



STATISTICS

Quarterly superannuation performance statistics highlights

September 2021 (released 23 November 2021)

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Highlights

Industry overview

Superannuation assets increased 2.8 per cent during the September 2021 quarter to \$3.4 trillion. For the year ending September 2021, there was a 17.5 per cent increase in the value of total superannuation assets (Chart 1). Total assets in MySuper products were \$923.0 billion at the end of the September 2021 quarter, a quarterly increase of 2.4 per cent. For the year ending September 2021, there was a 23.7 per cent increase in total assets in MySuper products (Chart 2).

Chart 1: Assets of superannuation entities

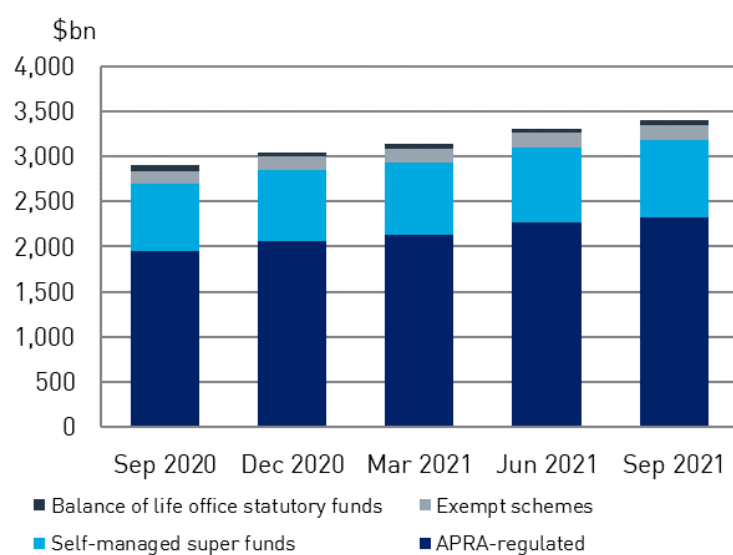
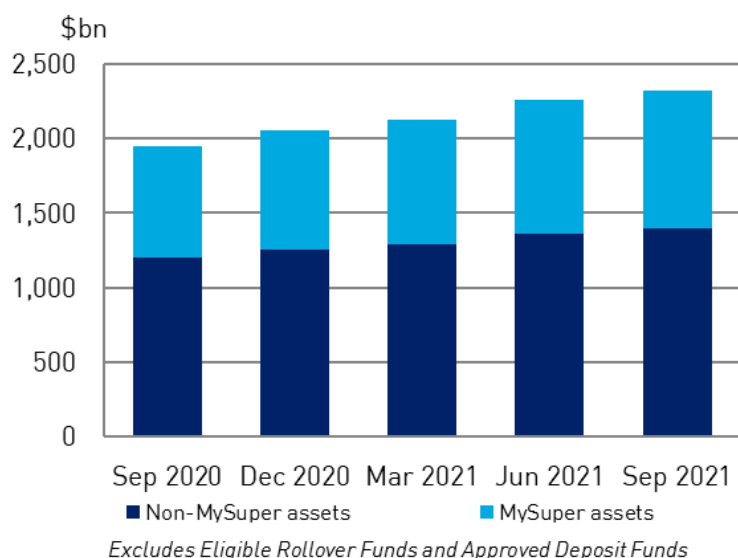


Chart 2: MySuper products

APRA-regulated entities with more than four members



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 totalled \$34.6 billion for quarter and \$134.1 billion for the year ending September 2021. This is a decline of 15.4 per cent compared to the June 2021 quarter, due to lower employer and personal member contributions made over the period. While reduced from June 2021 levels, personal member contributions continue to remain relatively high in September 2021 compared to previous quarters. Along with the increase in the Super Guarantee (SG) rate, this resulted in an increase in total contributions by 11.6 per cent when compared with year to September 2020.

Employer contributions declined by 10.5 per cent over the quarter (\$24.7 billion), but remains at an increase of 3.8 per cent over the year ending September 2021 (\$100.6 billion). This has been driven by a decline across all types of employer contributions over the September 2021 quarter, paring contribution levels back to longer term trends from the high levels observed in June 2021.

Member contributions declined by 25.6 per cent over the quarter (\$9.9 billion), but remains at a significant increase of 43.6 per cent over the year ending September 2021 (\$33.5 billion). The main driver of this has been personal member contributions, which continues to remain relatively high in September 2021, however has reduced from \$12.8 billion in June 2021 to \$9.0 billion this quarter.

Benefit payments declined 3.2 per cent over the quarter (\$20.9 billion) and declined 27.1 per cent over the year ending September 2021 (\$81.8 billion). The decline over the year ending September 2021 reflects the end of Early Release Scheme withdrawals being incorporated in yearly data, with lump sum payments also declining by 41.2 per cent over the year to \$42.5 billion. Both lump-sum and pension payments are back in line with long term trend levels as at the September 2021 quarter (Chart 3).

Quarterly net contribution flows (contributions plus net benefit transfers, less benefit payments) to the industry totalled \$13.7 billion over the September 2021 quarter, a 37.3 per cent decline from the June 2021 quarter (Chart 4). Net contribution flows for year ending September 2021 were \$53.9 billion compared with \$10.2 billion for the year ending September 2020, similarly reflecting the end of Early Release Scheme withdrawals being incorporated in the yearly data (Chart 4).

Chart 3: Benefit payment

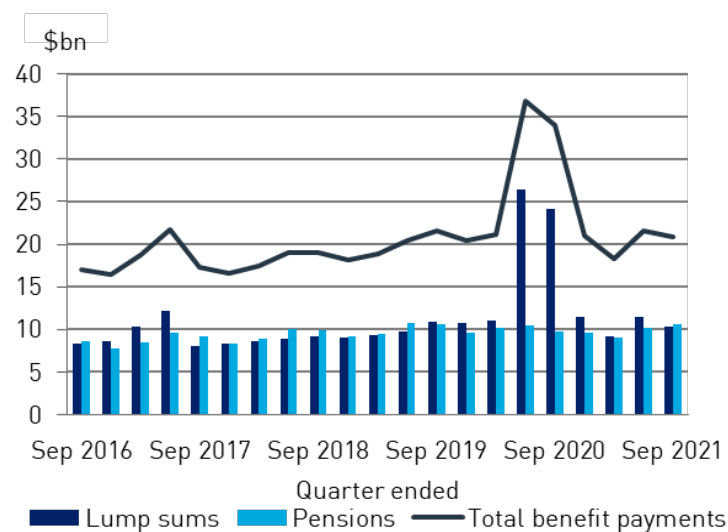
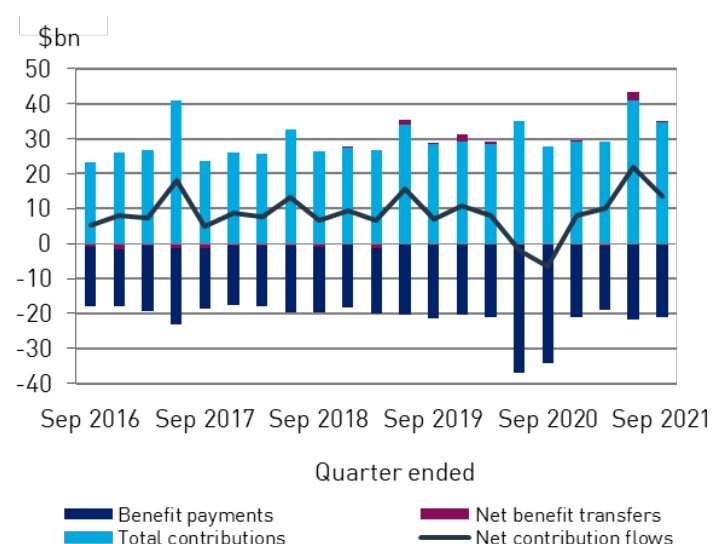


Chart 4: Net contribution flows



Financial performance, financial position and asset allocation

The rate of return (ROR) was 1.7 per cent over the quarter to September 2021. This is lower than returns achieved over the June 2021 quarter (5.1 per cent), reflecting the growing uncertainty in markets with respect to global interest rate expectations and emerging inflation. Overall however, investment performance over the past 12 months remains strong, at an annual ROR of 16.7 per cent, a strong increase compared to the annual ROR for September 2020 (-1.1 per cent). The five year average annualised ROR was 7.8 per cent (Chart 5).

Over the September 2021 quarter, total assets increased by 2.4 per cent (or \$58.2 billion), nearing \$2.5 trillion. With over \$2.2 trillion in investments, 55 per cent were investment in equities (23 per cent in Australian listed equities; 28 per cent in international listed equities; and per cent in unlisted equities). Fixed income and cash investments accounted for 28 per cent of investments (18 per cent in fixed income and 10 per cent in cash). 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

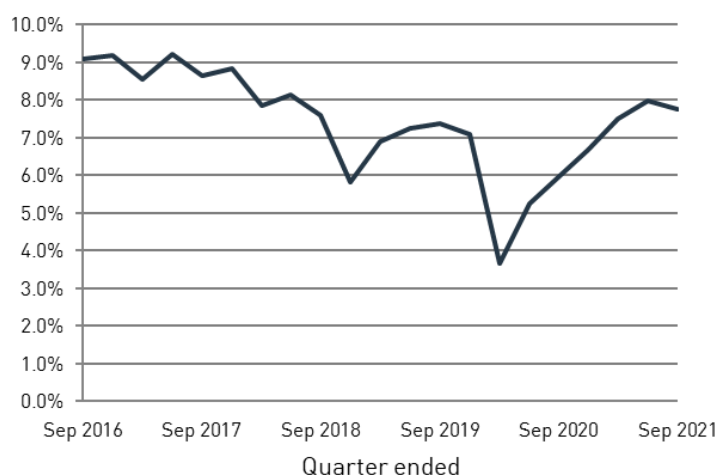
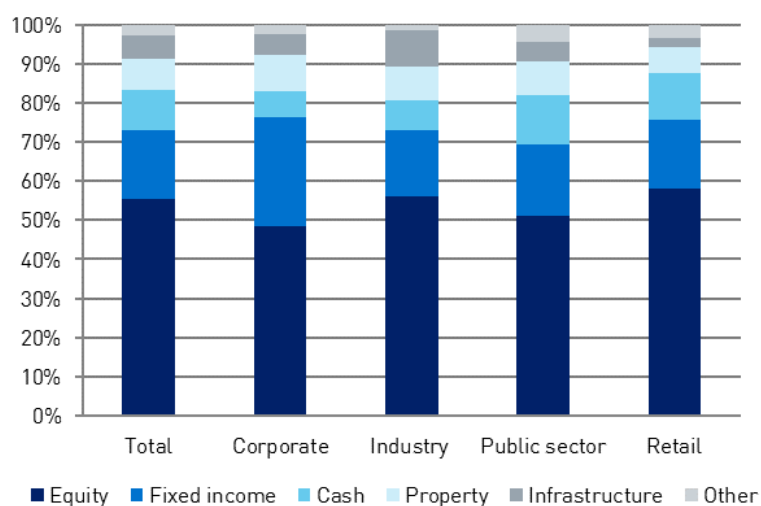


Chart 6: Asset allocation – September 2021





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