



**Sygnia**

# Beyond Beta: Next-Generation Strategies for a Low Growth World

Iain Anderson

2026

MEET THE  
**Managers**





Sygnia



# Next Generation Strategies for a Low Growth World

June 2026

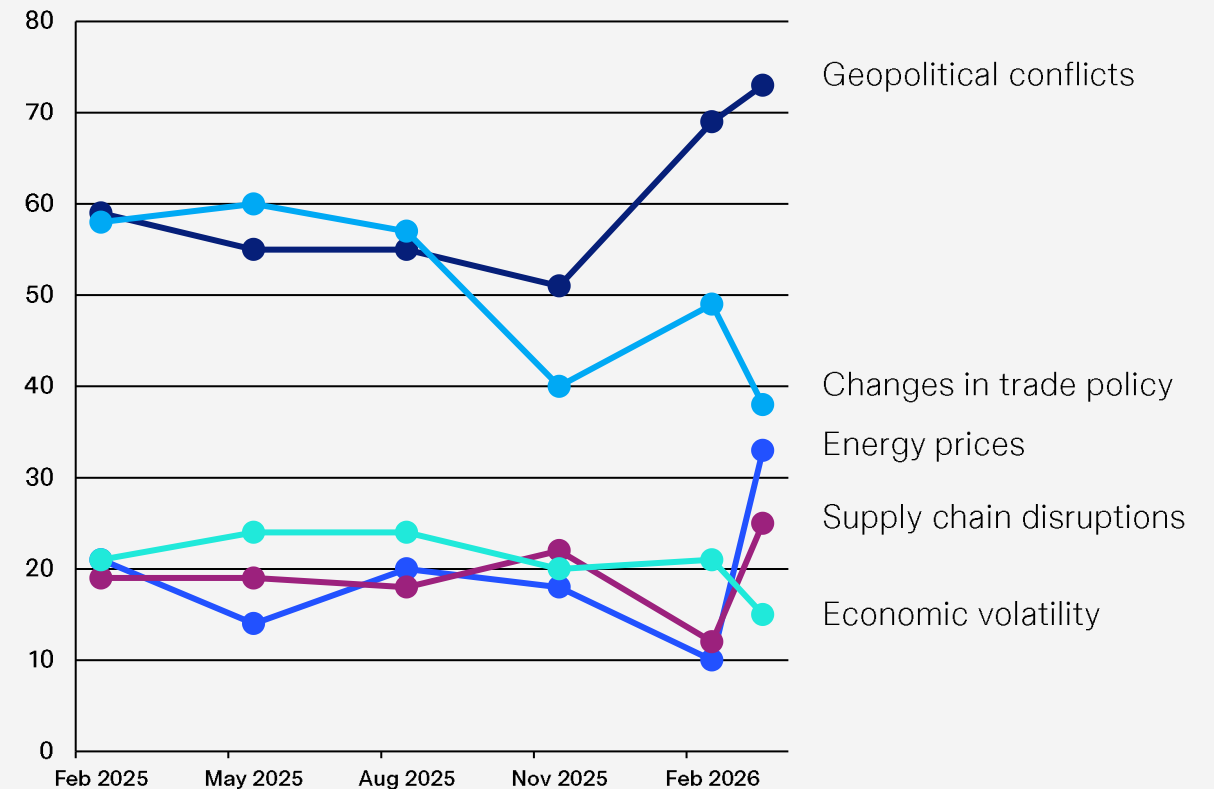
# Security and Resilience - Headwinds to Growth

## Growth being sacrificed in the name of security

- Geopolitical conflicts considered the biggest current threat to global growth.
- Historically high Cape-Schiller PE indicating a difficult 10yr period for global stocks.
- RSA Tailwinds (gold rally, declining global interest rates, commodity rally, EM ) turning to headwinds.

**Question: What solutions can we offer investors to this growth problem?**

Biggest potential risks to global economic growth, next 21 months



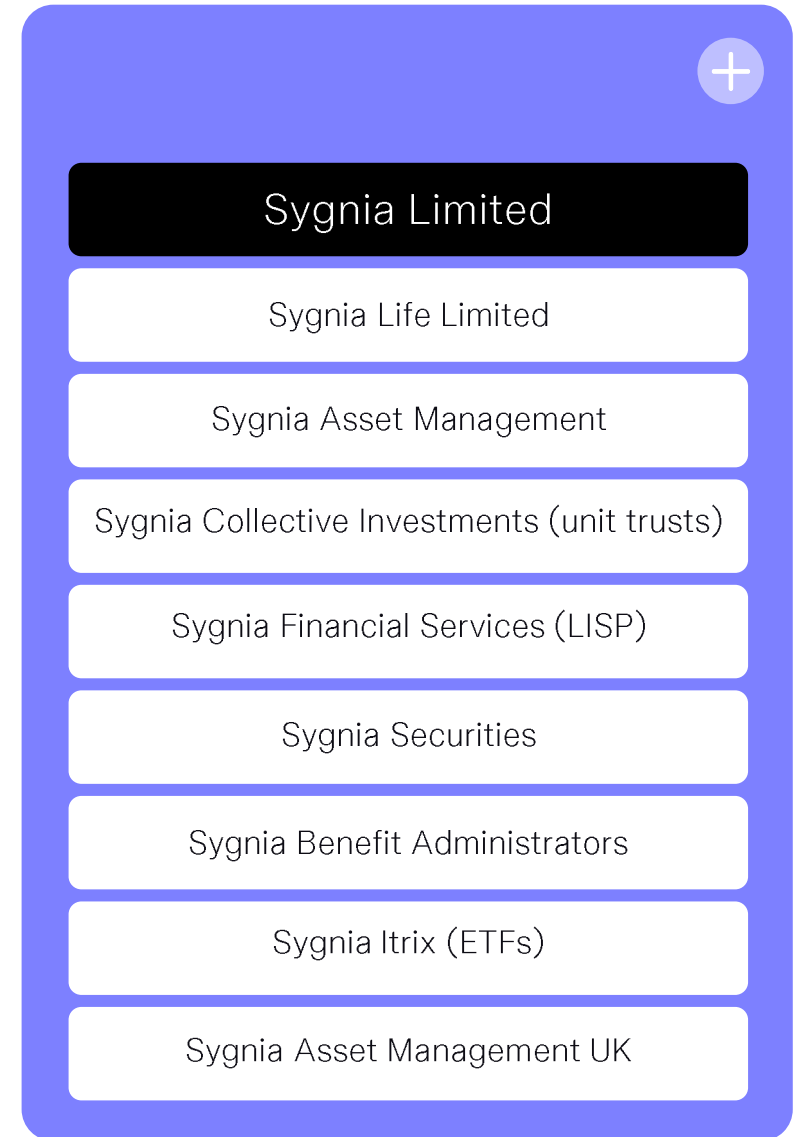
Source: McKinsey & Company "Global Economics Intelligence"

# Our Company



**Magda Wierzycka**  
Chief Executive Officer

“A JSE-listed financial services group offering a range of savings products, asset management services and administration platforms to institutional and individual clients in South Africa and abroad.”



# Sygnia Limited

2nd



largest multi-management  
company in South Africa

Largest



provider of  
international ETFs

R461.2bn



assets under management  
and administration

72%



staff and management  
owned

R1.2bn



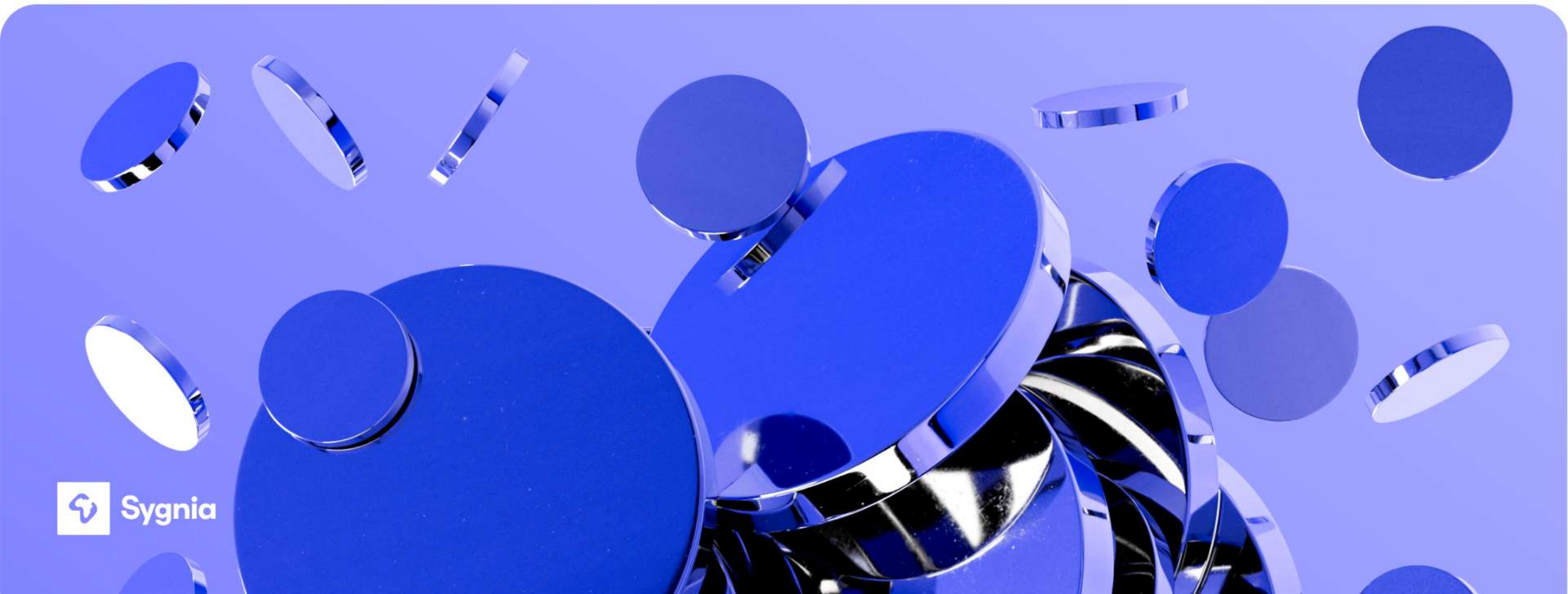
PI cover (R75m cyber cover)

390



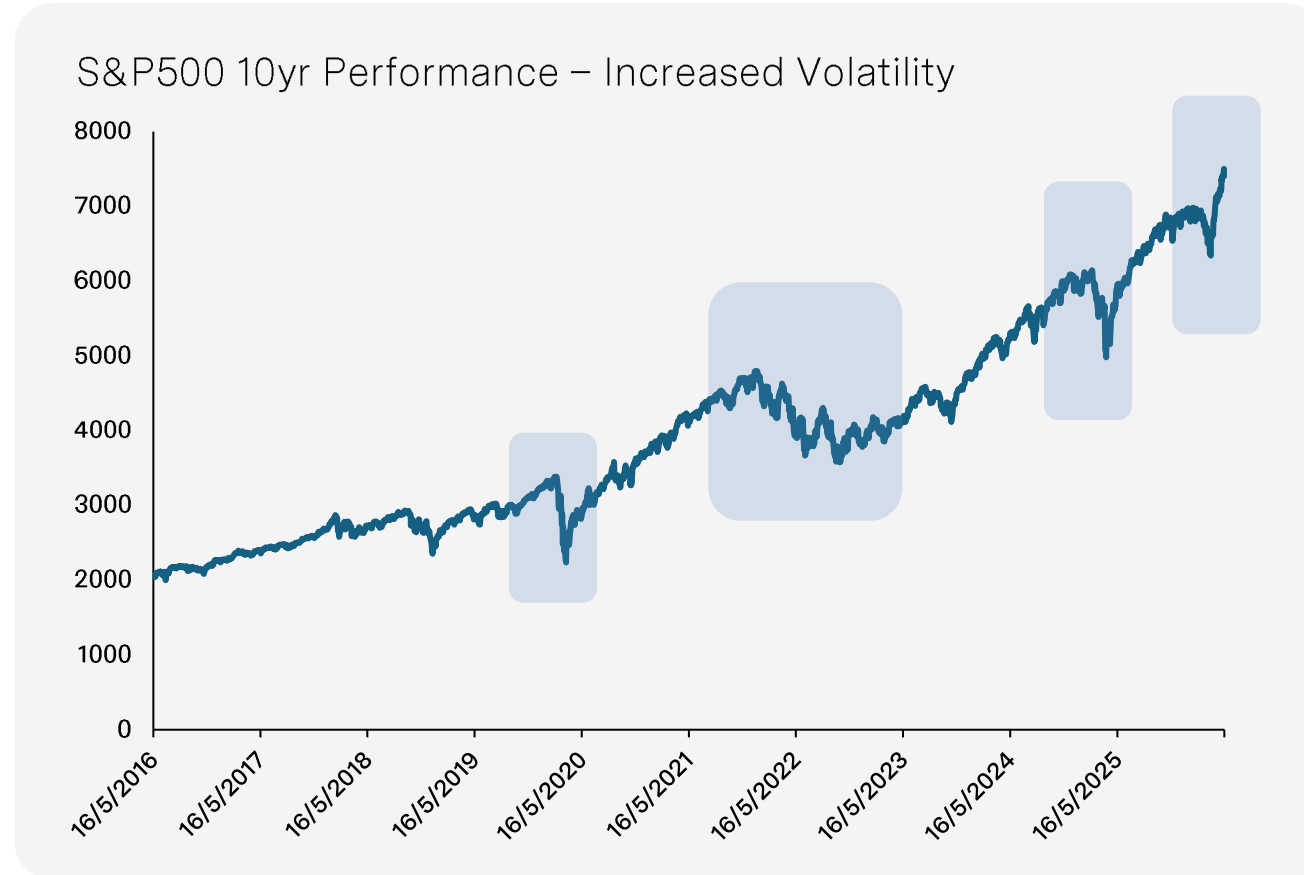
staff in Cape Town, Durban,  
Johannesburg & London

# Remaining in a Low Growth World



# Fragmentation is the new reality

As global growth slows, geopolitical shocks and policy shifts are reversing decades of globalisation



## Covid-19 (2020)

- Triggered rethinking of supply chain resilience
- Shift from “just-in-time” to “just-in-case”

## Ukraine War (2022)

- Energy crisis exposed Europe’s overdependence on Russian gas
- Accelerated reshoring & diversification of energy sources

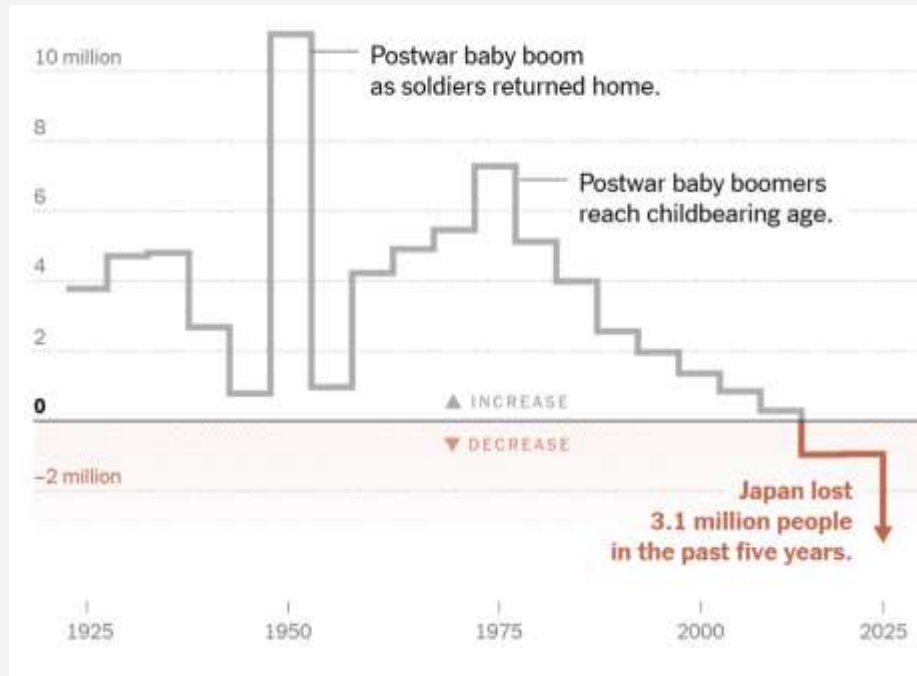
## Trump 2.0 & Tariffs & Strait of Hormuz

- “America First” reshapes trade rules
- Global trade policy uncertainty rises
- Fragmentation is the new reality

# Further Headwinds to growth

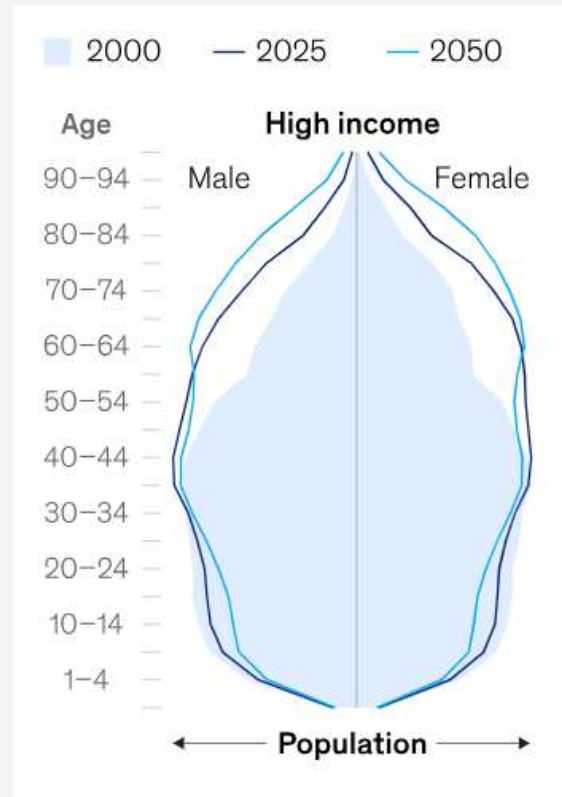
Demographics disproportionately affect developed markets

## Japan: change in population every 5 years



Source: Statistics Bureau of Japan

## Population Spread in High Income Countries



Source: New York Times

## Demographic forces shaping investment landscape

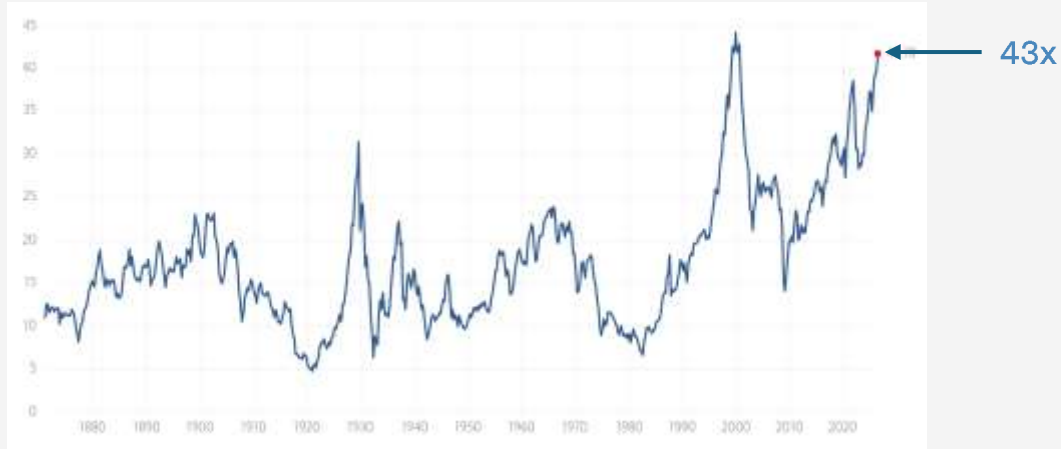
- High and middle income countries particularly vulnerable.
- Placing pressure on health systems, labour markets, and social programs.
- Emerging economies well poised to generate growth, but only if health, education, and employment are strong enough to support population.

**Insight:** McKinsey estimates that declining demographics could cause a nearly 40% drop in GDP growth rates in next 50 years.

# Cape Shiller and Equity Risk Premium

Both measures are indicate starting point implies a grim future for global equity returns

## Cyclically Adjusted Price-Earnings Ratio PE Ratio



Source: Robert Shiller "Irrational Exuberance"

- Very good at forecasting rolling 10-year returns over the past 100 years.
- Historically high value of >47 indicate expected return of 2-3% in next 10yrs.

## Equity Risk Premium (equity discount rate – 10yr UST Yield)



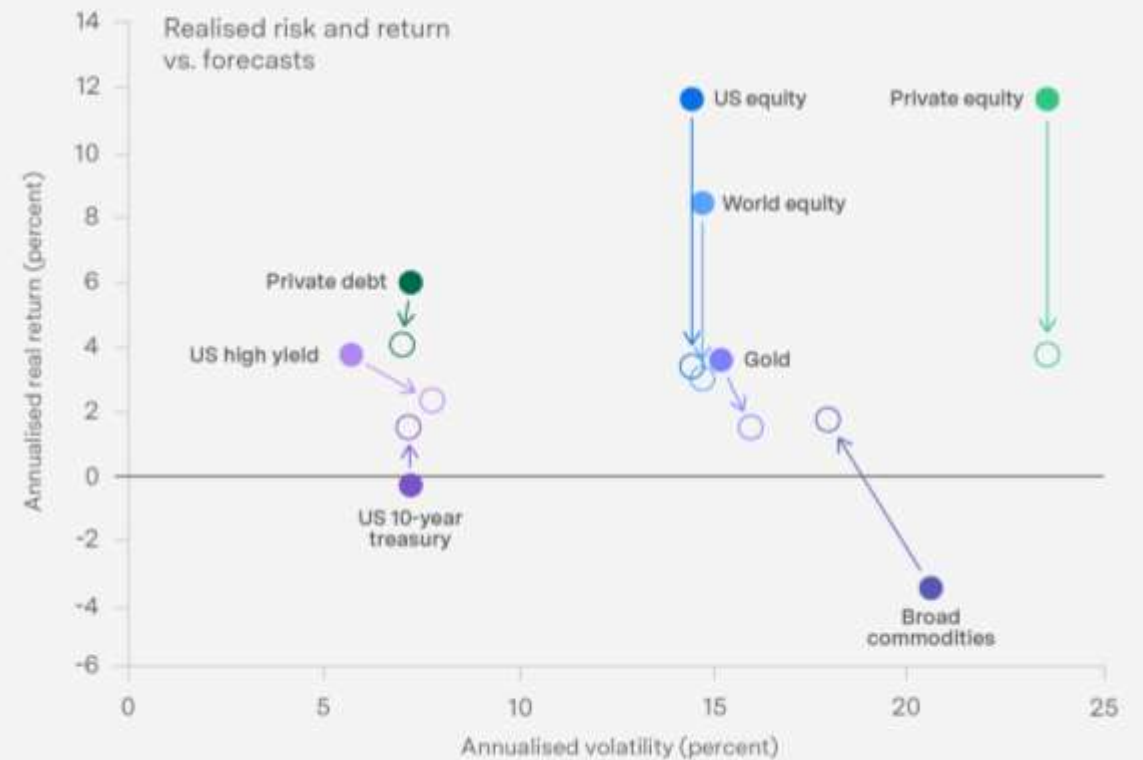
Source: J.P. Morgan Flows & Liquidity.

- Very little room for bond yields to rise higher
- 2.2% ERP is a new low for post GFC period
- Well below its long run historical average of 3.1%

# Dim future for most asset classes & alpha sources

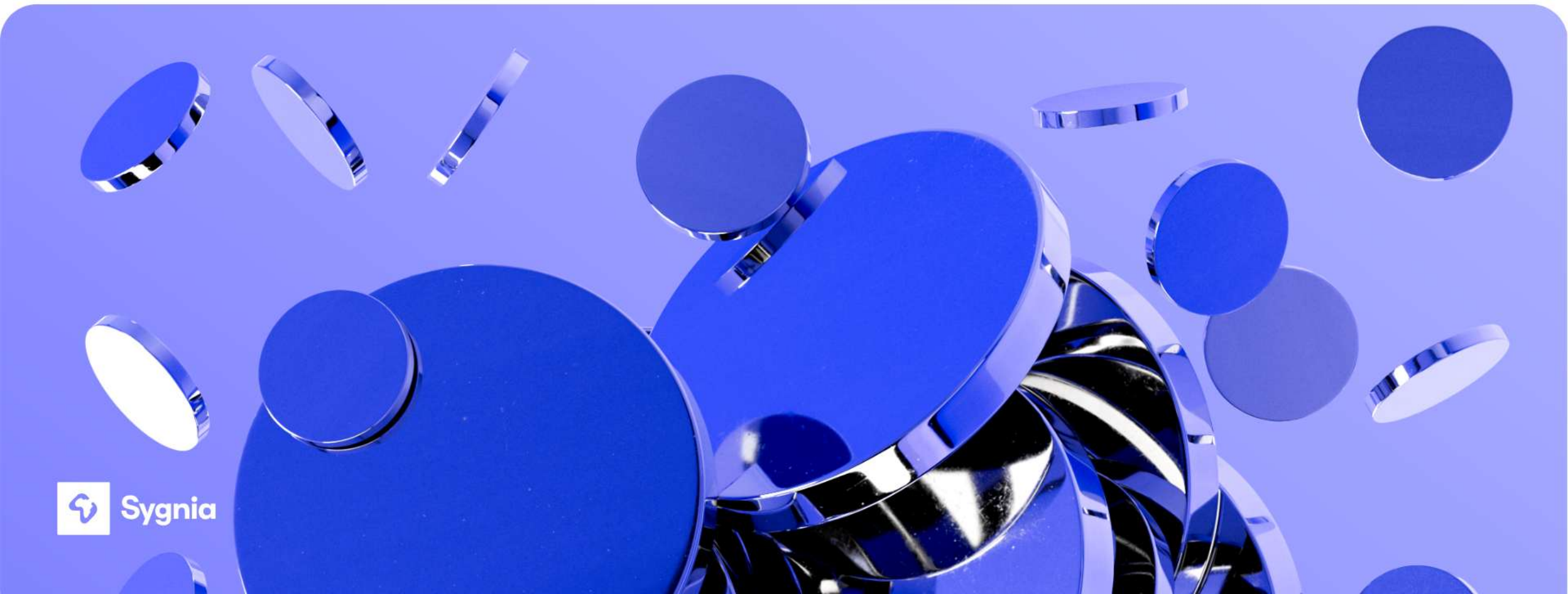
- The median manager in US large cap equities has generated zero alpha before fees and negative alpha after fees for at least a decade.
- Deglobalisation, demographics, rising debt levels, interest rates and climate change will prove challenging for all asset classes. Long-term return assumptions have to be lowered for all asset classes.
- Low-cost products are essential, and low-cost products with decoupled returns even more so.

## A more challenging landscape ahead for traditional assets



Source: Alliance Bernstein

# Sygnia Life Plus Funds



# Summary of Sygnia Life Plus Funds

	Fee	Global cap	Permitted investors	Underlying instrument	Minimum investment	Objective time period
Sygnia Life Dollar Cash Plus Fund	0.50%	100%	LA, RA, Investment policy	USDZAR currency	R5 000	3 years
Sygnia Life MSCI World Plus Fund	0.50%	100%	LA, RA, Investment policy	MSCI World Index	R5 000	5 years
Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund	1.20%	100%	LA, Investment policy	iShares Bitcoin Trust ETF	R5 000	5 years

# Decoupling Returns: The theory

- Fisher Black and Myron Scholes introduced the Black-Scholes option-pricing model in 1973.
- Robert Merton built on the no-arbitrage framework to develop a model for futures pricing.
- For futures to price correctly: Future + Cash = Stock + Dividend.

$$F = S \cdot e^{(r-d)T}$$

- If you can get a better return from cash, you can outperform the stock.
- Investors can enhance their index returns by picking up consistent incremental alpha from money market instruments without significantly increasing their risk.
- Tax implications.

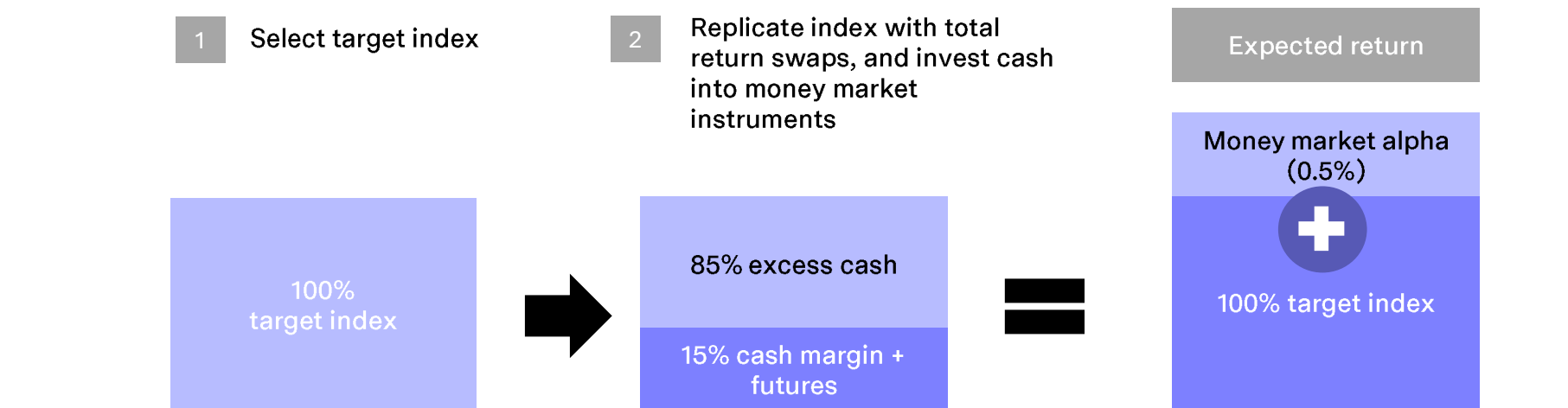


# Decoupling returns: The practice

An investment strategy that separates active returns (alpha) from market returns (index):

- **Index:** Achieving market exposure through derivatives that replicate a market index.
- **Alpha:** Returns above the benchmark return. The benchmark is the overnight SA cash rate, while the investment is in combination of Sygnia Money Market Fund and Sygnia Enhanced Income Fund.

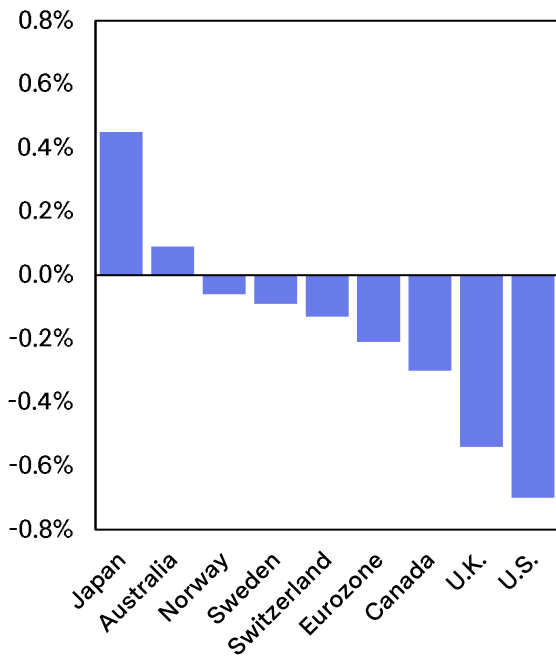
**Risks:** Money market underperforming bank rates; derivative issuer default. These risks are mitigated by diversification, highly rated money market investments and regular mark to market of the positions.



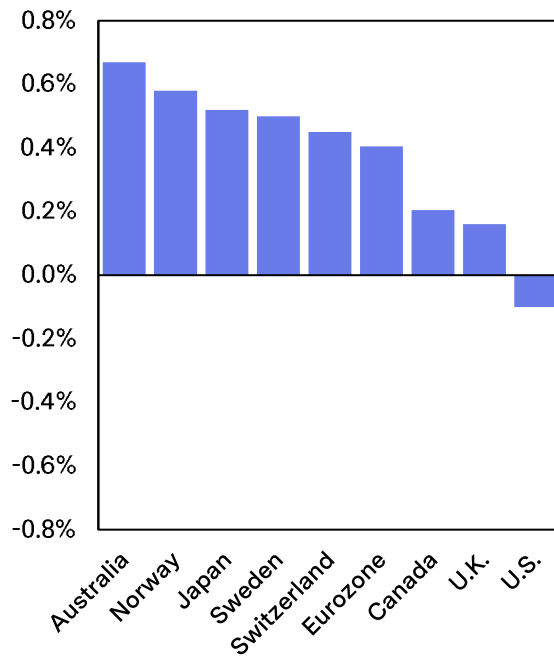
# Alpha Generation: Interest Rate Outlook

Both global and local outlook have deteriorated significantly, inflation likely to impact growth

December Expectations for Central Banks and rates:



April Expectations for Central Banks and rates:



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Alpine Macro

Domestic Inflation / Interest Rate Expectations

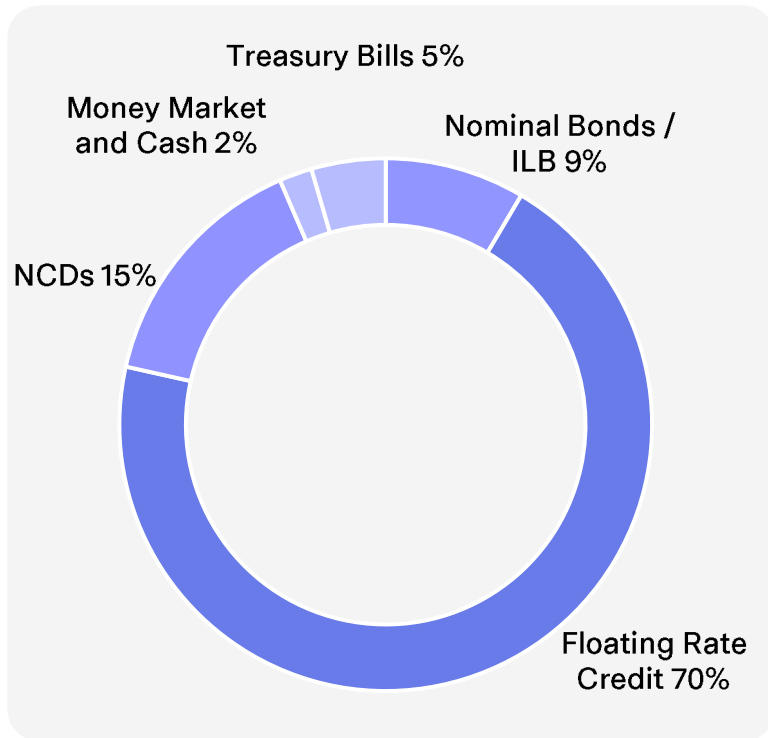
	Base case CPI					
	CPI	ZAR	Brent	Crack diesel	Repo	Real repo
Feb-26	3.0	16.0	69	25	6.75	3.8
Mar-26	3.0	16.7	100	55	6.75	3.7
Apr-26	4.0	16.5	102	63	6.75	2.8
May-26	4.5	16.6	105	54	7.00	2.5
Jun-26	4.6	17.0	105	54	7.00	2.4
Jul-26	4.8	17.0	105	49	7.25	2.4
Aug-26	4.9	17.0	100	44	7.25	2.3
Sept-26	4.8	17.0	95	39	7.25	2.5
Oct-26	4.7	17.0	90	50	7.25	2.5
Nov-26	4.8	17.0	90	40	7.25	2.4
Dec-26	4.7	17.0	90	25	7.25	2.6
Jan-27	4.9	17.0	85	20	7.25	2.3
Feb-27	4.9	17.0	85	20	7.25	2.3
Mar-27	4.8	17.0	80	20	7.25	2.5
Apr-27	3.7	17.0	80	20	7.25	3.5
May-27	3.2	17.0	80	20	7.00	3.8
Jun-27	3.0	17.0	80	20	7.00	4.0
Jul-27	2.8	17.0	80	20	6.75	4.0
Aug-27	2.8	17.0	80	20	6.75	4.0
Sept-27	2.9	17.0	80	20	6.50	3.6
Oct-27	3.0	17.0	80	20	6.50	3.5
Nov-27	3.1	17.0	80	20	6.25	3.1
Dec-27	3.1	17.0	80	20	6.25	3.1

Source: Matrix Fund Managers

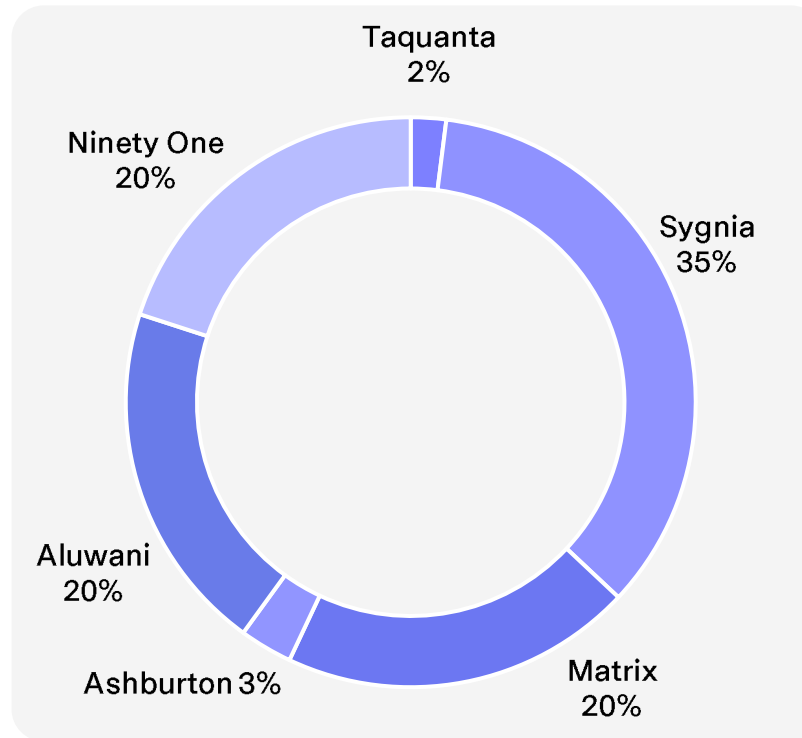
# Enhanced Income Mandate

Alpha underpinned by generating diversified, consistent yield without undue interest rate risk

## Asset Allocation



## Manager Allocation



	Sygnia Enhanced Income Fund
Weighted Avg Maturity	3.1yrs
Gross Current Yield	8.83%
Duration	0.7yrs

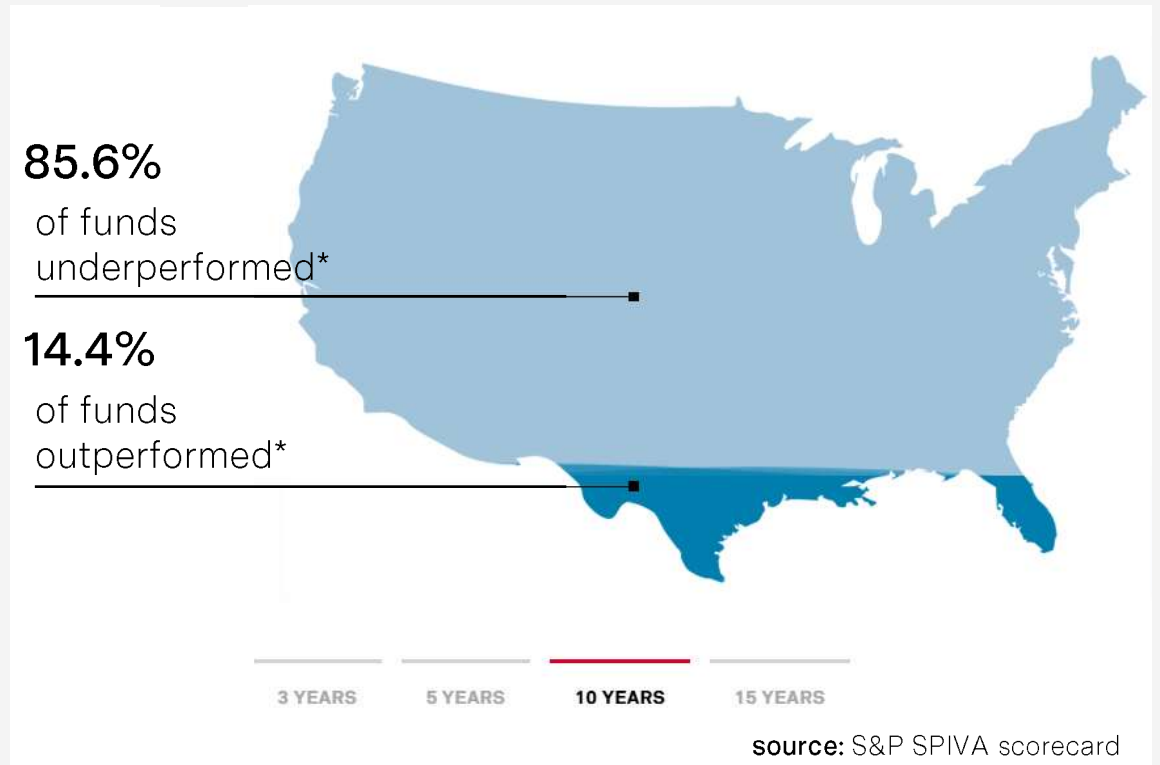
# Sygnia Life MSCI World Plus Fund



# Sygnia Life MSCI World Plus Fund

- Built with the findings of S&P SPIVA surveys in mind – ie active managers struggle to consistently beat the benchmark after fees
- An innovative and low-cost fund providing exposure to a diversified global equity portfolio.
- Benchmarked against the MSCI World Net Total Return Index.
- Low fee: 0.5%
- Highly liquid
- Primary risk: Volatility associated with the earnings growth, dividend growth and valuation of the underlying companies.

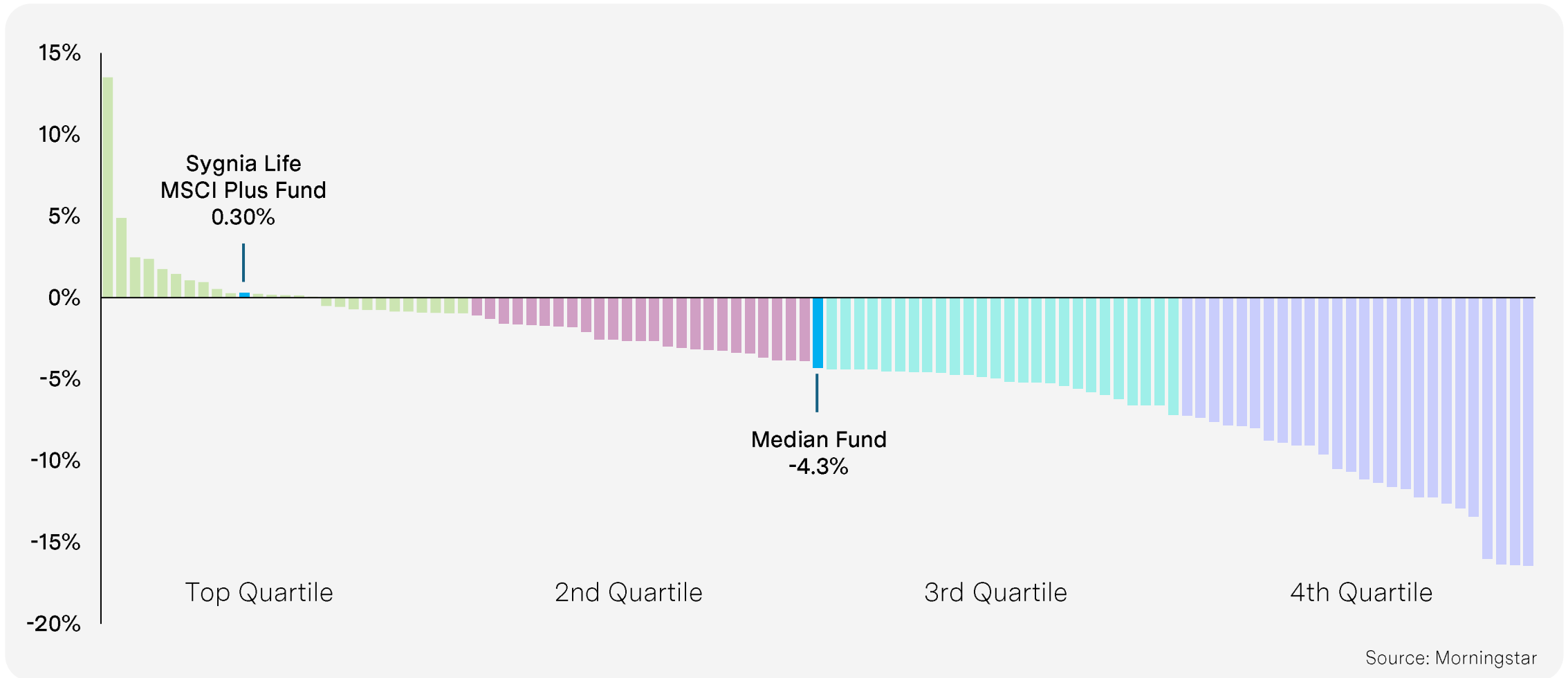
## 10yr S&P SPIVA survey results for United States



\* S&P 500

# Sygnia MSCI Plus Fund – 3yr alpha vs MSCI World

3 Year Net Alpha to 30 April 2026 – ASISA Global - Equity – General Category



# Sygnia MSCI Plus Fund – 5yr alpha vs MSCI World

5 Year Net Alpha to 30 April 2026 – ASISA Global - Equity – General Category





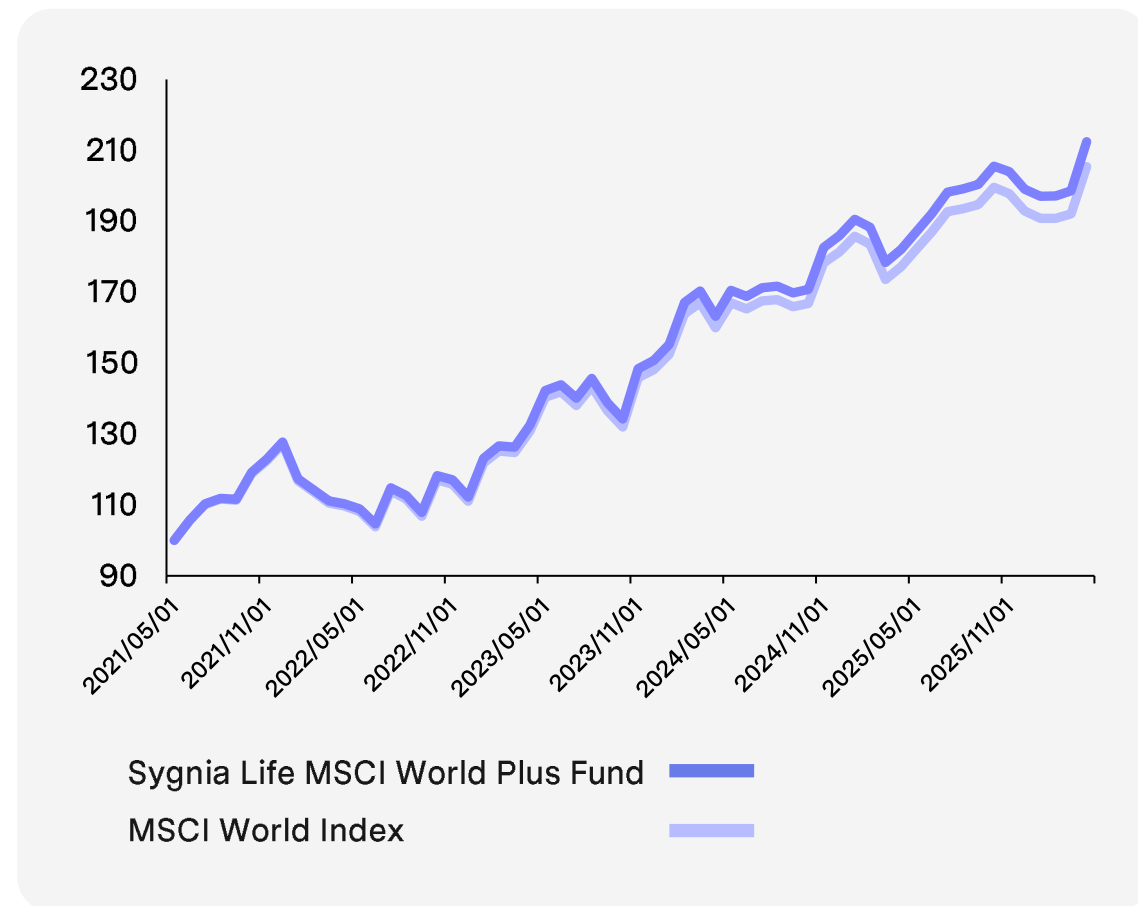
# Sygnia Life MSCI World Plus Fund

Gross Returns to 30 April 2026*	Sygnia Life MSCI World Plus Fund	MSCI World Index	Alpha
1 Mth	7.0%	6.9%	0.1%
3 Mths	7.8%	7.6%	0.2%
6 Mths	3.3%	2.9%	0.4%
1 Year	16.7%	15.9%	0.8%
3 Years	17.0%	16.2%	0.8%
5 Years	15.3%	14.5%	0.8%

\* Fund launched in March 2025

Top 5 holdings	30 April 2026
Nvidia Corp	5.6%
Apple Inc	4.6%
Microsoft Corp	3.3%
Amazon.com Inc	2.9%
Alphabet Inc Class A Common Shares	2.6%

## Simulated Returns to 30 April 2026



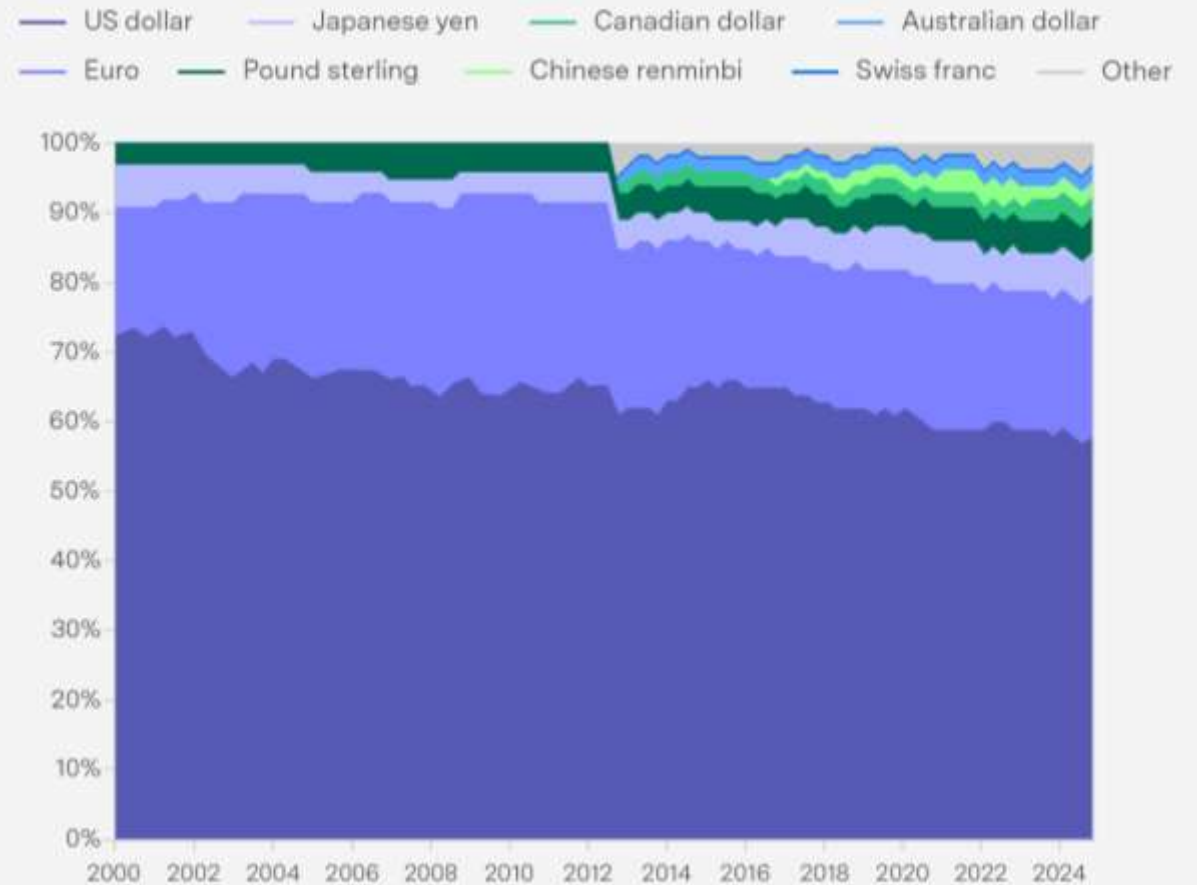
# Sygnia Life Dollar Cash Plus Fund



# Sygnia Life Dollar Cash Plus Fund

- A low-cost, rand-denominated money market fund designed specifically for Sygnia living annuity investors.
- Benchmarked against the US dollar overnight cash rate.
- The fund ensures that investors can access US money market returns while maintaining a conservative approach to risk in dollars.
- Highly liquid, zero fee switching.
- Risk to fund: Dollar exchange rate relative to other developed markets.

Currency composition of official foreign exchange reserves 2000–2024



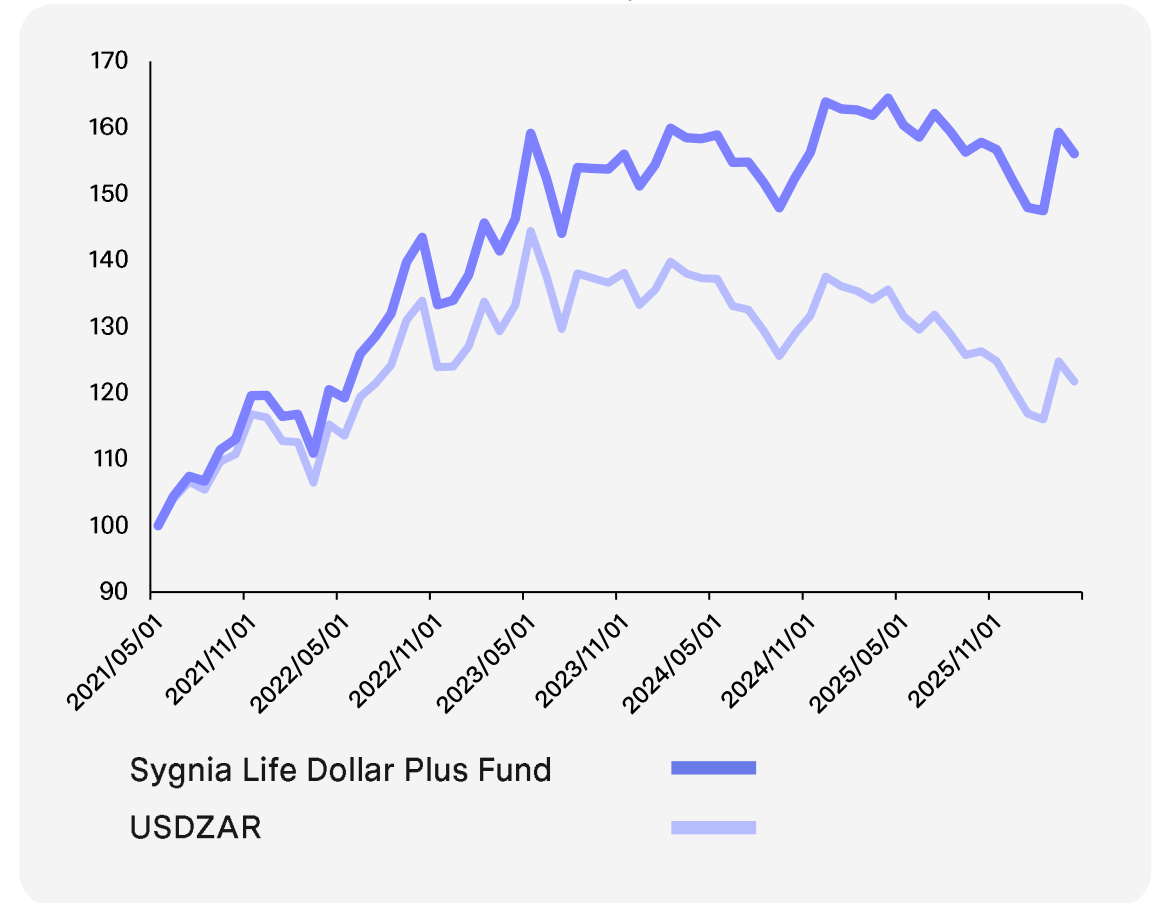
Source: International Monetary Fund

# Sygnia Life Dollar Cash Plus Fund

Gross Returns to 30 April 2026	Sygnia Life Dollar Cash Plus Fund	USDZAR	Alpha
1 Mth	-2.0%	-2.4%	0.4%
3 Mths	5.5%	4.1%	1.3%
6 Mths	-1.1%	-3.6%	2.5%
1 Year	-5.1%	-10.2%	5.1%
3 Years	2.2%	-3.0%	5.2%
5 Years	8.2%	2.9%	5.3%

\* Fund launched in March 2025

Simulated Returns to 30 April 2026

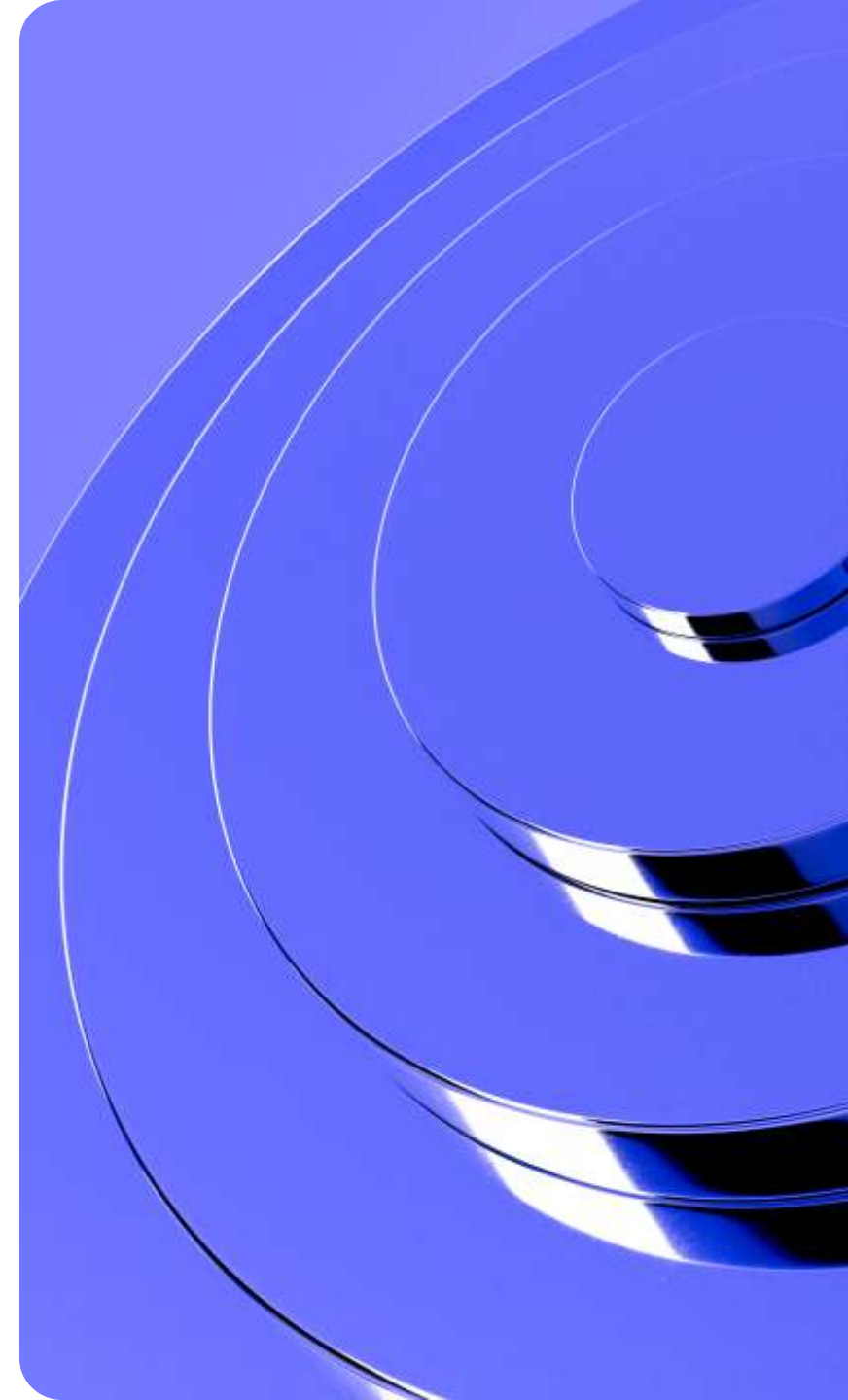


# Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund



# Why not use a JSE-listed fund?

- We expect an ETF listing as soon as early 2026 – dependent on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange producing final listing requirements.
- The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has not yet classified crypto as an on- or offshore asset. This outcome is dependent on a policy proposal currently with Finsurv (a division of SARB). Discussions with National Treasury are ongoing.
- Unit trusts and pension funds may not invest in crypto, as it is not an allowable asset under Cisca BN90 and regulation 28.
- Sygnia was granted a FAIS crypto license in July 2024 and is approved to render advice and administrative and discretionary intermediary services.
- The Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund provides a strong alternative in light of the uncertainty around the launch date of an ETF.



# Why the Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund?

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Cumulative Return	Annualized Return	Updated for 2026 YTD	
BTC 36%	BTC 120%	BTC 1,375%	AGG 0%	BTC 95%	BTC 305%	BTC 60%	CMT 21%	BTC 157%	BTC 120%	Gold 65%	BTC 27,518%	BTC 67%	CMT 29%	Commodities
SPX 1%	HY 17%	EM 35%	Gold -2%	SPX 31%	Gold 25%	CMT 31%	Gold 0%	SPX 26%	Gold 27%	EM 25%	SPX 304%	SPX 14%	EM 27%	Emerging Markets
AGG 1%	CMT 13%	SPX 22%	HY -2%	EM 20%	SPX 18%	SPX 29%	HY -11%	HY 13%	SPX 25%	SPX 18%	Gold 265%	Gold 12%	SPX 11%	S&P 500
HY -4%	SPX 12%	Gold 14%	SPX -4%	Gold 18%	EM 15%	HY 5%	AGG -13%	Gold 13%	EM 12%	CMT 14%	EM 95%	EM 6%	Gold 5%	Gold
Gold -10%	EM 11%	HY 8%	CMT -9%	HY 14%	AGG 8%	EM 1%	EM -18%	EM 10%	HY 8%	HY 9%	HY 80%	HY 5%	HY 2%	High Yield Debt
EM -14%	Gold 8%	CMT 4%	EM -14%	CMT 10%	HY 7%	AGG -2%	SPX -18%	AGG 6%	CMT 8%	AGG 7%	CMT 60%	CMT 4%	AGG 0.5%	Global Bonds
CMT -25%	AGG 3%	AGG 4%	BTC -74%	AGG 9%	CMT -3%	Gold -4%	BTC -64%	CMT -4%	AGG 1%	BTC -6%	AGG 23%	AGG 2%	BTC -22%	Bitcoin

- Bitcoin is usually top or bottom of the charts – historically non-correlated

# Why the Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund?

- All the benefits of the iShares Bitcoin Trust ETF.
- With the regulatory security and convenience of the Sygnia linked investment service provider (LISP).
- Removes the operational, tax and custody complexities of holding bitcoin directly.
- Available to living annuity investors (not retirement annuities) and 5-year investment policies for individuals.
- Highly liquid, zero fee switching.
- Allows investors to tap into bitcoin's growth potential.
- With an additional return from the portfolio's alpha credit strategy.
- Recommended that investors not invest more than 5% of their assets.



# Why the iShares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT) ETF?

- Launched in 2024 by Blackrock, the world's largest asset manager and largest provider of ETFs.
- IBIT currently manages over \$58bn, roughly 3.7% of the bitcoin in circulation. Highly liquid.
- It has already surpassed Blackrock's iShares Gold Trust in assets under management, highlighting the growing demand.
- IBIT uses Coinbase, the world's largest institutional digital asset custodian; Coinbase Trust provides ring-fenced custody, 100% cold storage, backup custody and an upper limit of \$100m per wallet.
- Risks include: Large-scale sales by major investors; security threats; negative sentiment among speculators; competition from central bank digital currencies; extreme price volatility; potential for loss, theft or compromise of private keys.

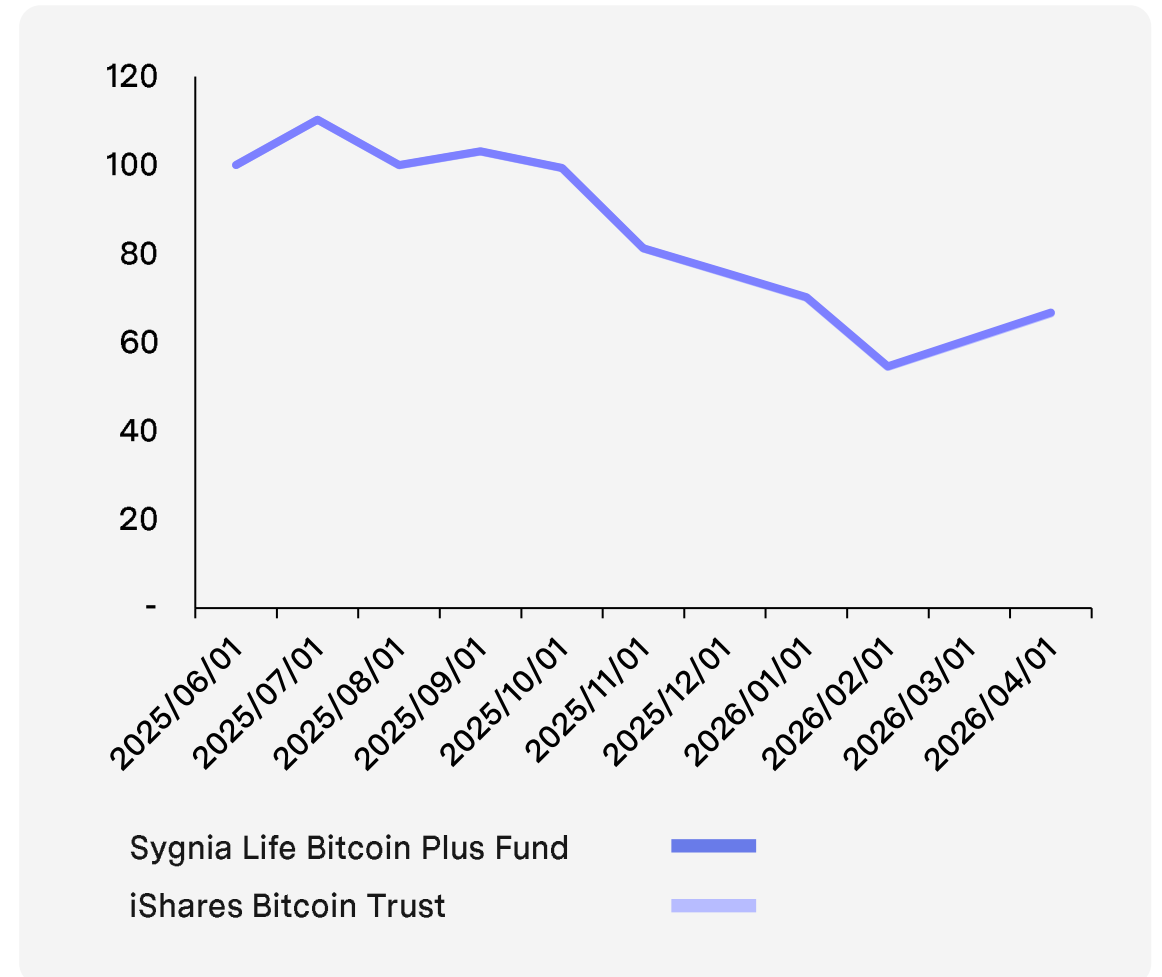
Name	AUM (USD bn)	Market share
iShares Bitcoin Trust ETF	58.2	61.9%
Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin F	13.4	14.2%
Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF	10.7	11.4%
Grayscale Bitcoin Mini Trust ETF	3.9	4.1%
Bitwise Bitcoin ETF	2.7	2.9%
ARK 21Shares Bitcoin ETF	2.4	2.6%
VanEck Bitcoin ETF/US	1.2	1.3%
Invesco Galaxy Bitcoin ETF	0.5	0.5%
Coinshares Valkyrie Bitcoin Fu	0.4	0.5%
Franklin Bitcoin ETF	0.4	0.5%
WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund	0.2	0.2%
	<b>94.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund

Gross Returns to 30 April 2026*	Sygnia Life Bitcoin Plus Fund	iShares Bitcoin Trust	Alpha
1 Mth	9.9%	10.0%	-0.1%
3 Mths	-5.0%	-5.0%	0.1%
6 Mths	-32.9%	-33.0%	0.1%
Since Inception	-33.3%	-33.5%	0.2%

\* Fund launched in June 2025

## Returns to 30 April 2026



# Conclusion

- Grim outlook for most asset classes
- 10yr forward returns unlikely to meet needs of investors
- Sygnia Life Plus Fund range provides alpha in a low growth world
- Flexibility required
- Potential tax implications





Sygnia

Thank you!

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- Sygnia Asset Management: CAT II/IIA Discretionary FSP (FSP registration no. 873)
- Sygnia Life Limited: CAT I/II FSP (FSP registration no. 2935)
- Sygnia Financial Services: CAT I/II/III LISP and approved Section 13B Administrator (FSP registration no. 44426)
- Sygnia Securities: CAT I FSP and member of the JSE (FSP registration no. 45818)

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2026

MEET + THE  
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