

# Investment essentials

The latest returns for the major asset classes,  
charts and tables illustrating the fundamentals  
of long-term wealth creation.



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# About this pack

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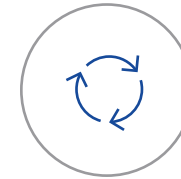
This library of charts and tables is designed to:

- Help you explain key investment principles to clients;
- Keep clients up to date with the latest market information and performance.



The information is intended to be used as a client meeting aid.

This pack is not to be distributed for standalone client use.



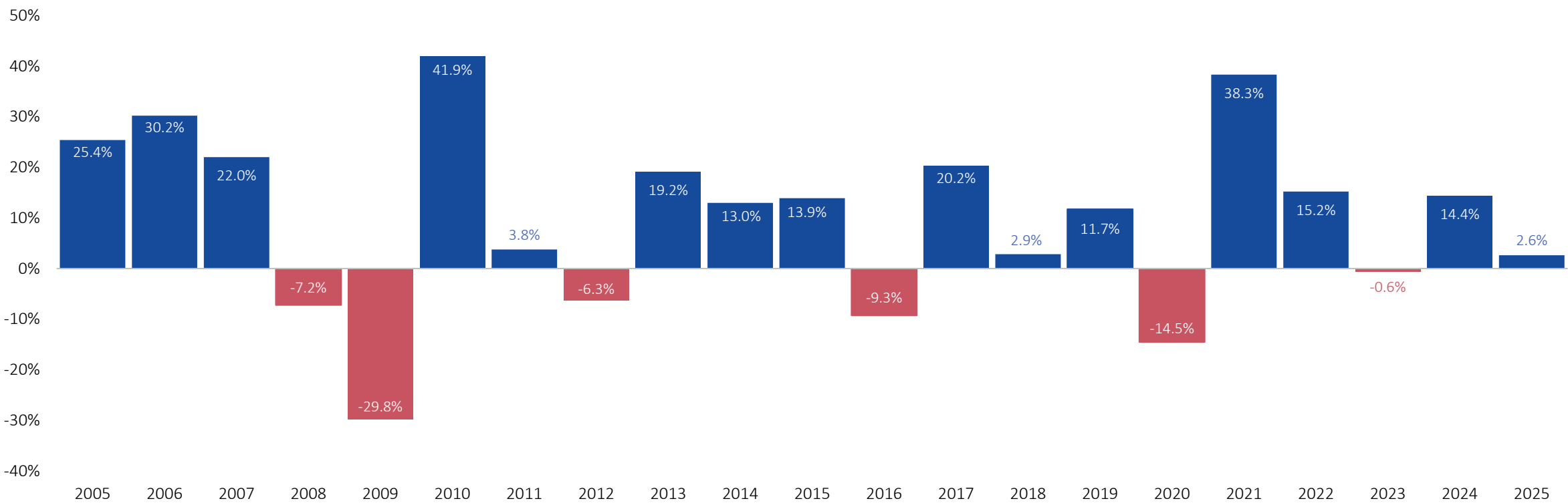
Performance is updated where applicable.

# Investment market performance



# Australian shares

Annualised return: 7.65%\*

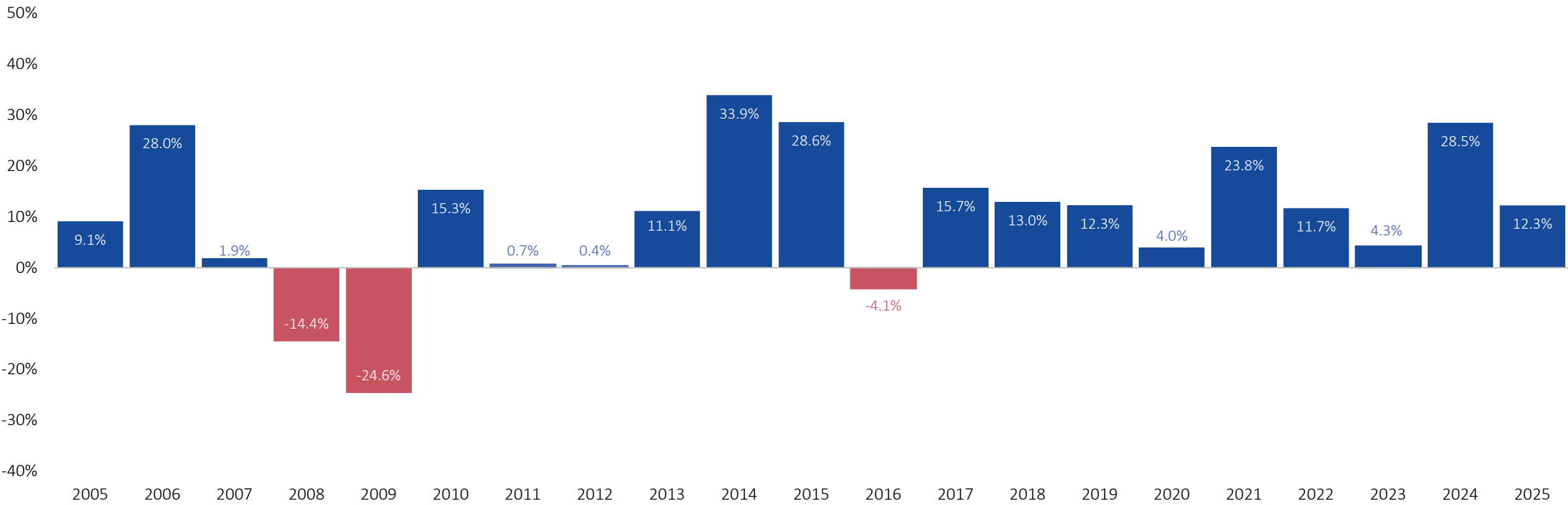


Source: RIMES, Colonial First State.  
\*Data from 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2025 . Percentage return over rolling one year. S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation index. The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund’s return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Past performance is no indication of future performance.  
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# Global shares



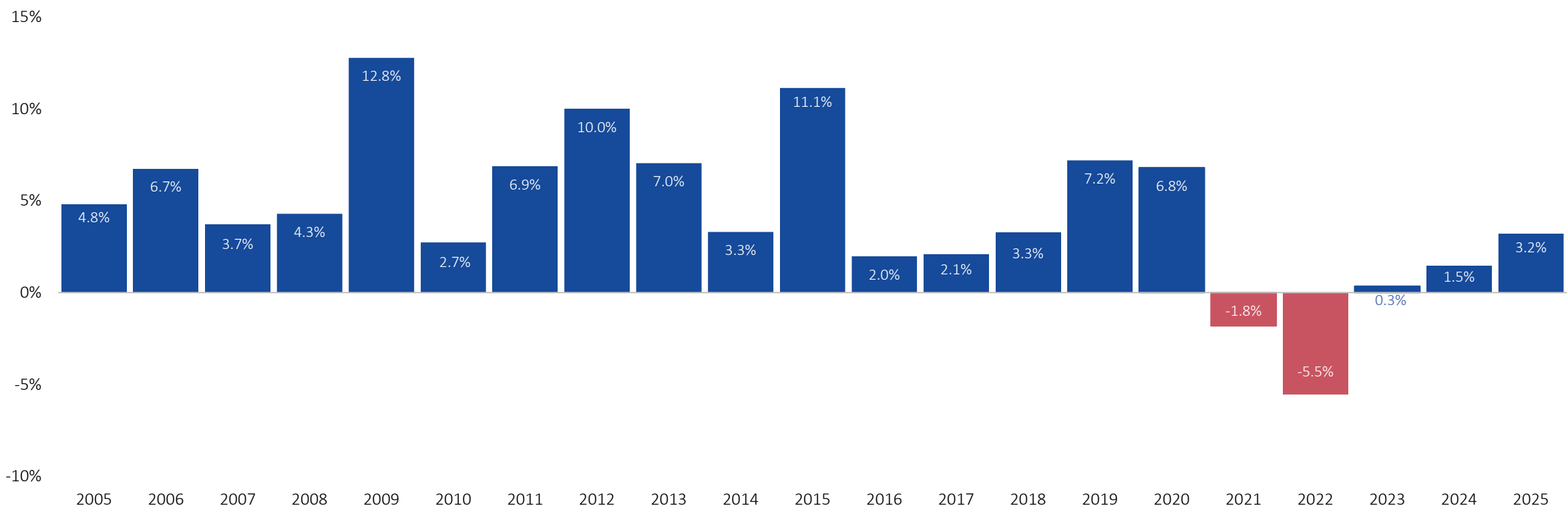
Annualised return: 9.12%\*



Source: RIMES, Colonial First State.  
\*Data from 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2025. Percentage return over rolling one year. MSCI World Net index (\$A). The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Past performance is no indication of future performance.  
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# Australian fixed interest

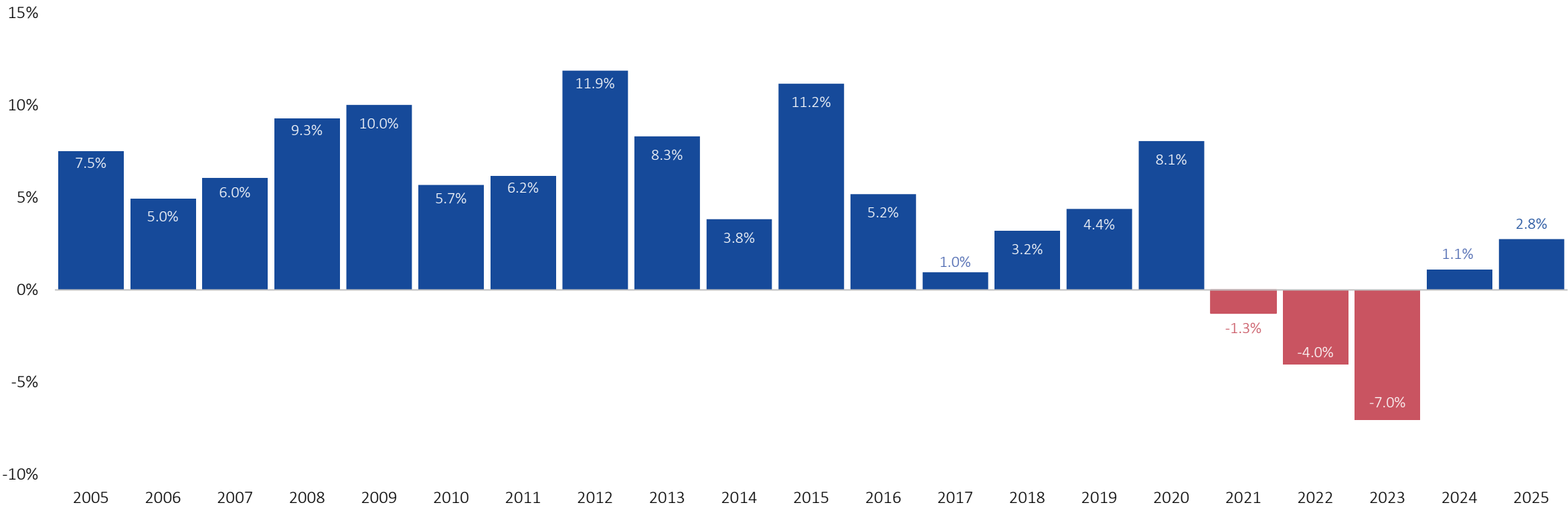
Annualised return: 4.29%\*



Source: RIMES, Colonial First State.  
\* Data from 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2025. Percentage return over rolling one year. Bloomberg AusBond Australia Composite Bond index 0+ Yrs. The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Past performance is no indication of future performance.  
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# Global fixed interest

Annualised return: 4.42%\*



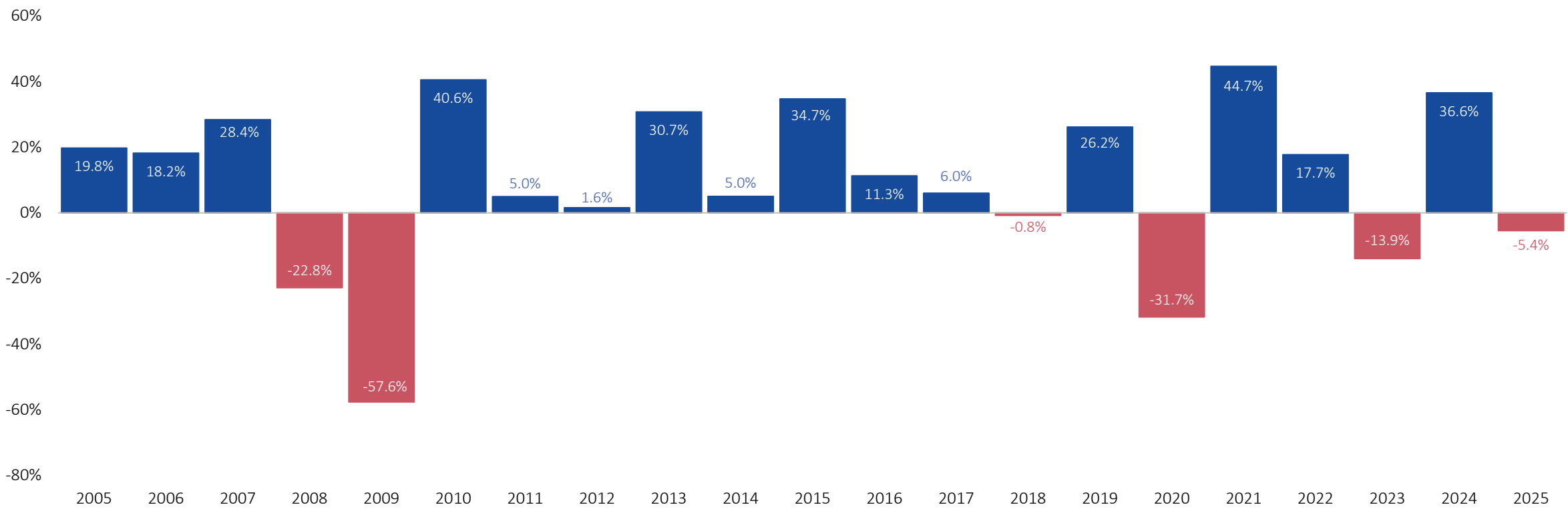
Source: RIMES Colonial First State.  
\* Data from 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2025. Percentage return over rolling one year. FTSE World Government Bond index (ex-Australia, \$A hedged). The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Past performance is no indication of future performance.  
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# Australian property securities



Annualised return: 4.94%\*



Source: RIMES Colonial First State.  
\* Data 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2025. Percentage return over rolling one year. S&P/ASX 200 Property Accumulation index. The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Past performance is no indication of future performance.  
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# Major global indices

Asset class	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	20 years
Australian shares	-3.64%	2.64%	5.30%	13.23%	7.15%	7.65%
Global shares	9.16%	12.25%	14.57%	15.76%	11.78%	9.12%
Australian property securities	-12.45%	-5.42%	3.59%	13.62%	6.68%	4.94%
Australian fixed interest	1.03%	3.20%	1.67%	-0.51%	1.84%	4.29%
International fixed interest	-0.52%	2.75%	-1.15%	-1.76%	1.24%	4.42%
Cash	2.20%	4.46%	3.56%	2.15%	1.99%	3.38%
Global property	2.68%	9.91%	2.92%	6.86%	5.08%	N/A
Global resources	4.88%	0.03%	4.51%	15.01%	7.80%	N/A
Global emerging markets	5.41%	13.36%	8.03%	7.60%	5.86%	7.23%
Global listed infrastructure	2.53%	15.25%	2.84%	8.77%	6.34%	N/A



Actual index  
returns across  
asset classes as at  
31 March 2025

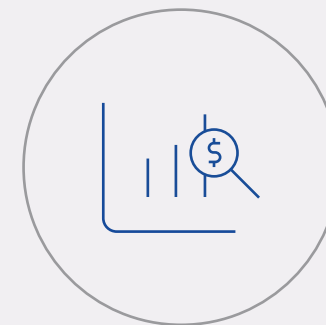
Actual index returns as at Data from 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2025. Source: S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index, (ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index pre April 2000), MSCI World Net Index (\$A), S&P/ASX 200 Property Accumulation Index (ASX Property Trusts Accumulation Index pre April 2000), Bloomberg AusBond Australian Composite Bond Index 0+ Years, FTSE World Government Bond Index ex Australia AUD Hedged, Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index, FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Global Developed Index, HSBC Global Mining Accumulation Index, MSCI Emerging Markets Net Index, FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index -AUD hedged (UBS Global 50-50 Infrastructure & Utilities Net TR Index -AUD hedged pre May 2015). Past performance is no indication of future performance.

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# Best and worst performing companies

Best performing stocks	%
Sigma Healthcare Ltd	123.02
Telix Pharmaceuticals Ltd	105.74
Evolution Mining Ltd	103.22
Pro Medicus Limited	93.03
Qantas Airways Ltd	70.88
Technology One Ltd	65.47
Hub24 Limited	61.94
Computershare Ltd	53.74
Life360 Inc	51.34
Aristocrat Leisure Ltd	51.30
<b>Average</b>	<b>77.97</b>

Worst performing stocks	
Mineral Resources	-66.18
Paladin Energy Ltd	-62.70
Pilbara Minerals Limited	-56.01
Viva Energy Group Ltd	-51.66
Idp Education Ltd	-46.69
Reece Limited	-43.60
Igo Ltd	-41.15
Ampol Ltd	-39.80
Ramsay Health Care Ltd	-38.28
James Hardie Industries Plc	-37.54
<b>Average</b>	<b>-48.36</b>



S&P/ASX 100  
for the year ended  
31 March 2025

Top 100 companies by market capitalisation percentage returns for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Source: Bloomberg Colonial First State. Past performance is no indication of future performance. Stocks mentioned are for illustrative purposes only and are not recommendations to you to buy, sell or hold these stocks.

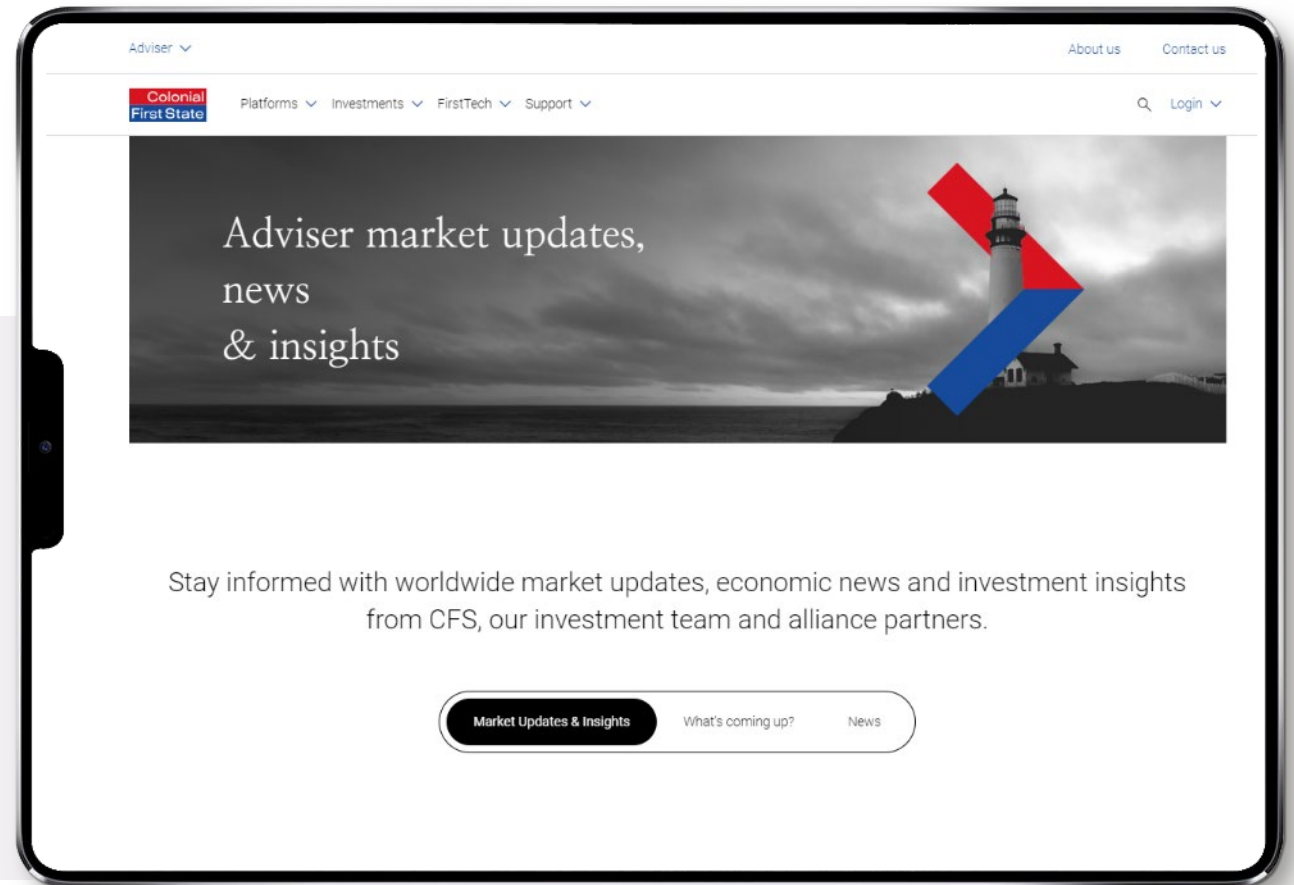
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# Key investment principles

Charts and tables to demonstrate the benefits of diversification, importance of holding a long-term view, and investment principles.



# Diversification can create more consistent returns

Year	Australian shares*	Global shares*	Australian property securities*	Australian fixed interest*	Cash*	Diversified#
Annualised last 20 years	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
Mar-2006	30.2%	28.0%	18.2%	6.7%	5.8%	21.2%
Mar-2007	22.0%	1.9%	28.4%	3.7%	6.2%	12.0%
Mar-2008	-7.2%	-14.4%	-22.8%	4.3%	7.0%	-7.0%
Mar-2009	-29.8%	-24.6%	-57.6%	12.8%	6.7%	-20.9%
Mar-2010	41.9%	15.3%	40.6%	2.7%	3.5%	22.7%
Mar-2011	3.8%	0.7%	5.0%	6.9%	4.9%	4.2%
Mar-2012	-6.3%	0.4%	1.6%	10.0%	4.9%	0.9%
Mar-2013	19.2%	11.1%	30.7%	7.0%	3.6%	14.5%
Mar-2014	13.0%	33.9%	5.0%	3.3%	2.8%	14.3%
Mar-2015	13.9%	28.6%	34.7%	11.1%	2.7%	18.4%
Mar-2016	-9.3%	-4.1%	11.3%	2.0%	2.2%	-2.5%
Mar-2017	20.2%	15.7%	6.0%	2.1%	1.9%	12.2%
Mar-2018	2.9%	13.0%	-0.8%	3.3%	1.7%	5.1%
Mar-2019	11.7%	12.3%	26.2%	7.2%	2.0%	11.8%
Mar-2020	-14.5%	4.0%	-31.7%	6.8%	1.2%	-5.4%
Mar-2021	38.3%	23.8%	44.7%	-1.8%	0.1%	22.5%
Mar-2022	15.2%	11.7%	17.7%	-5.5%	0.0%	8.6%
Mar-2023	-0.6%	4.3%	-13.9%	0.3%	2.0%	-0.1%
Mar-2024	14.4%	28.5%	36.6%	1.5%	4.2%	16.1%
Mar-2025	2.6%	12.3%	-5.4%	3.2%	4.5%	4.6%

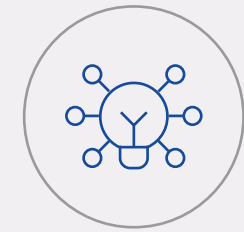
\*Actual indices returns (Annualised returns are calculated on a rolling monthly basis from 31 March 2006 to 31 March 2025).

This table is based on the standard indices used by investment professionals to measure performance of asset classes. Percentage return over rolling 1 year.

Source: RIMES Colonial First State Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index, Bloomberg Australian Composite Bond Index 0+ Years, S&P/ASX 200 - A-REIT Accumulation Index, S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index, MSCI World Net Index (A\$). All dividends reinvested excluding fees and charges.

#Non actual returns. The Diversified Portfolio is a portfolio constructed from the returns of these market indices with the asset allocation of: 35% in Australian shares, 25% in international shares, 25% in fixed interest, 10% in Australian property securities, 5% in cash. The Diversified Portfolio does not represent any Colonial First State portfolio nor the actual returns that this portfolio achieved because it does not exist. The constructed Diversified Portfolio illustrates how such a portfolio has performed based on the new market indices. Each Colonial First State portfolio has a different asset allocation from the illustrated diversified portfolio used above. **Past performance is no indication of future performance.** The above actual index returns and non actual returns for the Diversified portfolio also cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Stocks mentioned are for illustrative purposes only and are not recommendations to you to buy, sell or hold these stocks

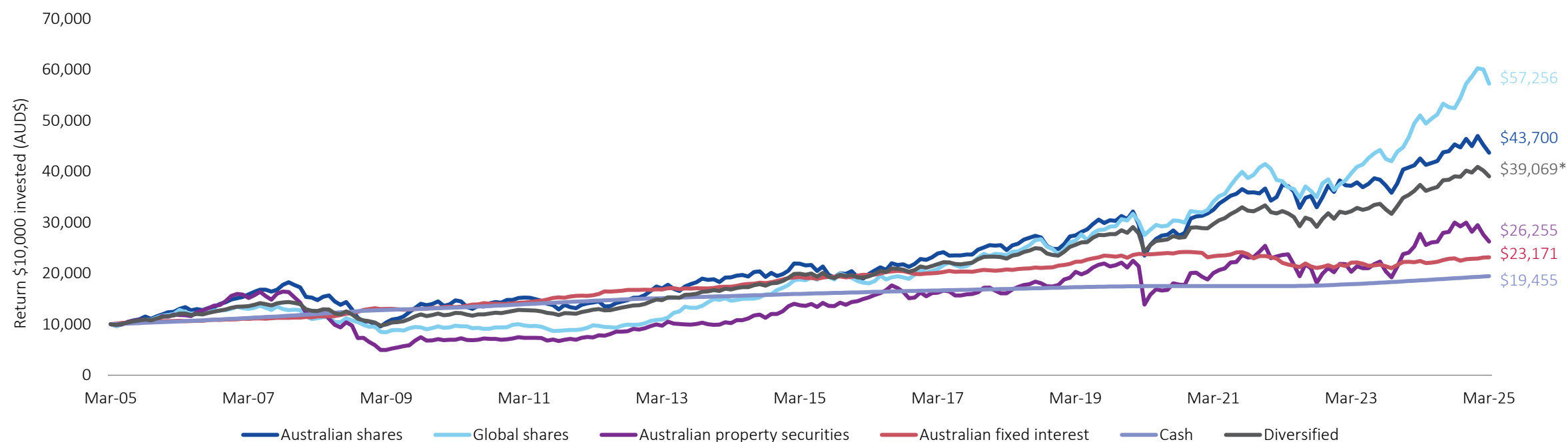
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- Best annual performer
- Worst annual performer
- Not actual returns

# Diversification across asset classes

The accumulated value of \$10,000 invested in each major asset class 20 years ago



Actual indices returns: This table is based on the standard indices used by investment professionals to measure performance of asset classes.

Source: RIMES Colonial First State Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index, UBS Australian Composite Bond Index, S&P/ASX 200 - A-REIT Accumulation Index, S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index, MSCI World Net Index (A\$). All dividends reinvested excluding fees and charges. \*Non Actual Returns. The Diversified Portfolio is a portfolio constructed from the returns of these market indices with the asset allocation of: 35% in Australian shares, 25% in international shares, 25% in fixed interest, 10% in Australian property securities, 5% in cash. The Diversified portfolio does not represent any Colonial First State portfolio nor the actual returns that this portfolio achieved because it does not exist. The constructed Diversified Portfolio illustrates how such a portfolio has performed based on the new market indices. Each Colonial First State portfolio has a different asset allocation from the illustrated diversified portfolio used above. The above actual index returns and non actual returns for the Diversified portfolio also cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time. Past performance is no indication of future performance. Data to 31 March 2025.

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# Short-term versus long-term investing

The percentage of each rolling period up to 31 March 2025 in which an asset class has shown a negative return.

The red box illustrates that the amount attributed to negative returns is shown to be lower over longer time periods\*.

	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	7 years	10 years	20 years
Australian shares	26.4%	22.1%	7.9%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Global shares	28.5%	23.1%	16.7%	19.9%	14.1%	11.4%	0.0%
Australian property securities	21.9%	16.0%	10.5%	12.1%	15.6%	1.0%	0.0%
Australian fixed interest	10.5%	8.1%	7.1%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cash	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: RIMES Colonial First State S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index, MSCI World Net Index (\$A), S&P/ASX 200 - A-REIT Accumulation Index, Bloomberg Australian Composite Bond Index 0+ Years, Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index. The index returns cannot be directly compared to an individual Colonial First State fund's return for many reasons such as they do not include allowances for fees or taxation and do not reflect the asset allocation or stocks held now or over time.

\*Period includes data to 31/01/1981. 1. We are combining gains and losses over the selected period to provide a net return ( $N + P = X$ ); 2. The total percentage of negative returns for the period since 1981 (N) plus the total percentage of positive returns for the period since 1981 (P) equals the net return for the period (X); 3. We are dividing the total percentage of negative returns by the overall return for the period to determine the amount attributable to negative returns ( $N / X = \%$  amount attributable to negative returns).

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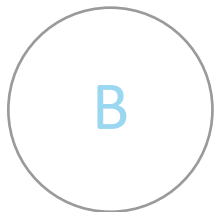


# Why switching to cash can be risky

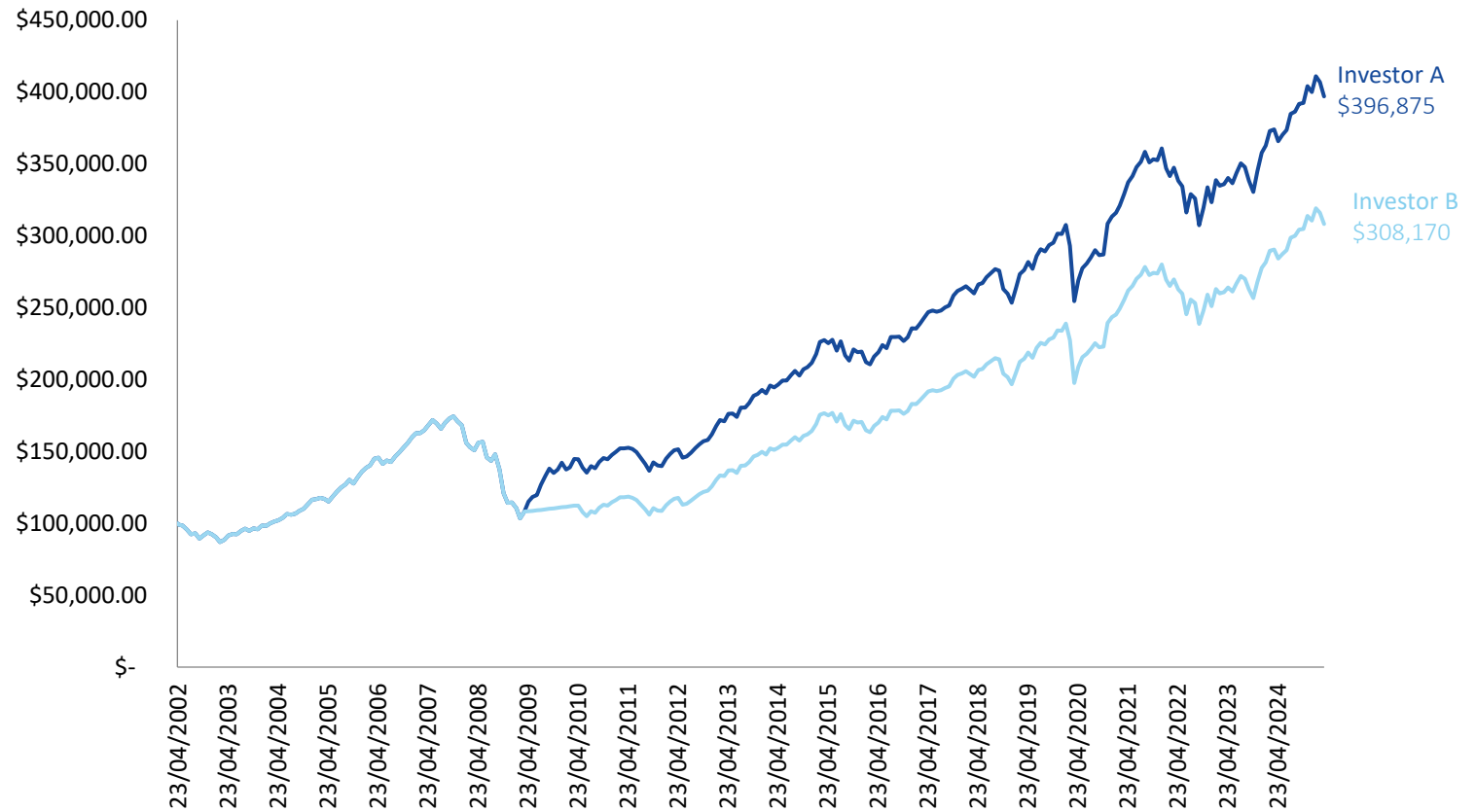
Two people each invest \$100,000 in a growth investment option in 2002.



Investor A remains in the growth option throughout the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) correction and subsequent market recovery.



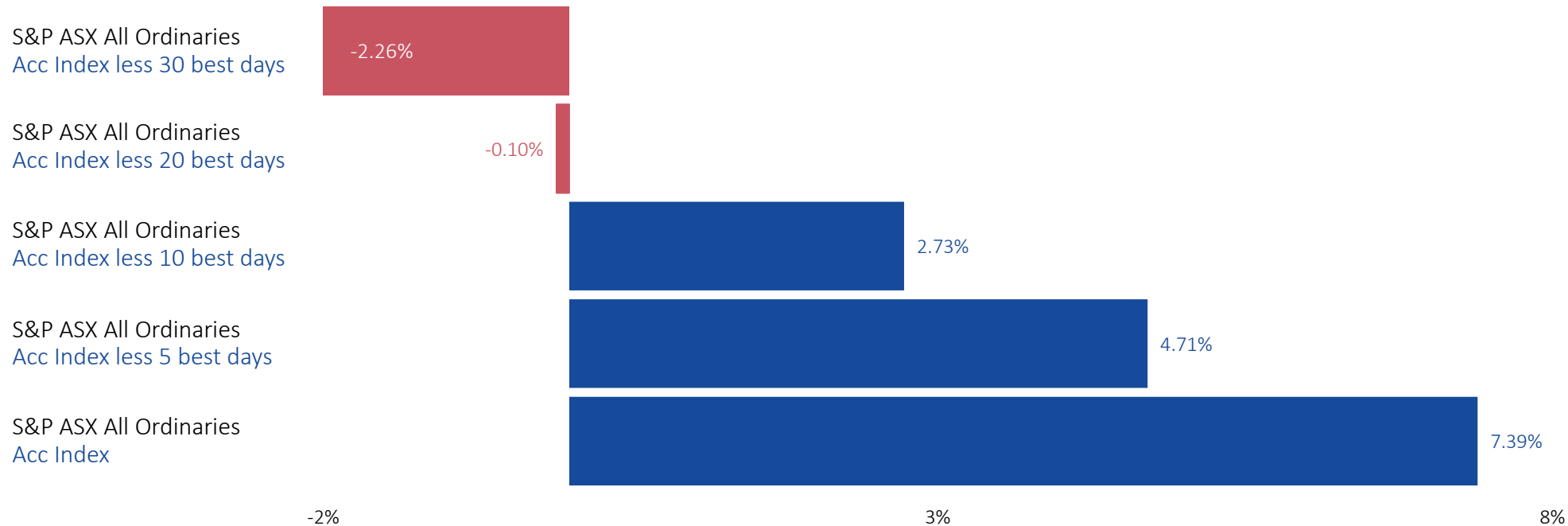
Investor B becomes increasingly nervous as markets fall during the GFC and eventually switches to cash near what turns out to be the low point of the decline. Now wary of share market investing, they keep their cash for 12 months until they're confident markets are recovering. They then switch back into the growth option.



Source: Colonial First State. Data from 31 March 2002 to 31 March 2025. Data derived from performance of FirstChoice Wholesale Growth Fund and First Sentier Wholesale Strategic Cash Fund.  
This case study depicts one of many potential scenarios and is an illustrative example based on a specific 12-month timeframe within the calculation assumptions. Other outcomes are possible and may vary depending on the timing and duration of an investor's switches between the growth option and cash. Past performance is no indication of future performance.  
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# Time in the market, not timing the market

The effect on the annualised returns of Australian shares over 10 years to 31 March 2025 if the best trading days are missed. The chart also shows the current value of \$10,000 invested ten years ago for each scenario.



# The benefits of dollar cost averaging

Here, we compare the outcomes for two investors, one who invests \$6,000 as a one-off lump sum and the other who invests \$1,000 per month over six months.

Despite the unit price falling over the six months, Investor B's portfolio has grown to \$7,072, while Investor A's portfolio has decreased to \$4,800. The calculation is based on multiplying the **unit price** at month six by the **total units bought** at the end of six months.

## Investor A – Lump sum

Month	Unit price
1	\$10
2	\$8
3	\$6
4	\$5
5	\$6
6	\$8
Average price	\$7.17

Investment	Units bought
\$6,000	600
\$0	0
\$0	0
\$0	0
\$0	0
\$0	0
Total investment: \$6,000	Total units bought: 600

Value after six months: \$4,800

## Investor B – Dollar cost averaging

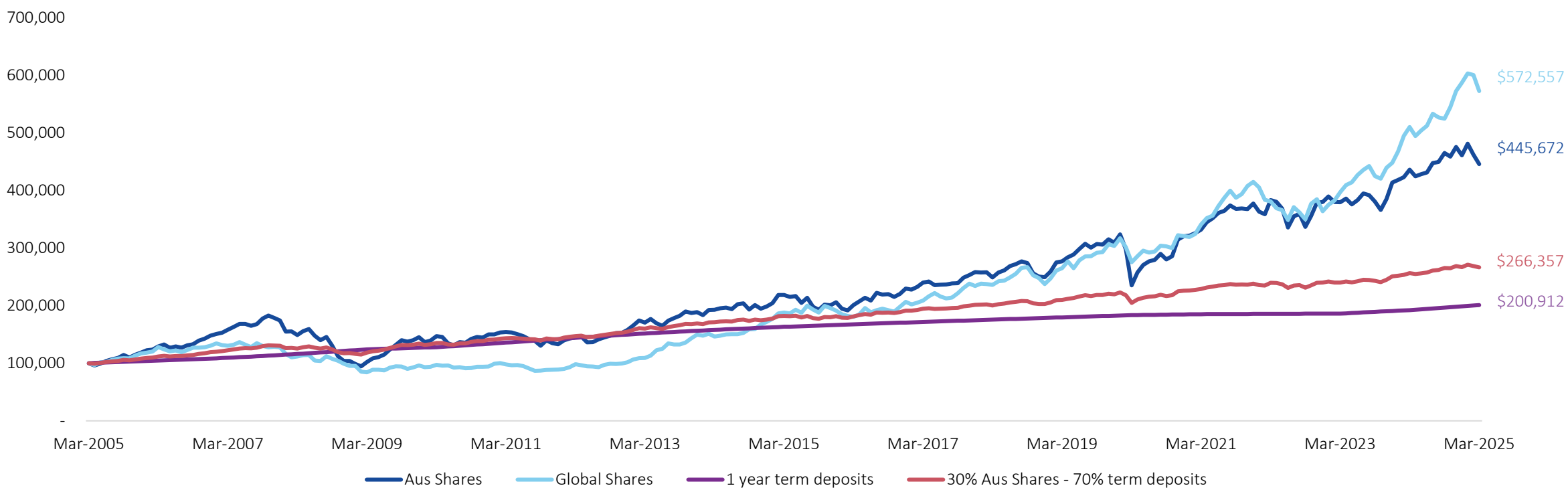
Investment	Units bought
\$1,000	100
\$1,000	125
\$1,000	167
\$1,000	200
\$1,000	167
\$1,000	125
Total investment: \$6,000	Total units bought: 884

Value after six months: \$7,072

# Shares versus term deposit



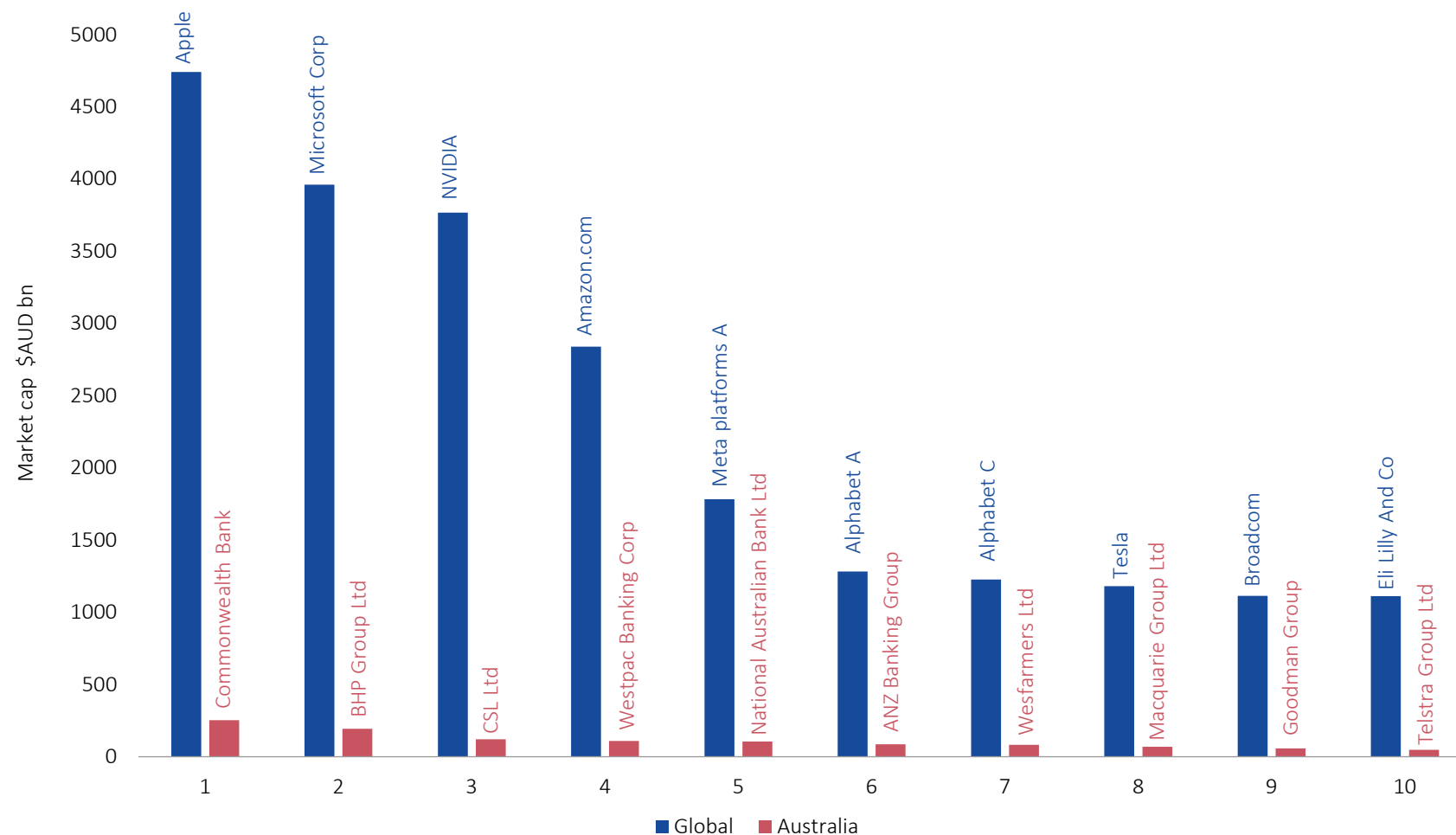
## Comparing the 20-year returns of shares and 12-month term deposits



# A world of investment opportunity

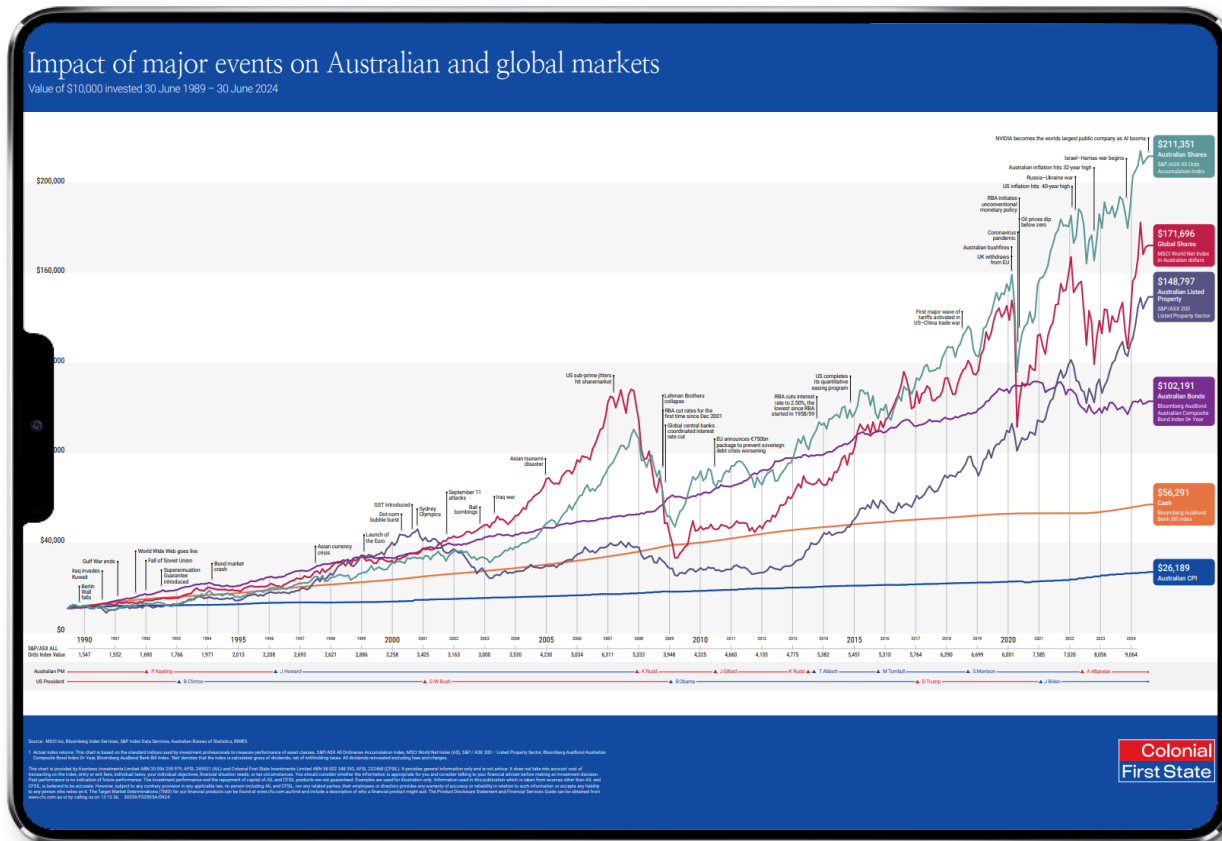
The top 10 biggest companies in the ASX300 have a combined market cap of \$1,124.2bn.

By comparison, the top 10 in the MSCI Americas Index have a combined value of \$23,006.6bn – significantly larger than the ASX300.\*



\*Both figures shown in AUD terms. Updated quarterly.  
Source: Bloomberg, MSCI. Data as at 31 March 2025.  
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# Long-term performance of Australian and global markets



Impact of major events 1989 – 2024  
Value of \$10,000 invested June 1989 – June 2024



[View chart online](#)

Actual index returns: This chart is based on the standard indices used by investment professionals to measure performance of asset classes. S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index, MSCI World Net Index (A\$). 'Net' denotes that the index is calculated gross of dividends, net of withholding taxes. All dividends reinvested excluding fees and charges. This chart is provided by Colonial First State Investments Limited ABN 98 002 348 352, AFSL 232468 (CFSIL). It provides general information only and is not advice. It does not take into account cost of transacting on the index, entry or exit fees, individual taxes, your individual objectives, financial situation needs, or tax circumstances. You should consider whether the information is appropriate for you and consider talking to your financial adviser before making an investment decision. Past performance is no indication of future performance. Source: IRESS, Morgan Stanley Capital International, RIMES. The investment performance and the repayment of capital of CFSIL products are not guaranteed. Examples are used for illustration only. Information used in this publication which is taken from sources other than CFSIL, is believed to be accurate. However, subject to any contrary provision in any applicable law, no person including CFSIL, nor any related parties, their employees or directors provides any warranty of accuracy or reliability in relation to such information or accepts any liability to any person who relies on it.

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# Additional resources for advisers

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## Market updates

Our market updates page has the latest data and expert analysis from the Colonial First State investments team.

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