

# RisCura South African Private Equity Performance Report.

Quarter ended: 31 December 2012



An independent point of view.

# RisCura South African Private Equity Performance Report.

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## I Foreword

We are pleased to release the December 2012 edition of the SAVCA RisCura South African Private Equity Performance Report. This Report tracks the performance of a representative basket of South African private equity funds and is released quarterly on an ongoing basis. The purpose of the Report is to provide stakeholders in SA private equity with more transparency into historic returns, and a way to benchmark private equity funds' performances.

Please note that all private equity returns shown in the Report are net of all fees and expenses, and have been computed in South African Rands (ZAR) as well as US Dollars (USD).

We would like to thank all participants who make their data available to us to facilitate this Report. Particular thanks must also go to the SAVCA board for encouraging member participation.

We trust that the information contained in this and future reports will begin to provide the information that South African and international investors need to make investment decisions about private equity in South Africa.

Rory Ord  
Head of RisCura Fundamentals

Erika van der Merwe  
CEO, SAVCA



## 2 Private equity in South Africa

Private equity is a long-term asset class that differs in nature from most other assets, including listed equity. Typically, private equity fund investments show low correlation to quoted equity markets and are relatively illiquid, particularly in the early years. Private equity will normally show a drop in net asset value before showing any significant gains. This is often the effect of management fees and start-up costs on the relatively small capital base of a new fund.

Private equity funds in South Africa typically follow a commitment and draw down model, which means that investors commit a certain total of capital at the start of a fund, but are only requested to transfer cash to the private equity manager as investments are identified or costs are incurred. These funds typically return capital during the course of the fund's life as investments are realised.

South African private equity offers institutional investors the opportunity to invest in an asset class that has historically outperformed listed equity over the long-term. It does, however, have a different nature from quoted equity and it is crucial that an institutional investor considers the appropriateness of private equity to its particular objectives.

## 3 Methodology

### Methods of measuring performance

The most widely accepted method for calculating returns of private equity funds is the annualised internal rate of return (IRR) achieved over a period of time. As a sense check to the IRR measure, we also use the Times Money performance measure. This Report measures performance in two ways: by 'since inception' and 'end-to-end' (over three, five and ten years).

### IRR since inception

This is the most widely used IRR measure of private equity performance. It measures the return of PE funds based on all cash flows in and out of the fund, as well as the remaining net asset value of the fund. This, therefore, most closely reflects the return an investor would achieve if they invested at the start of the fund. This is the most likely scenario in South Africa where investors in private equity funds are locked in for the life of the fund, and must catch up initial fees when joining a fund after the initial investors.

### End-to-end IRR

End-to-end IRRs allow the computation of the return of groups of private equity funds which do not necessarily have the same inception date. This calculation also allows a better comparison of private equity returns to those of other asset classes over similar periods.

While this method has advantages, it must be noted that it allows the returns of funds at different life cycle stages to be combined. Where the period selected contains more new funds than older funds, the return will likely include a higher balance of fees than a time period with more older funds.

The longer term IRRs are considered to be the most indicative of private equity performance across different stages of the economic cycle, and are considered to be the headline measures. Shorter term returns should be viewed with caution as private equity is a long-term investment. However, shorter period returns may be indicative of the general performance of private equity over this short period.

### Times Money

Times Money is the ratio of total capital invested to total capital returned and remaining value. This is a useful cross-check of IRR measures, and is easily understandable. While IRR calculations are heavily dependent on the length of time that capital has been invested, Times Money does not take time into account. A Times Money in excess of one means that value has been created for the investor.

### Public Market Equivalent (PME)

This measure seeks to equate the heavily timing dependent returns of private equity funds with the returns of public market indices. The measure is a ratio of the net outflows from PE funds re-invested into the public index to the end of the fund's life, divided by the inflows into a PE fund invested in the public index until the end of the fund's life. A ratio of above one reflects outperformance of private equity, while a ratio under one reflects underperformance.

# Performance in South African Rands (ZAR)

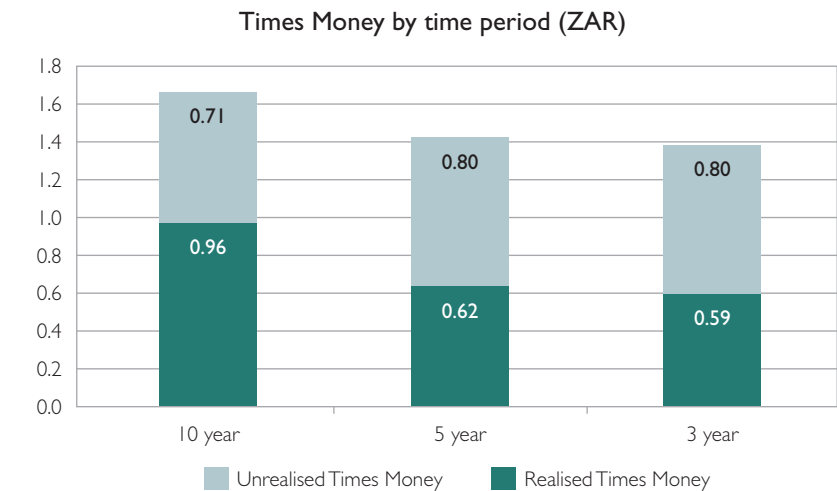
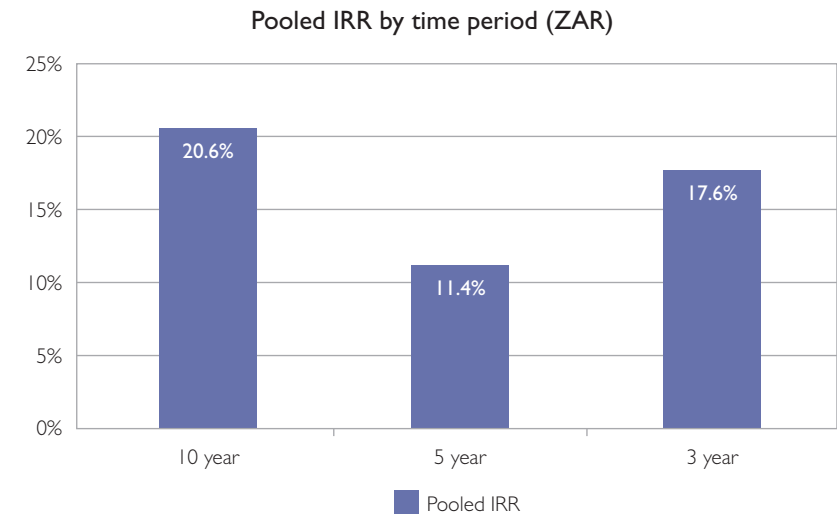
### 4a Returns over different time periods (ZAR)

We regard the ten year return as the headline measure of private equity returns. This is because of the long-term nature of private equity investment, and the locked-in nature of typical fund structures.

The lower returns over the five year period reflect the downturn in South African growth brought on by the global financial crisis. This has also effected the ten year returns, but to a lesser extent than the shorter periods.

In the private equity context, one year returns are not a reliable measure of performance and have not been presented.

Time period	Pooled IRR	Times Money		
		Realised	Unrealised	Total
10 year	20.6%	0.96	0.71	1.66
5 year	11.4%	0.62	0.80	1.42
3 year	17.6%	0.59	0.80	1.39

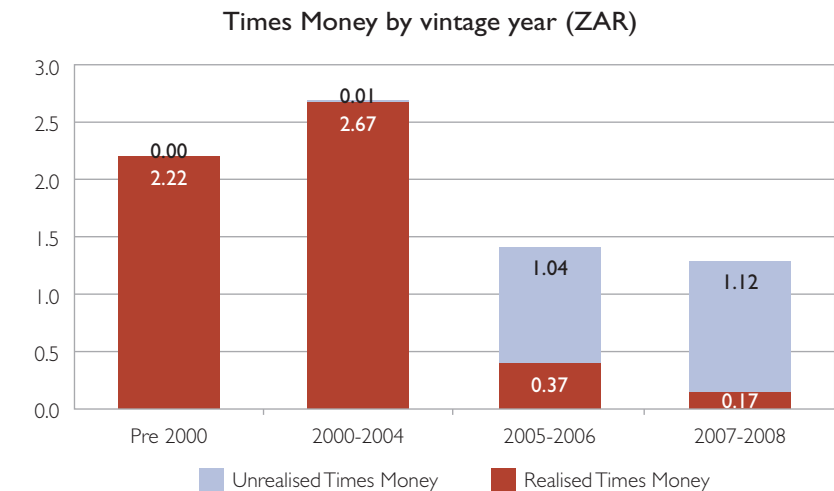
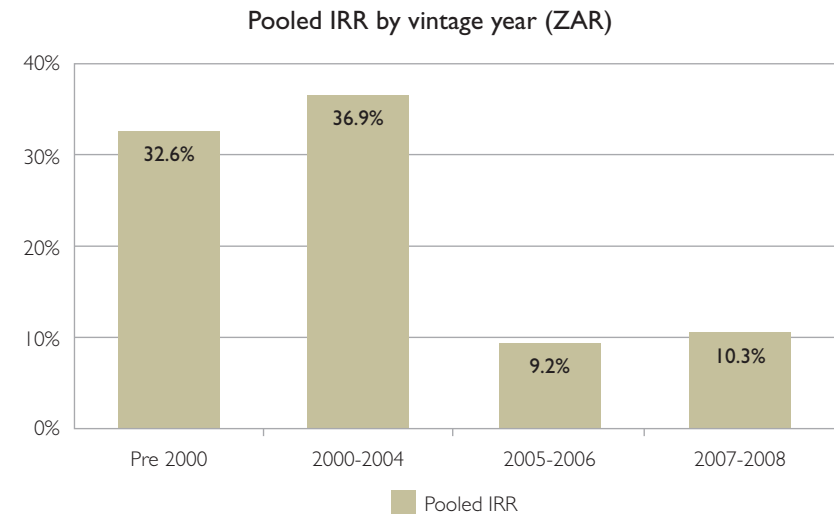


### 4b Returns by vintage year (ZAR)

Previous studies have shown fund vintage year to be an important determinant of private equity returns. Our findings are consistent with these studies and show a dramatic difference in returns by vintage grouping.

Funds starting in or after 2005 have been negatively impacted by the downturn in the economy. Particularly funds making investments in the 2007 – 2008 period have shown poor returns. Part of the reason for the current poor results of the most recent vintage grouping is that these funds are still in the “J-curve”, where management fees play a significant part in determining fund returns and the investments made by these funds still need to be enhanced by the private equity fund manager.

Vintage Year	Pooled IRR	Times Money		
		Realised	Unrealised	Total
Pre 2000	32.6%	2.22	0.00	2.22
2000-2004	36.9%	2.67	0.01	2.68
2005-2006	9.2%	0.37	1.04	1.41
2007-2008	10.3%	0.17	1.12	1.29





### 4c Returns by fund size (ZAR)

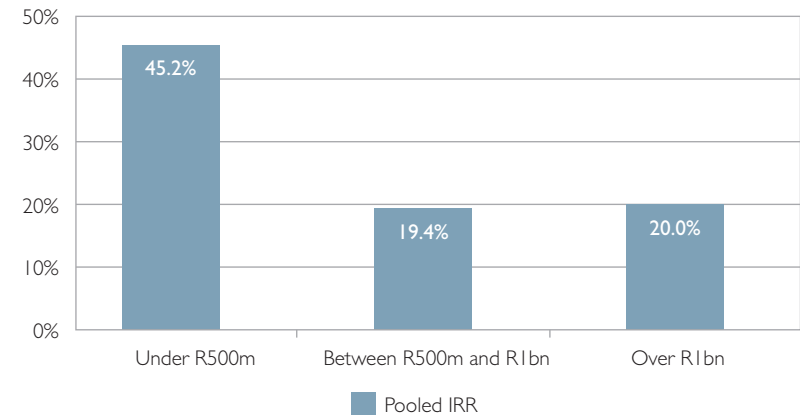
The analysis shows that historically, smaller funds have performed very well. This strong performance may be due to smaller funds investing in the high growth mid-market sized companies that have performed well under generally good economic conditions.

However, it is important to note that the larger funds were more likely to have been in existence more recently, and therefore be part of the poorer vintage year groupings. It is likely that vintage year is a bigger determinant of performance than size.

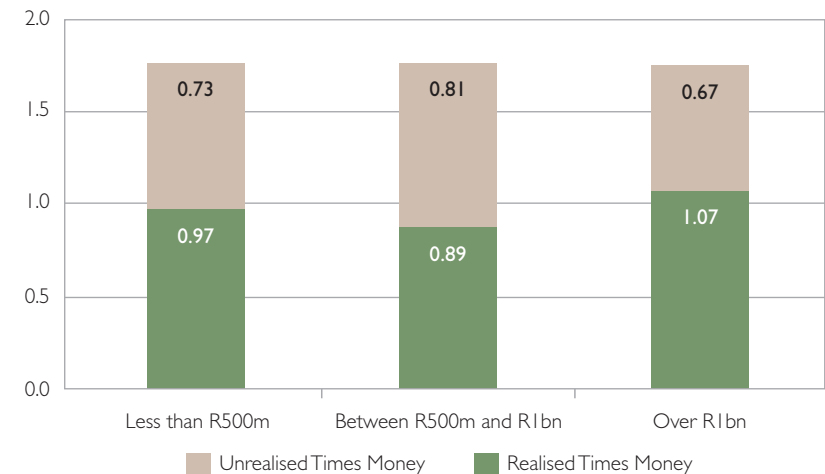
Fund Size*	Pooled IRR	Times Money		
		Realised	Unrealised	Total
Under R500m	45.2%	0.97	0.73	1.70
Between R500m and R1bn	19.4%	0.89	0.81	1.70
Over R1bn	20.0%	1.07	0.67	1.74

\* Fund size is reflected as committed capital in South African Rands.

Pooled IRR by fund size (ZAR)



Times Money by fund size (ZAR)



### 4d Returns compared to listed equity (ZAR)

IRR returns have been compared to CAGRs of listed indices on a direct basis, and on the more comparable Public Market Equivalent (PME) basis.

Private equity returns compare favourably to the returns of the FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). Private Equity outperforms the ALSI Total Return Index (ALSI TRI) over the ten, five and three year periods and the FTSE/JSE Shareholder Weighted Total Return Index (SWIX TRI) over the ten and five year periods.

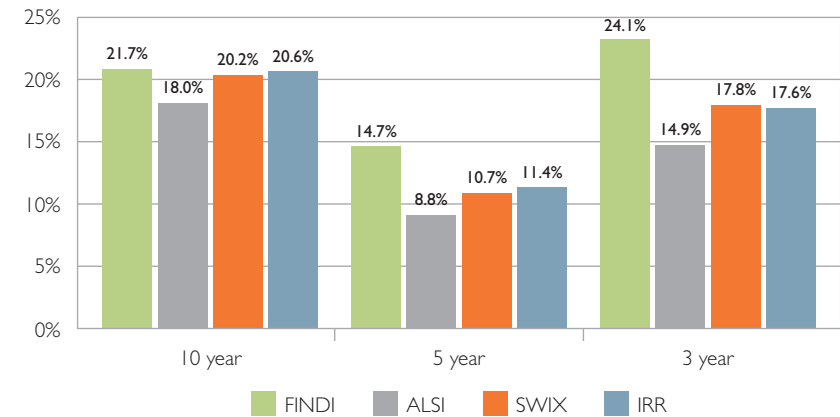
Year	CAGR			
	Pooled IRR	ALSI TRI*	FINDI TRI*	SWIX TRI*
10 year	20.6%	18.0%	21.7%	20.2%
5 year	11.4%	8.8%	14.7%	10.7%
3 year	17.6%	14.9%	24.1%	17.8%

Year Period	Public Market Equivalent**		
	PME FINDI	PME ALSI	PME SWIX
10 year	1.01	1.09	1.06
5 year	0.95	1.10	1.06
3 year	0.93	1.06	1.02

\* Listed index returns are before fees

\*\* Listed indices used in the computations are total return indices before fees

Pooled IRR compared to listed indices (ZAR)



Public market equivalent results



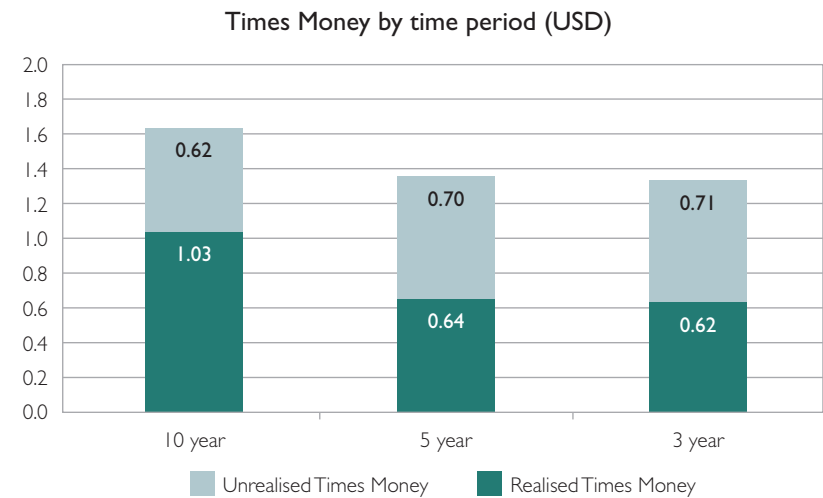
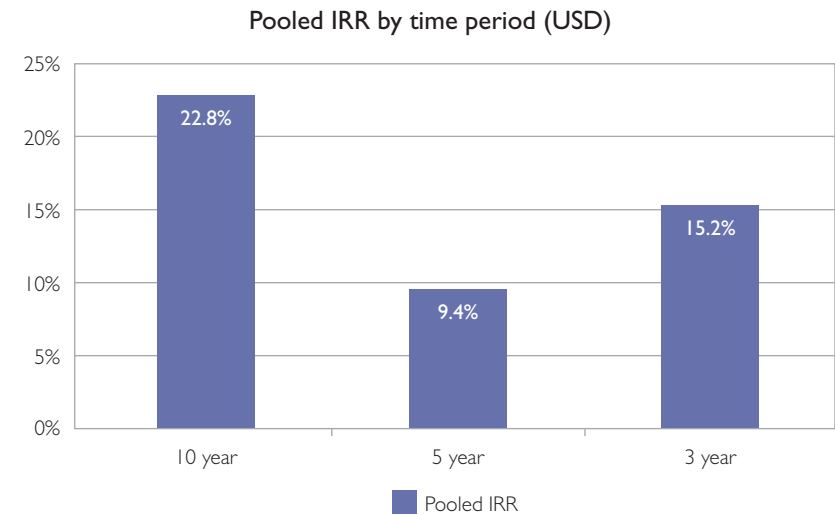
# Performance in US Dollars (USD)

### 5a Returns over different time periods (USD)

We regard the ten year return as the headline measure of private equity returns. This is because of the long-term nature of private equity investment, and the locked-in nature of typical fund structures.

In the private equity context, one year returns are not a reliable measure of performance and have not been presented.

Time period	Pooled IRR	Times Money		
		Realised	Unrealised	Total
10 year	22.8%	1.03	0.62	1.65
5 year	9.4%	0.64	0.70	1.34
3 year	15.2%	0.62	0.71	1.32



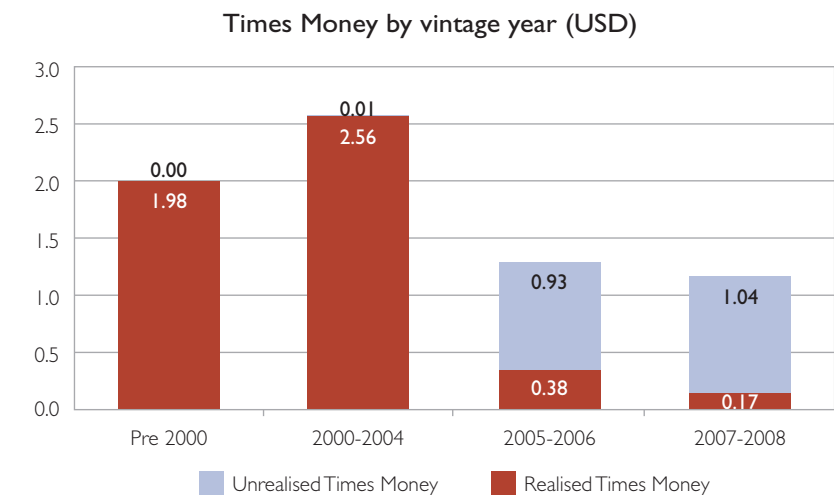
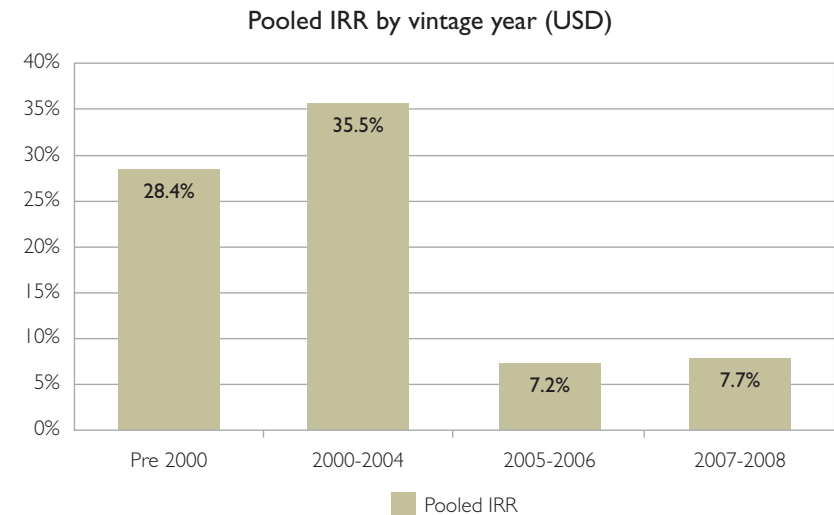
## 5b Returns by vintage year (USD)

Previous studies have shown fund vintage year to be an important determinant of private equity returns. Our findings are consistent with these studies, and show a dramatic difference in returns by vintage grouping.

At 35.5%, the 2000 to 2004 vintage year grouping was the best of the vintage groups surveyed. This time period matches a period of strong growth in the South African economy, as well as strong growth on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Funds starting in or after 2005 have been negatively impacted by the downturn in the economy. Particularly funds making investments in the 2007 – 2008 period have shown poor returns. Part of the reason for the current poor results of the most recent vintage grouping is that these funds are still in the ‘J-curve’, where management fees play a significant part in determining fund returns and the investments made by these funds still need to be enhanced by the private equity fund manager.

Vintage Year	Pooled IRR	Times Money		
		Realised	Unrealised	Total
Pre 2000	28.4%	1.98	0.00	1.98
2000-2004	35.5%	2.56	0.01	2.57
2005-2006	7.2%	0.38	0.93	1.32
2007-2008	7.7%	0.17	1.04	1.21



### 5c Returns by fund size (USD)

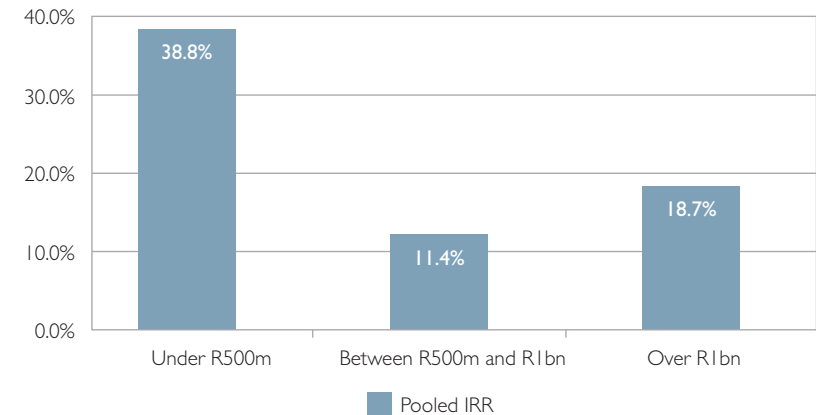
The analysis shows that historically, smaller funds have performed very well. This strong performance may be due to smaller funds investing in the high growth mid-market sized companies that have performed well under generally good economic conditions.

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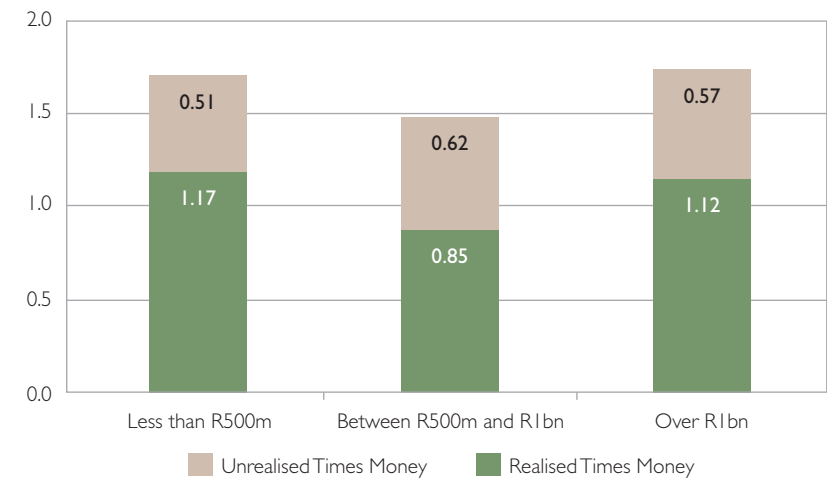
Fund Size*	Pooled IRR	Times Money		
		Realised	Unrealised	Total
Under R500m	38.8%	1.17	0.51	1.67
Between R500m and R1bn	11.4%	0.85	0.62	1.47
Over R1bn	18.7%	1.12	0.57	1.69

\* Fund size is reflected as committed capital in South African Rands.

Pooled IRR by fund size (USD)



Times Money by fund size (USD)



## 6 How to use this Report

Users of this Report may find the following information useful:

- Returns of cash flow and portfolio value data from private equity managers are the primary source for information included in this Report.
- The IRR performance calculation solves for the discount rate that makes the Net Present Value of a set of cash flows equal to zero. The calculation is based on cash-on-cash returns over equal periods, modified for the residual value of the fund's equity (NAV). The residual value attributed to each respective group being measured is incorporated at its ending value.
- The database accounts for cash flows on a daily basis wherever possible otherwise a monthly basis, and NAVs on a quarterly basis.
- The End-to-End performance calculation is similar to the since inception IRR, however; it is measuring the return between two points in time. The calculation takes into account the opening NAV, the in-period cash flows and the closing NAV. Returns are then annualised for comparability.
- The pool of funds has been split into subsets where this would enhance the user's understanding of returns. However, this has been balanced with confidentiality considerations, and no such subsets include fewer than four funds.
- Most funds included in this Report have unrealised investments, and therefore rely on the valuation of these investments to determine returns. All participating fund managers are members of SAVCA and apply the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines to determine these valuations. RisCura has not verified that these Guidelines have been adhered to.
- Only South African Rand denominated funds have been included in this Report, and therefore none of the returns included are affected by exchange rate movements. Returns in USD have been presented for comparability with other markets.

## 7 Definitions

**CAGR** is the cumulative annual growth rate.

**Committed capital** is the value of dedicated investment funds pledged by the investors of a private equity fund and available for investment. This is a proxy for the size of the fund.

**Fund Size** is determined by the committed capital of a fund.

**IRRs** are money-weighted returns that should be compared to time-weighted returns with caution. Time-weighted returns are used to measure returns in most asset classes where frequent valuations are available.

**PME** Public Market Equivalent is a measure that determines whether private equity returns have exceeded or underperformed a public market. A PME score of more than one indicates outperformance of private equity.

**Pooled IRR** aggregates or "pools" all cash flows and ending NAVs to calculate a money-weighted return.

**Realised Times Money** is the multiple of cash returned to investors divided by total cash invested.

**Total Times Money** is the sum of the Realised and Unrealised Times Money.

**Unrealised Times Money** is the multiple of the carrying value of portfolio investments not yet returned to investors divided by total cash invested.

**Vintage Year** is defined as the year in which a fund first draws down capital from its investors.

## 8 About RisCura Fundamentals

RisCura Fundamentals is the leading provider of independent valuation, risk and performance analysis services to investors in unlisted instruments in Africa. We work in partnership with our clients to deliver the transparency and accountability that is increasingly demanded by investors and auditors. Our clients include private equity funds, pension funds, credit funds, banks and other investors in Africa, and cover industries as diverse as agriculture, retail, manufacturing and the extractive industries.

For more information about our services please contact Rory Ord on **+27 21 673 6999** or **rord@riscura.com**.

RisCura is a global, independent provider of professional investment services. RisCura services institutional investors, asset managers, hedge funds and private equity firms with over USD200 billion in assets under management. RisCura is a leading provider of investment consulting, independent valuation, risk and performance analysis services to investors.

For more information about RisCura visit, **[www.riscura.com](http://www.riscura.com)**





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