



Which investments have held up best so far in 2020?

- **Gold has delivered the best returns since January 1st, while cash, government bonds and RateSetter have protected capital**
- **Shares have not fared well, recording the biggest capital loss since the beginning of the year**
- **Bitcoin has been volatile, but over this period recorded a positive return**

21 April 2020

New analysis from peer to peer lender RateSetter has revealed the mainstream investment classes that have offered protection from losses since the start of 2020 and which have been hit hardest after what has been a hugely turbulent start to the year.

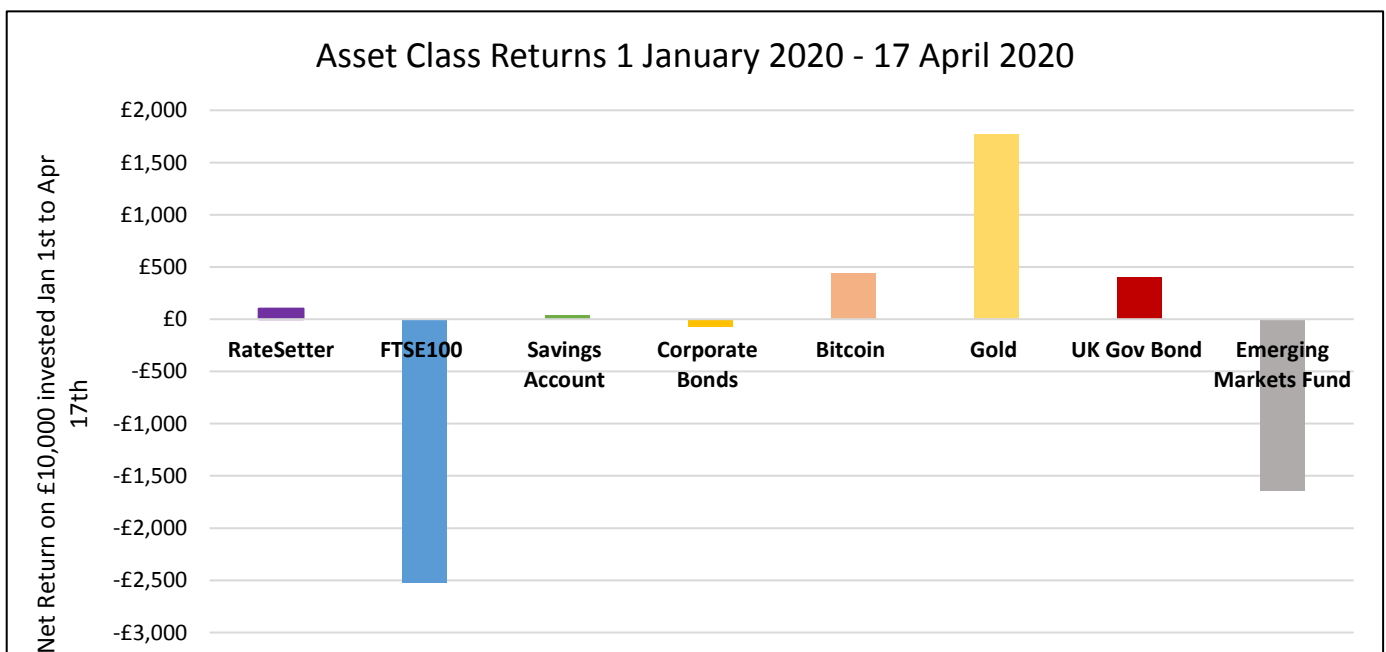
Illustrated by the table below, the research shows how traditionally stable assets, such as cash and Government Bonds, have now been joined by RateSetter investments as classes that have protected capital and kept money earning.

More volatile investments such as equities have not fared well since January 1st, losing significant value. While investments in Bitcoin have also been volatile, they have recorded a positive return over the period, while corporate bonds recorded a loss.

However, gold – a volatile asset, but often considered favourably by investors during times of economic stress – has registered the best return of the investments analysed.

To produce the data, RateSetter looked at how a £10k investment has performed in each of the assets over the first quarter of 2020. Gold produced a return of 12% (+£1,173), while an investment that tracked the FTSE100 reduced in value by 25% (-£2,522).

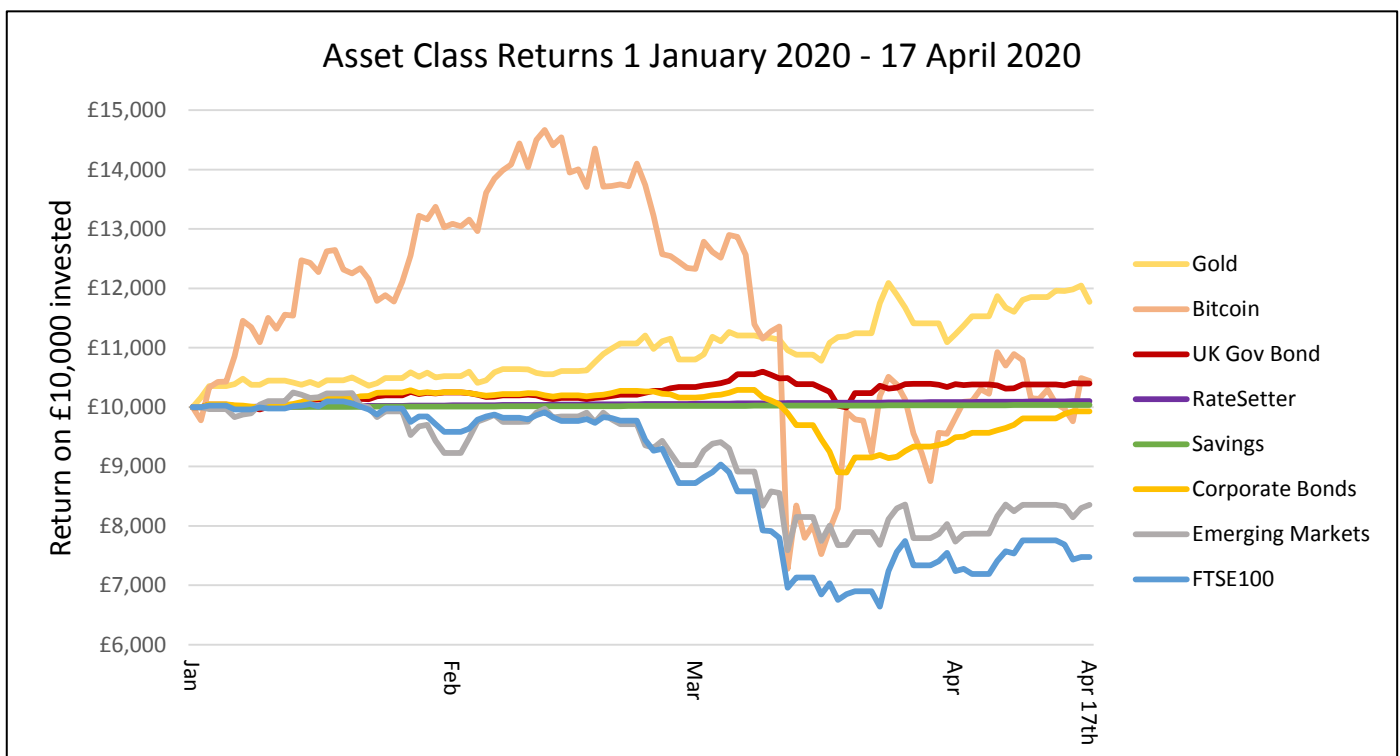
Meanwhile the assets that have performed with the greatest stability are Government bonds, cash and peer-to-peer loans through RateSetter. Money invested in these assets would have performed consistently since the start the year. Bitcoin has seen the biggest swings in value.



Date	Asset Class							
	RateSetter	FTSE100	Savings Account	Corporate Bonds	Bitcoin	Gold	UK Gov Bond	Emerging Markets Fund
01/01/2020	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
17/04/2020	£10,101	£7,478	£10,038	£9,930	£10,439	£11,773	£10,398	£8,357
Performance	£101	-£2,522	£38	-£70	£439	£1,773	£398	-£1,643

Rhydian Lewis, RateSetter CEO, said: “We are in the midst of a major economic shock and most mainstream investments have seen a major adjustment; however our analysis shows that some investments are weathering the storm much better than others.

“There is a great deal of uncertainty around the economic outlook and there is undoubtedly a long way to go before things get back to normal, but people are starting to notice the stable and earning characteristics of RateSetter’s P2P investments which are valuable as part of a diversified portfolio.”



ENDS

Notes to editors

About the research

Data sources as follows

FTSE 100: [iShares Core FTSE 100 UCITS ETF](#)

Savings accounts: [MSE easy access accounts top rates](#)

Corporate bonds: [iShares Core £ Corp Bond UCITS ETF](#)

Bitcoin: [Yahoo Finance](#)

Gold: [Gold Spot British Pound](#)

Government bonds: [UK 10 YR Gilt Futures](#)

Emerging Market index: [iShares MSCI Emerging Markets UCITS Dist](#)

RateSetter: [website](#)

About RateSetter

- RateSetter is the UK's most popular peer-to-peer lender with over 700,000 people having invested or borrowed
- RateSetter pioneered the Provision Fund model in peer-to-peer lending, which has provided protection to investors ever since RateSetter launched in 2010
- RateSetter is the first peer-to-peer lending business to be awarded the *Queen's Award for Enterprise* in recognition of its innovation in financial services
- RateSetter is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority