



## Firesuper Supernews

November 2021 No. 127

The national Alert Level 4 lockdown in August was challenging for many, and we want to especially acknowledge those members and their families who may still be stuck at home. We all hope for a sense of normality sometime soon, and a sunny summer ahead!

Despite the national lockdown announcement in August, share markets continued to perform well for the month. However, September proved to be challenging for share markets due to various factors that weighed on investor sentiment. More information on the financial markets and option returns is included in this newsletter.

If you've got any questions about the Scheme or if there is anything you would like to see included in future newsletters, please call the Helpline on 0800 MY SUPER (0800 69 78737).



## Life Cycle option available now

On 29 September 2021 we launched a new investment option called Life Cycle. If you missed the email from early October, this new option is a 'set and forget' option that automatically reduces the allocation to growth assets as members get closer to retirement age.

[Read more](#)



## Accessing your online account

Our new FireSuper website that was launched earlier this year offers a new dashboard that shows your account balance, account summary, an option to download your annual confirmations, and recent account activity all in one place. Each section of the dashboard allows you to click through to find more details about each of the elements. You can also check and update your personal details, make changes to your investment options, and use a risk profiler to find out what level of investment risk you may be comfortable with and consider that with your current investment allocation.

[Access your account](#)



## Market update

### Quarter ended 30 September 2021

Global equity markets ended the quarter flat while fixed income markets edged lower. Positive market momentum which dominated the first two months of the quarter reversed in September. Equity markets sold-off and government bond yields spiked higher as inflationary pressures, uncertain growth expectations and the anticipated tightening of monetary policy by global central banks weighed on investor sentiment.

The COVID-19 delta variant, inflation and the central bank's gradual removal of quantitative easing policies ('tapering') are unnerving investors. We expect the pandemic-recovery trade to resume as inflation subsides, infection rates decline and tapering turns out to not equal tightening. Amid this backdrop, our outlook favours equities over bonds, the value factor over the growth factor and non-U.S. stocks over U.S. stocks.

The post-lockdown recovery has transitioned from energetic youthfulness to awkward adolescence. It's still growing, although at a slower pace, and there are worries about what happens next - particularly around monetary policy and the outlook for inflation. Despite the continued effects of the pandemic, investment markets have again delivered strong returns. FireSuper members have continued to benefit from this.

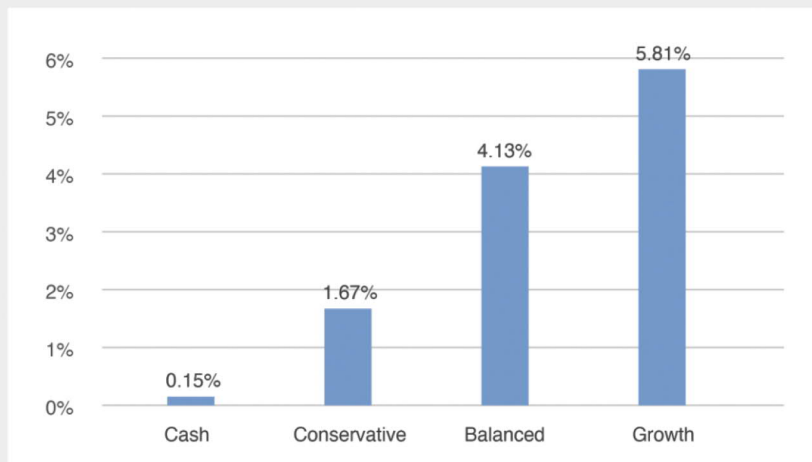
[Read the full article](#)

## 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 2021 through to 30 September 2021). The returns are net of fees and tax.

**Member earning rates (1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021)**



Source: Russell Investments. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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



## Online threats on the rise

New Zealanders are being impacted by cyber security threats more frequently at work and at home. The increasing number of incidents shows that it's vital to take steps to keep ourselves safe online. This year's [Cyber Smart Week](#) in October, run by [CERT NZ](#), focused on empowering New Zealanders to step up their online security so they are less vulnerable to cyber-attacks.



**Cyber Up with these four simple steps:**

- Upsize your passwords
- Upgrade to two-factor authentication
- Uphold your privacy
- Update your apps and devices.

[Read more](#)



## Online investing platforms transform attitudes to investing

The [Financial Markets Authority \(FMA\) great debate](#) in early August 2021 focused on DIY investing. It is estimated that more than 250,000 New Zealanders are using online investing portals such as Sharesies, Hatch, and InvestNow, three-quarters of them aged 25-44. Eight out of 10 New Zealand investors have a more favourable view of investing and financial markets after using online investing platforms, according to research released by the FMA.

The research shows that investing becomes "social", with new investors more likely to be influenced by online forums and an emotional connection with a company's brand than their financial reports and disclosures. The theme of the latest [World Investor Week](#) focused on 'Investing FOMO? Take a Mo' which encouraged DIY investors to carefully consider investing decisions by using the 'Five D's of DIY Investing' and not be primarily influenced by the fear of missing out.

[Read more](#)



## Take time to kōrero

With everything that's happening at the moment, how can we keep upbeat and feel good – including financially well? Sorted.org.nz recently published an article titled "**For wellbeing, a short chat can go a long way**" during the Mental Health Awareness Week. It's well worth a read especially during this disruptive time due to the impact of the global pandemic and local lockdowns.

[Read more](#)



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