



# STATISTICS

## Quarterly superannuation performance statistics highlights

December 2020 (released 2 March 2021)

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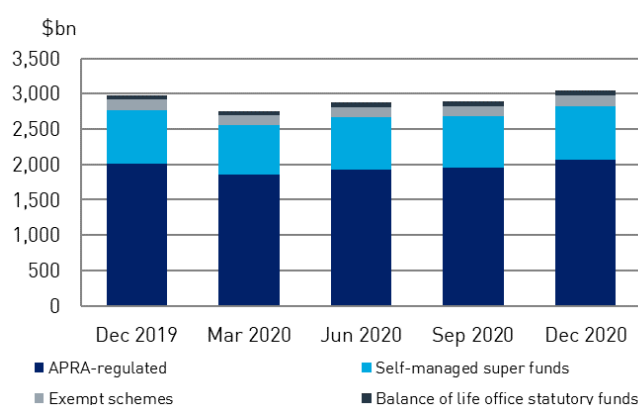
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## Highlights

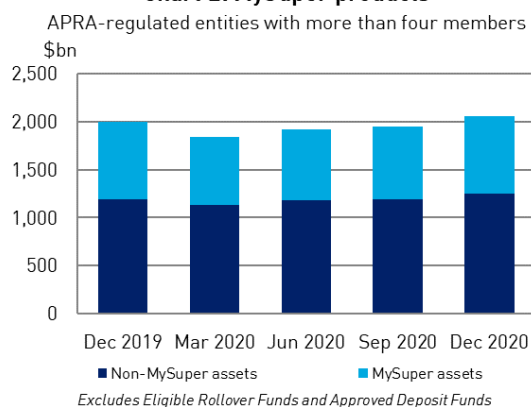
### Industry overview

Superannuation assets increased 5.4 per cent during the December 2020 quarter to \$3.0 trillion. Over the 12 months from December 2019 there was a 2.2 per cent increase in the value of total superannuation assets (Chart 1). Total assets in MySuper products were \$812.2 billion at the end of the December 2020 quarter. Over the 12 months from December 2019 there was a 1.3 per cent increase in total assets in MySuper products (Chart 2).

**Chart 1: Assets of superannuation entities**



**Chart 2: MySuper products**



### Entities with more than four members

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

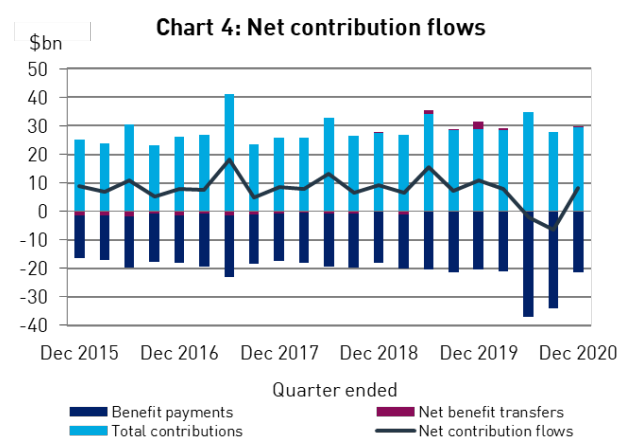
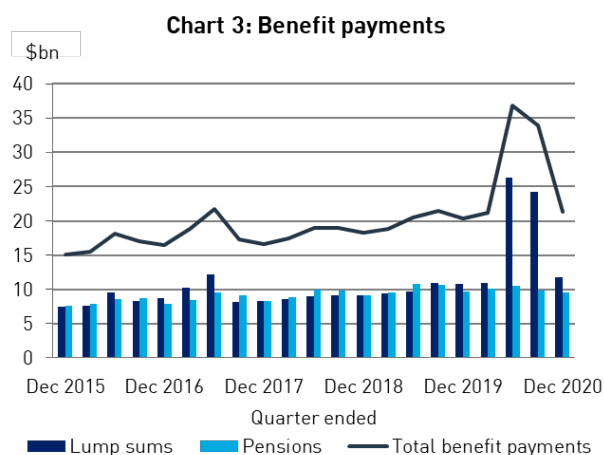
### Contributions, benefit transfers and benefit payments

Contributions in the December 2020 quarter were \$29.5 billion, which was a increase from the September 2020 quarter (\$27.7 billion) and 1.8 per cent more than in the December 2019 quarter. Employer contributions have held up reasonably well throughout 2020, supported by JobKeeper. Super Guarantee contributions in the December 2020 quarter were \$18.5 billion, and exceeded December 2019 quarter contributions by \$1.0 billion. Conversely, personal contributions for the December 2020 quarter of \$4.6 billion were 8.2 per cent lower than for the December 2019 quarter. Total contributions for the year ending 31 December 2020 of \$120.7 billion were 1.9 per cent higher than for the year ending 31 December 2019.

There were \$21.3 billion in total benefit payments in the December 2020 quarter, substantially lower than the previous two quarters which experienced abnormal historically high levels of lump sum payments under the Early Release Scheme (ERS) that commenced on 20 April. This reflects significantly diminished take-up of ERS during the December quarter with lump sum payments closer to underlying levels, totalling \$11.7 billion for the quarter whilst pension payments totalled \$9.6 billion (Chart 3).

Quarterly net contribution flows (contributions plus net benefit transfers less benefit payments) to the industry were \$8.3 billion in the December 2020 quarter, compared with the negative net

contribution flows for the previous two quarters (-\$6.4 billion and -\$2.1 billion respectively). Net contribution flows for the year ending December 2020 were \$7.7 billion (Chart 4).

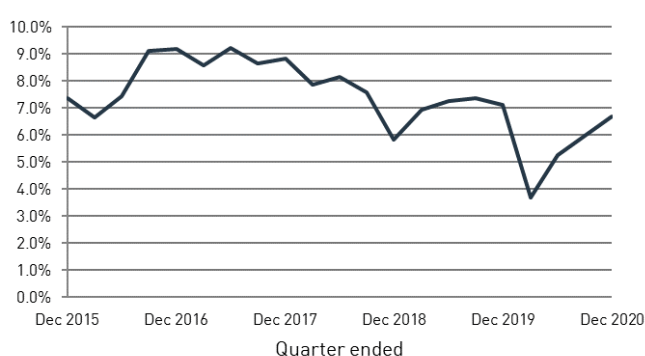


## Financial performance, financial position and asset allocation

The rate of return (ROR) for entities with more than four members for the December 2020 quarter was 6.2 per cent. The annual ROR to December 2020 was 3.1 per cent. The five year average annualised ROR was 6.7 per cent (Chart 5).

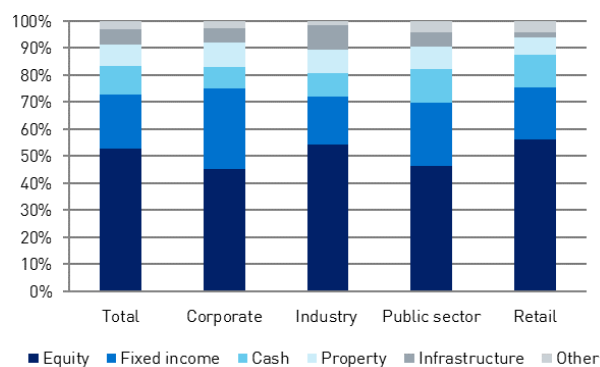
Over the December 2020 quarter, total assets increased by 5.6 per cent (or \$116.8 billion) to \$2.2 trillion. As at the end of the December 2020 quarter, 53 per cent of the \$2.0 trillion investments were invested in equities, with 26 per cent in international listed equities, 23 per cent in Australian listed equities and 4 per cent in unlisted equities. Fixed income and cash investments accounted for 30 per cent of investments, with 20 per cent in fixed income and 11 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**

December 2020





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