



JACQUES MALAN  
CONSULTANTS & ACTUARIES



## Benchmark Retirement Fund Glossary

## 6. Glossary

**Asset Allocation:** The weighting of assets in an investment portfolio amongst different asset classes (shares, bonds, property, cash, and international investments).

**BEASSA All Bond Index:** Bond Exchange Actuarial Society of South Africa Index.

**Balanced Fund:** An investment portfolio that spreads its holdings over a range of asset classes, which typically include shares, fixed interest, property, international securities, and cash.

**Benchmark:** An index or other market measurement that is used by a fund manager as a yardstick to assess the risk and performance of a portfolio; for example, the All Share Index is a commonly used benchmark for Domestic Equity portfolios.

**Bottom-up Analysis:** A form of security analysis that begins with forecasting returns for individual companies, then moves to industries and, finally, the economy as a whole.

**Capital Preservation Portfolio:** Portfolios that provide investors with a 100% Capital Guarantee (ie. initial investments + contributions + percentage of bonuses received).

**FTSE/JSE All Share Index:** A “basket” of shares representing all the shares on the JSE. This index is used as a measurement to indicate price movements in the market.

**Growth Style:** Growth style managers identify companies with above average earnings growth, which they believe will be reflected by the price in future. These shares usually have a higher P/E ratio as the price is higher due to earnings being generated at a fast pace.

**Growth at a Reasonable Price:** An investment style in which the manager selects shares where the company is growing profits, but the share price is not over-priced relative to that growth or shares of which the P/E ratio is below that of the index.

**Institutional Investor:** An organisation whose primary purpose in investment markets is to invest its own assets or those that it holds in trust for others. Institutional investors include fund managers, life companies, retirement funds, banks, etc.

**JMCA:** An abbreviation for Jacques Malan Consultants and Actuaries.

**JP Morgan Global Bond Index:** An index which can be used to measure global bond market movements. Countries' bonds across the globe form part of the index, each carrying a certain weight in the index.

**Market Value Adjustment:** A term used with smooth bonus products. All disinvestments which are not for benefit payment (ie switches, terminations) will be paid out at the lower of book or market value. Genuine benefit payments are defined to be payments iro resignation, death and retirement.

**Median:** The middle value that exceeds half of the values in the sample and which is exceeded by the other half. For example, if five items cost R20, R80, R100, R300, and R500 respectively, the median value would be R100, whereas the mean would be R200.

**MSCI World Equity Index:** An index which can be used to measure global market movements. Countries across the globe form part of the index, each carrying a certain weight in the index.

**NSX Index:** A “basket” of shares representing all the shares on the Namibian Stock Exchange. This index is used as a measurement to indicate price movements in the market.

**Price Earnings Ratio:** A stock's market price divided by its current or estimated future earnings per share. The PE ratio is used by the investing public as a measure of the attractiveness of a particular share versus all other shares. The lower the ratio relative to the average of the share market, the lower the market's profit growth expectations.

**Prudential Unit Trust:** A unit trust which complies with Regulation 28 of the Pension Fund Act.

**Regulation 28:** The regulation in the Pension Fund Act providing guidelines for the investments of retirement funds.

**Strategic Asset Allocation:** The composition of an asset mix within a portfolio, constructed with the aim of meeting the long-term objectives of a fund, rather than being based on short-term views of relative performance of the various asset classes. Usually a benchmark is derived in this fashion.

**STeFI:** Short Term Fixed Interest Index. An index used to measure performance for short term (cash) investments.

**Top Decile:** A statistical measure dividing a sample into ten numerically equal groups. Thus, 'top decile' means the top 10% of a given sample.

**Top-Down Analysis:** A form of security analysis that begins with forecasting broad macroeconomic trends, then assessing the impact on industries and, finally, on individual companies.

**Tactical Asset Allocation:** A process by which the asset allocation of a fund is changed on a short-term basis to take advantage of perceived differences in relative values of the various asset classes. TAA can also be described as the variation of asset allocation around the strategic asset allocation.

**Upper Quartile:** A statistical measure dividing a sample into four numerically equal groups. Thus, 'upper quartile' means the top 25% of a given sample.

**Value Style:** Asset managers who have a value style identify shares which trade below intrinsic value in the belief that the share price will return to its intrinsic value. These securities usually have low prices relative to book value or earnings.

**Volatility:** A measure used to define risk which refers to the degree of fluctuation of returns over a specified period (normally short-term). The higher the volatility, the higher the fluctuation of returns which is associated with greater uncertainty of expected returns. This scenario is defined as being high risk.