Investment update

March 2025 quarter

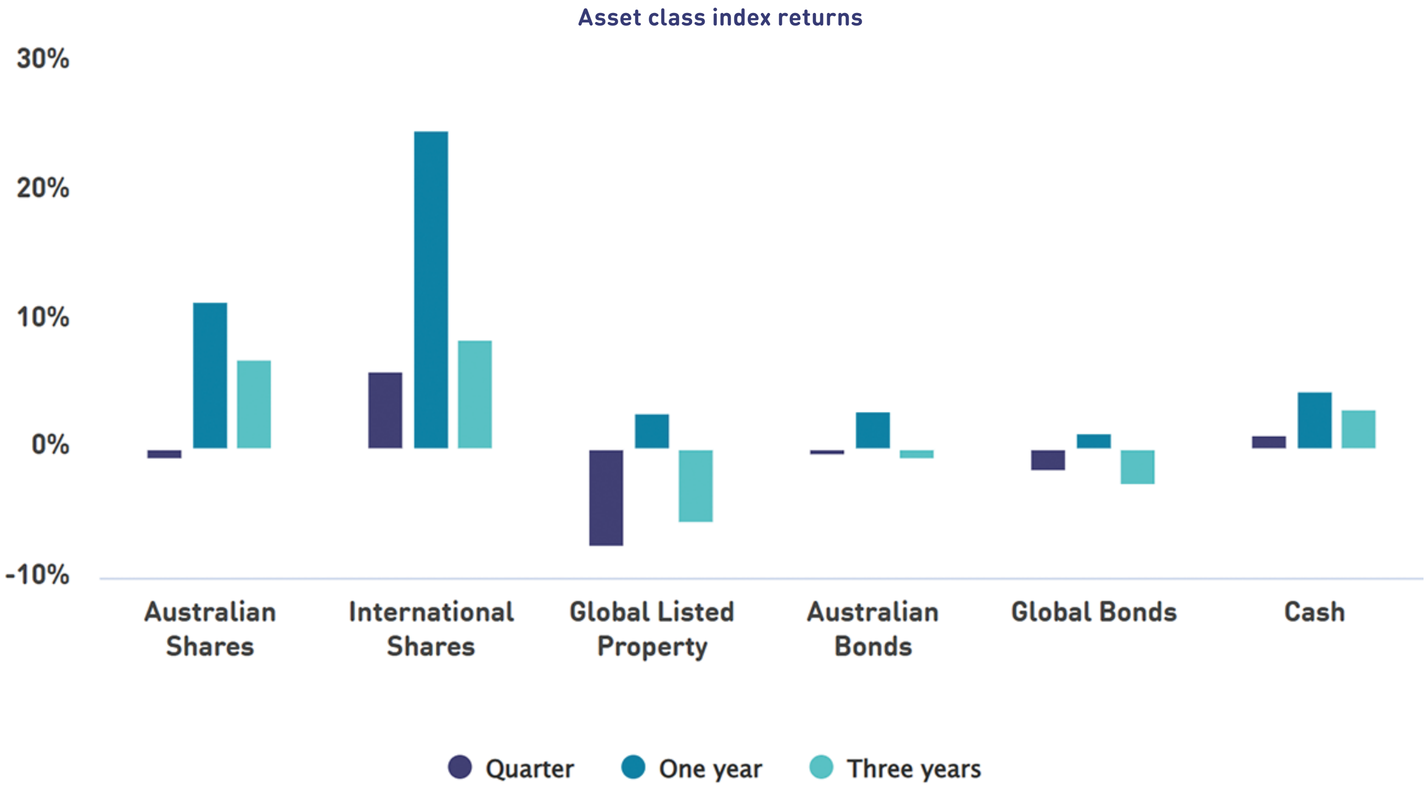
Learn more about market trends and how our investment plans for your GESB Super, West State Super or Retirement Income account performed over the quarter ending 31 March 2025.

Highlights:

- Australian shares declined by -2.9% while international shares fell by -2.0%, impacted by US tariff announcements which disrupted global financial markets and heightened volatility
- Australian Bonds and Global Bonds both returned 1.3% over the quarter
- RI Allocated Pension Conservative returned 0.8%

Investment market returns: short and medium term

International and Australian Shares returns were negative over the quarter but performed well over one and three-year periods. Global Listed Property and Global Bond returns were positive over the quarter and one-year period but negative over three-year periods. Australian Bond and Cash returns were positive over all three-periods shown below.



Note: the indices used to track the performance of the asset classes shown above are listed at the end of this update

Reasons for recent investment market returns

- **US and Australian share markets decline on tariff announcements**

  US tariffs on steel, aluminium and automotives were announced by President Trump in March with uncertainty surrounding additional measures and potential escalations. The tariff announcements also raised concerns around escalating stagflation risks in the US, where early signs of slowing economic growth are emerging.

- **European share markets advance**

  European shares performed strongly, lifted by accommodating fiscal and monetary policies. The European Central Bank cut interest rates again, by 25 basis points to 2.5%, while European Union policymakers pledged to increased defence spending.

- **Falling bond yields**

  Bond markets were positive over the quarter with Australian and Global bonds both rising by 1.3%. Concerns around slowing US economic growth and weaker employment data in Australia resulted in bond yields falling (meaning bond prices rose). The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) kept the cash rate target unchanged at 4.1% at its latest meeting. The RBA's post meeting commentary welcomed the decline in underlying inflation but remained cautious on risks to global economic growth as geopolitical risks remained heightened.

Investment market returns: long term

Over the longer term (10 years), investments such as Shares and Property have produced the highest returns but with greater variability. Cash has delivered lower but more stable returns. This is illustrated in the chart below.

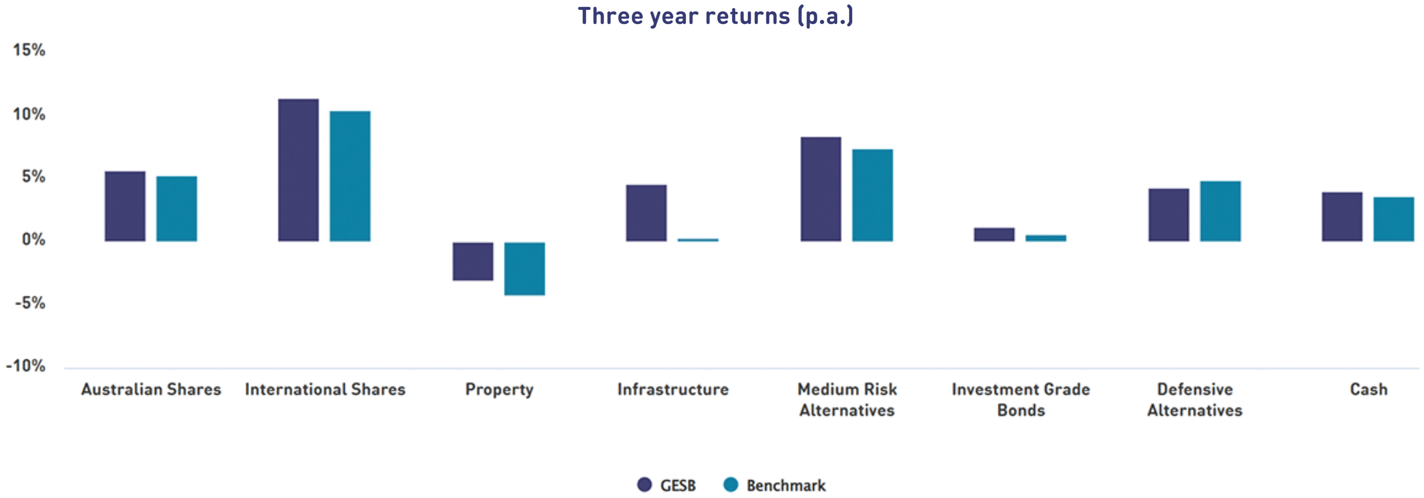
10 year cumulative asset class index returns

Note: the indices used to track the performance of the asset classes shown above are listed at the end of this update.

What does this mean for your super?

Performance of asset classes

The graph below shows the returns we achieved in a range of asset classes compared to the benchmark return over the three years to 31 March 2025.



Note: the indices used to track the performance of the asset classes shown above are listed at the end of this update.

As shown in the above graph, we have performed above the benchmark in most asset classes over the past three years.

Performance of investment plans

Investment returns over both the short and long term for some of our diversified plans are shown in the table below. You can also see the investment return history for all our available plans at gesb.wa.gov.au/investment_returns.

INVESTMENT PLAN RETURNS	March quarter 2025	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
RI Allocated Pension Conservative plan [1]	0.76%	5.57%	4.06%	4.80%	3.85%
My West State Super [3]	0.09%	6.73%	5.54%	8.47%	5.95%
RI Allocated Pension Balanced plan [1]	0.07%	6.30%	5.34%	8.55%	5.87%
Transition to Retirement Pension Balanced plan [2]	0.24%	6.06%	4.95%	7.75%	-
RI Term Allocated Pension Balanced plan [1]	0.02%	6.12%	5.18%	8.39%	5.59%
My GESB Super [1]	-0.08%	6.63%	5.81%	9.01%	6.04%
West State Super Growth plan [3]	-0.55%	7.55%	6.99%	10.67%	6.99%
Other investment plans	See the investment returns for all our available plans				

Returns greater than one year are annualised.

Despite market volatility in recent times, our diversified plans have delivered sound returns.

1 Returns are reported net of fees and taxes.
2 Transition to Retirement Pension was incepted on 15 June 2017, so 10-year returns are not available. Returns are reported net of fees and taxes.
3 Returns are reported net of fees.

More information

- Try our Selecting your investment plan tool at gesb.wa.gov.au/investmenttool
- Find out more about investing with us at gesb.wa.gov.au/investingwithus
- See our super investment options at gesb.wa.gov.au/superinvest or retirement investment options at gesb.wa.gov.au/retireinvest
- Access previous investment updates at gesb.wa.gov.au/investmentupdate

Need help

- Read our investment FAQs at gesb.wa.gov.au/investmentFAQs
- Find a personal financial adviser at gesb.wa.gov.au/advice
- Call us on 13 43 72

Indices: Australian Shares – S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index; International Shares – MSCI All Country World ex – Australia Net Index (partially hedged); Global Listed Property – FTSE EP/NAR DEV NET HDG AUD; Australian Bonds – Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0+ Yr Index; Global Bonds – Bloomberg Barclays Global – Aggregate Total Return Index Value Hedged AUD; Investment Grade Bonds – 50/50 combination of Australian and International Bonds; Cash – Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill (BB) Index; Listed Infrastructure – FT Dev Core Infr 50/50 Hdg; Medium Risk Alternatives – Bloomberg AusBond BB Index + 3.75%pa; Defensive Alternatives – Bloomberg AusBond BB Index + 1.75%pa.

How to contact us

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