

SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear CRF Member,

SA Equity rebounded strongly in August 2026, returning 4.6%, led by a 24.5% surge in Resources as the gold price rose 9.1% in US Dollar terms. SA Property was the weakest local asset class, falling 4.1%, while SA Bonds returned 0.7%. The Rand strengthened by around 2.6% against the US Dollar, which offset Global Equity's 2.6% return in US Dollar terms and negatively affected the Rand return of offshore bonds.

The returns for the major asset classes to the end of August 2026 are shown below:

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
SA Equity (Capped ALSI)	4.6%	2.0%	-7.5%	19.4%
SA Bonds (ALBI)	0.7%	0.8%	-0.2%	16.5%
SA Property (ALPI)	-4.1%	1.8%	-4.8%	18.5%
SA Cash (STeFI)	0.6%	1.7%	3.4%	7.0%
SA Inflation Linked Bonds (CILI)	1.0%	2.2%	1.2%	18.1%
Global Equity (MSCI World ($))	2.6%	2.4%	9.8%	20.4%
Global Equity (MSCI World (R))	0.0%	2.0%	11.3%	9.7%
Global Bonds (WGBI ($))	0.4%	-0.9%	-2.7%	0.2%
Global Bonds (WGBI (R))	-2.2%	-1.3%	-1.3%	-8.6%

The returns of the CRF portfolios (net of all fees) up to the end of August 2026 were as follows:

Portfolio	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
CRF Aggressive Portfolio	2.4%	2.8%	0.9%	14.6%
CRF Growth Portfolio	1.9%	1.7%	-0.4%	14.5%
CRF Moderate Portfolio	1.1%	3.1%	2.7%	12.1%
CRF In-Fund Pension Portfolio	0.8%	2.6%	2.2%	17.7%
CRF Money Market Portfolio	0.7%	2.0%	3.5%	7.8%
CRF Shari'ah Portfolio	2.7%	1.4%	2.8%	18.5%
CRF Children's Benefit Portfolio	0.8%	2.5%	2.6%	10.3%

All CRF portfolios delivered positive returns in August 2026, led by the CRF Shari'ah (2.7%), CRF Aggressive (2.4%) and CRF Growth (1.9%) portfolios, in line with the rebound in SA Equity. The more conservative portfolios returned between 0.7% and 1.1%. One-year returns for most CRF portfolios remain in double digits, ranging from 10.3% to 18.5%, while the CRF Money Market Portfolio returned 7.8%.

Globally, oil prices eased late in the month on reports of progress in diplomatic efforts to halt hostilities in the Middle East, although Brent crude is still up 43.5% year-to-date. US inflation moderated to 3.4% in July 2026 and payrolls unexpectedly fell by 23,000. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh signalled at Jackson Hole that further tightening may be needed if inflation does not return to the 2% target. Long-dated bond yields fell sharply after the US Treasury announced plans to at least double its buybacks of longer-dated debt, while the ECB's Isabel Schnabel said euro-area rates need to rise further.

Meanwhile, President Trump pledged to double tariffs on Canadian vehicles and auto parts to 50% from 1 January, after the breakdown of trade talks that had already prompted a 50% levy on billions of dollars of Canadian goods. Canada responded by doubling its counter-tariffs on US steel and aluminium to 50%, imposing new duties on US furniture, clothing and electronics, and announcing a C$7.5 billion support package for Canadian companies.

Locally, headline CPI for July slowed to 4.3% y/y (below the 4.5% expected), from 5.0% in June, as the earlier fuel price shock began to subside, supporting expectations that the SARB would keep the Repo rate on hold at its next meeting. However, the labour market weakened, with the unemployment rate rising unexpectedly to 33.6% in the second quarter (a four-year high), from 32.7%.

President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined South Africa's priorities as chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), arguing that closer regional integration is essential for growth and job creation. With abundant natural resources and a combined market of almost 400 million people, he called for stronger regional value chains, greater mineral beneficiation, expanded manufacturing, better trade, energy and water infrastructure, fewer trade barriers, and use of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to build a competitive, industrialised SADC. If these initiatives are successful, it could help to boost SA growth over time.

Kind regards,



Ms Nicoleen Botha
Principal Executive Officer

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