

2008 Financial Crisis Comparison: Regular Savings Investment vs Lump Sum Investment

THE POWER OF DOLLAR-COST AVERAGING

Dollar-Cost Averaging takes away the problem of market timing. You are regularly investing money into the market over a period. If the market falls you begin to buy the market at a more cost-effective price and get more units of the fund for your money and vice versa, if the market rises. Over the long run you obtain an 'average price' for the fund over the investment period. You want to invest your money at the lowest price to maximise the returns when the fund growth. Therefore, the maximum benefit of Dollar-cost averaging is when equity markets are falling, the periods where you are averaging down your price of purchase. The benefits of opening and running a savings account can be heightened during market volatility. This means the greatest benefit occurs when you may have previously considered investing in safe-haven asset classes however you don't have to time getting back into risk assets.

The example here takes real data and performance from October 2007 – December 2009. It looks at the benefit of regular savings compared to a lump sum investment during the financial crisis.

Investor A and Investor B hold \$27,000 in cash in October 2007. Investor A is worried about the outlook for equity markets and decides to invest his cash in \$1,000 tranches every month. Investor B decides to make a lump sum investment. They both decide to invest in an adventurous profile.



By December 2009 Investor A had outperformed that of the lump sum investment by 13.31% and broke even on his investment 6 months earlier (Jun 09 Vs Dec 09).

- Investor A portfolio value in October 2009 (total contributions - \$27,000) would have been \$31,763.51 representing a 17.64% gain over the period. The maximum loss on his portfolio (maximum distance it fell below \$27,000) was 10.24% (\$2,234.99).
- Investor B portfolio value in October 2009 (\$27,000 invested in October 2007) would have been \$28,168.66 representing a 4.33% gain on investment over the period. The maximum loss on his portfolio (maximum distance it fell below \$27,000) was 26.34% (\$19,887.60).
- Investor A was able to purchase 12.76% more units (34.46 units) than Investor B did. If no additional contributions were made Investor A would therefore always end up with a larger return on investment.

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