



SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear CRF Member,

Financial markets continued to move higher in August 2025 with local asset classes continuing to outperform global asset classes. Local equity delivered 3.5% in August 2025 while global equity returned 0.4% in Rand terms as the US dollar continued to depreciate against the Rand. The returns for the major asset classes to the end of August 2025 are shown below:

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
SA Equity (Capped SWIX)	3.5%	8.1%	20.3%	25.1%
SA Bonds (ALBI)	0.8%	5.9%	9.8%	15.1%
SA Property (ALPI)	2.0%	6.3%	16.2%	18.4%
SA Cash (STeFI)	0.6%	1.8%	3.8%	7.9%
SA Inflation Linked Bonds (CILI)	1.5%	2.7%	3.0%	5.3%
Global Equity (MSCI World (\$))	2.6%	8.4%	10.7%	15.7%
Global Equity (MSCI World (R))	0.4%	6.2%	5.5%	15.3%
Global Bonds (WGBI (\$))	1.4%	1.4%	4.8%	2.6%
Global Bonds (WGBI (R))	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.1%	2.3%

The CRF portfolios continued to perform well in August 2025 and in line with expectations. The returns of the CRF portfolios (net of all fees) up to the end of August 2025 were as follows:

Portfolio	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
CRF Aggressive Portfolio	1.8%	6.6%	13.1%	19.0%
CRF Growth Portfolio	1.8%	6.4%	12.2%	17.7%
CRF Moderate Portfolio	1.3%	4.0%	8.4%	14.9%
CRF In-Fund Pension Portfolio	0.6%	2.5%	4.1%	8.1%
CRF Money Market Portfolio	0.7%	2.2%	4.7%	9.3%
CRF Shari'ah Portfolio	0.9%	5.1%	9.8%	12.3%
CRF Children's Benefit Portfolio	1.0%	3.4%	7.8%	13.6%

In August 2025, President Trump expanded the administration's tariff negotiation strategy, imposing a cumulative 50% duty on Indian goods in response to India's purchases of Russian oil. South Africa faced a 30% duty, while Brazil encountered a 50% tariff on most exports. The EU proposed eliminating tariffs on US industrial goods and preferential access to select US agricultural products. In return, the US agreed to retroactively reduce auto tariffs on EU exports to

15%. Japan secured tariff relief after pledging \$550 billion in US investment. China's trade truce with the US was extended to November 2025, locking in a 30% tariff on Chinese imports and 10% on US goods.

President Trump dismissed the Head of the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Erika McEntarfer, over alleged data manipulation and appointed EJ Antoni, who briefly proposed suspending monthly jobs reports, which are closely watched by market participants. Trump also named Stephen Miran as interim Fed Governor following Adriana Kugler's resignation from the US Federal Reserve and attempted to remove Fed Governor Lisa Cook over unproven mortgage fraud allegations. Cook refused to step down and filed a lawsuit challenging her dismissal. The Department of Justice joined calls for her resignation, intensifying tensions between the White House and the independent Federal Reserve.

Meanwhile, the US unemployment rate rose to 4.2% in July, prompting speculation of a US rate cut in September 2025. US CPI remained stable at 2.7% y/y, while producer prices rose 3.3% y/y — the fastest pace in three years.

In August 2025, South Africa ramped up its response to the newly imposed 30% US tariff on its exports, with President Cyril Ramaphosa announcing expanded trade missions, enhanced exporter development support, and a relief package for affected firms and workers. The government estimated that 30,000 jobs could be lost across sectors, while the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) projected over 100,000 jobs at risk in the automotive and agricultural industries.

SARB Governor Lesetja Kganyago reiterated the central bank's preference for a 3% inflation target, citing benefits for South Africa's risk profile and debt dynamics, though Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana confirmed that no formal policy change had been approved. Inflation in South Africa rose to 3.5% y/y, reducing expectations for further rate cuts. Manufacturing and mining output exceeded expectations in June 2025, with notable gains in gold and platinum production. Despite reported improved plant performance at Eskom and no anticipated power cuts, NERSA approved steeper electricity tariff hikes for Eskom over the next two years.

Kind regards,



Mr Raymond Wentworth
Principal Executive Officer

Board of Trustees: Mr SA Mokweni (Chairperson), Mr JJ Wagner (Deputy Chairperson), Mr PJS Gouws, Mr IR Iversen, Mr TA Loko, Mr PJF Louw, Mr L Mbandazayo, Ms C Meyer, Mr ET Scott, Mr SN Toni, Mr FA Willemse

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Head Office:

Cape Town: CRF Building, 3rd Floor, 4 Bridal Close, Tyger Falls, Bellville, 7530

Regional Offices:

East London: The Quarry, Pilot Mill House, Ground Floor, Selborne, East London, 5201

George: Block B, Eden Office Park, Platinum Drive, George, 6530

Gqeberha: Waterfront Business Park, Pommern Street, Unit 1, Humeral, Gqeberha 6001

Kimberley: Unit 5, Royalyard Park, 1-9 Jacobus Street, Royal Glen, Kimberley, 8301

Postal Address: P.O. Box 4740, Tyger Valley, 7536

Tel: 0861 CRFUND (273863)

Email: support@crfund.co.za

Website: www.crfund.co.za

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