



STATISTICS

Quarterly superannuation performance statistics highlights

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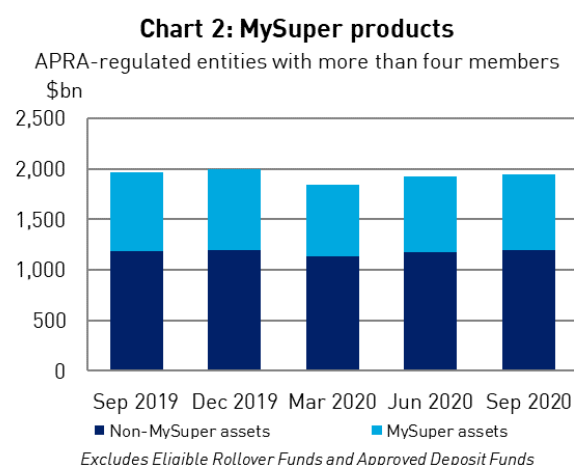
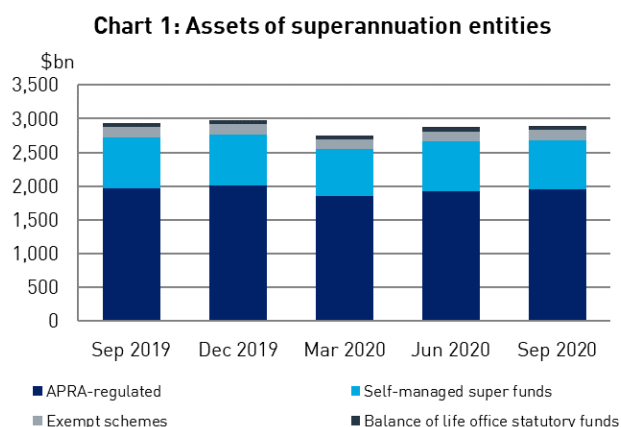
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Highlights

Industry overview

Superannuation assets increased 0.6% during the September 2020 quarter to \$2.9 trillion. Over the 12 months from September 2019 there was a 1.6 per cent decrease in the value of total superannuation assets (Chart 1). Total assets in MySuper products were \$753.6 billion at the end of the September 2020 quarter. Over the 12 months from September 2019 there was a 3.3 per cent decrease in total assets in MySuper products (Chart 2).



Entities with more than four members

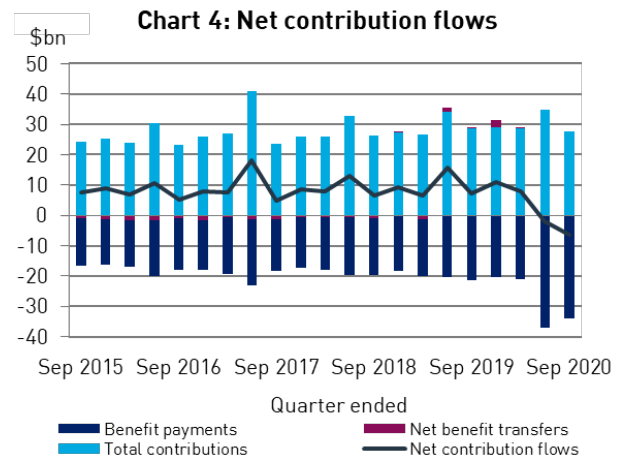
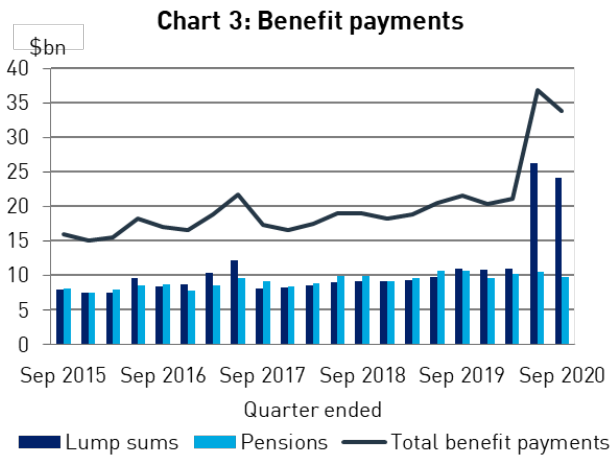
The comments below are based on superannuation entities with more than four members.

Contributions, benefit transfers and benefit payments

Contributions in the September 2020 quarter were \$27.7 billion, which was a decrease from the June 2020 quarter (\$34.9 billion) and 2.8 per cent less than in the September 2019 quarter. Employer contributions have held up reasonably well throughout 2020. Super Guarantee contributions in the September 2020 quarter of \$16.5 billion were lower than trend however exceeded September 2019 quarter contributions by \$0.4 billion. Conversely, personal contributions for the September 2020 quarter of \$4.4 billion were 19.1 per cent lower than for the September 2019 quarter. Total contributions for the year ending 30 September 2020 of \$120.2 billion were 2.9 per cent higher than for the year ending 30 September 2019.

There were \$33.9 billion in total benefit payments in the September 2020 quarter. The high benefit payments in the June 2020 and September 2020 quarters reflect a spike in lump sum payments caused by the Early Release Scheme that commenced on 20 April. Lump sum payments totalled \$24.2 billion in the quarter while pension payments totalled \$9.8 billion (Chart 3).

Quarterly net contribution flows (contributions plus net benefit transfers less benefit payments) to the industry were negative for a second consecutive quarter. Lower contributions coupled with high benefit payments resulted in net contribution flows of negative \$6.4 billion in the September 2020 quarter, compared with the negative net contribution flows of the June 2020 quarter (-\$2.1 billion). Net contribution flows for the year ending September 2020 were \$10.2 billion (Chart 4).



Financial performance, financial position and asset allocation

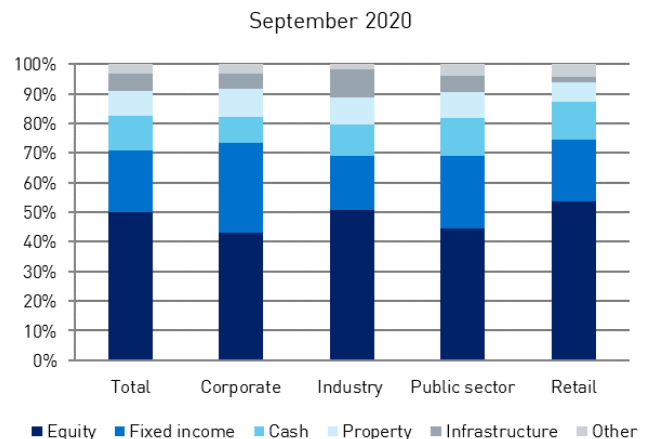
The rate of return (ROR) for entities with more than four members for the September 2020 quarter was 1.9 per cent. The annual ROR to September 2020 was negative 1.1 per cent. The five year average annualised ROR was 6.0 per cent (Chart 5).

Over the September 2020 quarter, total assets increased by 1.2 per cent (or \$24.6 billion) to \$2.1 trillion. As at the end of the September 2020 quarter, 50 per cent of the \$1.9 trillion investments were invested in equities, with 25 per cent in international listed equities, 21 per cent in Australian listed equities and 4 per cent in unlisted equities. Fixed income and cash investments accounted for 33 per cent of investments, with 21 per cent in fixed income and 12 per cent in cash. Cash allocation back towards pre-pandemic levels is partly reflecting underlying member switching activity and the bulk of expected Early Release scheme payments having been completed. Property and infrastructure accounted for 14 per cent of investments whilst other assets, including hedge funds and commodities, accounted for 3 per cent (Chart 6).

Chart 5: Five year average annualised rate of return



Chart 6: Asset allocation





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