

Aeon Active Equity Fund

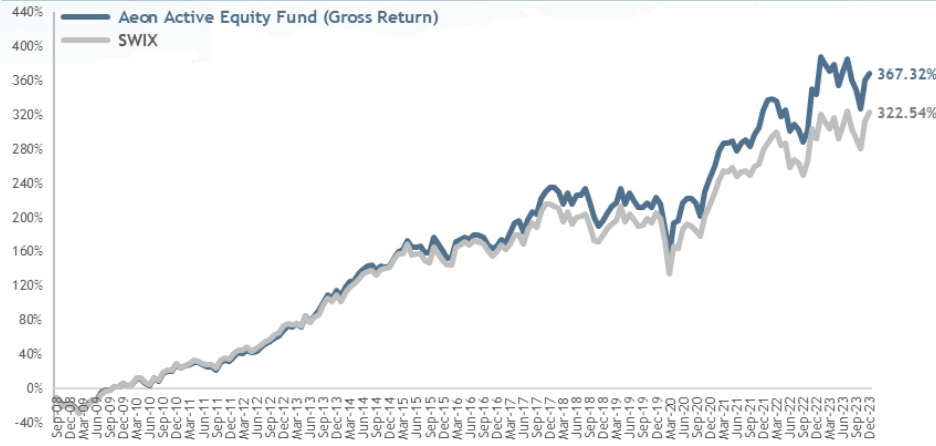
Fund information as at 31 December 2023



aeon
investment management
long term wealth creation

Fund Performance

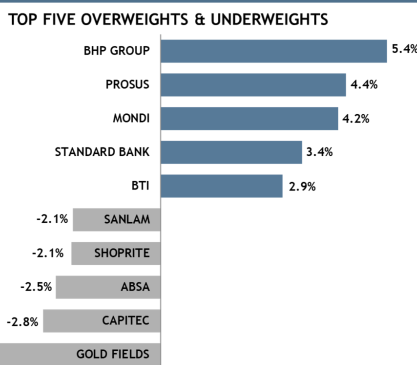
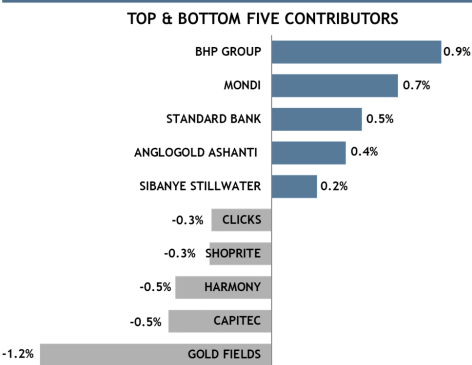
Cumulative Performance - since inception - Gross Return



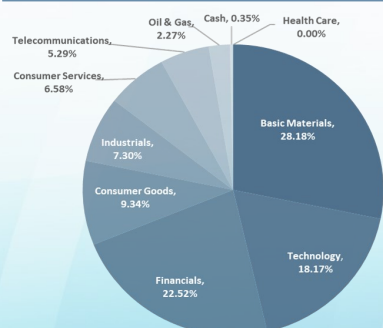
Monthly - Gross	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2018													
Fund	0.12%	-1.57%	-4.08%	3.86%	-3.89%	3.16%	-0.07%	2.39%	-4.54%	-5.59%	-3.59%	2.31%	-11.46%
Benchmark	-0.68%	-1.18%	-5.00%	4.29%	-4.73%	2.74%	0.10%	1.15%	-4.54%	-6.12%	-0.61%	2.90%	-11.67%
2019													
Fund	2.89%	2.82%	1.31%	4.95%	-5.08%	3.88%	-2.67%	-2.53%	0.07%	1.58%	-1.54%	3.47%	8.96%
Benchmark	3.09%	1.57%	1.25%	5.72%	-5.64%	3.12%	-2.21%	-2.50%	0.37%	2.64%	-1.55%	3.68%	9.32%
2020													
Fund	-2.34%	-9.05%	-10.65%	14.61%	1.02%	6.68%	1.96%	-0.28%	-1.28%	-5.05%	9.37%	4.38%	6.65%
Benchmark	-1.78%	-9.00%	-14.15%	14.07%	-0.97%	8.07%	2.37%	-1.03%	-1.63%	-2.38%	8.31%	3.95%	2.61%
2021													
Fund	4.45%	4.91%	2.47%	0.03%	0.69%	-2.99%	2.50%	1.01%	-2.09%	3.69%	1.92%	5.25%	23.72%
Benchmark	4.97%	4.61%	3.16%	-0.31%	1.31%	-2.79%	1.59%	0.38%	-1.44%	2.82%	0.68%	4.62%	21.06%
2022													
Fund	2.54%	0.28%	-0.56%	-4.16%	1.90%	-5.61%	1.80%	-1.63%	-3.56%	3.34%	12.35%	-1.31%	4.30%
Benchmark	2.30%	1.93%	1.35%	-3.95%	0.56%	-7.45%	2.83%	-1.33%	-3.86%	5.03%	9.95%	-2.67%	3.59%
2023													
Fund	9.65%	-1.70%	-1.74%	1.71%	-5.10%	3.81%	2.94%	-4.99%	-2.73%	-4.85%	8.03%	1.51%	5.33%
Benchmark	7.23%	-2.33%	-1.89%	3.35%	-5.85%	3.98%	4.11%	-4.85%	-3.06%	-2.96%	8.59%	2.53%	7.85%

Performance Summary - Gross Return	Fund	Benchmark	Active Return
1 month	1.51%	2.53%	-1.03%
3 months	4.33%	8.04%	-3.70%
6 months	-0.75%	3.75%	-4.50%
Year to date	5.33%	7.85%	-2.51%
1 Year	5.33%	7.85%	-2.51%
3 Years (annualised)	10.78%	10.59%	0.19%
5 Years (annualised)	9.58%	8.69%	0.88%
7 Years (annualised)	8.41%	7.18%	1.23%
10 Years (annualised)	8.10%	7.30%	0.80%
15 Years (annualised)	12.24%	11.56%	0.68%
Since Inception (cumulative)	367.32%	322.54%	44.78%
Since Inception (annualised)	10.58%	9.85%	0.72%

Fund Holdings (for the quarter as at 31 December 2023)



Sector Allocation



Top Ten Holdings (as a % of Total AUM)

Naspers	10.76
Standard Bank	8.17
BHP Group	7.52
Prosus	7.41
Firststrand	6.52
Mondi	5.77
Anglo American	5.75
MTN	5.29
BTI	5.21
AngloGold Ashanti	4.79

Investment Philosophy

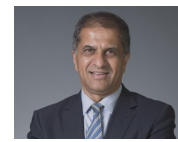
Aeon Investment Management's equity investment style is Growth At a Reasonable Price (GARP). Our adaptation of the GARP style seeks to combine the best of growth and value investing, by buying companies with long term sustainable growth rates in earnings per share greater than that implied by the company's market valuation.

Fund Objectives

The Aeon Active Equity Fund seeks to achieve:

- Invest in high quality businesses at attractive prices that are positioned for long term growth.
- Outperform the client's equity benchmark over different investment cycles.
- Consistently apply our implied growth methodology.
- Manage risk through disciplined portfolio construction.
- Employ low cost trading techniques.

Fund Managers



Asief Mohamed
Chief Investment Officer



Jay Vomacka
Senior Portfolio Manager



Zaid Paruk
Portfolio Manager & Analyst

Fund Information

Benchmark: SWIX

Inception date: 1 September 2008

Fund size: R 20,476.95 million

Investment horizon: Five years plus

Risk Profile

Conservative	Moderate	Aggressive

- Generally these portfolios hold more equity exposure than any other risk profiled portfolios therefore tend to carry higher volatility.
- Expected potential long term returns could be higher than other risk profiles, in turn potential losses of capital could be higher.

Fees & Charges

Institutional clients have the option of a flat fee or performance fee structure:

- **Flat Fee:** 0.50% p.a. plus VAT.
- **Performance Fee:** Base Fee of 0.35% p.a. plus VAT, plus Outperformance fee share participation rate of 20%. Out-performance capped at 300 bps based on a rolling three-year performance period.

Administration

Fund trustee & custodian: Nedbank Investor Services

Fund administration: Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd

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Aeon Investment Management (Pty) Ltd is an authorised FSP. FSP Number: 27126 | Level 1 B-BBEE Contributor.

Aeon Active Equity Fund

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Fund Performance Review & Market Commentary

The Aeon Active Equity Fund (Composite) underperformed its benchmark by 370 bps for the fourth quarter of 2023 and is underperforming its benchmark by 251 bps over a one-year period.

Overweight positions in BHP Group and Mondi were the main positive contributors to return for the fourth quarter of 2023. Underweight positions in Gold Fields and Capitec were the main detractors. The benchmark equity index was up 8.04% for the fourth quarter of 2023.

The quarter ended December was positive for global equities with South Africa catching the updraft. Despite this, market sentiment turned negative over concerns global central banks would not cut interest rates as quickly as the market is currently pricing in, leaning into the “higher-for-longer” narrative. The price of oil was in focus as tensions in the Middle East heightened because of the Israel-Palestine conflict and more recently after Houthi rebels attacked ships in the Red Sea forcing global shipping and oil companies to suspend transit through this important trade route. For the month ended December, the Financials sector emerged as the top performer, led by FirstRand and Standard Bank. On the other hand, Resources was the worst performer for the month, led by Anglo American and Sasol.

Positive indicators persist as the market maintains its anticipation for potential rate cuts; nonetheless, investors are tempering their expectations regarding the Federal Reserve’s ability to implement such measures in the immediate future. Supporting this narrative has been the US jobs report for November in which non-farm payrolls came in above expectations at an increase of 199 000, the unemployment rate surprised to the downside at 3.7% while the wage growth rate was largely in line with consensus at 4% year on year.

Locally, sentiment remains subdued. State-owned enterprises (SOEs) continue to shape sentiment in the South African market with Eskom and Transnet at the forefront. Loadshedding eased towards the end of the quarter but is expected to continue as we head into 2024. Disruptions in critical ports, notably in Durban and Cape Town, have posed challenges for importers in the runup to the festive period and are anticipated to persist, presenting hurdles for exporters in the months ahead. There is an increasing amount of railway track falling into disuse and continued copper theft creating multiple delays. The financial outlook for South Africa in the coming years looks challenging, characterised by low GDP growth rates and high unemployment, resulting in weakened consumer spending, and widening income inequality. Of noteworthy significance in 2024 is the impending South African elections, carrying substantial political weight and uncertainty.

Our strategy focuses on astute stock selection, guided by our Growth at a Reasonable Price (GARP) philosophy, which seeks value throughout economic cycles. We prioritise companies with strong cash flows that can support earnings, aiming to benefit our portfolios in the coming period.

To give you a glimpse into our portfolio, we share insights on our portfolio companies. This quarter, we are spotlighting Compagnie Financière Richemont S.A, a relatively recent addition to our portfolio. As a leading player in the luxury goods sector, Richemont’s Maisons in jewellery, watches, and writing instruments offer a unique blend of heritage and innovation. Following the normalisation of post-pandemic demand for luxury goods, Richemont’s current valuation presents an opportunistic entry point. Trading below its historical average multiples, the stock offers rare access to a premium brand at a discount. Despite demand easing, our investment philosophy and process have identified substantial upside potential in Richemont’s current price. Recognizing the cyclical nature of certain luxury segments, Richemont has strategically shifted its focus toward hard luxury such as jewellery. This deliberate evolution enhances financial stability and mitigates exposure to volatile fashion trends. Taking all these factors into account, we are optimistic about Richemont’s earnings prospects over the next five years. We believe there is potential for earnings to outperform expectations, ultimately leading to significant returns for our funds and clients.

Disclaimer

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Glossary

Annualised performance: Annualised performance show longer term performance rescaled to a 1 year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

Active Return / Alpha: Denoted the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

Contact Details

Investment Management

Aeon Investment Management (Pty) Ltd is an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP No: 27126) under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002), to act in the capacity as investment manager. This information is not advice, as defined in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002). Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision.

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Prescient

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