

# Investment report

## Market overview

As at 20 May 2026

Global shares rebounded strongly in April as the conflict in the Middle East moderated and optimism over AI returned to markets.

### **Geopolitical developments and oil market implications**

Risk sentiment benefitted from a series of ceasefires between Iran, Israel and the US in April, and this has continued into May. Tensions remain high however and the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed, with Brent crude oil pushing back above US\$100 per barrel, posing continued risks inflation and growth.

### **Equity markets supported by AI-driven momentum**

Nonetheless, share markets looked through persistent geopolitical instability with widespread gains in April, dominated by markets and sectors closely linked to the global AI investment cycle. The US S&P 500 and NASDAQ indices hit all-time highs, and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index was a standout, driven by extraordinary gains in Taiwan and South Korea due to their high exposure to the semiconductor industry.

### **Earnings resilience reinforces the growth outlook**

A strong start to the US Q1 earnings season provided another boost for shares and also underscored the resilience of US growth and the large scale of planned tech-related capex which is likely to support momentum in the US economy going forward, despite the potential short-term headwinds from the oil shock.

### **Fixed income markets adjust to shifting rate expectations**

Bond markets remained volatile in April, and 10-year government bond yields ended the month higher, reflecting upside risks to inflation and interest rates from elevated oil prices (bond prices move inversely to bond yields). Central banks have maintained a cautious approach, with the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, Bank of England and Bank of Japan all leaving rates unchanged in April. However, central banks are likely to turn increasingly hawkish if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed and oil prices remain elevated over the coming months.

### **RBA policy tightening maintains market pressure**

The Reserve Bank of Australia has continued on its tightening cycle, raising rates by another 0.25 percentage points in early May, following rate hikes in February and March. The cash rate now stands at 4.35%, and markets continue to price in the prospect of at least one further rate hike this year, which is likely if the labour market remains strong and oil prices stay high.

### **Key factors shaping the market outlook**

Overall, markets appear to reflect that economic growth and corporate earnings will remain resilient in the face of geopolitical headwinds. However, risks from geopolitical instability and the oil supply shock remain high, and elevated inflation remains a challenge that may not be quickly or easily resolved.

## Investment performance

### Accumulation investment options as at 30 April 2026

	High Growth	Growth Plus	Growth (MySuper) - Default	Conservative Growth	Conservative	Cash	Australian Shares	Diversified Fixed Interest	Overseas Shares	Indexed Diversified	Property
<b>1 month</b>	3.13	2.89	2.62	1.89	1.03	0.32	2.12	0.66	3.82	3.09	3.51
<b>FYTD</b>	5.71	5.48	5.26	4.24	3.03	2.95	2.33	2.47	3.79	5.71	8.86
<b>1 year</b>	11.57	10.86	9.91	7.69	5.22	3.65	8.38	3.57	11.36	11.26	10.30
<b>3 years p.a.</b>	9.97	9.05	8.23	6.62	4.98	3.94	8.29	3.95	13.49	9.97	3.97
<b>5 years p.a.</b>	7.59	-	6.38	4.79	3.42	2.84	-	-	-	-	-
<b>7 years p.a.</b>	8.69	-	7.10	5.40	3.79	2.18	-	-	-	-	-
<b>10 years p.a.</b>	9.55	-	7.87	-	4.33	2.00	-	-	-	-	-

*The crediting rate is based on investment returns minus investment fees and costs, transaction costs and investment-related taxes. Excludes fees and costs that are deducted directly from members' accounts. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Media Super merged with Cbus on 9 April 2022 and as a result, pre-existing Media Super investment options were closed and Media Super members were transferred to equivalent Media Super branded investment options under United Super Pty Ltd. The historical performance displayed prior to this date relates to Cbus investment options and does not incorporate the performance of Media Super. Media Super members received a Successor Fund Transfer Exit Statement prior to merging with Cbus, detailing the performance of their Media Super investment options.*