



Mercer Funds **Monthly report**

August 2021



welcome to brighter

Financial markets update

Over August, the number of cases associated with the COVID-19 delta variant surged, slowing down the global economic recovery as countries with low vaccination rates were forced to reintroduce lockdowns. For developed markets, indices continue to reach new record highs as earnings remained strong and highly vaccinated countries such as the UK demonstrated that it is possible to live with the virus. As such, the going concern of the virus will likely shift to supply chain constraints and high inflationary pressure rather than closed economies.

Hedged Developed Market Overseas Shares returned 2.7% over the month, driven by another growth rally from the US market. The positive market momentum was driven by the highly anticipated US Federal Reserve speech from Jerome Powell. Investor sentiment lifted as the US Federal Reserve reiterated its view that inflation is transitory and signalled that tapering will occur towards the end of this year. Unhedged Emerging Market Shares rebounded over the month, driven by strong returns from India, Taiwan and Russia. China's performance improved from last month, but continued to lag other emerging market nations as the impact of their regulatory probe widened to affect several other industries. Incidentally, many key players from the Chinese IT sector have signalled to investors that there will likely be further regulatory action, which they plan to abide by.

Australian REITs rebounded over the month, returning 6.4% and outperforming Hedged Global REITs. Results from the latest earning season revealed signs of recovery in FY21 for major REITs, with occupancy rates remaining above 98%. However, domestic lockdowns will likely hinder this recovery progress. Furthermore, as the nature of the workplace changes and flexible working arrangements continue, shifts in demand may occur and challenge the future of office REITs.

Australian Shares marginally underperformed Hedged Overseas Shares as the S&P/ASX 300 ended the month at 2.6%. All other domestic share indices provided similar positive returns with the exception of the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries, who as the standout returned 5.0%. In contrast to the previous month, performance from the IT and Materials sector reversed. Strong performance from Afterpay (39.2%) and Wisetech (57.0%) aided IT performance (16.2%), whilst the broader drawdown for cyclical commodities negatively impacted BHP (-14.2%) and Rio Tinto (-15.6%), causing the Materials sector to lag (-6.9%).

Total returns (%) – after fees¹

Mercer Funds	1 mnth	FYTD	1 year	3 yrs (p.a.)	5 yrs (p.a.)	7 yrs (p.a.)	10 yrs (p.a.)
Shares							
Mercer Australian Shares Fund	2.3	4.1	29.4	9.3	10.7	8.4	9.9
Mercer Australian Shares Fund for Tax Exempt Investors	2.3	3.9	29.1	12.0	12.5	10.2	n/a
Mercer Australian Shares Plus Fund	2.8	4.8	30.8	9.7	11.3	8.8	10.1
Mercer Socially Responsible Australian Shares Fund	2.1	3.6	29.9	10.2	10.7	8.9	10.8
Mercer Australian Small Companies Fund	3.8	5.4	30.6	14.0	13.1	10.3	9.4
Mercer International Shares Fund	2.5	6.3	31.5	13.9	15.0	14.5	15.7
Mercer Hedged International Shares Fund	2.1	3.6	29.7	12.6	13.7	11.4	13.2
Mercer Socially Responsible Global Shares Fund – Unhedged	4.2	8.8	35.2	14.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Socially Responsible Global Shares Fund – Hedged	3.8	6.0	33.1	13.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Global Small Companies Shares Fund	2.0	3.2	43.8	11.0	13.9	13.8	16.3
Mercer Emerging Markets Shares Fund	2.6	-1.2	24.2	9.8	11.1	8.8	9.0
Mercer Passive Emerging Markets Shares Fund	3.1	-1.8	22.1	9.3	10.8	n/a	n/a
Real Assets							
Mercer Australian Direct Property Fund	0.4	4.0	11.0	7.4	9.0	9.6	9.1
Mercer Passive Australian Listed Property Fund	6.2	6.5	30.0	8.5	6.4	10.0	12.5
Mercer Global Listed Property Fund	1.1	5.0	31.4	6.6	5.8	7.0	9.9
Mercer Global Listed Infrastructure Fund	2.0	4.1	16.2	6.9	7.0	8.0	10.9
Mercer Global Unlisted Infrastructure Fund	0.9	1.3	14.0	10.9	10.1	11.7	10.9
Fixed Interest							
Mercer Australian Sovereign Bond Fund - Class 1	0.2	2.1	0.4	4.7	3.1	4.1	4.5
Mercer Global Sovereign Bond Fund - Class 1	-0.2	1.0	-0.2	4.9	3.4	4.7	5.5
Mercer Australian Inflation Plus Fund	-0.1	-0.4	1.7	3.8	3.5	2.7	3.1
Mercer Global Absolute Return Bond Fund	0.0	-0.1	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.4	n/a
Mercer Global Credit Fund	-0.2	1.0	2.2	5.5	3.6	4.4	5.9
Mercer Emerging Market Debt Fund	1.5	2.8	5.8	4.9	2.7	2.9	n/a
Mercer Global High Yield Bond Fund	0.4	0.5	10.7	5.5	5.6	4.8	n/a
Mercer Global Private Debt Fund	0.3	0.5	7.6	5.2	5.8	n/a	n/a
Cash							
Mercer Cash Fund – Cash Units	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.8	1.2	1.5	2.1
Mercer Cash Fund – Term Deposit Units	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.3
Diversified							
Mercer Diversified Shares Fund	2.5	4.5	29.4	10.6	11.9	10.2	11.7
Mercer High Growth Fund	2.2	3.8	24.7	9.9	10.5	9.1	10.3
Mercer Growth Fund – Active Units	2.1	3.5	20.6	9.4	9.5	8.5	9.6
Mercer Moderate Growth Fund – Active Units	1.5	2.8	14.2	6.9	7.0	6.6	7.6
Mercer Conservative Growth Fund – Active Units	1.0	2.1	9.2	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.8
Mercer Growth Fund – Enhanced Passive Units	2.0	3.8	21.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Moderate Growth Fund – Enhanced Passive Units	1.6	3.1	16.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Conservative Growth Fund – Enhanced Passive Units	0.9	2.4	10.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

NOTES

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance

1. Total Returns are based on exit prices and are net of Management Costs (as disclosed in the relevant Fund's Product Disclosure Statement).

Excess returns (%) – before fees¹

Mercer Funds	1 mnth	FYTD	1 year	3 yrs (p.a.)	5 yrs (p.a.)	7 yrs (p.a.)	10 yrs (p.a.)
Shares							
Mercer Australian Shares Fund	-0.2	0.5	1.8	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.6
Mercer Australian Shares Fund for Tax Exempt Investors	-0.4	0.1	0.5	1.5	1.1	1.0	n/a
Mercer Australian Shares Plus Fund	0.2	1.3	3.5	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.0
Mercer Socially Responsible Australian Shares Fund	-0.5	0.0	2.4	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.9
Mercer Australian Small Companies Fund	-1.1	0.2	3.1	5.5	3.5	1.9	3.8
Mercer International Shares Fund	-0.5	-0.8	1.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.1
Mercer Hedged International Shares Fund	-0.5	-0.7	1.6	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.1
Mercer Socially Responsible Global Shares Fund – Unhedged	1.2	1.8	5.3	1.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Socially Responsible Global Shares Fund – Hedged	1.2	1.8	5.2	1.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Global Small Companies Shares Fund	-0.9	-1.2	1.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.4
Mercer Emerging Markets Shares Fund	-0.5	0.7	2.7	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.0
Mercer Passive Emerging Markets Shares Fund	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	n/a	n/a
Real Assets							
Mercer Australian Direct Property Fund	-0.1	3.0	5.7	3.1	4.7	4.0	2.9
Mercer Passive Australian Listed Property Fund	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Mercer Global Listed Property Fund	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.5
Mercer Global Listed Infrastructure Fund	-0.2	0.4	-0.7	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2
Mercer Global Unlisted Infrastructure Fund	0.6	0.2	10.4	7.4	7.5	9.2	7.5
Fixed Interest							
Mercer Australian Sovereign Bond Fund - Class 1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Mercer Global Sovereign Bond Fund - Class 1	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.9
Mercer Australian Inflation Plus Fund	-0.5	-1.0	-1.8	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.6
Mercer Global Absolute Return Bond Fund	0.0	-0.2	1.9	1.5	0.5	0.4	n/a
Mercer Global Credit Fund	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6
Mercer Emerging Market Debt Fund	0.2	-0.1	1.5	0.7	0.2	0.1	n/a
Mercer Global High Yield Bond Fund	0.0	-0.3	3.3	0.4	0.4	-0.3	n/a
Mercer Global Private Debt Fund	0.3	0.4	6.4	2.6	2.7	n/a	n/a
Cash							
Mercer Cash Fund – Cash Units	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mercer Cash Fund – Term Deposit Units	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Diversified							
Mercer Diversified Shares Fund	-0.3	0.1	1.3	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Mercer High Growth Fund	0.0	0.4	2.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7
Mercer Growth Fund – Active Units	0.3	0.4	3.5	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0
Mercer Moderate Growth Fund – Active Units	0.3	0.5	2.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
Mercer Conservative Growth Fund – Active Units	0.3	0.3	2.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6
Mercer Growth Fund – Enhanced Passive Units	0.1	0.3	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Moderate Growth Fund – Enhanced Passive Units	0.2	0.4	1.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mercer Conservative Growth Fund – Enhanced Passive Units	0.1	0.4	0.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

NOTES

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

1. Excess Returns are relative to benchmark and are calculated as the difference between performance (before fees) and the asset-weighted benchmark return. Benchmarks are listed on page 6. Asset weights used are those shown in the relevant Fund's Product Disclosure Statement or Information Memorandum, as relevant.

Mercer SmartPath® Funds

Total Returns (%) - (after fees) ¹	1 month	3 months	FYTD	1 year	3 yrs (p.a.)	5 yrs (p.a.)	7 yrs (p.a.)
Mercer SmartPath 1989—1993	2.4	6.3	3.8	24.8	9.8	10.4	9.0
Mercer SmartPath 1984—1988	2.4	6.3	3.8	24.9	9.9	10.5	9.2
Mercer SmartPath 1979—1983	2.4	6.3	3.8	25.0	9.8	10.5	9.1
Mercer SmartPath 1974—1978	2.4	6.4	3.8	25.0	9.8	10.4	9.1
Mercer SmartPath 1969—1973	2.5	6.4	3.9	24.6	9.7	10.4	9.1
Mercer SmartPath 1964—1968	2.2	6.1	3.7	22.1	9.1	9.7	8.6
Mercer SmartPath 1959—1963	2.0	5.4	3.3	18.9	8.2	8.6	7.7
Mercer SmartPath 1954—1958	1.7	4.6	2.8	15.5	7.4	7.6	6.9
Mercer SmartPath 1949—1953	1.5	4.3	2.7	13.2	6.6	6.6	6.2

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Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Differences between returns for each fund can reflect different underlying investment strategies, or where strategies are the same, the timing of cash flows in the establishment of the Mercer SmartPath Funds.

1. Total Returns are based on exit prices and allow for deduction of investment management fees.

Asset class benchmarks

Shares	
Australian Shares	S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index
Australian Shares Tax Exempt	S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index grossed up for franking credits
Australian Small Companies	S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index
International Shares	Unhedged: MSCI World Index (ex-Australia) in A\$ with net dividends reinvested Hedged: MSCI World Index (ex-Australia) in A\$ (Hedged) with net dividends reinvested
Global Small Companies	MSCI World Small Cap Index in A\$ <i>Prior to September 2014 the benchmark was S&P Developed Small Cap Index. Therefore, calculations for longer period benchmark returns are inclusive of this data.</i>
Socially Responsible Global Shares	Unhedged: MSCI World (NRD) Index in A\$ Hedged: MSCI World (NRD) Index in A\$ (Hedged)
Socially Responsible Australian Shares	S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index
Emerging Markets	MSCI Emerging Markets Index in A\$
Real Assets	
Direct Property	CPI + 4%
Listed Property	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Index in A\$ (Hedged) <i>Prior to October 2012 the benchmark was UBS Investors Index - in A\$ (Hedged). Therefore, the calculations for longer period benchmark returns are inclusive of this data.</i>
Passive Australian Listed Property	S&P/ASX 200 Property Trusts Accumulation Index
Unlisted Infrastructure	CPI + 5% <i>Prior to 1 January 2019 the benchmark was CPI + 3%</i>
Listed Infrastructure	FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index in A\$ (Hedged)
Fixed Interest	
Australian Sovereign Bonds	Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index 0+ (All Maturities)
Global Sovereign Bonds	JP Morgan Global Sovereign Bond Index in A\$ (Hedged) <i>Prior to November 2013 the benchmark was 50% JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index in A\$ Hedged and 50% JP Morgan Customised Index. From December 2013 to January 2017, it was the JP Morgan Global Sovereign Bond Index (Customised) in A\$ Hedged. Therefore, the calculations for longer period benchmark returns are inclusive of this data.</i>
Australian Inflation Plus	CPI +1%
Global Absolute Return Bonds	Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index +1% pa
Global Credit	60% Barclays Global Aggregate - Corporate Index in A\$ (Hedged) 40% Barclays Capital Global Aggregate ex Government ex Treasuries Index in A\$ (Hedged)
Emerging Markets Debt	JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (Unhedged)
Global High Yield Bond	Bank of America Merrill Lynch BB-B Developed Markets High Yield Constrained Index in A\$ (Hedged) <i>Prior to August 2016: Bank of America BB-B Developed Markets High Yield Constrained Index in A\$ (Hedged).</i>
Global Private Debt	Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index +3% pa
Cash	
Cash	Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index

For further information

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