

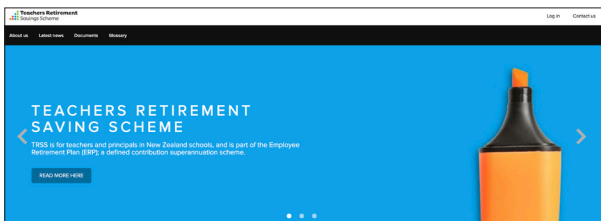
Welcome

We hope you enjoyed your summer break. This edition includes a preview of the upcoming new Scheme website, the latest market commentary, things to think about before you retire, key dates of 2021, and articles on breaking through the financial advice barrier and the 2021 financial market outlook.

If you have any questions about the Scheme, this newsletter, or your member statement, please call Helpline on **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)** or email **teachersretire@mercer.com**.

New website preview

Our administration manager, Mercer, is upgrading the Scheme website to improve functionality, navigation, and security. The site will be enhanced for mobile devices, making it even easier to get information on the Scheme and your account while on the go. It is due to launch in a few months, and while it is still being developed, we have managed to capture this snippet of what the new website homepage will look like! We will keep you updated on progress.



How to access the current website

Access your account online at any time by logging in with your PIN. Create or reset your PIN online with your member number, valid email address (that is registered in our system), and your date of birth. Visit the current website at **www.trss.superfacts.co.nz**.

Member survey out now

You should have received your unique code which is specific to you, via email or post, which you need to use to commence the survey.

Let us know what you think about the Scheme and the services available, and you can go in the draw to win a \$200 Prezzy Card*.

It should take less than 5 minutes, and when you finish you'll have the opportunity to enter the prize draw. Your feedback will enable us to enhance the Scheme services and communications you receive.

To complete the survey, go to **www.trss.superfacts.co.nz** and click 'start survey'.



Prefer to receive updates by email?

New year, new communications preference? Now is the perfect time to check and review how you would like to receive important Scheme information and updates that are sent to you throughout the year. If you would like to change or update your preferences, log into your account at **www.trss.superfacts.co.nz**.

Breaking through the advice barrier

Why we need advice more than ever before and why we're not getting it. New research has revealed that despite a booming property market forcing many of us to take on record levels of debt (making financial advice more important than ever before), most New Zealanders are missing out on its benefits. To read the full article go to **www.trss.superfacts.co.nz** and click 'Article Library'

Key dates for 2021



March
Newsletter



March
Member
survey



April
Member survey
results



July
Newsletter



October
Annual statement
and annual report



November
Newsletter

Investment news

Global share markets finished the last calendar month of 2020 on a positive note! Despite political tension in the US and a new, highly contagious variant of COVID-19 spreading throughout the UK and South Africa, investors gained comfort from the global vaccine rollout meaning global share markets had a positive December.

The Brexit transition period has officially ended and the United Kingdom and European Union have announced the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). Even with this agreement in place, many uncertainties remain for the relationship going forward. All things considered, global shares returned +3.5% in local currency (+1.7% in NZD).

The New Zealand share market gained +2.6% over December, benefitting from a strengthening New Zealand economy due to higher than expected domestic production figures. This is despite the second largest company in the index, A2 Milk, experiencing a -17% loss over the month after cutting its 2021 earnings forecast. Australian shares had a positive month, returning +1.2%, bringing its one year return into positive territory for the first time since February 2020.

Financial markets around the world were broadly positive to start 2021, however January closed the month negative.

Despite civil turmoil at the Capitol in January, markets were supported by a smooth inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States, and the quick unveiling of a USD1.9 trillion stimulus package, aimed at combating the pandemic and the economic crisis it has triggered.

The New Zealand share market provided positive returns over the month, returning +0.3%, with investors reducing risk late in the month as fears of a community outbreak of COVID-19 rose. Australian shares returned +0.3% (in local currency) despite the market encountering significant selling pressure at month end as iron ore prices weakened notably.

The 2021 outlook remains uncertain, and depends almost entirely on the path of COVID-19. In late-February, the Government announced further community cases in Auckland, placing the region into Alert Level 3 for at least a week. This was announced following a three day lockdown only two weeks prior with the community cases linking to the first Papatoetoe high school school family.

It is important to remember that saving for retirement is a long-term task and that previous market downturns (such as the Global Financial Crisis in 2008) have generally been followed by sustainable periods of positive returns.

Scheme returns

The table below shows the returns of each investment fund for the Scheme year, along with a comparison to the returns from the year prior.

Returns after tax and expenses			
	Scheme year-to-date (8 months to 28 February 2021)	12 months to 30 June 2020	12 months to 30 June 2019
Cash Fund	0.11%	0.89%	1.51%
Stable Fund	2.02%	3.03%	4.49%
Balanced Fund	7.57%	2.07%	5.27%
Growth Fund	10.75%	1.45%	5.66%

You can find the latest information on monthly returns at www.trss.superfacts.co.nz and click 'Article Library'

Things to think about before you retire

The concept of retirement means different things to different people. Whether it is the opportunity to travel and explore more of our own country, to spend time with the grandchildren, to start a new project, to pick up a new hobby, or to dabble in a mixture of all of the above, retirement is a time to enjoy. And, retirement should be a time to be free of financial stress. It can be a major life transition and we need to be honest about what our goals are and what trade-offs we are willing to live with. Even if retirement seems a while away, it's good to have a plan. Here are some things to consider before you retire. Even if retirement seems a while away, it's good to have a plan. Here are some things to consider before you retire.

To read the full article go to www.trss.superfacts.co.nz and click 'Article Library'

Rays of hope for markets

As we say goodbye to a difficult 2020, there are some positive signs for the global economy in 2021. News of an effective vaccine rollout and certainty around the US election result are having a positive impact on markets.

What can we expect for markets this year?

To read the full article go to www.trss.superfacts.co.nz and click 'Article Library'

Contact us

To find out more about anything mentioned in this newsletter please call us on 0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224), email teachersretire@mercero.com or visit www.trss.superfacts.co.nz.

 Find the retirement planner at sorted.org.nz/tools/retirement-planner

 To speak to a financial adviser visit fma.govt.nz/investors/getting-financial-advice/finding-an-adviser