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OUR

January 2026

MONTHLY REPORT

January 2026 Market Commentary

Market Insights

GLOBAL MARKET OVERVIEW – January 2026

Global markets entered 2026 on a more cautious but broadly constructive footing. January was characterized by heightened geopolitical and policy uncertainty, balanced against resilient economic data and improving inflation trends. While volatility increased at times, investor sentiment remained generally supportive of risk assets, particularly outside the United States.

Emerging markets stood out once again, extending the strong momentum seen in 2025 as capital flows continued to rotate toward non-U.S. assets. In South Africa, markets benefited from a firmer rand, stable inflation and improved domestic fundamentals, even as the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) opted to pause its rate-cutting cycle at its first meeting of the year.



Global equity markets delivered modest gains in January, though performance was uneven across regions. Investors entered the year with optimism following a strong 2025 but became more selective as geopolitical tensions and renewed trade rhetoric surfaced early in the month.

U.S. equities showed resilience, supported by a solid start to the corporate earnings season and evidence that economic growth remains intact. However, elevated valuations and policy uncertainty limited upside, resulting in periods of consolidation rather than a strong upward trend. Defensive sectors and commodities generally outperformed more cyclical growth stocks.

Outside the U.S., equity markets fared better. European and Asian markets benefited from a weaker U.S. dollar and improving global liquidity conditions, while investors continued to diversify away from U.S.-centric exposure.

A key event in January was the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged at its first meeting of 2026, following three rate cuts in 2025. The Fed cited steady economic activity and inflation that remains slightly above target, reinforcing a "pause-and-assess" approach.

Bond markets experienced some volatility during the month as investors adjusted expectations around the timing and pace of future rate cuts. Despite this, fixed income continued to attract interest as yields remained attractive relative to recent history.

The U.S. dollar weakened further in January, reflecting concerns around policy uncertainty and a growing shift toward global diversification.

Emerging Markets

Emerging markets were a key highlight in January, extending the strong rally that began in 2025. Equity markets across Asia and Latin America recorded robust gains, supported by favourable currency dynamics, capital inflows and improving growth expectations.

The primary drivers of EM strength included:

- Sustained U.S. dollar weakness, which supported EM currencies and reduced external financing pressures.
- Benign inflation trends, allowing many EM central banks to maintain or extend accommodative policy stances.
- Structural growth themes, particularly in technology, manufacturing and infrastructure.

Asian emerging markets continued to benefit from global investment in artificial-intelligence infrastructure, while Latin American markets saw renewed interest following improved fiscal discipline and stabilizing macroeconomic conditions.

January saw strong inflows into emerging-market equities, marking one of the strongest starts to the year for the asset class in over a decade. While some volatility emerged toward month-end, overall sentiment remained firmly positive.

That said, performance dispersion across countries remained high, highlighting the importance of diversification and selective exposure within emerging markets.

South Africa



South African markets began the year on a firm footing, supported by a stronger rand, easing inflation and improving domestic confidence.

At its January meeting, the SARB kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.75%, following cumulative rate cuts in 2025. While inflation edged slightly higher in December to 3.6%, the SARB indicated that this was likely a temporary peak and reiterated confidence that inflation would trend lower over the course of 2026.

The decision to pause reflects the SARB's cautious approach amid elevated global uncertainty, while still leaving the door open for further rate cuts later in the year should conditions allow.

The FTSE/JSE All Share Index delivered solid gains in January, supported by strong performances in resource and financial stocks. Rising precious-metal prices provided additional support to the local market.

South African bonds continued to perform well as inflation expectations remained anchored and real yields stayed attractive. The rand strengthened further, reaching its strongest levels since mid-2022, benefiting from U.S. dollar weakness and increased investor confidence in South Africa's macroeconomic trajectory.

January reinforced several important themes for investors:

- Markets remain sensitive to policy and geopolitical developments, even as economic fundamentals improve.
- Emerging markets continue to benefit from global diversification trends and supportive financial conditions.
- South Africa enters 2026 with improving macro stability, although structural challenges remain.

While short-term volatility is likely to persist, the broader investment backdrop remains more supportive than in recent years. Maintaining diversified portfolios aligned with long-term objectives remains key.

January 2026 set a measured but encouraging tone for the year ahead. With inflation largely under control, interest-rate pressures easing and global growth proving resilient, investors remain positioned for opportunities — albeit with a heightened need for selectivity and discipline.

Iza Global Balanced Fund

The Iza Global Balanced Fund closed the month of January up 1,86% (in Pounds) and 3,46% (in US Dollars). Our Strategic decision to broaden our emerging market exposure through the Templeton Emerging Markets Fund has paid off, with the fund achieving a positive return of 9,85% for the month. The Templeton Emerging Markets Fund was our largest contributor to performance for the month, contributing 0,50%. Gold performed excellent through the month of January by reaching a price of \$5417,88 per ounce towards the end of January and subsequently falling to \$4892,43 on January 30th. Despite this drop in price gold still managed to deliver an excellent return of 10,54%, contributing 0,43%. The rally in the gold price was driven by tight supply, increased retail and investment demand and geopolitical uncertainties, while the pullback was primarily caused by profit-taking, a pause in retail demand and inherent market volatility. January also saw WTI Crude Oil prices trend upwards due to concerns around supply, which provided a welcomed uptick in our WTI Crude Oil Note closing out at 9,02% for the month. The Guinness Global Equity Fund had a change in pace from December 2025 where is detracted from the portfolio to contributing 0,13% to the portfolio in January 2026, highlighting the volatility that is currently in the market. Scottish Mortgage continued its upward trend, providing a positive return of 5,86% for the month and contributing 0,46% towards the funds' performance.

Iza Global Equity Fund

The Iza Global Equity Fund closed the month of January up 1,49% (in Pounds) and 3,08% (in US Dollars), outperforming the MSCI World index both in Pounds and US Dollars. Recent adjustments to the Iza Global Equity Fund included exiting the Prescient China Balanced Fund and reallocating to the Templeton Emerging Markets Fund to broaden and deepen emerging-market exposure with a more diversified approach, and exiting of the Nomura High Conviction Fund due to lagging performance and the introduction of the Jupiter Merian World Equity Fund and the Northstar Global Equity Fund to broaden our diversification through the use of an active systematic manager and a fundamental, bottom up approach that aims to consistently outperform the benchmark.

Since the introduction of the Templeton Emerging Market Fund at the beginning of January, it has produced a positive return of 4,46% contributing 0,34% to the overall performance of the equity fund. Scottish Mortgage continued its upward trend, providing a positive return of 5,86% for the month and contributing 0,46% towards the funds' performance, making Scottish Mortgage the biggest contributor to the overall performance of the fund in January. The Guinness Global Equity Fund had a change in pace from December 2025 where is detracted from the portfolio to contributing 0,19% to the portfolio in January 2026. Clearance Camino Continued into January with its positive performance, closing the month out with a positive return of 1,89%, contributing 0,14% to the overall performance.

Funds' Performance Summary

Quote of the Month

"The single greatest edge an investor can have is a long-term orientation."

Seth Klarman

As of 31 January 2026 - GBP	1 Month	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Iza Global Equity A GBP Acc	1,49	0,59	1,49	4,95	9,71	1,59
Iza Global Balanced A GBP Acc	1,86	0,83	1,86	5,85	8,57	2,21
EAA Fund GBP Flexible Allocation	2,15	2,56	2,15	9,94	7,23	4,00
As of 31 January 2026 - USD						
Iza Global Equity A USD Acc	3,08	4,67	3,08	15,87	13,62	0,91
Iza Global Balanced A USD Acc	3,46	4,92	3,46	16,90	12,39	2,04
EAA Fund USD Flexible Allocation	2,36	3,14	2,36	12,87	9,22	4,81
As of 31 January 2026 - ZAR						
Prime Iza Global Equity FF B	-0,58	-4,05	-0,58	-2,26	8,56	-
Prime Iza Global Balanced FF B	-0,05	-2,72	-0,05	-0,26	8,01	2,35
EAA Fund GBP Flexible Allocation	0,87	-0,88	0,87	4,30	8,15	5,31

Asset Class Performance (Base Currency)

SA Indices	1 Month	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
STeFI Call Deposit ZAR	0,55	1,67	0,55	7,17	7,73	6,37
FTSE/JSE All Share TR ZAR	3,72	10,31	3,72	44,35	18,90	18,42
FTSE/JSE All Share PR ZAR	3,64	9,89	3,64	39,66	14,73	13,96
FTSE/JSE All Bond TR ZAR	1,95	8,32	1,95	26,11	16,51	12,80
Major Equity Indices						
S&P 500 NR USD	1,42	1,67	1,42	15,90	20,59	14,49
MSCI World NR USD	2,24	3,36	2,24	19,58	19,31	12,87
MSCI ACWI NR USD	2,96	4,03	2,96	21,87	19,05	11,95
Global REITS						
FTSE EPRA Nareit Global NR USD	4,00	4,83	4,00	12,77	4,79	3,16
Global Fixed Income						
NYSE US 10 Yr Treasury Futures PR USD	-0,54	-0,71	-0,54	2,65	-1,93	-4,15
Bloomberg 20-30Y Treasury Strips TR USD	-0,97	-4,93	-0,97	0,57	-6,88	-11,85
Commodities						
DJ Cmmnty Silver TR USD	11,56	62,57	11,56	140,42	47,59	23,11
DJ Cmmnty Precious Metals TR USD	9,64	25,71	9,64	79,05	36,46	20,77
DJ Cmmnty Crude Oil TR USD	14,23	8,74	14,23	2,63	5,70	17,46





Get in touch

Feel free to say hello or ask any questions

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