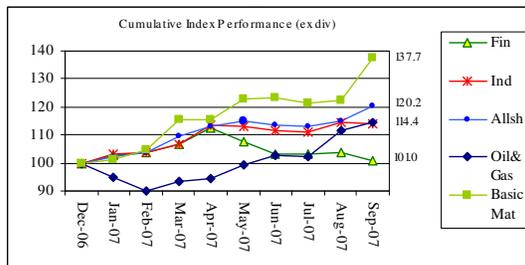
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Graph 14



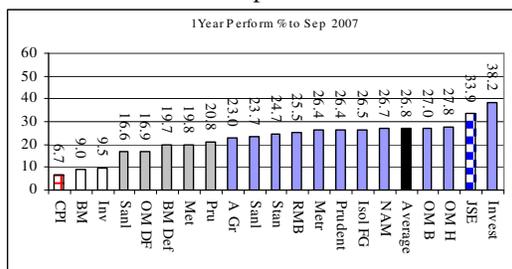
Graph 15 allows tracking the development of the various sectors since the start of last year for a more detailed analysis of your manager's performance vs these indices.

Graph 15



Graph 16 below, reflects the performances of all managers in our survey for the twelve months to 30 September 2007.

Graph 16



The projected performance of the average prudential, managed portfolio was derived as set out in Table 6 below. With an actual performance of the average prudential balanced portfolio of 26.8%, the below projection reflects a reasonable 'projection error' of 1.2% on actual average manager performance for the year.

Table 6

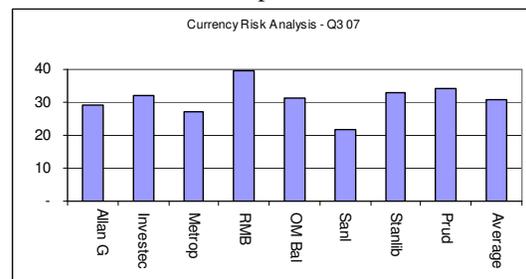
Asset Class	Exposure %	Perform %	Weighted Perform %
Equity	60.8	35.6	21.6
Bonds	11.5	12.6	1.5
Cash	9.9	9.0	0.9
Property	2.3	39.1	0.9
Intern Eq	11.3	6.7	0.8
Intern Other	4.2	- 1.4	- 0.1
Total	100		25.6

Currency risk analysis – how will the investor be effected by a change in the exchange rate?

Graph 17 provides an indication of the currency risk to which the portfolios are exposed.

Currency risk here is measured as a function of effective offshore and 'Basic Materials*' exposure. Evidently RMB again presents the highest risk on that basis, 40% of its total assets being exposed to exchange rate fluctuation. Sanlam on the other end of the scale presents a risk of only around 22%.

Graph 17



Graph 18



Graph 18 above depicts the position of the Rand versus the US\$, both adjusted by the change in its domestic CPI. Evidently the long-term trend line seems to indicate that the Rand is now back

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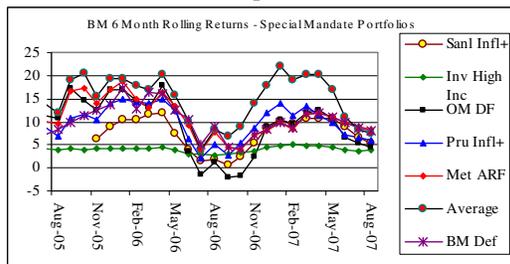
to just below this trend line and thus fairly valued by this measure.

Special mandate portfolios as an alternative for the conservative investor?

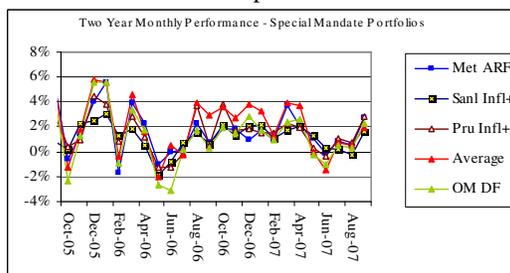
The Benchmark Retirement Fund offers a number of special mandate portfolios and for this reason we also keep an eye on a number of such portfolios. Graphs 19 and 20 depict rolling 6 month returns, and the Two Year Monthly returns of the special mandate portfolios, compared to that of the average prudential, managed portfolio.

Any conservative investor who wants to minimize negative returns should seriously consider these as an alternative to the more volatile prudential, managed portfolios.

Graph 19

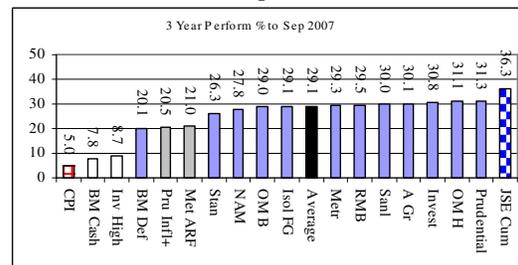


Graph 20

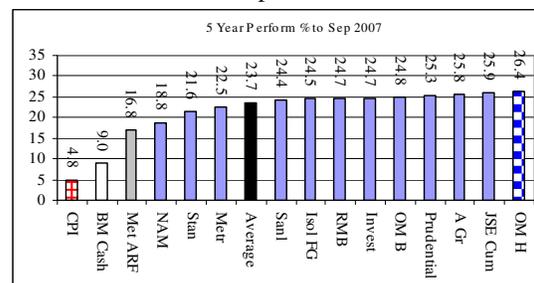

Long-term performances

To complete our performance review, graphs 21 and 22 depict the 3 and 5 year performance of the various portfolios to 30 September 2007. Evidently performance of all portfolios, barring cash, exceeds inflation ('CPI Cum') by significantly more than the long-term out performance objective of around 5%, and this trend will definitely not continue for much longer, in our view.

Graph 21



Graph 22


3. Conclusion Preview for 2007

For our view on what is to be expected over the next 6 to 12 months, the reader is invited to consult our monthly Benchtest Performance Review, the latest issue being for September 2007, which is available on our website at www.rfsol.com.na.

Who To Contact

For further information, analyses or interpretations, please contact Tilman Friedrich, Mark Gustafsson, Marthinuz Fabianus or Hannes van Tonder at Retirement Fund Solutions tel 061-231590.

Important notice and disclaimer

Whilst we have taken all reasonable measures to ensure that the results reflected herein are correct, Benchmark Retirement Fund and Retirement Fund Solutions Namibia (Pty) Ltd do not accept any liability for the accuracy of the information and no decision should be taken on the basis of the information contained herein before having confirmed the detail with the relevant portfolio manager and without consulting an expert.

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