Monthly Update as at 30 September 2024

### **PORTFOLIO MANAGER(S)**



MIKE TAYLOR
Founder and Chief
Investment Officer

### **FUND COMMENTARY**

The Pie KiwiSaver Balanced Fund returned 1.4% during the month, bringing it to a 12-month return of 21.9%.

September was marked by ongoing volatility, driven by escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and a significant stimulus program in China. Despite these challenges, markets closed the month at or near record highs. With inflation moderating as expected, interest rates are being cut in both the US and Europe. We anticipate further reductions as consumer spending slows and industrial orders stagnate, particularly in the automotive sector. Lower rates generally benefit equity markets, especially smaller companies.

Equities posted gains across the board, with rate-sensitive sectors like real estate and utilities performing particularly well. These sectors served as safe havens and benefited from the lower interest rate environment.

In Australasia, performance was buoyed by the resource sector, which saw substantial gains following the announcement of China's new stimulus package.

Globally, some of our German holdings rebounded, driven partly by the Chinese stimulus announcement, though the German economy continues struggling with weakness in the auto sector.

In fixed income, bonds had another strong month. The European Central Bank (ECB) cut interest rates by 0.25% for the second time, and in the US, the Federal Reserve (Fed) began its easing cycle with a significant 0.5% rate cut. With inflation nearing its 2% target, the Fed has shifted its focus to reducing rates to safeguard the economy. Fixed-income markets are now pricing in a substantial rate-cutting cycle, but bonds continue to offer attractive yields and diversification for equity portfolios.

We remain cautiously optimistic that the tailwinds that have driven strong returns for Balanced Fund investors this year will persist through the rest of 2024.



**TRAVIS MURDOCH**Head of Fixed Income and Portfolio Manager

## **CUMULATIVE FUND PERFORMANCE**

If you had invested \$10,000 at inception, the graph below shows what it would be worth today, before tax.

\$20,000

\$15,000
Inception
August 18
\$10,000

Jan 2022

Jan 2023

Jan 2024

Balanced Fund

Jan 2019

## **FUND DETAILS**

Jan 2020

Jan 2021

Recommended minimum investment period 5 years

Objective

Seeks to provide members with steady capital growth over a period exceeding 5 years.

Description

Invests in equities, with a reasonable allocation towards fixed interest, directly and/or through investment in the Pie KiwiSaver Growth Fund and/or through other funds also managed by Pie Funds.

Inception date

August 2018

Potentially Lower Returns

Lower Risk

Risk indicator

Higher Returns

4 5 6 7

Higher Risk

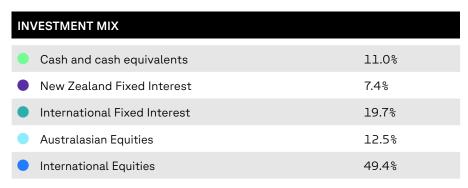


Monthly Update as at 30 September 2024

PERFORMANCE					
	1 month	l yr	3 yrs (p.a.)	5 yrs (p.a.)	Annualised since inception
Balanced Fund	1.4%	21.9%	2.1%	6.5%	6.5%
MARKET INDEX <sup>1</sup>	1.7%	19.4%	7.4%	7.6%	7.6%

We report fund performance before fees and before individual PIR tax applied.

<sup>1.</sup> The market index is a composite index (10% NZBond Bank Bill Index (NZD), 10% Bloomberg NZBond Credit 0+ Yr Index (NZD), 20% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Total Return Index (100% hedged to NZD), 10% S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Total Return Index (75% hedged to NZD), 50% S&P Global Broad Market (BMI) Total Return Index (75% hedged to NZD)).



Asset allocation is rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the aggregate may not equal 100%.

# TOP FIVE HOLDINGS (EXCLUDING CASH)

Amazon.Com Inc

Microsoft Corporation

Morrison & Co High Conviction Infrastructure Fund

Prologis Inc

Transpower NZ Ltd 4.977% 29/11/2028

Holdings are listed in alphabetical order and exclude cash.

**UNIT PRICE** 

\$1.46

ANNUALISED RETURN SINCE INCEPTION

6.5% p.a.

before fees and before tax



Information correct as at 30 September 2024. Pie Funds Management Limited is the manager and issuer of the Pie KiwiSaver Scheme. View our Product Disclosure Statement at www.piefunds.co.nz. Any advice is given by Pie Funds Management Limited, and is general only. It relates only to the specific financial products mentioned and does not account for personal circumstances or financial goals. Please see a financial adviser for tailored advice. You may have to pay product or other fees if you act on any advice. As manager of the Scheme we receive monthly fees that are determined by your balance and whether you are 13 years or over. We will benefit financially if you invest in our products. We manage any conflicts of interest via an internal compliance framework designed to ensure we meet our duties to you. For information about the advice we can provide, our duties and complaint process and how disputes can be resolved, visit www.piefunds.co.nz. All content is correct at time of publication date, unless otherwise indicated. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. Returns can be negative as well as positive and returns over different periods may vary. Please let us know if you would like a hard copy of this disclosure information. This information is given in good faith and has been derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate. However, neither Pie Funds nor any of its employees or directors give any warranty of reliability or accuracy.