



### THE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

The April 2025 IMF World Economic Outlook suggests that, following an unprecedented series of shocks in the preceding years, global growth was stable through 2024. However, a series of new tariff measures by the United States and countermeasures by its trading partners have been announced and implemented, bringing effective tariff rates to levels not seen in a century, and a major negative shock to growth. Global growth is projected to be 2.8% in 2025 and 3% in 2026, much below the historical (2000–19) average of 3.7%. In 2025, growth in advanced economies is projected to be 1.4% and 3.7% in emerging market and developing economies. Global headline inflation is expected to be 4.3% in 2025 and 3.6% in 2026, with notable upward revisions for advanced economies and slight downward revisions for emerging market and developing economies in 2025. Intensifying downside risks dominate the outlook. Ratcheting up a trade war, along with even more elevated trade policy uncertainty, could further reduce near- and long-term growth, while eroded policy buffers weaken resilience to future shocks. Divergent and rapidly shifting policy stances or deteriorating sentiment could trigger additional repricing of assets and sharp adjustments in foreign exchange rates and capital flows, especially for economies already facing debt distress. Broader financial instability may ensue, including damage to the international monetary system.

#### Global Equity Markets

During April, global equity markets recovered moderately. The FTSE All-World Index (USD) increased by 1.1% during the month, ending the month 5.3% below its 12-month high, while growing by 9.0% over the past 12 months.

#### South African Financial Markets

In South Africa, the JSE All Share Index increased moderately by a further 4.3% during the month, ending 0.4% below its 12-month high while seeing strong growth of 24.6% over the past 12 months. During the month, the JSE Industrial-25 Index increased by 5.3%, the JSE Resources-10 Index grew by 2.4%, and the JSE Financial-15 Index gained 4.7%. The ZAR weakened by -1.5% against the USD, the SA Government Bond Index increased by 0.8% and the JSE SA Property Index increased by 7.6%.

#### Investment Portfolios

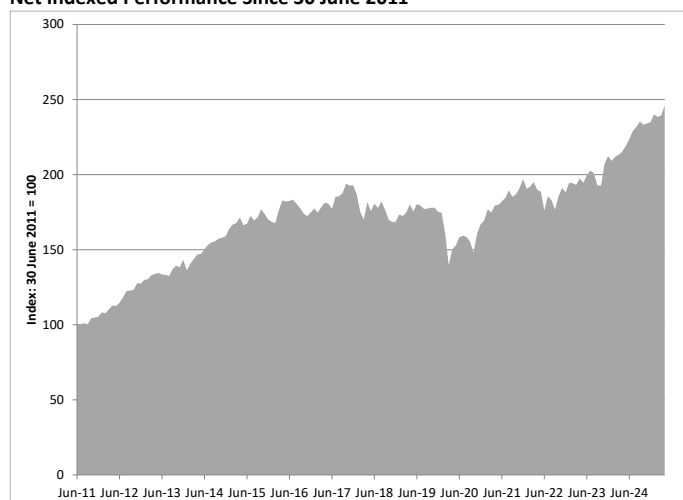
Portfolios continued to perform well, exceeding their benchmark by an estimated net 0.5% during the month and 0.2% over the past twelve months. Portfolios continue to see the advantage of broad diversification across multiple risk factor exposures and diverse sources of portfolio return. Market risk exposures remain balanced to reduce the risk of capital loss. Portfolios will continue to be cautiously re-positioned into attractively priced high-quality assets to achieve strong long-term returns.

### PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

During April, TSB Balanced Portfolios increased moderately by 2.84% with 95% of portfolios performing within a range between 2.67% and 3.02%.

Over the past 12 months, portfolios performed well, increasing by 14.41%, having achieved a net annualized average growth rate of 11.40% per year over the past five years, and 6.73% since inception on 30 June 2011\*. This can be compared with the annualized average inflation rate of 5.08% over the same period.

#### Net Indexed Performance Since 30 June 2011



Source: TSB Securities

Strategically, TSB Balanced Portfolios are well positioned, and the objective remains to add incremental value over time. However, uncertainty in the investment environment and the high level of financial market volatility can be expected to persist therefore, it is necessary for investors to remain disciplined and not overreact to short-term market movements.

**Ian Katz**

Chief Investment Officer

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
<b>2011</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.54	0.76	-1.32	4.35	0.58	0.23	<b>7.22</b>
<b>2012</b>	3.07	0.02	2.32	2.32	-1.79	2.09	2.61	3.43	0.47	0.97	3.10	0.45	<b>19.36</b>
<b>2013</b>	1.97	0.76	2.07	0.98	0.67	-1.20	0.03	-0.33	4.09	2.11	-1.41	3.13	<b>5.86</b>
<b>2014</b>	-4.89	3.96	2.53	1.94	0.09	2.57	1.98	1.01	0.48	2.23	0.66	0.77	<b>23.92</b>
<b>2015</b>	3.51	2.49	0.71	1.92	-3.65	0.45	3.40	-1.88	0.62	3.98	-2.64	-2.21	<b>1.15</b>
<b>2016</b>	-1.70	-0.02	5.36	2.98	-0.41	0.01	0.41	-1.65	-1.49	-2.24	-1.14	1.63	<b>5.04</b>
<b>2017</b>	1.74	-1.68	2.26	2.01	-0.47	-1.98	5.06	0.39	1.12	3.91	-0.31	0.38	<b>7.15</b>
<b>2018</b>	-3.43	-7.05	-3.59	7.51	-3.74	2.91	-1.69	2.55	-3.13	-3.83	-1.14	0.18	<b>-8.56</b>
<b>2019</b>	2.99	-0.81	1.30	3.28	-2.74	2.76	-0.59	-1.35	0.20	0.27	0.01	-1.46	<b>0.29</b>
<b>2020</b>	-0.41	-8.22	-13.86	7.88	1.36	4.20	0.77	-0.81	-1.94	-5.12	8.89	4.20	<b>-3.60</b>
<b>2021</b>	1.41	4.62	-1.18	2.68	0.24	1.18	1.46	2.56	-2.26	0.95	2.15	3.10	<b>17.90</b>
<b>2022</b>	-3.24	0.80	1.57	-2.66	-0.64	-6.64	5.37	-1.35	-3.44	4.99	2.99	-1.54	<b>-4.42</b>
<b>2023</b>	3.38	-0.13	-0.59	2.31	-1.58	2.63	1.49	-0.84	-4.04	0.01	7.37	2.59	<b>12.82</b>
<b>2024</b>	-1.50	1.31	0.65	0.91	1.76	2.12	2.41	1.21	1.52	-0.88	0.37	0.34	<b>10.63</b>
<b>2025</b>	2.27	-0.78	0.45	2.84									<b>4.82</b>

\* 95% Confidence Interval range of portfolio Returns for portfolios that exceed a value of R100 000