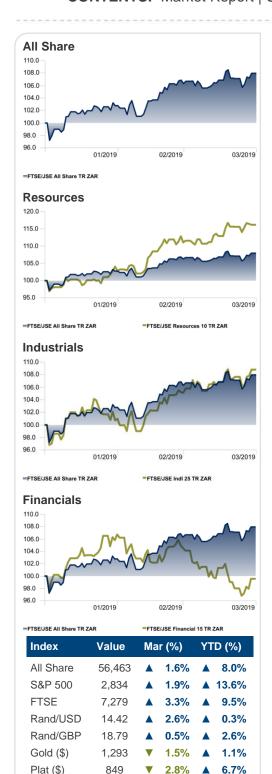




Perspectives | Monthly Market Review

April 2019

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Brent (\$)

68.39

▲ 27.1%

3.6%

Market Report

Markets continues advance

Global equity markets continued to move higher last month on the back of dovish comments from the US Fed and optimism around a trade truce between the US and China; however, an inversion in the US yield curve and weaker economic data caused some jitters. The yield curve inversion occurred as short-term US treasury yields temporarily traded at a premium to their long-term counterparts. This anomaly usually signals the end of the current business cycle and has in the past preceded economic downturns by about 18 months.

Turkey, Argentina the weakest EM links

While US and other developed market treasury yields moved lower, domestic bonds yields moved slightly higher ahead of Moody's credit rating review and as Turkey imposed capital controls, causing a minor EM scare. Surprisingly Moody's did not update South Africa's ratings and it is now expected that they would provide a review after the general election in May.

Although the rand did lose some ground against the dollar and pound (-2.5% and -0.5%), it wasn't nearly as drastic as the Argentinian peso's 10% devaluation against the dollar. Data in March indicated that the Argentinian economy contracted for the fourth consecutive quarter in Q4 of 2018.

Eskom in the spotlight again

The extent of Eskom's operational problems came to the fore in March as load shedding returned. Government stepped in to allay fears, appointing a new technical review team under the direct control of the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan.

Pessimism drove domestic consumer and bank shares lower; banking shares ABSA and Nedbank sold off 16% and 12% respectively while retailer Mr Price ended 12% lower. Nevertheless, the ALSI was up 1.6% in March, led higher by resources (+4.6%) and industrials (+3.5%). Shares in British American Tobacco rallied 16.8%, while Naspers and BHP Billiton moved 9.4% and 6.3% higher.

Record quarterly performance

On the global front, the S&P 500 gained 1.9%, ending the quarter 13.6% higher. This was the best quarterly performance since 2009, with strong performance in most sectors apart from banks. European markets followed suit with the Euro Stoxx 50 also ending the month 1.9% higher and 12.4% higher in the first quarter.

Emerging markets were led higher by the Hang Seng index which gained 1.5% in March (12.4% in Q1). Brent crude moved higher last month as a result of falling OPEC and Russian production; the supply cut may be extended in future, providing further oil price support. Brent is now more than 27% higher for the year-to-date.

Company Results

Old Mutual Ltd - Year-end results for the period ending December 2018 120.0 Earnings per share 2.391 115.0 **Historical PE** 9.15 110 0 **EPS** growth -11.8% **Operating Income Growth** 105.0 -16.9% ROE 4.5% 100.0 **Debt/Equity** 21.7% 95.0 NAV per share 15.8 90.0 09/2018 03/2019 12/2018 Dividend yield 5.3% Share price 21.87 FTSE/JSE All Share TR ZAR -Old Mutual Ltd Ordinary Shares

Nature of Business

Old Mutual Ltd provides a variety of financial services, which include wealth management, banking, asset management, and insurance. The firm organizes itself into four segments based on service type. The Nedbank segment provides retail banking, asset management, and wealth management services to individuals and businesses under the Nedbank brand name. The Emerging Markets segment provides financial services to corporate customers. The Old Mutual Wealth segment provides wealth management services in the United Kingdom. The Institutional Asset Management segment offers investment strategies and products to institutional investors. The majority of the firm's operating profit comes from South Africa.

Latest Results

Old Mutual's results were mostly in line with market expectations, with Adjusted Headline Earnings of R 11,512 million, a decline of 11% compared to a year earlier. The primary cause of this was the lower Results from Operations (RFO), which declined by 4%, lower investment income in SA as a result of weaker equity market performance, and the change in functional currency in Zimbabwe. This decrease was partially offset by higher income from associates, reflecting higher earnings from its Nedbank stake.

Strong sales and net client cash flows supported average funds under management (FUM) levels, which rose during the year. However, closing FUM was 3% lower compared to December 2017, reflecting negative equity market returns in the final quarter.

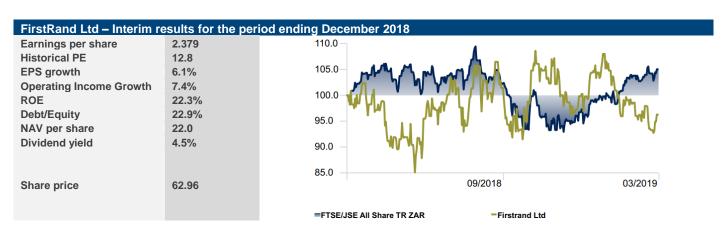
The Group delivered on their cost savings targets, delivering savings of R750 million, putting them in a good position to meet their R1 billion target for 2019. Furthermore, return on net asset value of 18.6% was ahead of Old Mutual's 17.4% target, which is enviable given the challenging macro environment.

Dividend

The company declared a final dividend of 72 cents per ordinary share for the period ending December 2018.

Prospects

Old Mutual's target results from operation growth of GDP+2% will be difficult to achieve against a challenging economic backdrop. Earnings are sensitive to local and global markets and much depends on the matters out of management's control. Nevertheless, The Group remains confident in its ability to deliver on their medium-term targets.



Nature of Business

FirstRand Ltd wholly owns FirstRand Bank, a full-service bank with a presence mostly in South Africa and surrounding southern African nations. The bank has three major divisions, which are separately branded: a retail and commercial bank, a corporate and investment bank, and an instalment finance business. The bank's retail and commercial brand is the biggest contributor to normalized earnings, followed by its corporate and investment brand. FirstRand's retail and commercial division emphasizes a diverse range of financial services with a strategic emphasis on cost controls and digital platforms. The bank's corporate and investment brand heavily relies on its origination franchise as part of its value proposition.

Latest Results

Despite the challenging macroeconomic backdrop, FirstRand's portfolio of businesses produced decent top line growth. The group continued to strengthen its balance sheet and protect its return profile. Normalised earnings for the six months ended 31 December 2018 increased 7% with a normalised ROE of 22.3%.

FNB's results reflect another strong operating performance from its domestic franchise, driven by healthy non-interest revenue (NIR) growth on the back of ongoing customer gains and increased transactional volumes, and high-quality net interest income (NII) growth, particularly from deposit generation. The performance of FNB's rest of Africa portfolio continued to improve.

Total group NII increased 8% (20% including Aldermore), underpinned by strong growth in deposits of 11% (+29% including Aldermore) and solid advances growth of 9% (+28% including Aldermore), offset by negative capital and deposit endowment impact given the lower average interest rates in the reporting period. Group NIR increased 7% (8% including Aldermore) and reflects strong fee and commission income growth of 12% supported by higher volumes across FNB's digital and electronic channels and increased customer numbers.

The group's capital position also remains strong, reflected in a common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio of 12%, which benefited from earnings growth and the once-off after-tax profit from the Discovery card transaction.

Dividend

The company declared an interim dividend of 139 cents per ordinary share for the period ending December 2018.

Prospects

Looking forward, Group CEO, Alan Pullinger commented that despite the difficult macroeconomic environment in South Africa, FirstRand would continue to invest in its long-term growth strategies. FirstRand believes its businesses are in good shape and it is executing on appropriate strategies to drive growth and deliver superior returns to shareholders.

Snippets

PrivateClient Funds achieve top quartile performance

We are pleased to report top quartile performance across our fund range over the past two years. As per the below table, all four PrivateClient Unit Trust Funds placed among the top 25% within their respective peer groups over the two-year period ending 31 March 2019. The strong relative performance includes a challenging 2018, a period during which 90% of global asset classes delivered negative returns.

For more information about these funds and how they may fit into your personal investment portfolio, please do not hesitate to contact one of our PCH Wealth Managers on https://www.privateclient.co.za/who-we-are.

Money Mate 31 Mar 2019	Year to Date	Rank	Quartile Rank	1 Year	Rank	Quartile Rank	2 Years	Rank	Quartile Rank
PrivateClient BCI Low Equity Fund - B	5.4%	13	1	8.6%	28	1	14.1%	25	1
SA - Multi Asset Low Equity	4.0%	/158		6.6%	/148		11.3%	/132	
PrivateClient BCI Medium Equity Fund - B	6.5%	7	1	8.8%	8	1	13.5%	10	1
SA - Multi Asset Medium Equity	5.2%	/81		6.0%	/79		9.7%	/72	
PrivateClient BCI High Equity Fund - B	7.9%	11	1	8.2%	29	1	12.8%	24	1
SA - Multi Asset High Equity	5.6%	/196		5.8%	/184		9.2%	/164	
PrivateClient BCI Worldwide Flexible Fund - A	8.2%	33	2	13.9%	27	2	16.3%	16	1
SA - Multi Asset Flexible	8.3%	/72		12.6%	/70		12.8%	/64	

Corporate Cash Manager Rates

FUND	BALANCE	RATE
CALL ACCOUNT	0.00 – 9 999.99	4.80
	10 000 – 24 999.99	5.30
	25 000 – 49 999.99	5.55
	50 000 – 99 999.99	5.80
	100 000 – 249 999.99	5.95
CALL MONEY FUND: Individuals	250 000 – 999 999.99	7.24
	1 000 000 – 9 999 999.99	7.34
	10 000 000 upwards	7.44
CALL MONEY FUND: Non-Individuals	250 000 – 999 999.99	7.04
	1 000 000 – 9 999 999.99	7.14
	10 000 000 upwards	7.24

Dividends Payable

Dividends in LDT order					
Company	Decl	<u>LDT</u>	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Amt</u>	Curr
AECI Ltd. (AECI)	26-Feb	02-Apr	08-Apr	366	ZARc
FirstRand Ltd. (FIRSTRAND)	12-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	139	ZARc
Growthpoint Properties Ltd. (GROWPNT)	13-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	105.8	ZARc
Liberty Holdings Ltd. (LIB-HOLD)	28-Feb	02-Apr	08-Apr	415	ZARc
Nedbank Group Ltd. (NEDBANK)	05-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	720	ZARc
RMB Holdings Ltd. (RMBH)	14-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	178	ZARc
Rand Merchant Investment Holdings Ltd. (RMIH)	11-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	45	ZARc
SA Corporate Real Estate Ltd. (SA CORP)	05-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	20.52	ZARc
Absa Group Ltd. (ABSA)	11-Mar	09-Apr	15-Apr	620	ZARc
Mondi plc (MONDIPLC)	28-Feb	09-Apr	16-May	54.55	EURc
NEPI Rockcastle plc (NEPIROCK)	20-Mar	09-Apr	30-Apr	26.37	EURc
Remgro Ltd. (REMGRO)	19-Mar	09-Apr	15-Apr	215	ZARc
Standard Bank Group Ltd. (STANBANK)	07-Mar	09-Apr	15-Apr	540	ZARc

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