

Firesuper SuperNews

August 2023 | Edition 132

Welcome to the third edition of SuperNews for 2023, where we'll be talking about Money Month and sharing the latest financial market commentary and Scheme returns information. We'll also introduce the FSC Retirement Planning Guide to help you plan for your retirement.

We'd like to welcome Ian Wright to the FireSuper Board, being reappointed in March this year. After taking a year's LWOP, Ian is back to add his expertise to the Board.

Your 2023 annual confirmation and annual report were sent in June and July respectively, and you can find the latest fund updates and the 2023 financial statements on the [website](#) under 'Documents' > 'Scheme information' or 'Financial statements'.

As always, [please send through any feedback](#) you have or let us know if you wish to share your story in future publications, as we enjoy hearing from our members.

Regards,

FireSuper Trustee

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Reminder to read annual report and annual confirmation

The FireSuper annual report and annual confirmation for the year ended 31 March 2023 have now been distributed and you should have received your copies by either email or post. You can also access these documents by logging into our website. We encourage you to take a moment and read through these documents, as they contain important information regarding Scheme performance and any changes. We would also like to hear any feedback you might have on these documents, so please write to us at: nzfire.super@mercercor.com.

If you have any questions about your account or these documents, please call Helpline on **0800 MY SUPER** (0800 69 78737) between 9am – 7pm on business days.



[Log in here to access documents](#)



FSC Retirement Planning Guide

The Financial Services Council NZ (FSC) has created a guide for customers and those wanting to take a DIY approach to retirement planning. Successful retirement planning means being able to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle in retirement, without outliving your savings. This guide covers some key retirement planning considerations, including a few rules of thumb on how to manage your savings during retirement.



[View the FSC Retirement Planning Guide](#)

Money Month

Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission officially kickstarted Money Month on 1 August 2023, which aims to demystify money and improve the financial wellbeing of Kiwis. Money Month is an annual public awareness campaign, brought together by various organisations.

The theme this year is “Pause. Get sorted.”, which is encouraging New Zealanders to pause for a moment of reflection or action to get their money sorted. This could be taking time to sort out their budget, check in on their KiwiSaver fund, make a plan for getting out of debt, talk to someone about money or start saving towards a goal. Through the resources and tools provided in Money Month, Kiwis should be able to make better decisions regarding their financial wellbeing.



Goal setting refresher

Before starting any trip, it is always a good idea to know about your destination and how you plan to get there. The same applies to your financial journey. Financial goals should be set realistically, and it is always a good idea to have a larger goal in mind and then set smaller, doable targets, keeping in mind your current income, expenses and liabilities. You can set your goals to meet different targets, for example paying off your mortgage, saving for a first home, or travelling. Sorted's new tool can help you with your goal planning.



[Use the goal planner here](#)



Getting financial advice

Seeking professional financial advice can help you get better outcomes for your finances and savings. A financial adviser looks closely at your current situation and your future goals to give you objective advice. You can also benefit from the various free online tools, that can improve your financial wellbeing. Some of these tools are available on the Scheme's website, under the 'Resources' tab in 'Financial advice' section.



[Find the financial tools here](#)



Market update

The New Zealand share market recorded modest gains in the second quarter, returning 0.4% amid further economic stimulus in China – our largest trading partner – and a strong lead from US stocks. Limiting the advance were further domestic interest rate hikes, with the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) lifting the official cash rate twice in the face of still-high inflation. Consumer prices rose 6.7% in the 12 months to 31 March, which was down on the 7.2% we saw in the 12 months to 31 December, but still well above the RBNZ's 1-3% target range. In response, the RBNZ lifted interest rates by 0.5% in April and by a further 0.25% in May, taking the official cash rate to 5.5%. The outcome, which follows the downwardly revised 0.7% contraction we saw in the final quarter of last year, means the New Zealand economy entered a 'technical recession'.



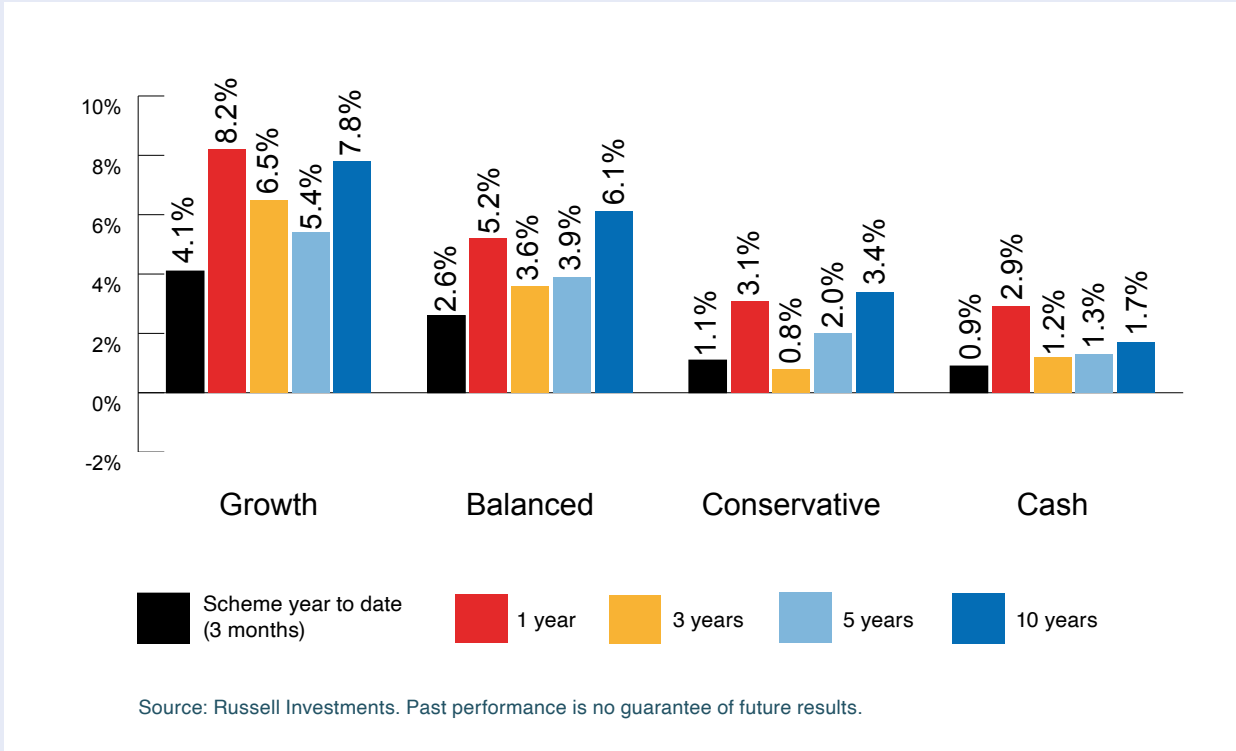
[Read more](#)

Source: Russell Investments Date: 10 August 2023

Scheme returns

(Cumulative year-to-date interim returns)

The chart below shows the earning rates for each investment option over the fiscal year-to-date period (from 1 April 2023 through to 30 June 2023), 1 year and returns over the long term; 3, 5, and 10 years. The returns are net of fees and tax. The Life Cycle option uses the Growth, Balanced, and Conservative options as building blocks and progressively reduces members' risk/return profile over time.



You can find the [latest earning rates](#) and general information about [how financial markets are performing](#) on the [Scheme website](#).



Helpline
0800 69 78737



**Retirement
planning**



**Financial advisers
at FMA**



**Scheme
website**



The information contained in this publication is intended for general guidance only and is not personalised to you. It does not take into account your particular financial situation or goals, and it is not financial advice or a recommendation. We recommend that you read the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and take financial advice before making any investment decisions. In addition, past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide to future performance and returns.

This document has been prepared by Mercer (N.Z.) Limited (Mercer) on behalf of the Trustee.