



IN-TANDEM INSIGHT

June 2025.

Welcome from the Chairman.

Welcome to the second edition of the In-Tandem newsletter for 2025.

Featured in this edition is an update on market volatility and the key lessons we can all learn, important information on the new default payment policy, and insights from the latest Massey University Retirement Expenditure Guidelines.

Thank you to everyone who recently participated in the member-elected Trustee Director election. I'm pleased to introduce you to the two newly elected candidates in this newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding the Scheme or this newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Helpline team on **0508 IN TANDEM (0508 468 263)**.

Bruce Kerr

Chairman

Scheme snapshot.

- **\$461,171,719** in accumulated retirement savings as at 31 March 2025.
- **4,704** members and **108** pensioners as at 31 March 2025.
- **182** new members joined In-Tandem between 31 December 2024 and 31 March 2025.



Member-elected candidates.

A feature of the Scheme is your ability to have a say in how it is managed. Under the terms of the Trust Deed, the Scheme is managed by a trustee company, with a seven-person board of Trustee Directors. Two are chosen by you, the members, and five are appointed by Westpac.

We are thrilled to welcome Damian Sharkey and Matthew Vidal as the new member-elected Trustees, effective today. We would like to acknowledge and thank all the candidates who put their names forward for nomination.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote; you have played an essential role in shaping the future of the Scheme for all current and future members.

Update on market volatility.

As we move through the second quarter of 2025, many of us are feeling the effects of market volatility and global trade tensions. Recent events, including President Trump's announcement of "Liberation Day" tariffs, and global conflicts, have stirred up uncertainty in financial markets.

Having the right knowledge at your fingertips ensures you can make informed decisions about your retirement. Here's what you need to know about market volatility and the lessons we can all take away.



A recap on market volatility

Market volatility refers to the ups and downs in the value of investment assets over a given period. The value of any asset – be it shares, property, bonds, or commodities like gold – can fluctuate over the short-term. These fluctuations are commonly referred to as 'up markets' and 'down markets.' Markets move in cycles, and history shows that after periods of decline, they tend to recover over time. Learn more about market cycles [here](#).

Lesson 1

It's all about long term thinking. Short-term fluctuations can be unsettling, but they are a normal part of long-term investing. To achieve higher expected long-term returns from the share market, investors must accept a certain level of volatility, especially when compared to the lower returns of traditional savings accounts. Remember, investing for your retirement is a journey, not a sprint.

Lesson 2

Stay informed but avoid overreacting. While it's important to stay updated on market trends and news, it's equally crucial to avoid overreacting to every headline. Markets can be influenced by a variety of factors, and not all news will have a lasting impact. Focus on the bigger picture and your long-term investment strategy rather than getting caught up in daily fluctuations and news reports.

Lesson 3

Seek advice. We caution against making impulsive decisions based on media headlines. If you're concerned about market fluctuations, we recommend talking to a financial adviser before making decisions that may impact the long-term potential of your retirement savings.

As always, we are here to support your retirement goals, contact our Helpline on **0508 468 263**.



Time to review your contact details.

You will receive your combined annual statement and annual report from the Westpac New Zealand Staff Superannuation Scheme for the year ended 30 June 2025 before the end of September.

It is essential to verify that we have your correct email. Please visit westpacnzstaffsuper.co.nz to confirm or update your details.

We also encourage you to review your communication preferences to ensure you get an email notification of when the statement and the report are available online. To make changes to your preferences, simply log in to your account, click on your picture/avatar at the top right, select 'Personal Details', ensure your email address is entered, scroll down to 'Communication Preferences', then select the 'view/update' button.

[Log in now](#)

New payment default policy.

The Westpac New Zealand Staff Superannuation Scheme (the **Scheme**) is introducing a new policy regarding the payment of benefits. Under this policy, a member's verified salary bank account will be used as the default account for benefit payments (in most situations) when no alternative payment instructions are provided.

What you need to know

If you become entitled to a benefit, payment instructions should be provided when completing and submitting the relevant forms. This includes (but is not limited to):

- **Leaving Employment Form** or a **Continuation Beneficiary Application Form** for members resigning from Westpac; and
- **Statement of Claim Form** for members claiming a disablement benefit (available by contacting the Scheme administrator).

If payment instructions aren't provided on these forms, or if you haven't contacted the Scheme's administrator in a timely manner with specific payment instructions, your benefit will be paid to your salary or wages bank account by default, if possible. Timing of payment depends on receiving all required information necessary to calculate and pay the benefit; therefore, if some information is missing, it may delay the payment of the benefit.

For more information about benefits and timing, see the "Withdrawals – Additional Information" section of the "Other Material Information" for the Scheme, available under the *Documents* page at www.westpacnzstaffsuper.co.nz.

If you have any questions, please contact the Scheme's administrator at westpacstaffsuper@mercero.com or call the Scheme Helpline on **0508 468 263**.

Unpacking the latest Massey University Retirement Expenditure Guidelines.

The annual update to Massey University's Retirement Expenditure Guidelines has revealed an increase in the required savings for retirees. The guidelines include findings around the current costs of retirement for retirees.

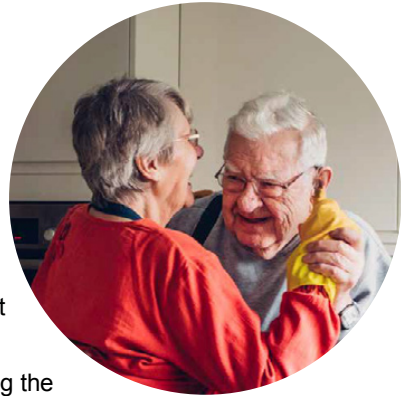
The latest report revealed that retirees are still spending at levels that exceed New Zealand Superannuation during the 12 months to June 2024, with insurance, housing, household utilities, and transport being the primary drivers of rising costs.

This means that retirees need to supplement their superannuation with additional income or savings if they want a comfortable retirement which includes travel and dining out.

The report found that for a comfortable retirement in a city, a couple will need about \$1.14 million, while those in rural areas can manage with around \$446,000. If a couple opts for a simpler lifestyle, they will need \$120,000 in the city and \$252,000 in rural areas, all in addition to their superannuation payments. These figures have changed from previous years primarily due to inflation, changes in spending behaviour, and a change in the data source, which now comes from the 2023 Household Economic Survey (HES).

The good news is that it's never too late to review your retirement saving strategy and assess whether you're on track for a fulfilling retirement. Small changes made early can have a significant impact on your savings.

We recommend seeking financial advice to discuss any decisions related to your retirement savings. Call **0800 942 822** for free financial advice available to In-Tandem members.



[Read the full report here](#)



Spotlight on: First home withdrawal benefit.

If you're looking to purchase your first home and have been an In-Tandem member for three years or more, you may be able to withdraw all or part of your In-Tandem account(s) to put towards purchasing your first home.

As always, we recommend speaking to a Westpac Financial Adviser to understand if this benefit is right for you. Call 0800 942 822 for free financial advice available to In-Tandem members.

For more information on the first home withdrawal benefit, read the FAQs on the website [here](#).

To apply, complete the [application form](#) and submit it to the Scheme administrator. Terms and conditions apply.

Investment commentary.

In the first quarter of 2025, US President Trump's tariff announcements significantly influenced the share market. Concerns about slowing economic growth, fuelled by uncertainty over new tariffs and the cost of AI development, led to a sharp drop in share prices during the latter part of the quarter. The top tech companies, known as the Magnificent 7, saw their shares fall by 15%, reversing their strong performance from 2024 as a new low-cost AI model from Chinese startup DeepSeek challenged US dominance.

Overall, global shares dropped by 2.7%, with New Zealand shares falling even more at 6.4% due to weak company profits and capital raisings. The US share market hit a record high on February 19 but ended the quarter down 4.3% - its worst quarterly performance since September 2022. In contrast, European markets performed well, with the Euro STOXX 600 rising by 5.8%, supported by Germany's infrastructure plan and increased defence spending in the EU. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand cut the OCR by 50 basis points in February to 3.75% as expected and signalled more easing ahead (it has since been lowered to 3.25%).

The uncertainty surrounding tariffs has made it hard for businesses to plan, leading to reduced investments and hiring. Consumers are also feeling anxious, cutting back on spending, while investors remain cautious amid fluctuating market conditions.

[Read the full market summary here](#)

How has your fund performed?

Investment performance as at **31 March 2025** after fees and tax.

	9 months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	10 years (p.a.)
Cash Fund	3.0%	4.1%	3.6%	2.4%	2.1%
Defensive Fund	3.2%	4.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.7%
Moderate Balanced Fund	3.8%	4.5%	3.5%	4.6%	3.9%
Growth Fund	4.2%	5.0%	3.9%	6.1%	4.9%
High Growth Fund	4.6%	5.6%	4.6%	8.4%	6.4%

Returns are based on unit prices (determined by Mercer) for the respective funds.

Source: *BT Funds Management*

Useful links and contacts.



In-Tandem Helpline
0508 468 263



Investment advisers
0800 942 822



Scheme website
westpacnzstaffsuper.co.nz



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We recommend that you read the **Product Disclosure Statement** and take **financial advice** from a financial adviser before making any investment decisions. In addition, past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide to future performance.

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