

Basic investment practices

(AC-INVPRAC)

28–29 August 2013

Course Director: Ziets Botha

Objective

The aim of this course is to introduce course participants to the basic principles of investment and to provide them with a simple overview of the various opportunities available for investing in the South African and foreign financial markets.

Content

The following topics will be covered:

- Planning for the future: How much is enough?
 - The risk of taking no risk
 - Calculating the return on your investment: An elementary approach
 - Fund return versus own return: Check the fee
 - The major financial instruments available for investment
 - Money-market securities, shares, bonds, property, commodities, unit trusts, exchange-traded funds, private equity funds, off-shore products
 - Are derivatives really dangerous: How do hedge funds use them?
 - How to get exposure to foreign markets
 - Investment schemes to be avoided: Pyramid schemes and other scams
 - Investing and trading through brokers versus the use of Internet-based investment platforms
- The taxation of investment income: Pitfalls to be considered
 - Practical demonstration of share trading using an online platform.

Target group

This course is intended for

- any staff member of the South African Reserve Bank, irrespective of age and academic background, who wants to gain more insight into the world of financial investments; and/or
- individuals who attended the two-day course on financial, retirement and estate planning presented from 12–13 June 2012.

Format

This is a fairly informal two-day course presented by SARB College lecturers and private-sector practitioners. Although formal teaching sessions will form part of the learning methodology, the focus is on making participants aware of the investment environment, and to promote interaction between presenters and participants. Course participants are encouraged to ask questions.