RisCura - SAVCA South African Private Equity Performance Report

Performance Report

Quarter ended: 31 March 2015

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We are pleased to release the March 2015 edition of the RisCura - SAVCA 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
Principal, RisCura

Erika van der Merwe
CEO, SAVCA

SAVCA
SOUTHERN AFRICAN VENTURE CAPITAL AND PRIVATE EQUITY ASSOCIATION

The South African economy grew by 1.5% in 2014 and is expected to grow by 2.0% and 2.1% in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The first quarter of 2015 saw the purchasing managers index (PMI), retail sales and private sector credit extension increase, all pointing towards a recovery from 2014. However, a threat to the sustained momentum has become the disruption of power supply, as the effect of under-maintained power stations and time over runs of new power stations coming online, began to constrain supply. The two key power stations, Medupi and Kusile, which are expected to increase generation on the grid are only expected to fully come online in 2016 and 2018 respectively.

The constrained power supply highlights a key theme to emerge from the World Economic Forum hosted in Cape Town recently, being the need to overcome South Africa's infrastructure deficit. The lack of adequate infrastructure has a significant effect on the global competitiveness of companies and this is a key focus of government and DFI's alike. In overcoming the power problem, the REIPPP programme implemented in South Africa has seen an increased focus on renewable energy infrastructure projects allowing private equity firms to diversify their portfolios and invest in the infrastructure needs of the country. The ability of GP's to actively engage with investees will assist in ensuring these projects are successful in solving South Africa's infrastructure gap.

The outlook for the year is stable with the exchange rate expected to be range bound between 12-12.5/US$ for the rest of 2015, while inflation may rise to about 5.5% by year end, which still falls within the 3% - 6% range set by the SARB for inflation targeting policy and thus, no interest rate changes are foreseen. The public sector wage negotiations could come into the spotlight should labour unions and government fail to come to an agreement.

Given the indications of a potential recovery, this bodes well for private equity investments across various industries as the economy is expected to stabilise. Returns compare favourably to listed markets which is encouraging given the strong run enjoyed by the ALSI in recent years. The current report highlights that returns from private equity funds continue to exhibit strong performance and offer healthy long term returns as is their nature.

Neil Winspear
Analyst at The Abraaj Group

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.

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.

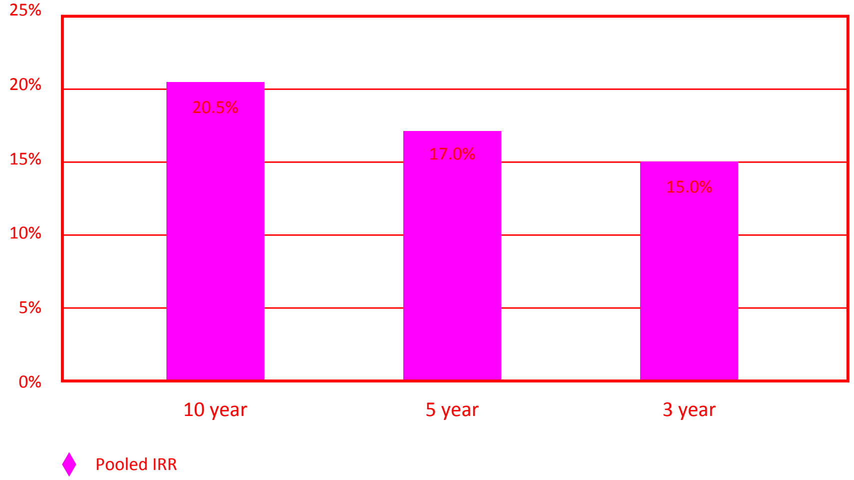
Performance in South African Rands (ZAR)

5a) Returns over different time periods (ZAR)

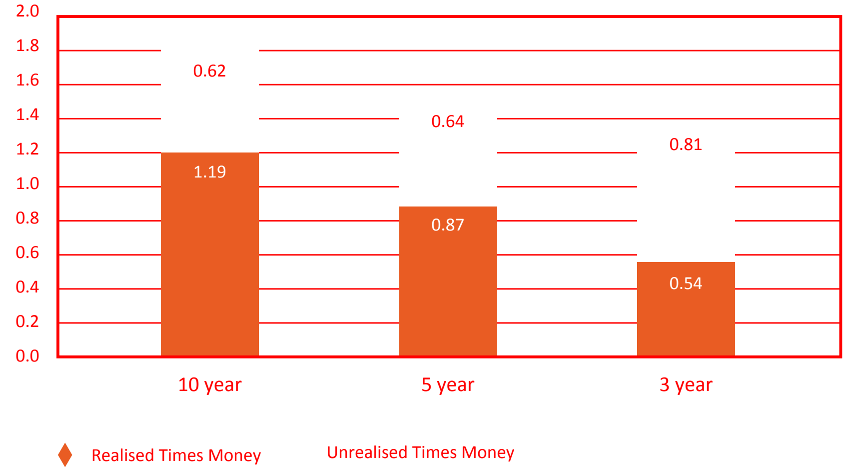
We regard the ten year return as the headline measure of private equity returns. This is because of the long-term nature of private equity investments, and the locked-in nature of typical fund structures.

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

Pooled IRR by time period (ZAR)



Times Money by time period (ZAR)

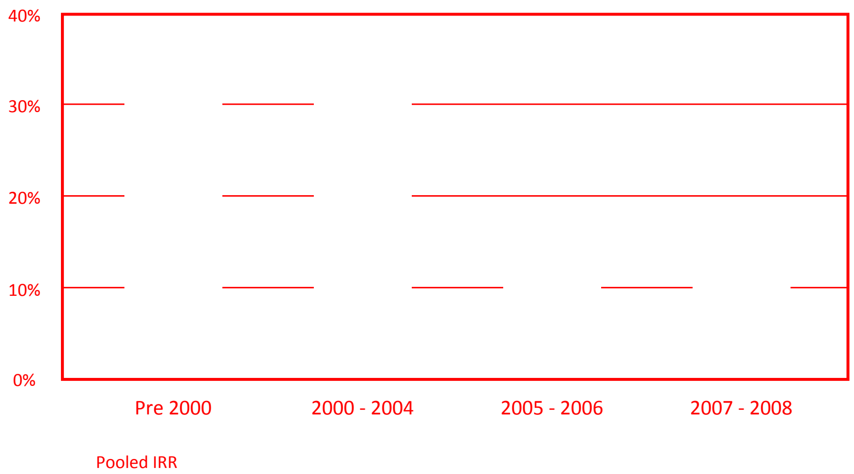


5b) Returns by vintage year (ZAR)

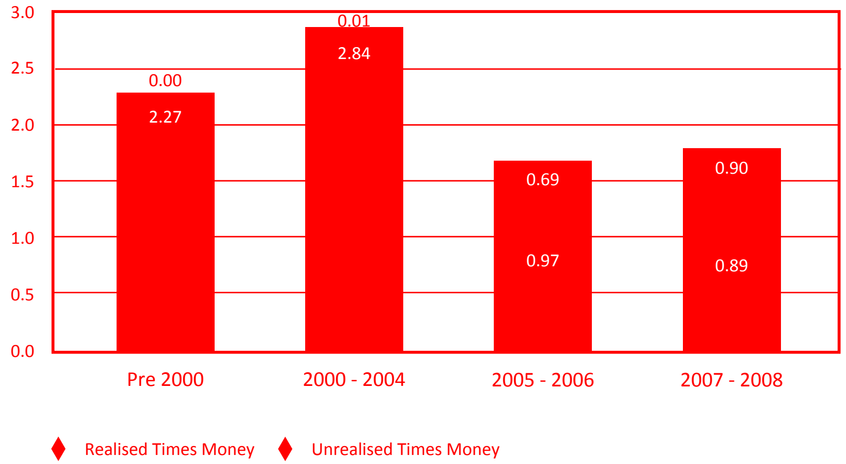
Previous studies have shown fund vintage year to be an important determinant of private equity returns. Our findings are consistent with these studies and show a dramatic difference in returns by vintage grouping.

Funds starting in or after 2005 have been negatively impacted by the downturn in the economy. Part of the reason for the poor current results of the most recent vintage grouping is that these funds are still mid-cycle, where management fees still 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.

Pooled IRR by vintage year (ZAR)



Times Money by vintage year (ZAR)



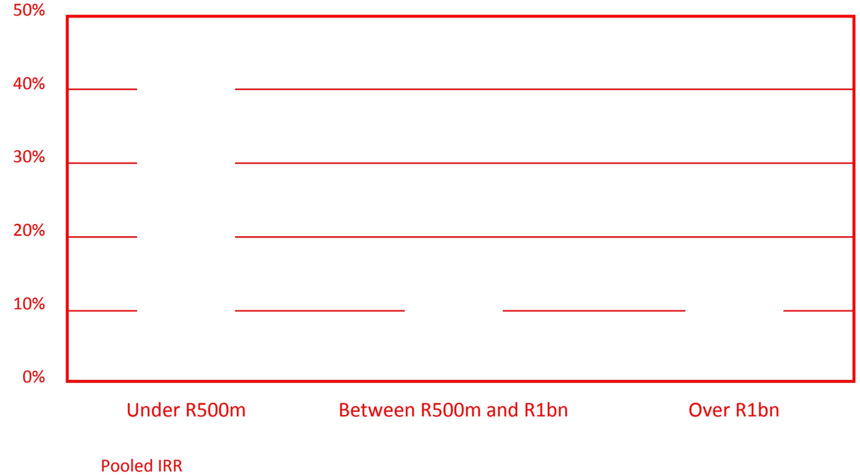
5c) Returns by fund size (ZAR)

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 is reflected as committed capital in South African Rands.

Pooled IRR by fund size (ZAR)



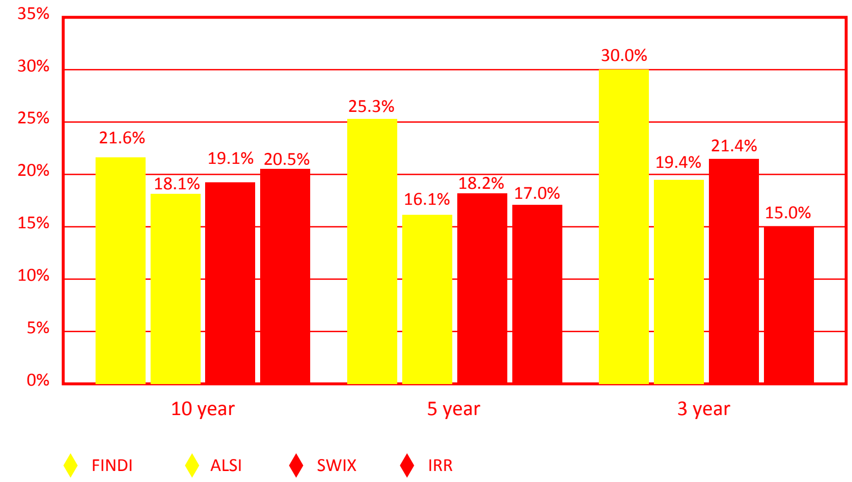
Times Money by fund size (ZAR)

5d) Returns compared to listed equity (ZAR)

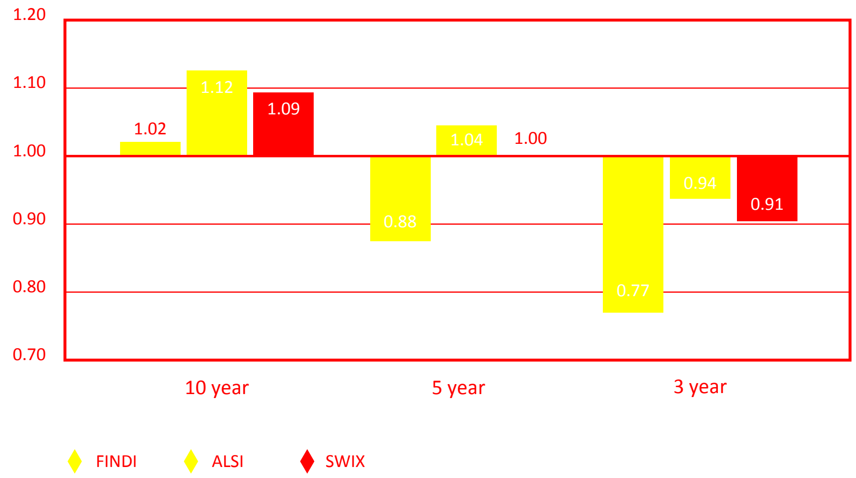
IRR returns have been compared to CAGRs of listed indices on a direct basis, and on the more comparable Public Market Equivalent (PME) basis.

Private equity returns compare favourably to the returns of the FTSE/JSE indices over the longer term.

Pooled IRR compared to listed indices (ZAR)



Public market equivalent results



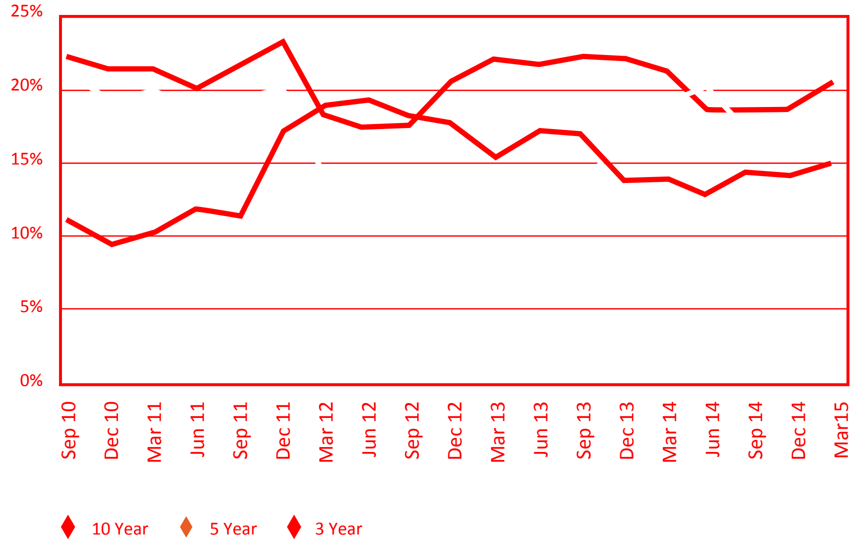
*Listed index returns are before fees.
**Listed indices used in the computations are total return indices before fees.

5e) Historical returns over different time periods

The table below presents the three, five and ten year returns reported in each quarterly release of the RisCura-SAVCA South African Private Equity Performance Report. This shows how the performance of each term has changed over time.

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 investments, as well as the typical investment cycle of funds which takes some time to realise returns.

Pooled IRR by time period



Performance in US Dollars (USD)

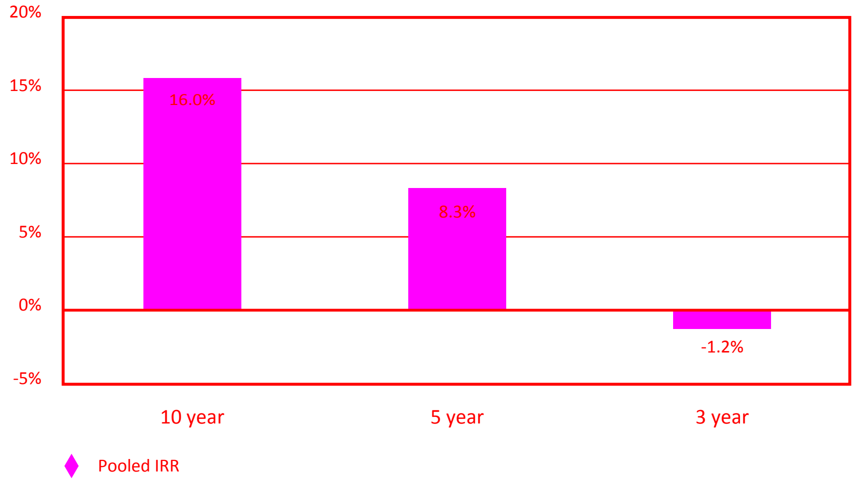
6a) Returns over different time periods (USD)

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.

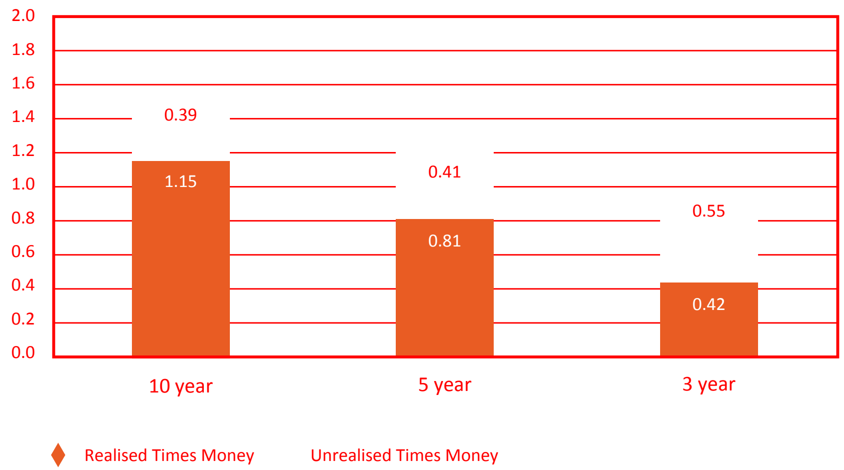
In the private equity context, one year returns are not a reliable measure of performance and have not been presented.

Exchange rate fluctuations have had a large effect on 3 year returns as a result of the steady depreciation of the ZAR over the 3 year period.

Pooled IRR by time period (USD)



Times Money by time period (USD)



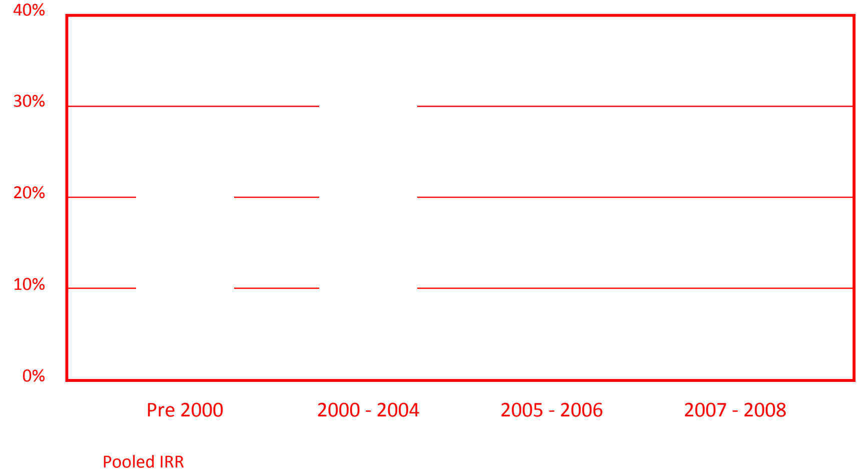
6b) Returns by vintage year (USD)

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

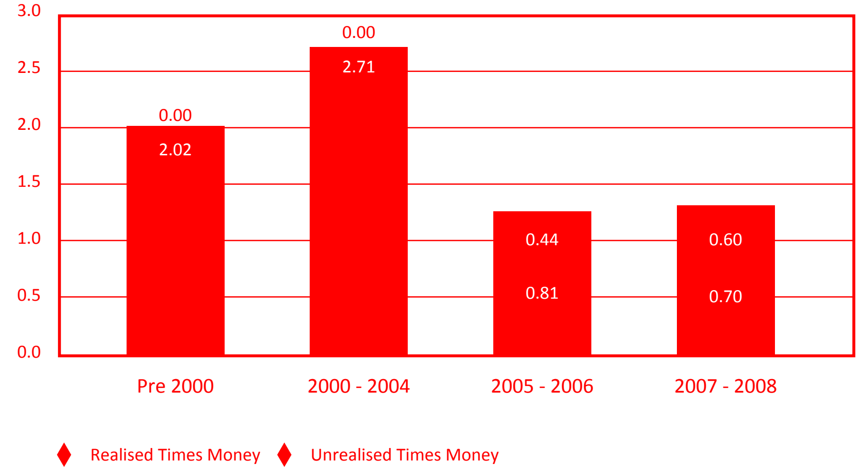
At 36.5%, the 2000 to 2004 vintage year grouping was the best of the vintage groups surveyed. This time period matches a period of strong growth in the South African economy, as well as strong growth on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

The more recent vintages have been more negatively affected by the Rand:Dollar exchange rate.

Pooled IRR by vintage year (USD)



Times Money by vintage year (USD)

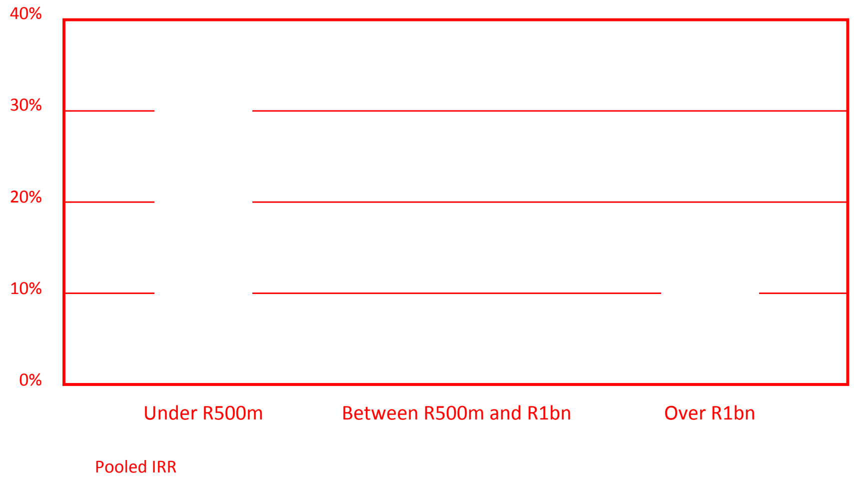


6c) Returns by fund size (USD)

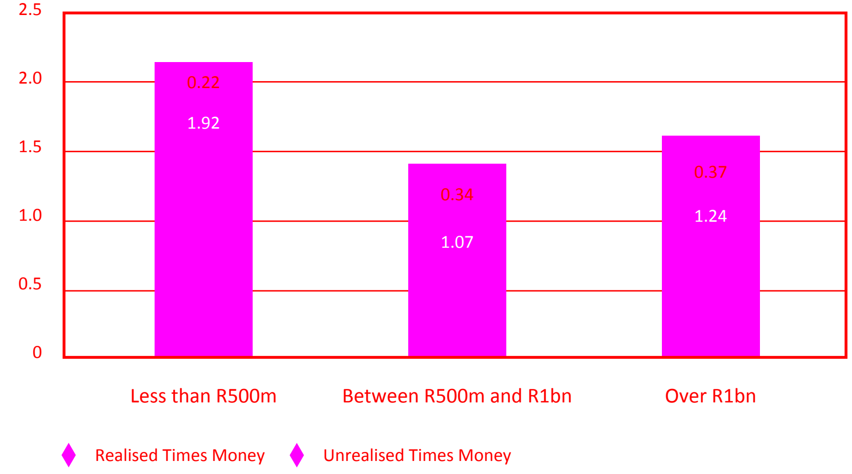
The analysis shows that historically, smaller funds have performed very well. This strong performance may be due to smaller funds investing in the high growth mid-market sized companies that have performed well under generally good economic conditions.

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.

Pooled IRR by fund size (USD)



Times Money by fund size (USD)



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

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 as 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.

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.

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 advice. RisCura is a leading provider of investment consulting, independent valuation, risk and performance analysis services to investors.

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