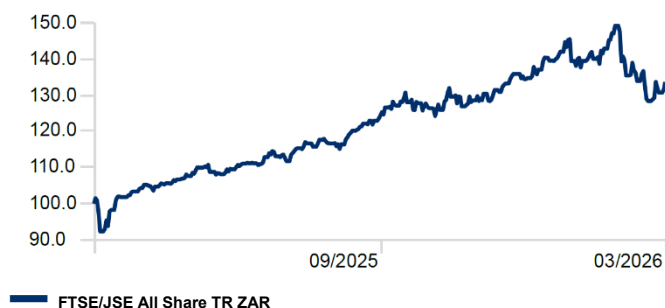


## PCAM Perspectives: Monthly market review

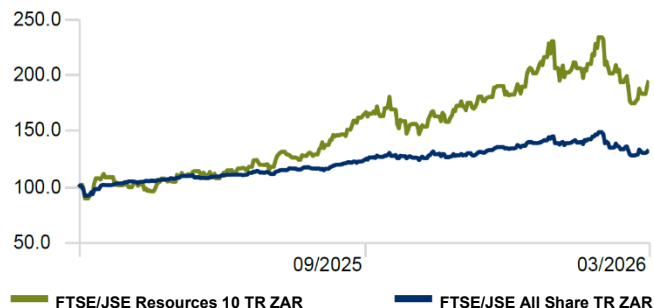
April 2026

by PCAM Investment Team

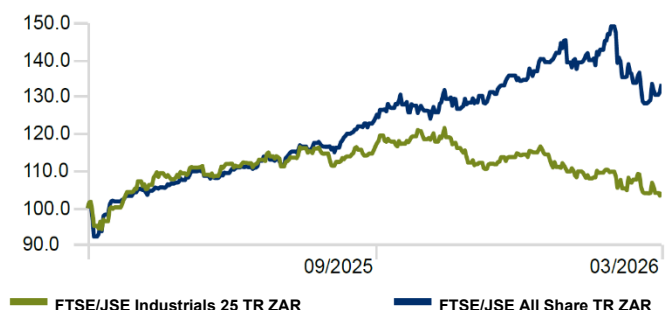
**All Share: 2025/04/01 to 2026/03/31**



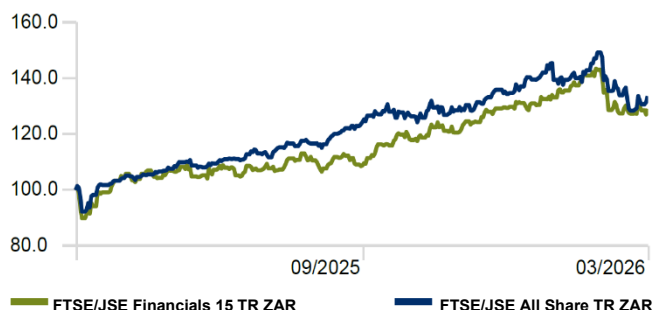
**Resources: 2025/04/01 to 2026/03/31**



**Industrials: 2025/04/01 to 2026/03/31**



**Financials: 2025/04/01 to 2026/03/31**



### Local market: Severe market turbulence defines the month of March

Global markets were afforded little reprieve in March as geopolitical tensions escalated into a direct conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran. The JSE ALSI (All Share Index) bore the brunt of the “risk-off” sentiment, erasing its early 2026 gains to close the month down 10.5%. The resources sector was the primary detractor, tumbling 16.5% as precious metals faced intense selling pressure. Gold and Platinum retreated to \$4,648/oz and \$1,950/oz respectively, triggering a sharp selloff in the ALSI’s heavily weighted mining majors. Impala Platinum (-31.3%), Harmony Gold (-28.7%), and Sibanye-Stillwater (-25.2%) were the most notable laggards.

Amid this volatility, investors sought safety in traditional hard currencies, leaving the rand significantly weaker. The rand ended March at R17.12/\$ and R22.57/GBP, weakening by 7.1% against the dollar and 5.5% against the pound over the month. Conversely, energy markets reacted sharply to supply-side risks, Brent crude surged by an eye-watering 63.3% in March to approximately \$118/barrel, bringing its YTD (year-to-date) gain to 94.5%.

### Monetary policy and inflation amid an oil price shock

The SARB’s (South African Reserve Bank) MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) maintained the repo rate at 6.75% during its March 2026 meeting, a decision that aligned with consensus of a “prolonged hold” amid a volatile geopolitical backdrop. A primary point of tension for policymakers was the divergence between trailing successes and forward-

looking risks. While February's CPI delivered a landmark 3% y/y (year over year) print, down from 3.5% in January and hitting the SARB's newly set target for the first time, concerns regarding prolonged Middle Eastern conflict and infrastructure damage have created hesitancy for upcoming prints. As the conflict led Brent crude to fluctuate above \$100/barrel, the longevity of inflation remaining within the SARB's target band has come under pressure, with the potential for headline inflation to be pushed closer toward the 4% - 4.5% mark should oil prices stay elevated for longer.

The fiscal implications of Brent crude remaining above \$100/barrel are equally stark. In response to elevated oil prices, the fiscus provided R3 per litre relief via lowering the general fuel levy tax, an intervention that National Treasury forecasted would cost roughly R6 billion per month in lost tax revenue. This is burdensome for a fiscus already ill-equipped to bear additional strain, given the current debt-to-GDP trajectories and the stringent consolidation targets proposed in the February budget. While the relief was welcomed by consumers, it underscored the limited fiscal capacity available to combat external supply-side shocks without compromising long-term sustainability and planned for fiscal consolidation.

As a result of this turbulence, the "risk-off" environment during March led the market to price in a higher risk premium across asset classes. Notably, local bond yields climbed in response to a vulnerable rand and rising inflation expectations. The market digested a potential "higher-for-longer" interest rate environment, with the duration of this energy shock serving as the final arbiter of domestic inflation and demand resilience.

## **Global markets: Heightened risk premia amid supply side shocks**

Global markets sold off in March as drone strikes in the Middle East took centre stage, triggering significant drawdowns across all major indices. The MSCI ACWI, S&P 500, FTSE 100, and Euro Stoxx 50 closed March down 7.1%, 5%, 9.1%, and 6.2%, respectively. Emerging markets bore the brunt of the volatility, with the MSCI EM Index tumbling 13% and sharply underperforming its developed market peers (-6%).

The escalation shifted market attention toward supply chain security and what has been described as the most severe threat to global energy stability in recent history. Consequently, investors remained highly reactive to the news flow, oscillating between headlines of military escalation and potential "off-ramps."

Amid this heightened volatility, central bank rhetoric remained cautious. The FED (Federal Reserve) held rates steady, with chair Jerome Powell signalling that policy might need to remain restrictive for longer than previously anticipated. This "higher-for-longer" outlook pushed short-term bond yields upward, while the long end of the curve started pricing in a significant inflation premium. The global uncertainty triggered a clear "flight to safety" that dominated currency markets, bolstering the US dollar at the expense of emerging market currencies, which remained under intense pressure throughout the month.

### **Shifting from a supply shock to a structural "growth scare"**

Despite a few trading days showing brief attempts at rebounds during March, markets continued to retreat as reports surfaced near the end of March of potential troop deployments and the targeting of Kharg Island. Damage to critical infrastructure, most notably the drone attacks at the Ras Laffan gas field in Qatar, raised concerns regarding the duration of repairs and the long-term integrity of energy supplies. According to Goldman Sachs, the disruption at Ras Laffan natural gas field in Qatar, along with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, impacts approximately 20% of global LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) supplies. The estimated repair timeline for the damaged LNG processing units, or "trains," is approximately five years, a figure that fundamentally shifted market concerns toward the longevity of the supply-side impact.

As a result, the central variable moved toward duration: specifically, how long the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed. While the market initially priced this as a supply side energy shock, the prolonged nature of the conflict started changing the narrative toward a broader potential "growth scare." As the blockade persisted into April, the threat of demand destruction took hold, and concerns regarding global consumption and overall economic fragility became the primary drivers of investor sentiment given that by month end little evidence of an off ramp seemed visible.

### **Fun fact for the month of March**

#### **The "Queen Mary" Candidate**

While the CFA Program is now a global gold standard for the investment management profession, the very first exam was administered in 1963 to only 284 candidates. In a testament to the dedication required for the charter, one of those original candidates sat for the exam while on board the RMS Queen Mary ocean liner enroute to England. This remains

a legendary example of the "anytime, anywhere" commitment to professional excellence that still defines the program today.

## Market indicators

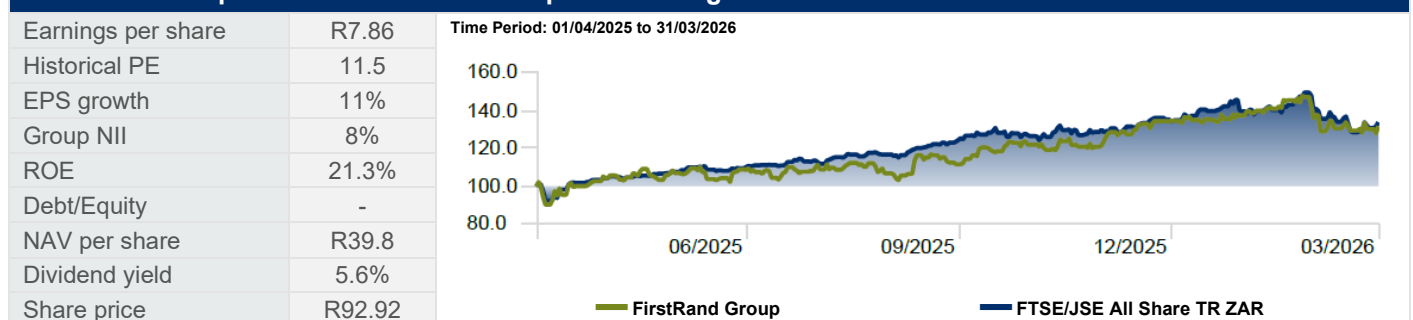
Index	Value	Mar (%)		YTD (%)	
All Share	114,068	▼	-10.5%	▼	-0.6%
S&P 500	6,529	▼	-5.0%	▼	-4.3%
FTSE 100	10,176	▼	-6.2%	▲	3.4%
Rand/USD	17.12	▲	7.5%	▲	3.3%
Rand/GBP	22.57	▲	5.5%	▲	1.3%
Gold (\$)	4,648	▼	-11.1%	▲	7.4%
Platinum (\$)	1950	▼	-17.6%	▼	-4.2%
Brent Crude (\$)	118.35	▲	63.3%	▲	94.5%

## CCM rates

		INDIVIDUALS	NON-FINANCIAL ENTITIES	FINANCIAL ENTITIES
Fund	Balance	NET RATE	NET RATE	NET RATE
CALL ACCOUNT (ZAR):	0.00 – 9 999.99	4.80%	4.50%	4.10%
	10 000 – 24 999.99	5.30%	5.00%	4.60%
	25 000 – 49 999.99	5.55%	5.25%	4.85%
	50 000 – 99 999.99	5.80%	5.50%	5.10%
	100 000 – 249 999.99	5.95%	5.65%	5.25%
MONEY FUND (ZAR):	250 000 – 999 999.99	6.18%	5.88%	5.48%
	1 000 000 – 9 999 999.99	6.28%	5.98%	5.58%
	10 000 000 upwards	6.38%	6.08%	5.68%
PRIME MONEY FUND (ZAR):	1 000 000 – 25 000 000	6.90%	NA	NA
	25 000 000 upwards	6.70%	NA	NA
FCA ACCOUNT (USD):	0.1 - 10 000	0.00%	NA	NA
	10 0001 upwards	2.00%	NA	NA

## Company results

### FirstRand Group – Interim results for the period ending December 2025



## Nature of business

FirstRand Ltd. operates as a holding company, which engages in the provision of banking, insurance and investment products and services to retail, commercial, corporate and public sector customers. It operates through the following segments: FNB, FNB Africa, WesBank, RMB, and Centre. The FNB segment offers financial products and services to market segments including consumer, small business, agricultural, medium-sized corporate, parastatal and government

entities. The FNB Africa segment is composed of a support division acting as strategic enabler, facilitator and coordinator for FNB's broader Africa businesses. The WesBank segment represents the bank's activities in instalment credit, fleet management and related services in the retail, commercial and corporate segments of South Africa. The RMB segment refers to the bank's activities in the corporate and investment banking segments in South Africa, the broader African continent and India. The Centre segment includes group-wide functions, including treasury, finance, tax, STET, regulatory risk management, and internal audit. The company was founded in 1966 and is headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Latest results

FirstRand delivered a strong set of H1 2026 results, driven by disciplined capital allocation and the effective scaling of their digital platforms. These factors contributed to a robust 21.3% ROE (return on equity) for the period. A key highlight was the strength of its NIR (non-interest revenue) stream, which grew by 12%, outpacing NII (net interest income) growth of 8%. This strategic shift has helped de-risk the group's earnings profile, reducing its exposure to the volatility of the South African credit cycle.

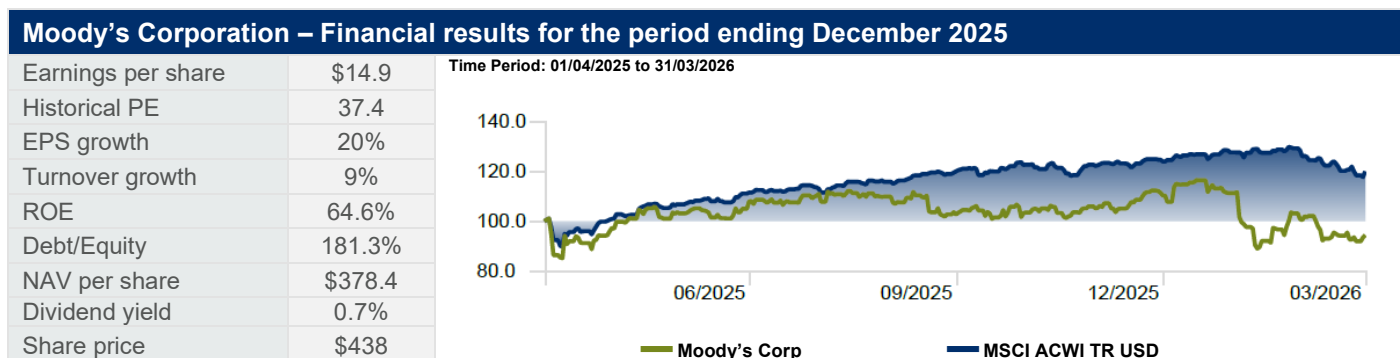
Within the group, FNB continues to deepen customer engagement by embedding clients into their ecosystem through value-added services such as FNB Connect and nav, driving user engagement. The group continues to prioritise innovation to improve its customer reach and as a result has invested significantly into Optasia, looking to drive digital capabilities, leverage AI to tap into underbanked segments, and enter new markets.

Their investment banking division, RMB, delivered 12% NIR growth, supported by strong contributions across several business areas. Global Markets performed well, particularly within the broader Africa portfolio, although this was off a relatively low base. Private Equity benefited from higher realisation income during the period, while the Investment Banking division (IBD) generated robust structuring and arranging fees driven by strong deal origination while advisory fees also remained resilient.

Although a slight uptick in their CLR (credit loss ratio) and headwinds faced in the UK, the group's fundamentals continue to show resilience. The 18% increase in the interim dividend signals management's confidence in FirstRand's strong financial position and its structural shift toward an originate-to-distribute business model.

## Dividend

FirstRand's board of directors declared a gross interim dividend of 259c per share. This is an 18% increase compared to the same reporting period in the previous year.



## Nature of business

Moody's Corp. engages in the provision of credit ratings, research, tools and analysis to global capital markets. It operates through the MIS (Moody's Investors Service) and MA (Moody's Analytics) segments. The MIS segment is a credit rating agency, which publishes credit ratings on debt obligations and the entities, including various corporate and governmental obligations, structured finance securities, and commercial paper programs. The MA segment develops products and services, which support financial analysis and risk management activities of institutional participants in global financial markets. The company was founded by John Moody in 1909 and is headquartered in New York, NY.

## Latest results

Moody's FY2025 financial results were robust, with topline revenue growing 9% y/y to a record of \$7.7 billion and adjusted diluted EPS growing by 20% to \$14.94 per share. Their adjusted operating margin expanded by 300bps to

51.1%, highlighting the quality of this high-margin business. Despite marginal headwinds from incentive-based compensation and higher taxes, the group continues to demonstrate strong free cash flow conversion. Ultimately, the combination of record top-line performance, expanding margins, and a regulatory-backed business model suggests that Moody's is uniquely well-positioned to navigate technological disruption while maintaining its status as a high-quality global compounder.

The recent selling pressure across software and data analytics providers, driven by the perceived risks of agentic AI, has created a compelling entry point for wide-moat agencies like Moody's. While the market has been indiscriminate in its retreat, we believe rating agencies with proprietary data moats remain intact, underpinned by regulatory frameworks such as the Basel III capital adequacy requirements which necessitate standardised credit benchmarks for global bank stability. The market's current pessimism fails to reward the firm for its successful integration of AI into its data estate or for the exceptional operational discipline evidenced in its latest results.

## Dividend

Moody's declared a dividend of \$1.03 per share. The company currently also has a \$4 billion share buyback program authorised and repurchased 900,000 ordinary shares in the final quarter of 2025.

## Snippets

### Moneyweb interview with Mark MacSymon

Mark MacSymon, Wealth Manager at Private Client Holdings (PCH), was recently interviewed by Jeremy Maggs on Moneyweb ([listen to the 9min clip](#)). They discuss why having multiple financial advisors can fragment strategy and dilute accountability, potentially undermining wealth. The interview was based on this [article](#) and explores why diversifying financial advice is not the same as diversifying your investment portfolio. When two architects design the same house independently, you don't get a stronger house. You get misaligned foundations.

## Dividends payable

### Dividends in LDT order

Company	Decl	LDT	Pay	Amt	Curr
African Rainbow Minerals Ltd. (ARM)	06-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	500	ZARc
AVI Ltd. (A-V-I)	09-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	245	ZARc
Grindrod Ltd. (GRINDROD)	06-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	25.2	ZARc
Grindrod Ltd. (GRINDROD)	06-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	43	ZARc
Grindrod Ltd. (GRINDROD PEF)	06-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	465	ZARc
Hyprop Investments Ltd. (HYPROP)	10-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	118.98	ZARc
Libstar Holdings Ltd. (LIBSTAR)	17-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	28	ZARc
Mpact Ltd. (MPACT)	09-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	30	ZARc
Momentum Group Ltd. (MOMENTUM)	19-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	110	ZARc
MTN Group Ltd. (MTN GROUP)	16-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	500	ZARc
Nedbank Group Ltd. (NEDBANK)	03-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	1104	ZARc
Old Mutual Ltd. (OMUTUAL)	17-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	56	ZARc
Putprop Ltd. (PUTPROP)	18-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	8.5	ZARc
Resilient REIT Ltd. (RESILIENT)	12-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	244.7	ZARc
Standard Bank Group Ltd. (STANBANK6.5)	12-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	3.25	ZARc
Sabvest Capital Ltd. (SABCAP)	18-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	90	ZARc
Standard Bank Group Ltd. (STANBANK-P)	12-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	407.05	ZARc
Schroder European Real Estate Investment Trust plc (SERE)	19-Mar	07-Apr	15-May	1.48	EURc
Sea Harvest Group Ltd. (SEAHARVST)	03-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	76	ZARc
Sanlam Ltd. (SANLAM)	12-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	485	ZARc
Sun International Ltd. (SUNINT)	16-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	252	ZARc
Sun International Ltd. (SUNINT)	16-Mar	07-Apr	13-Apr	100	ZARc
Namibia Breweries Ltd. (NBL)	27-Mar	10-Apr	18-May	209.84	NADc

Advtech Ltd. (ADVTECH)	23-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	73	ZARc
Brimstone Investment Corporation Ltd. (BRIMST-N)	03-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	42	ZARc
CA Sales Holdings Ltd. (CA SALES)	26-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	28.69	ZARc
Choppies Enterprises Ltd. (CHOPPIES)	25-Mar	14-Apr	29-Apr	1	BWPc
Growthpoint Properties Ltd. (GROWPNT)	11-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	66.2	ZARc
Heriot REIT Ltd. (HERIOT)	25-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	66.11	ZARc
JSE Ltd. (JSE)	02-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	961	ZARc
JSE Ltd. (JSE)	02-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	100	ZARc
OUTsurance Group Ltd. (OUTSURE)	11-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	120.7	ZARc
OUTsurance Group Ltd. (OUTSURE)	11-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	30.3	ZARc
Quilter plc (QUILTER)	04-Mar	14-Apr	18-May	4.3	GBPp
Rainbow Chicken Ltd. (RAINBOW)	11-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	15	ZARc
SA Corporate Real Estate Ltd. (SA CORP)	13-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	13.54	ZARc
Standard Bank Group Ltd. (STANBANK)	12-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	878	ZARc
Thungela Resources Ltd. (THUNGELA)	23-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	200	ZARc
Weaver Fintech Ltd. (WEAVER)	10-Mar	14-Apr	20-Apr	132	ZARc
Absa Group Ltd. (ABSA)	10-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	850	ZARc
Bell Equipment Ltd. (BELL)	30-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	100	ZARc
Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd. (HARMONY)	11-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	530	ZARc
Remgro Ltd. (REMGRO)	25-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	173	ZARc
Stadio Holdings Ltd. (STADIO)	17-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	18.4	ZARc
Shaftesbury Capital plc (SHBCAP)	25-Feb	21-Apr	22-May	2.1	GBPp
TeleMasters Holdings Ltd. (TELEMASTR)	30-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	0.2	ZARc
Wilson Bayly Holmes - Ovcon Ltd. (WBHO)	03-Mar	21-Apr	28-Apr	300	ZARc



## CONTACT US

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