

INSIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2023



Message from the Trustee

Welcome to the final edition of Insights for 2023. In this newsletter we include the regular market update and investment returns information, as well as a link to a Retirement Planning Guide which was recently launched by the Financial Services Council NZ ('FSC'). Also featured is a guide which will help members navigate through the Fund website, and a financial terms glossary released by Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission.

We would like to hear your feedback on the annual report and annual confirmation that you should have received in October 2023. Your feedback is very important to us, as it helps us refine the content every year. You can write to us at nzasrf@mercer.com or **give us a call**. If you have any queries regarding this newsletter or the Fund, please reach out to the Helpline on **0508 266 787**.

Regards,

NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Board



Holiday hours

Our Helpline will be available during the holiday period, apart from the national public holidays (25 & 26 December, 1 & 2 January). Their hours are 9am to 7pm NZ time, Monday to Friday and their contact details can be found [here](#).

During the holiday period, Mercer (the Fund's administration manager) will close on the evening of Friday 22 December 2023 and reopen on Wednesday 3 January 2024. This closure will have an impact on various processes including withdrawal payments, regular member contributions updates and other forms processing. These services will be affected not only during the closure period but also leading up to it. If you have any withdrawal requests that require action during the Christmas period, please ensure that they are sent to Mercer (nzasrf@mercer.com) no later than Friday 15 December 2023.

Contact details



FSC Retirement Planning Guide

The **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. The guide contains:

- a retirement planning overview;
- guidance on how to use the **Sorted** KiwiSaver and Retirement calculators, offered free by Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission; and
- a summary of some "rules of thumb" developed by the New Zealand Society of Actuaries to help people manage their savings during retirement.

View the FSC Retirement Planning Guide

Investment option returns

The following table shows investment returns (after tax and investment-related costs) for each of the Fund's four investment options for the stated periods, each ended 30 September 2023.

	Cash	Conservative	Balanced	Growth
Fund year to date (3 months)	0.97%	-1.87%	-3.26%	-4.49%
3 years (p.a.)	1.9%	0.4%	1.4%	2.8%
5 years (p.a.)	1.6%	1.8%	2.8%	3.9%
10 years (p.a.)	1.8%	3.8%	5.6%	7.6%

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



Website access guide

To assist you with some of your most common queries like logging in to the website, checking your account balance, switching your investment options and updating your personal details, we encourage you to consult the 'website access guide' which is available on the Fund website. It is a comprehensive and helpful document designed to help you with your questions, navigating through the Fund website and accessing the information and resources you may need.

[Access the website access guide](#)



De-jargoning Money

De-jargoning Money is a financial glossary from Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission that uses plain language to make financial terms easier to understand for New Zealanders. The goal is to remove the overly complex language that is often used in the financial services industry and make important money concepts easier for people to grasp. By doing so, the glossary aims to improve financial literacy and help people make more informed decisions about their money.

[Access the glossary](#)

You can also access a glossary on the Fund's website at www.nzretirementfund.com/glossary.html

Market update

For quarter ended 30 September 2023

Despite a great start in July, both equities and bonds ended the September quarter (Q3) on a low note, supporting the latter month's reputation for delivering seasonally weaker returns.

US markets underperformed in both other developed markets and emerging markets, as value outperformed growth, with a retreat among the 'Magnificent Seven' stocks (Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet (Google), Amazon, Nvidia, Tesla and Meta) which had provided most of the gains during the first half of the year. Negative market sentiment was driven by a 'higher for longer' interest rates narrative in an environment of weak economic growth. This sentiment was more pronounced in interest rate-sensitive sectors, driving negative returns for fixed income and gold.

[Read more](#)

Your Trustee Directors

You're welcome to contact any of your Trustee Directors if you have any questions about the Fund. Their details are [online](#) or you can call them on their direct lines:

Site-based Trustee Directors

Paula 03 218 5571

Andrew 03 218 5989

Karen 03 218 5689

Offsite Trustee Directors

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Bruce 027 284 0481

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Grant 022 071 3117

Any questions about the Fund? You can contact the Helpline on [0508 266 787](tel:0508266787) (Australia 03 8687 1849, and international +61 3 8687 1849) between 9am and 7pm Monday to Friday, except for national public holidays.

General disclaimer: General disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is not intended to be financial advice or to take the place of a financial adviser. The information in this newsletter is for general information only, and has been prepared on behalf of NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Limited (the issuer of the Fund) without taking account of your personal objectives, circumstances or needs. More information about the Fund can be found in the Fund's most recent **Product Disclosure Statement**, a copy of which is available at www.nzasretirementfund.com. Past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide for future performance.

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