

The Latest News On Your Retirement Savings

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the TRSS newsletter.

We are pleased to present the first edition of the TRSS newsletter for 2025, designed to equip you with essential information and insights for the year ahead.

In this issue, we focus on setting financial goals for 2025 and familiarise you with some of the Sorted tools that can assist you in achieving your financial objectives. Having clear goals is vital for your financial well-being and these tools can provide valuable support.

We also have an important update regarding the upcoming enhancement to the Verification of Identity process. Furthermore, it is important to be aware that a new login process has recently been introduced, along with essential information regarding how to access your account.

Our regular investment commentary and investment returns sections will offer you a comprehensive overview of the current market landscape, helping you make informed decisions as you plan for the future.

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback about the Scheme or any of the benefits, please don't hesitate to contact the Helpline at **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)** or email us at nztrsserp@mercer.com.

Regards,

Mercer,
On behalf of Public Trust as Trustee



Market news

There was significant market variation across regions and sectors in the quarter ending December 2024. Overall, global equities ended the year positively, boosted by the conclusive victory of Donald Trump in the US presidential election in November. This was arguably more about calming fears that escalated leading into the election, than it was optimism about the prospects looking forward.

It wasn't all positive though, as the outlook for emerging markets and more sustainable, pro-environmental companies and strategies took a hit in the wake of the election result. The potential inflationary effects of widespread and substantial tariffs (if imposed by the US) also tempered expectations of further interest rate cuts in 2025. This took some of the heat out of the post-election equity rally in December and weighed on returns from fixed interest markets (which tend to be higher when interest rates are expected to decrease). As a result, global fixed interest returns were negative for the final quarter of 2024.

In contrast, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand ('RBNZ') implemented two consecutive 0.5% cuts to the Official Cash Rate ('OCR') during the quarter, as the CPI ('Consumer Price Index') and core inflation returned to within the RBNZ's 1-3% target range. The OCR ended the year at 4.25%, down from a high of 5.5% in mid-2024. These relatively aggressive cuts helped New Zealand equities and bonds to deliver positive returns for the December quarter.

Setting goals and helpful Sorted tools

Setting financial goals is a crucial step in achieving long-term financial stability and success. Whether you are planning for retirement, saving for a home, or preparing for unexpected expenses, having clear and achievable financial goals can guide your decision-making and help you stay focused on your objectives.

The first step is to assess your current financial situation. This includes understanding your income, expenses, debts and savings. Once you have a clear picture, you can set specific, measurable and time-bound goals. For instance, instead of setting vague goals like “I want to save money,” a better approach would be to say, “I want to save \$10,000 for a home deposit within the next two years.” This clarity will help you create a structured plan to reach your goals.

Now that you have set your goals, we have listed some useful tools below that are designed to not only help you save money but also to promote healthier financial habits, support effective budgeting and facilitate long-term financial planning.

Budgeting tool » Sorted



Budgets act as essential guides for managing your finances, allowing you to monitor your spending and savings effectively. This tool provides a clear visual overview of your income and expenditures, enabling you to optimise your financial resources.

[Budgeting tool » Sorted](#)

Retirement calculator » Sorted



Evaluate your current financial situation to see if you are on track to achieve the retirement lifestyle you desire. This calculator helps you assess whether you are financially prepared for the future.

[Retirement calculator » Sorted](#)

Savings calculator » Sorted



This tool allows you to see how your savings can grow over time, particularly through the power of compounding interest. It provides a clear picture of your financial progress.

[Savings calculator » Sorted](#)

Goal planner » Sorted



What are your aspirations? Many of life's goals require financial planning. This goal-setting tool assists you in taking the initial steps towards achieving your dreams.

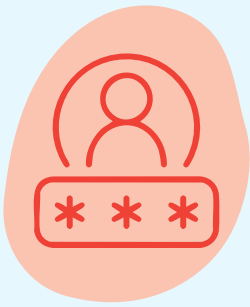
[Goal planner » Sorted](#)

Debt calculator » Sorted



Wondering how soon you can be free from debt? This tool can consolidate your loans and helps outline the quickest path to financial freedom.

[Debt calculator » Sorted](#)



Update on the new login process

From 26 February, the way you login to your online account has changed. The change simplifies the login process to just your email address and password. After you activate your online account for the first time following these changes, you will no longer need a member number or have to contact the Helpline for PIN resets.

If you haven't set up your new log in details yet, your first sign-in will require a one-time activation where you'll need to provide your membership number, date of birth and email address. After that, you'll establish security methods such as email, password and mobile number for multi-factor authentication. If you face any issues, you can contact the Helpline at **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)**. For any further queries regarding the new sign in process, we have prepared a set of FAQs to address some of the questions you may have. You can access them under Announcements on the following page:

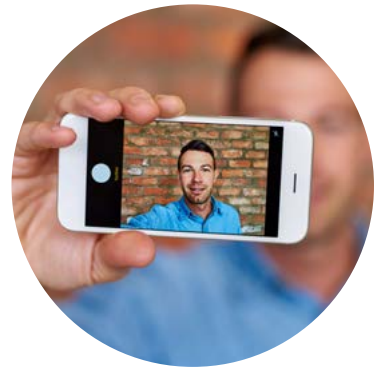
[Latest News](#)

More options to verify your identity

From time to time the Scheme needs to verify your identity, for example when you are making a withdrawal from your account. You now have the option to complete the verification process online, using your mobile device.

Members can easily take a photo of their identification documents, along with a selfie to confirm their identity. This streamlined process enhances user experience by providing a quick and accessible way to verify identity. It is also important to mention that members would still have the option to send physical copies of their documents for verification, if they prefer the traditional method.

You can read more about how to verify your identity, when the time comes in the Confirmation of Identity and Address Guide linked below.



[Confirmation of Identity and Address Guide](#)

Scheme returns

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

	Scheme year-to-date 6 months to 31 December 2024	12 months to 30 June 2024	12 months to 30 June 2023
Cash Fund	1.95%	4.1%	2.9%
Stable Fund	3.28%	4.6%	2.8%
Balanced Fund	6.00%	7.4%	6.0%
Growth Fund	7.38%	9.2%	8.0%

You can find the latest information on monthly returns [here](#).

More information



[Retirement calculator](#)



[Financial advisers](#)



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[Scheme website](#)