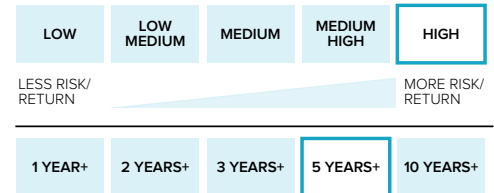


# SYGNIA ITRIX MSCI JAPAN INDEX ETF

31 OCTOBER 2018



PORTFOLIO MANAGERS	<b>MELLON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT CORPORATION</b>
INCEPTION	<b>1 APRIL 2008</b>
FUND SIZE	<b>R 731.50 MILLION</b>
INSTRUMENT PRICE	<b>1 286 cents</b>
UNITS IN ISSUE	<b>56 700 000</b>

## FUND OBJECTIVE

## INCOME DISTRIBUTION

## TRUSTEES

## TO REPLICATE THE PRICE AND YIELD PERFORMANCE OF THE MSCI JAPAN INDEX

**PAYMENT: JUN 2018 - 6.75469 CENTS PER UNIT**  
**PAYMENT: DEC 2017 - 4.663 CENTS PER UNIT**  
**STANDARD BANK TRUSTEES (021 441 4100)**

## FUND INFORMATION

Classification	Regional - Equity - General
Asset Allocation	100% Offshore Equity
Portfolio Currency	JPY
NAV/Index Ratio	ca. 1/10
Financial Year End	31 December
Index Tracking	Fund tracks the MSCI Japan Index
Dividend Distribution	Semi-annual distribution
NAV Publication	Daily on sygnia.co.za

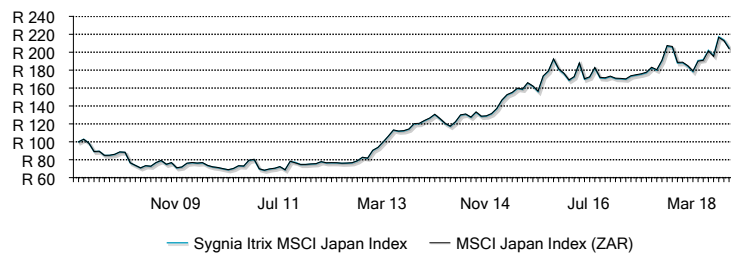
## LISTING INFORMATION

Exchange	JSE Limited
Exchange Code	SYGJP
Trading Currency	ZAR
ISIN	ZAE000249538
RIC	SYGJPJ
Bloomberg Ticker	SYGJP:J
Trading Hours	9:00 am - 17:00 pm
Portfolio Valuation	Index close of business 15:00 pm JST
Transaction cut-off	JSE trading hours 17:00 pm

## CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Growth of R100 invested on 30 April 2008

Investment: R 204,77  
 Benchmark: R 204,10



Cumulative investment performance is for illustrative purposes only and is calculated using the NAV before any distributable income and management fee.

## TOP 10 HOLDINGS

INSTRUMENT	PERCENT
Toyota Motor Corp	4.1%
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group	2.2%
Sony Corp	2.1%
Softbank Corp	2.0%
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group	1.6%
Honda Motor Co NPV	1.4%
Keyence Corporation NPV	1.4%
KDDI Corp.	1.4%
Mizuho Financial Group NPV	1.3%
Mitsubishi Corp NPV	1.2%

## HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
2015	4.3%	6.9%	4.1%	1.7%	3.0%	-0.6%	4.5%	-2.2%	-3.5%	10.8%	3.2%	7.5%	46.4%
2016	-5.8%	-2.7%	-4.3%	2.2%	8.8%	-9.4%	1.3%	6.0%	-6.0%	-0.3%	1.2%	-1.3%	-11.1%
2017	-0.1%	-0.3%	2.0%	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	3.1%	-1.5%	5.8%	8.6%	-0.5%	-8.6%	10.2%
2018	0.1%	-2.1%	-3.3%	6.9%	0.5%	5.5%	-3.0%	10.8%	-1.7%	-4.2%			8.9%

Since inception performance figures are available on request.

## RISK STATISTICS

	FUND	^BM
% Negative Months	41.7%	41.7%
Average Negative Month	-3.1%	-3.1%
Largest Drawdown	-13.7%	-13.7%
Standard Deviation	15.4%	15.4%
Downside Deviation	8.3%	8.3%
Highest Annual Return: Jan 2015 - Dec 2015	46.4%	46.4%
Lowest Annual Return: Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	-11.1%	-11.2%
Annualised Tracking Error (Active Return)	-0.01%	-
Annualised Tracking Error (Std Dev of Active Return)	0.08%	-

The risk statistics reflected above are calculated on a 60-month or since-inception basis, depending on which period is shorter. ^Benchmark is the Index.

## ASSET ALLOCATION

ASSET	PERCENT	ALLOCATION
Offshore Equity	100.0%	
Cash	0.0%	

## SECTOR ALLOCATION

SECTOR	PERCENT	ALLOCATION
Industrials	20.9%	
Consumer Discretionary	19.8%	
Financials	12.8%	
Information Technology	11.9%	
Consumer Staples	8.3%	
Health Care	8.1%	
Materials	5.7%	
Telecommunication Services	5.3%	
Real Estate	4.0%	
Utilities	2.0%	
Energy	1.4%	

## PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

PERIOD	SYGNIA ITRIX MSCI JAPAN	MSCI JAPAN INDEX (ZAR)	JPY/ZAR*	MSCI JAPAN INDEX (JPY)
1 Year	-0.9%	-0.9%	5.4%	-6.0%
3 Years	5.8%	5.8%	4.5%	1.2%
5 Years	11.2%	11.2%	5.0%	6.0%
10 Years	9.2%	9.2%	2.9%	6.2%
Since Inception	7.1%	7.1%	5.8%	1.3%

\*A positive performance in currency reflects a depreciation of ZAR against base currency and vice versa.

## FEES

INVESTMENT SIZE	BROKER/OTHER PLATFORM (EXCL VAT)	INVESTMENT SIZE	SYGNIA ALCHEMY PLATFORM (EXCL VAT)
First R10M	0.75%pa	First R2M	0.55%pa
R10M-R100M	0.60%pa	R2M-R100M	0.50%pa
Over R100M	0.40%pa	Over R100M	0.30%pa

Total Expense Ratio (TER) 0.86%

Excess management fees for investors over R10M are included in the above TER, and distributed back to the investor at each distribution date.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR FUNDS:

[WWW.SYGNIA.CO.ZA](http://WWW.SYGNIA.CO.ZA)



# SYGNIA ITRIX MSCI JAPAN INDEX ETF FUND COMMENTARY

REGIONAL - EQUITY - GENERAL

3RD QUARTER 2018

## MARKET PERFORMANCE

The third quarter of 2018 marked the 11th anniversary of the Global Financial Crisis and, as liquidity dried up over the US summer holidays, markets once again experienced heightened volatility. Emerging market contagion was the main driver as concerns spread from Argentina's fiscal problems and IMF bailout and Turkey's twin deficits to Brazil's contentious elections, Russia's US sanctions and South Africa's economic recession. Global traders came up with another acronym: BRATS. South Africa is the only country within BRATS that has not seen its credit rating downgraded to junk, albeit our markets are pricing in that downgrade. Beyond the idiosyncratic risks of the BRATS, the strong US dollar and rising US interest rates continue to lead to outflows from emerging markets, weakening their currencies and forcing them to hike interest rates once again to anchor inflation, a vicious cycle that puts further strain on their economies.

According to Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the number of global rate hikes is now at levels last seen before the Global Financial Crisis. Turkey, in a sign of capitulation, raised interest rates from 17.8% to 24%, while Russia increased rates for the first time in four years. The only positive is that this has been perceived as confirmation that the central banks of both countries remain relatively independent. At the same time, Argentina and Kenya implemented austerity measures to appease the IMF. Together with weaker than expected US consumer price inflation, these policy adjustments brought some calm to the emerging markets and their currencies by quarter end. Despite violent swings, the rand was only 2.9% weaker against the dollar over the quarter.

The US economy continued to strengthen, with equity markets hitting new highs, consumer confidence at its strongest levels in 18 years and jobless claims at 49-year lows. This has allowed the US Federal Reserve to increase interest rates for the third time this year and upgrade their growth expectations for 2019. Merrill Lynch's survey of asset managers' expectations reported the most favourable outlook for US earnings on record, reflected in the valuation of the S&P500 Index, which has outperformed the MSCI Emerging Market Index by 20% on a year-to-date basis. US focus will move to the mid-term elections of 6 November, where polls suggest that the Democratic Party is likely to take the House of Representatives, while the Republicans will keep the Senate. This is not ideal, but is likely to paralyse President Donald Trump on the domestic policy front. Irrespective of the results, however, he will retain free reign on foreign policy issues.

The picture looks less rosy for the rest of the world, hit by a strengthening US dollar, oil prices at four-year highs and global trade wars. Oil remains a headwind to growth and rose to US\$85/barrel as Trump announced sanctions on Iran's energy industry and Venezuela's supply decreased due to their economic crisis. The OECD has announced that global economic growth has peaked and lowered its growth forecasts for 2018, predominantly due to trade wars.

There seems to be no end to the US - China trade war, with both countries implementing second rounds of tariffs in September and China boycotting the annual UN Summit held in New York. The new tariffs bring the total value of Chinese goods levied with tariffs up to US\$250bn, and Trump threatened to expand tariffs to include an additional US\$267bn of Chinese imports, taking the total to over US\$500bn, roughly the size of all Chinese imports. The yuan weakened to a 12-month low and the Shanghai Composite Index fell to a low 25% from its January highs. Chinese growth is slowing and the Chinese government is attempting to support growth with both fiscal and monetary support, but these have yet to make an impact.

In Europe, the ECB kept interest rates unchanged while lowering its growth forecasts. The ECB confirmed that it will end its €2.6 trillion stimulus programme by the end of 2018, with a first hike likely only in September 2019. The UK's exit from the EU remains on the cards, but there is no deal in sight, as neither party is willing to compromise on the key issue of free movement of people. Further East, Russia held its biggest war games in four decades after Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev called US sanctions a declaration of economic war.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shenzō Abe was re-elected to his post on the back of the strongest economic growth in two years, despite inflation remaining close to zero and the Bank of Japan retaining stimulus measures. In Central and Latin America, Venezuela sold more oil assets to China in exchange for its badly needed financial support, a move that led Trump to threaten military action against the country. Sentiment remains unsettled by politics, with 41% of economic output from the G20 now governed by populists, up from about 4% in 2007. Brazil heads for key elections on 7 October. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte says his government can't adhere to EU budget rules, which sent Italian bond yields skyrocketing.

## RISK PROFILE

LOW	LOW MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM HIGH	HIGH
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LESS RISK/  
RETURN

MORE RISK/  
RETURN

## TIME HORIZON

0-2 YEARS	2 YEARS+	3 YEARS+	5 YEARS+	7 YEARS+
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In South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa called for the constitution to be changed to allow land expropriation without compensation, causing massive investor anxiety. Economic data remained weak and inflation subdued as SA entered recession. In response, Ramaphosa presented a viable economic plan based on refocussing R50bn of expenditure towards stimulating economic growth. The plan includes the introduction of more competition in the telecommunications sector to bring down data costs, relaxation of visa requirements for foreigners to stimulate tourism, easing of immigration restrictions to bring in badly needed skills, finalisation of the Mining Charter, a R400bn infrastructure fund designed to create jobs, more private/public partnerships and some clarity on the land appropriation issue. However, there are no short-term solutions to the problems.

The quarter ended with the FTSE/JSE SWIX Index down 3.3%, the JSE All Bond Index up 0.8% and the rand 2.9% weaker relative to the US dollar.

## FUND PERFORMANCE

The Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF delivered 5.7% for the quarter in rand terms, in line with its benchmark, the MSCI Japan Index. The Fund benefitted from exposure to SoftBank Group, Sony Corp and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, while its exposure to Tokyo Electron, Daito Trust Construction and Panasonic Corp detracted from performance.

There were several changes to the tracked index's constituents over the period, including the addition of Sumitomo Realty & Development, Nissin Foods Holdings and Showa Denko and the removal of Suruga Bank, Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical and FamilyMart UNY Holdings.

The Fund remains true to its investment objective of delivering returns that mirror those of the MSCI Japan Index.

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**Sygnia** 

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO CONSIDER BEFORE INVESTING

## INVESTMENT APPROACH

The Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF is a high risk, passively managed index tracking fund, registered as a Collective Investments Scheme, and is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange as an Exchange Traded Fund. The objective is to replicate the price and yield performance of the MSCI Japan Index as closely as possible by physically holding a portfolio of securities equivalent to the basket of securities comprising the Index and in the same weightings of the Index. Index Performance data can be sourced from Bloomberg, Reuters, other data providers and at [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za).

## BALANCING RISK AND REWARD

The MSCI Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalisation index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance in Japan, representing companies with a total market capitalisation of approximately US\$3 trillion. The MSCI Japan Index is recognised as a barometer of the Japanese economy and as a holder of the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF; an investor will essentially track Japan's equity markets. The recommended investment term for investors in the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF is a minimum of five years.

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Annualised performance figures represent the geometric average return earned by the fund over the given time period. Unannualised performance represents the total return earned by the fund over the given time period, expressed as a percentage.

Performance is calculated based on the NAV to NAV calculation of the portfolio. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date and dividend withholding tax.

## HOW ARE NAV PRICES CALCULATED?

Net Asset Value (NAV) prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the portfolio divided by the number of units in issue. The price at which ETFs trade on an Exchange may differ from the NAV price published at the close of the trading day, because of intraday price movements in the value of the constituent basket of securities.

## FEES

A schedule of fees and charges is available on request from Sygnia Itrix. Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, STT, auditor's fees, bank charges and trustee fees. Sygnia Itrix ETFs are Exchange Traded Funds that trade on stock exchanges and may therefore incur additional costs associated with listed securities. Sygnia Itrix does not provide advice and therefore does not charge advice fees.

## WHAT IS THE TOTAL EXPENSE RATION (TER) AND TRANSACTION COSTS (TC)?

The total expense ratio (TER) is the annualised percentage of the Fund's average assets under management that has been used to pay the Fund's actual expenses over the past year. Transaction costs are a necessary cost in administering the Fund and impact Fund returns. They should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time, including market returns, the type of financial product, the investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER. Since Fund returns are quoted after the deduction of these expenses, the TER and Transaction Costs should not be deducted again from the published returns. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return.

## FOREIGN SECURITIES

The fund invests in foreign securities, which may be exposed to macroeconomic, settlement, political, tax, reporting or illiquidity risk factors that may be different to similar investments in South African markets. Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying investments to go up or down.

## CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Cumulative investment performance is for illustrative purposes only. The investment performance is calculated by taking all ongoing fees into account for the amount shown, with income reinvested on the reinvestment date.

## DISCLAIMER

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Whilst both unit trusts and ETFs are regulated and registered under the Collective Investment Scheme Control Act, ETFs trade on stock exchanges just like any other listed, tradable security. Unlike a unit trust, which can be bought or sold only at the end of the trading day, an ETF can be traded intraday, during exchange trading hours.



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