

Investment report

Market overview

As at 31 August 2026

Global share markets rebounded in August as strong earnings and resilient economic growth lifted sentiment, but persistent inflation pressures, particularly in Australia, and elevated oil prices increased the prospect of further interest rate rises.

Markets bounce back

Global shares rebounded in August on further positivity around corporate earnings and continued evidence of resilience in the global economy. Emerging market shares outperformed in the month, though gains across developed markets were also strong and broadly based.

Sentiment around AI-related investments stabilised, with South Korea's KOSPI Composite Index rising 3.4% in August after a selloff in memory chip manufacturers drove a 22% decline in the index the prior month. A strong quarterly earnings report from Nvidia also contributed to healthy gains in the tech-oriented NASDAQ and the S&P 500 in August.

Oil and growth keep rate risks alive

Share markets were largely immune to ongoing geopolitical tensions during the month, including mounting constraints on the flow of energy commodities out of the Middle East. Crude oil prices have remained high, fuelling renewed concerns over the inflation outlook and weighing on government bond prices in some markets given the possibility for higher central bank policy rates (bond prices move inversely to interest rates).

Yet the main upside risk to inflation and interest rates over the medium term remains the resilient growth backdrop. While a positive for corporate earnings, strong economic growth makes it harder for central banks to bring inflation rates sustainably back to target. In a speech in late August, new US Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Kevin Warsh noted the underlying strength in the US economy and expressed his concern over persistently above-target inflation. Financial markets quickly priced in a higher probability of near-term Fed rate hikes following his remarks.

Australia's inflation challenge persists

Inflation remains a concern in Australia, with CPI data showing that trimmed mean inflation – the RBA's preferred measure of underlying inflation – had failed to slow in July, and at 3.5% remains comfortably above the RBA's 2-3% target range.

There are signs that the RBA's earlier rate rises are weighing on parts of the economy, most notably the housing market. However, overall momentum in the economy does not appear to be slowing fast enough to bring underlying inflation back to target in a timely fashion, and risks to inflation remain tilted to the upside. Monetary policy will need to be more restrictive to bring underlying inflation down more quickly in Australia, and the RBA is expected to raise rates further in the coming months.

Investment performance

Accumulation investment options as at 31 August 2026

	High Growth	Growth Plus	Growth (MySuper) - Default	Conservative Growth	Conservative	Cash	Australian Shares	Diversified Fixed Interest	Overseas Shares	Indexed Diversified	Property
1 month	1.28	1.14	1.04	0.72	0.45	0.35	2.27	0.22	0.59	1.00	-1.29
FYTD	1.72	1.59	1.47	1.13	0.76	0.69	4.06	0.20	0.41	1.25	-0.21
1 year	8.59	8.54	8.32	6.38	4.64	3.77	4.59	2.85	8.02	7.17	10.37
3 years p.a.	10.93	10.14	9.35	7.50	5.63	3.99	10.07	4.50	13.83	10.64	5.11
5 years p.a.	7.33	-	6.28	4.73	3.30	3.11	-	-	-	-	-
7 years p.a.	9.19	-	7.46	5.51	3.68	2.32	-	-	-	-	-
10 years p.a.	9.60	-	7.98	-	4.32	2.09	-	-	-	-	-

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.