Teachers Retirement Savings Scheme

The Latest News On Your Retirement Savings

November 2026

Welcome to the final edition for 2026.

As we close out 2026, this issue brings you tips for online safety, holiday support hours, and how the markets have performed over recent months.

What's covered in this edition:

- Simple ways to stay safe online
- Sorted's new Buffer Builder app
- Holiday support hours
- How compounding can help your super grow
- Market news
- Scheme returns
- A reminder to read your annual reporting documents

Missed the last newsletter? You can read it **here**.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact our Helpline at **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)** or email us at **nztrsserp@mercer.com**.

Regards,

Mercer,
On behalf of Public Trust as Trustee

Staying safe online: simple steps to protect yourself



As more of our day-to-day lives move online, cybercriminals are becoming increasingly clever in how they trick people into sharing personal information. These scams can look convincing and may arrive by email, text message or phone call, often pretending to be from a trusted organisation such as a bank, government department or service provider. Their real aim is often to get you to share personal details, passwords or payment information.

Key points to remember

Pause before you act. If a message asks you to click, reply or pay urgently, take a moment to check it carefully.

Watch for warning signs. Be cautious if you're asked to confirm sensitive information or follow a link you weren't expecting.

Strengthen your security. Use strong, unique passwords, turn on multi-factor authentication where available, and keep your devices and apps updated.

Think before you share. Review your privacy settings and be careful about what you post on social media, as even small details can help scammers make their messages seem more believable.

Act quickly if targeted. Change your passwords, contact your bank if financial details may have been exposed, and report the issue to the relevant organisation.



Sorted's new Buffer Builder app

To make saving easier, Sorted has also launched the new **Buffer Builder app**. By securely linking your bank account, you can grow a buffer automatically on payday, round up spare change from everyday spending, top up when it suits you — or mix and match all three. It's a simple way to build savings steadily, while keeping your security and control front and centre. If you are looking for a small but practical way to strengthen your finances, this could be a helpful place to start.

Buffer Builder app

Holiday support hours



During the holiday period, from 12:00pm on Thursday 24 December 2026 until 8:00am Tuesday 5 January 2027 (NZT) there will be no administration support. This will impact processes such as withdrawal payments, regular member contributions updates and processing of other forms. These services will be affected not only during the holiday period but also leading up to it. If you have any withdrawal requests that require action during this holiday period, please ensure that they are sent to **nztrsserp@mercer.com** no later than Monday 14 December 2026.

The Helpline will remain available throughout the holiday period, except on the national public holidays (25 & 28 December, 1 & 4 January). Hours are 9:00am to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday and you can contact them on **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)**.

Compounding and how it can grow your super



Compounding is one of the quietest ways your super may grow over time.

How compounding works

Your super is usually invested in a mix of assets such as shares, property, cash, or fixed interest. These investments can move up or down in value, and the gains or losses over a period are called investment returns.

Compounding happens when any returns earned stay in your super and may then earn returns of their own. In other words, growth comes not only from your contributions, but also from what your money has already earned while it remains invested.

Why time matters

At first, the effect of compounding may seem small. But over time, those returns can build on each other and potentially make a meaningful difference to your balance. That's part of why super is often described as a long-term investment for retirement.

You don't need to be an expert investor to benefit from this. Small, regular contributions may also play an important role over time. And because time gives your money the best opportunity to grow, starting earlier can make a real difference.

While returns can go up and down and growth is not guaranteed, understanding the basics can help you feel more informed about how super works.



Market news (1 July 2026 – 30 September 2026)

The third quarter of 2026 was a mixed one for New Zealand and global markets, with signs of recovery but plenty of uncertainty still around. New Zealand shares rose 1.9%, broadly matching overseas shares, which were up 1.8% in local currency terms. Some of the stronger gains came from companies that sell non-essential goods and services, as a few businesses reported better-than-expected results. Energy shares also had a strong quarter, helped by higher oil and fuel prices after conflict in the Middle East pushed energy costs higher.

At home, New Zealand's economy continued to improve, but the recovery is still uneven. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand raised the Official Cash Rate twice, taking it to 2.75%, as it continued to focus on inflation. Even with these improvements, the economy is not running at full strength yet and unemployment is still fairly high at 5.6%.

Looking ahead, inflation is still a concern and global tensions in the Middle East could keep energy prices elevated. That means central banks are likely to stay cautious for some time yet. Although the recent election in New Zealand matters for sentiment, markets usually care more about policy than politics. Spending, taxation, regulation, and confidence can all affect returns around the edges but from a portfolio point of view, global rates, global growth, and earnings are still the bigger drivers.

Globally, the artificial intelligence investment boom is expected to support growth. However, inflation may remain above target, which means central banks are likely to stay cautious.

Scheme returns at a glance

The table below shows the returns of each investment fund for the first three months of the Scheme year, along with the returns from the two years prior.

	Scheme year-to-date three months to 30 September 2026	12 months to 30 June 2026	12 months to 30 June 2025
Cash Fund	0.47%	2.2%	3.4%
Stable Fund	-0.87%	5.2%	5.2%
Balanced Fund	0.09%	12.4%	8.7%
Growth Fund	0.62%	16.0%	10.1%

For the latest monthly returns, visit the **website**.

Have you read the 2026 annual reporting documents?

Your annual report and benefit statement for the year ended 30 June 2026 were sent in November and September, respectively. These documents give you a clearer picture of the Scheme membership, your account balance, your investment mix and how recent market changes have affected your savings.

You can access both documents by signing in to your online account via our website. The annual report is also available under the *Documents* tab at **www.teachersretire.org.nz** or on the **Disclose Register**.



More information

Retirement calculator

Financial advisers

Support
0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)
or nztrsserp@mercer.com

Scheme website

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