



## The fall and rise of investment markets

A sharp fall in share prices in February and March rattled many investors who chose to move their funds to more conservative options. At the time of writing, markets have clearly recovered, and those who chose to stay the course haven't locked in a loss in capital value.

Let's look at a couple of examples. Say you had \$100,000 invested in the Balanced option at the end of February when markets first started falling after their peak earlier that month. At the low point in March, the investment would have dropped in value to around \$85,400. If you had switched to the Cash option at that point, your investment would be worth about the same by the end of June. If you decided to stay the course, the value of your investment would have risen back to around \$98,900 over the same period.<sup>1</sup>

That said, it's fair to say we are not out of the woods. We expect further volatility in the months ahead. This isn't necessarily a concern if you are investing for the long term. Choosing a long-term investment strategy based on what happened last month or last year is not a sound approach. Instead, we suggest you think about when you need to access your money – either for retirement or to purchase your first home. If you don't need your money in the near term, you have time to ride out the highs and lows that come with investments in growth assets like shares in the expectation of a higher return over time.

Our Risk Profiler is a good place to start if you're not sure which investment option is right for you, or speak with an authorised financial adviser. Another idea is to choose our UniSteps investment option in which your investment asset mix changes automatically as you get older.

<sup>1</sup> Examples based on unit prices at 29 February, 21 March and 30 June 2020. No allowance has been made for further contributions during that period.

Check out our [Risk Profiler](#) | [Read about UniSteps](#)

## We may be able to help if things are tight financially

Earlier this year, we resolved to introduce a withdrawal facility for members facing significant financial hardship. The advent of COVID-19 gave us impetus to introduce the new benefit as soon as possible, and we are pleased to report this facility is now in place. The economic impact of the pandemic is just starting to bite for many families. Talk to us if you're under financial pressure (possibly as a direct result of COVID-19 – for example, if you're having difficulty meeting basic living expenses as a result of your partner losing their job). The new benefit is designed as an avenue of last resort, but we will help if we can.

Read about [significant financial hardship withdrawals](#)

## Free seminars with Mary Holm

UniSaver is sponsoring a series of lectures by Mary Holm at Massey University and University of Canterbury over the coming months. There are three seminars in the series:

- Why wouldn't you? Don't miss out on UniSaver! – for staff who are not members.
- Getting the best out of UniSaver – for UniSaver members.
- When I'm 65: Heading towards retirement – for all staff, including former staff who are retained members. This is an evening session, and you're welcome to bring your partner.

We'll add dates, times and venues on our website when we have them.

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holm**  
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Keep an eye on this page: [Seminars with Mary Holm](#)

## Help us spread the word about UniSaver

You might be surprised to learn that, across all participating universities, only 40% of eligible staff have chosen to join UniSaver. A further 35% are in KiwiSaver but missing out on the extra employer subsidy you receive as a UniSaver member or the low-cost structure of a not-for-profit scheme. A quarter of eligible staff are in no scheme at all. It's something worth raising by the water cooler. Become a UniSaver champion and make sure your colleagues know about the scheme.

Send your colleagues this flyer [introducing UniSaver](#)

## New life-shortening congenital condition benefit

A campaign by Tim Fairhall, a Te Atatū man with Down syndrome, drew attention to the fact that KiwiSaver rules locking in savings until age 65 disadvantage savers with a life-shortening congenital condition. His campaign eventually led to a change in the KiwiSaver rules. We have amended the UniSaver rules to make withdrawals possible from the locked and standard sections on the same basis.

Read about [life-shortening congenital condition withdrawals](#)

## Updated disclosure documents

As well as amending the [trust deed](#) to include the new benefits mentioned above, we have updated our disclosure documents to reflect these and other changes.

- [Product disclosure statement](#) (PDS) covers information we are required to provide prospective members in a format intended to help investors compare investment products.
- [Other material information](#) covers some of the information in the PDS in greater detail.
- [Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives](#) provides guidance for those involved in investing UniSaver's assets as to how those assets are to be managed.

Got a  
question?

Visit our website [unisaver.co.nz](http://unisaver.co.nz)  
or call our helpline team on 0800 864 724

The helpline hours are 9am to 7pm,  
Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

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