Why the Tortoise Sometimes Wins



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What We Will Talk About

What we are looking for in a stock

Where Total Return comes from

 The importance of Portfolio Management



What We Are Looking For?

- Why would you invest in any stock?
 - High Quality
 - Good Value



The Tortoise and The Hare

- We often think of fast-growing companies as being the best prospects
 - Stronger Growth
 - High Quality?



Tortoises: Why?

- Can a company with only moderate growth prospects offer both high quality and good value?
 - Absolutely!

Tortoises: Why?

- You shouldn't expect larger companies to grow rapidly
 - BetterInvesting Stock Selection Handbook suggests 7% to 10% growth as reasonable for large companies
- Considering slower growing companies gives you more investment possibilities

Slow And Steady

 Sometimes the tortoise, slow and steady, wins the race

 Slower growing companies can be the Tortoise that wins the race

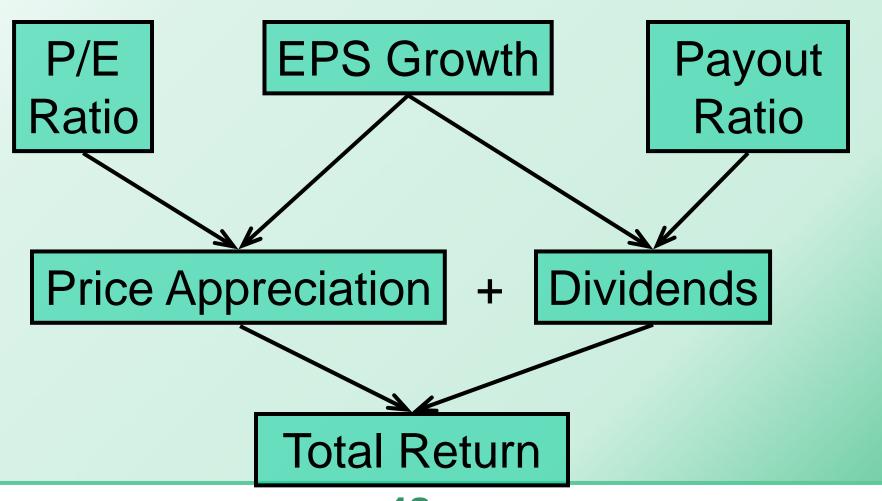
What Is a Good Value?

- A stock investment is a good value because of the potential for it to be worth more in the future
- Total Return is used to measure value on the Stock Selection Guide (SSG)

Total Return Comes From ...

- Price Appreciation driven by:
 - Earnings growth (EPS)
 - P/E ratio (optimism about the future)
 - Dividends driven by:
 - Earnings growth (EPS)
 - Payout ratio (the percentage of earnings paid to shareholders as dividends)

Components of Total Return



Dividends



X

Payout Ratio

Dividend

Tortoises tend to have a larger Payout Ratio

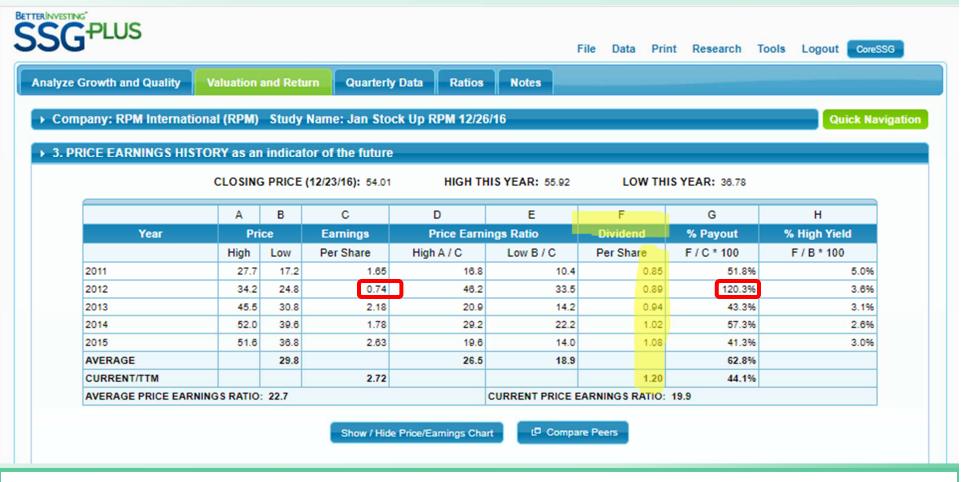
Dividends

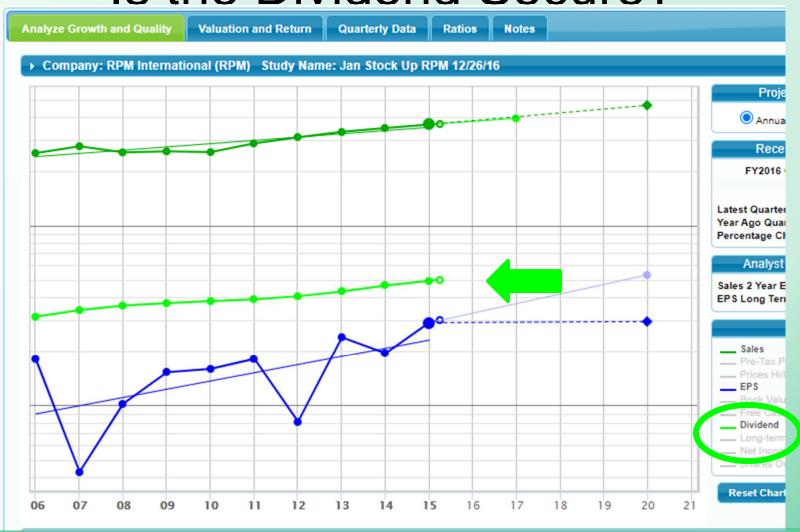
- Dividends tend to play a more significant role in Total Return for Tortoises
- Tortoises tend to have a larger payout ratio
 - More of EPS used to pay dividends
 - Less of EPS used to fund future growth
- A secure dividend may add some safety for slower growing stocks

- Dividends come from earnings
 - A secure dividend requires secure earnings
- Consider financial strength of company

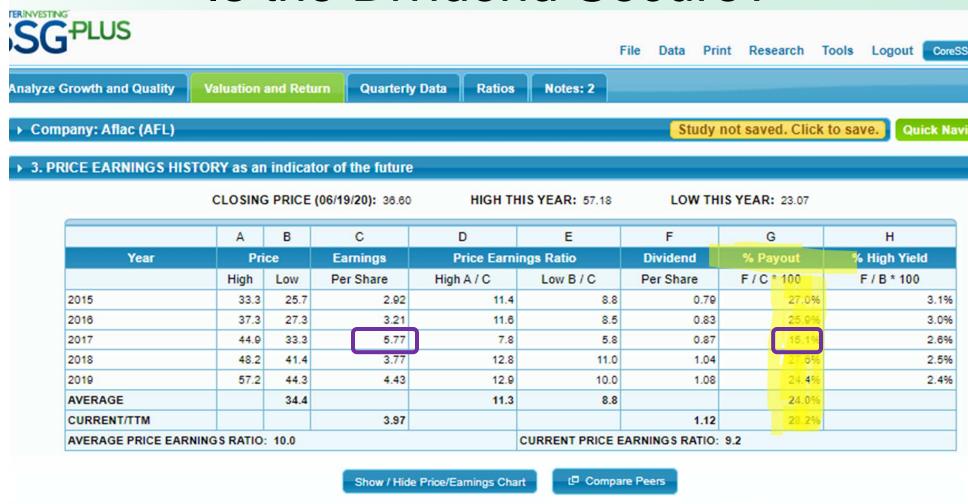


- Monitor dividend, yield, payout ratio
 - SSG section 3









Price Appreciation

Faster growing stocks can produce adequate price appreciation from EPS growth alone



X

=

Price

Tortoises need help from P/E expansion

Price Appreciation

- Potential for future P/E to be higher is critical for tortoises
 - Stock price tends to follow earnings growth
 - With a constant P/E ratio, slower growth produces less price appreciation
- Especially important for tortoises
 - Buy when P/E ratio is below average

P/E Expansion

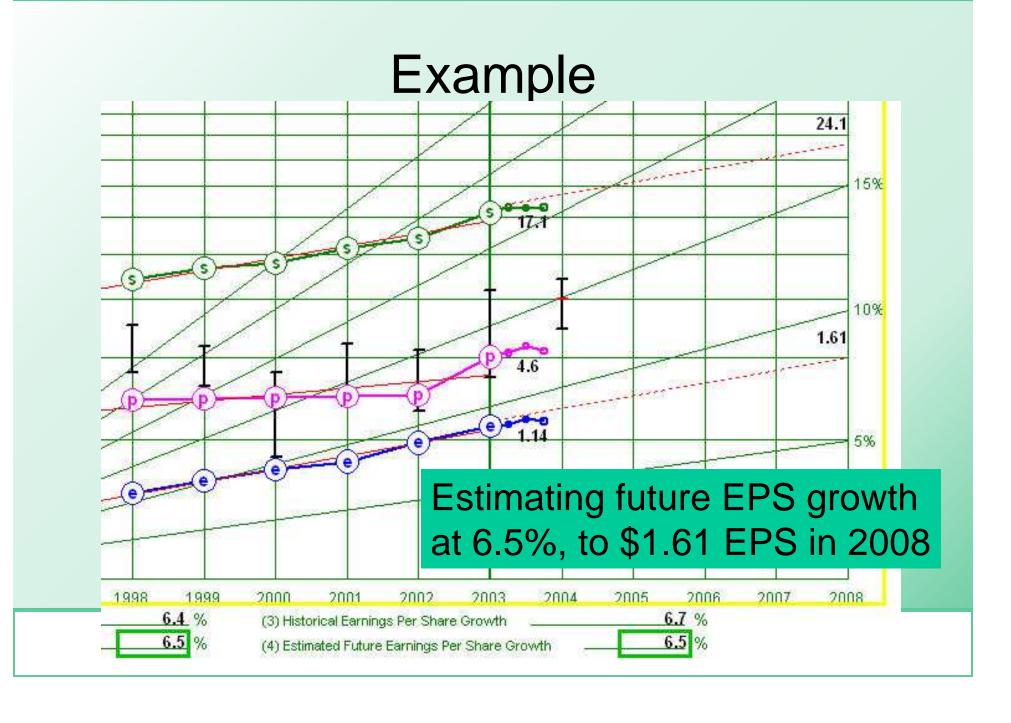
P/E expansion means ...

... the Price-to-Earnings ratio moves higher than when you bought the stock

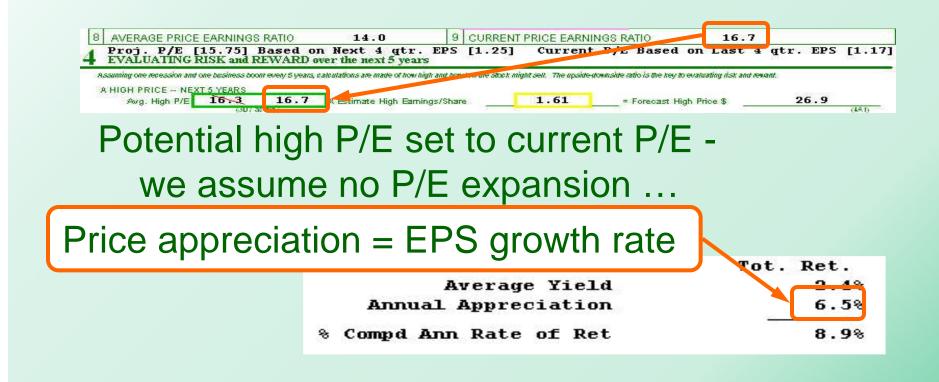
Buying when there is potential for P/E expansion is always important — even more so for tortoises

P/E Expansion is Limited

- P/E expansion can't continue forever!
- After the P/E has moved up to 'normal', future Total Return is limited ...
 - … by the future EPS growth rate!
- When you run out of potential for P/E expansion, you should consider selling



Example - 6.5% EPS Growth



Let's Review

- Slower growing stocks can produce good returns
- Total Return comes from:
 - Price Appreciation + Dividends
- For Tortoises (vs. faster growing Hares)
 - Dividends are a bigger factor
 - Potential for P/E expansion is even more important than usual





The Importance of Portfolio Management

- For slower growing stocks, more active Portfolio Management can improve return
- If you just buy and hold, what is the very long-term potential for Total Return?
 - EPS growth rate + dividend yield
- For slower growers that may be inadequate

Portfolio Management

 BetterInvesting thinking embraces the concept of Defensive/Offensive Portfolio

Management

– Defense = Quality

- Offense = Value



- Maintain a good average level of quality
- Sell stocks that are clearly poor quality



- Offense monitor Total Return
 - Maintain an adequate average Total Return level
 - Replace low Total Return stocks as you identify significantly better opportunities
 - <u>Very</u> important for slower growers!

Offensive Portfolio Management

From Section 5 of your SSGs

Company Name										
	Ticker	Shrs	Price/shr 3/2/05	~current Value	% of	Proj	Sector (S&P GICS)			
					portfolio	Tot Ret'n				
Brinkers International	EAT	70	38.18	\$2,673	10%	8.3%	Consumer Discretionary			
Costco	COST	50	45.02	\$2,251	9%	15.8%	Consumer Staples			
cvs	CVS	70	50.06	\$3,504	13%	4.7%	Consumer Staples			
Dollar General	DG	80	\$22.16	\$1,773	7.9%	15.3%	Consumer Discretionary			
Harley Davidson, Inc	HDI	20	\$61.48	\$1,230	- 33	19.6%	Consumer Discretionary			
Home Depot	HD	80	\$39.98	\$3,198	12%	21.4%	Consumer Discretionary			
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	11	\$66.96	\$737	200	13.5%	Health Care			
Microsoft	MSFT	170	\$25.26	\$4,294	16%	10.1%	Information Technology			
Neogen	NEOG	125	\$18.00	\$2,250	9%	14.8%	Health Care			
Starbucks	SBUX	35	\$52.81	\$1,848	7%	17.4%	Consumer Discretionary			
Wendy's International	WEN	19.3	\$38.02	\$734	3%	7.1%	Consumer Discretionary			
Yankee Candle	YCC	50	\$31.22	\$1,561	6%	13.3%	Consumer Discretionary			
			Sum ====>	\$26,052		12.8%	<== Weighted Ave Ret'n			

Offensive Portfolio Management

Company Name	Ticker	Shrs	Price/shr 3/2/05	~current Value	% of	Proj	Sector		
1					portfolio	Tot Ret'n	(S&P GICS)		
Brinkers International	EAT	70	38.18	\$2,673	10%	8.3%	Consumer Discretionary		
Costco	COST	50	45.02	\$2,251	9%	15.0%	Consumer Staples		
Commerce Bancorp	CBH	115	29.97	\$3,447	13%	19.0%	Financials		
Dollar General	DG	80	\$22.16	\$1,773	7%	15.3%	Consumer Discretionary		
Harley Davidson, Inc	HDI	20	\$61.48	\$1,230	5%	16.8%	Consumer Discretionary		
Home Depot	HD	80	\$39.98	\$3,198	12%	21.4%	Consumer Discretionary		
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	11	\$66.96	\$737	3%	13.5%	Health Care		
Microsoft	MSFT	170	\$25.26	\$4,294	17%	10.1%	Information Technology		
Neogen	NEOG	125	\$18.00	\$2,250	9%	14.8%	Health Care		
Starbucks	SBUX	35	\$52.81	\$1,848	7%	17.4%	Consumer Discretionary		
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			Sum ====>	\$25,995		14.7%	<== Weighted Ave Ret'r		

Toolkit 5 Offense Report

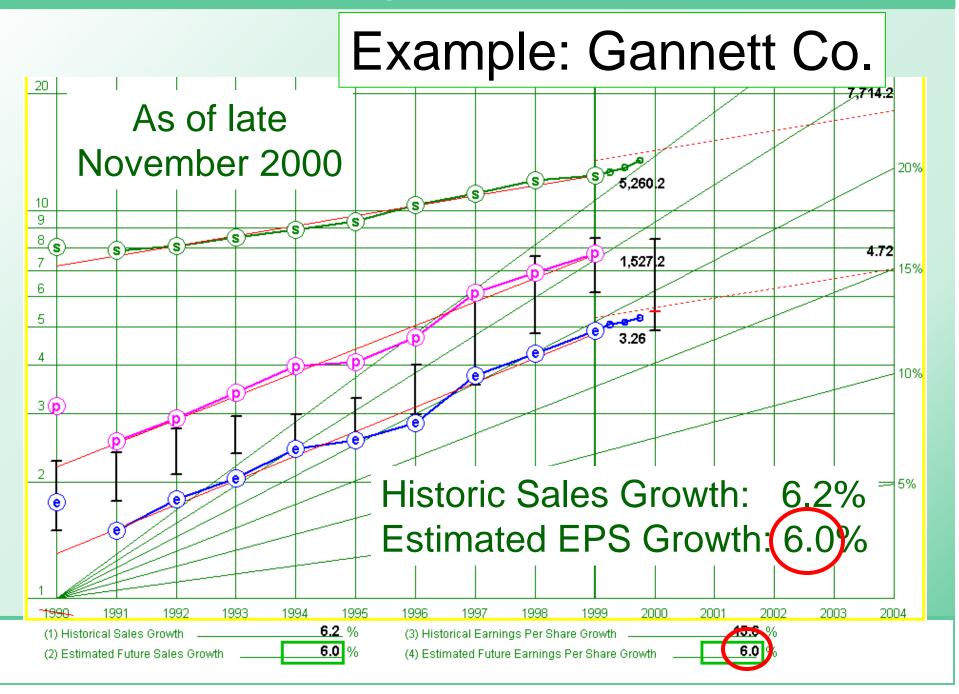
COMPANY	TICKER	QTR END	RELATIVE VALUE	PROJECTED REL VAL	U/D RATIO	TOTAL	TARGET RETURN
BEAZER HOMES USA INC	вzн	09/04	51.7	48.0	13.8	31.8	15.0
BISYS GROUP INC	BSG	09/04	79.5	68.8	6.5	26.4	15.0
BEST BUY CO INC	BBY	11/04	77.1	69.3	2.8	23.8	15.0
BB&T CORP	ввт	09/04	101.4	91.2	4.4	21.4	15.0
BED BATH & BEYOND INC	ВВВУ	11/04	70.1	60.6	5.7	20.5	15.0
BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC	ВАХ	09/04	86.3	80.2	2.3	17.1	15.0
Biomet	ВМЕТ	11/04	100.4	87.3	1.9	16.6	15.0
BJS WHOLESALE CLUB INC	ВЈ	10,04	97.4	86.68	1.8	16.1	15.0
Boston Scientific	BSX	12/04	60.5	57.9	4.6	14.8	15.0
BARR LABORATORIES INC	BRL	09/04	93.2	85.1	2.1	14.6	15.0
ANHEUSER-BUSCH COS INC	BUD	12/04	82.0	79.2	7.2	13.0	15.0
BEMIS CO	BMS	09/04	125.8	121.7	1.2	5.2	15.0

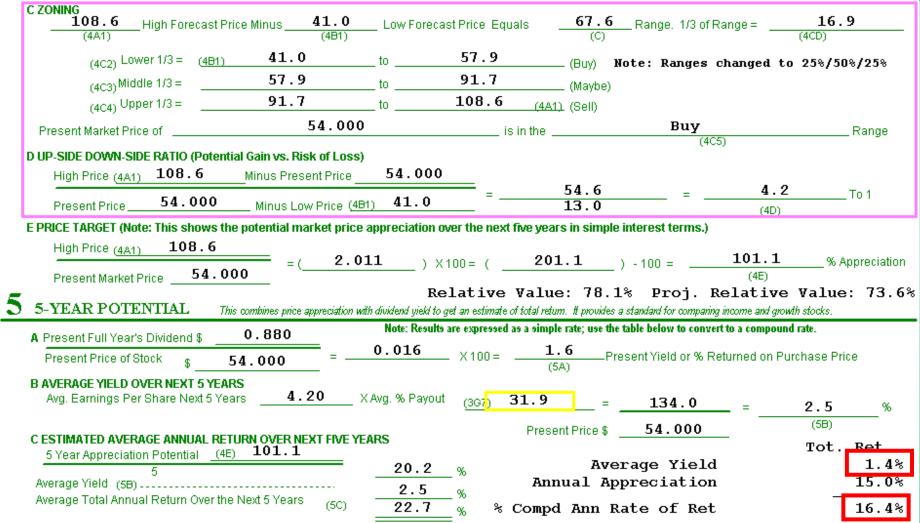
Let's Review Again!

- Total Return comes from:
 Price Appreciation + Dividends
- For tortoises:
 - Dividends are a bigger factor
 - Potential for P/E expansion is critical for adequate price appreciation
- P/E expansion can't continue forever!
- Good Offensive Portfolio Management is key to success









- 16.4% potential Total Return
- Mostly from EPS growth and P/E expansion

Example: Gannett Co.

- Fast-Forward 15 months, to Feb 2002
- Stock price rose from \$54 to \$74
- From EPS growth?
 - No
- EPS for 2001 was disappointing, below estimate on original SSG
- There was significant P/E expansion

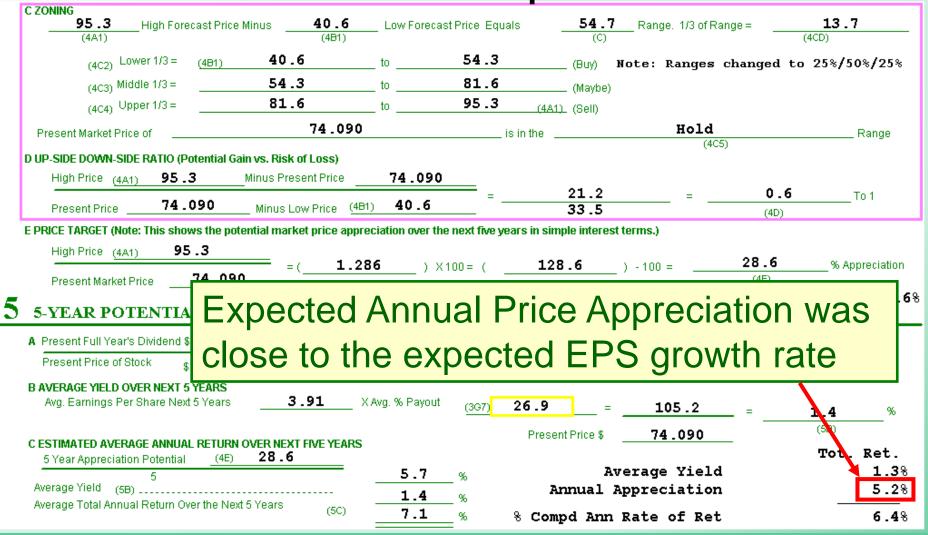
		PRESE	NT PRICE	74.090 H	GH THIS YEAR	75 .4	LOW THI	S YEAR	53.000
	Year	A PRICE B		C Earnings Per	D E Price Earnings Ratio		F Dividend	G % Payout	H % High Yield
		HIGH	LOW	Share	HIGH A ÷ C	LOW B ÷ C	Per Share	F÷CX100	F ÷ B X 100
1	1997	61.8	35.0	2.50	24.7	14.0	0.740	29.6	2.1
2	1998	75.1	47.6	2.86	26.3	16.6	0.780	27.3	1.6
3	1999	83.6	60.6	3.26	25.6	18.6	0.820	25.2	1.4
4	2000	81.6	48.4	3.63	22.5	13.3	0.860	23.7	1.8
5	2001	71.1	53.0	3.12	22.8	17.0	0.890	28.5	1.7
6	TOTAL		244.6		121.9	79.5		134.3	
7	AVERAGE		48.9		24.4	15.9		26.9	
8	AVERAGE PRI	CE EARNINGS RAT	10 20	.1 9	CURRENT PRIC	E EARNINGS RA	TIO	23.7	
4	4 Proj. P/E [22.03] Based on Next 4 qtr. EPS [3.36] Current P/E Based on Last 4 qtr. EPS [3.12] EVALUATING RISK and REWARD over the next 5 years PEG=283								

Assuming one recession and one business boom every 5 years, calculations are made of how high and how low the stock might sell. The upside-downside ratio is the key to evaluating risk and reward.

A HIGH PRICE -- NEXT 5 YEARS 4.54 Avg. High P/E 24 .4 21.0 X Estimate High Earnings/Share = Forecast High Price \$ 95.3

- Current PE has grown:
 - from 15 (in late 2000)
 - to close to the historic average high P/E
- Not much room for further expansion

Time to Replace



Gannett --- Result?

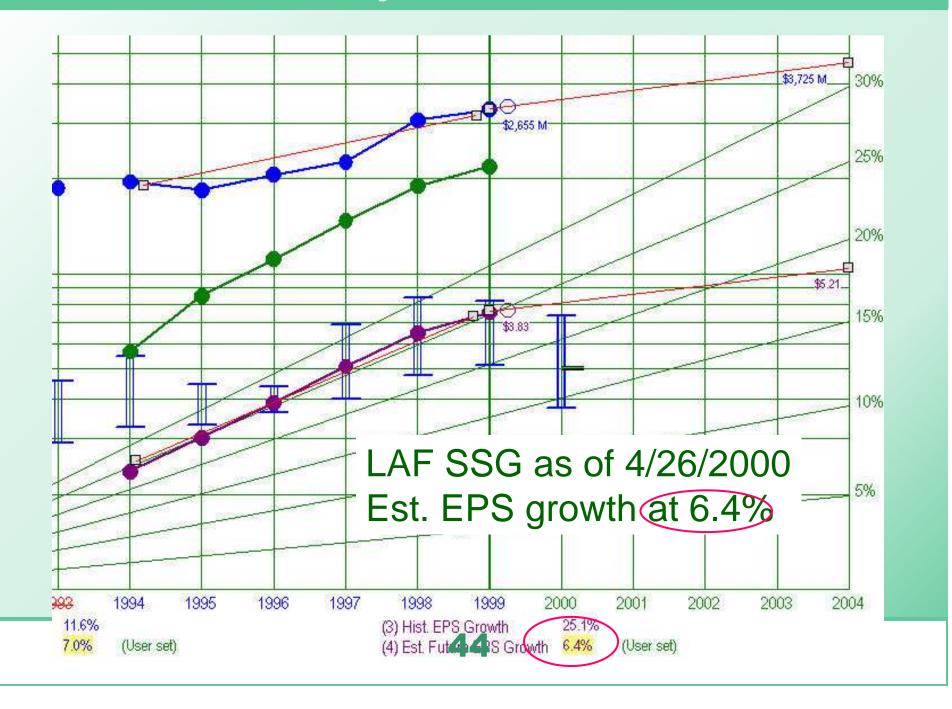
- Stock held for 15 months
- What return did we get on our money?
 - 30% compound annualized return
 - (a 39% increase in 15 months)
- This sometimes happens with Offensive Portfolio Management and tortoises:
 - There is a bit more portfolio activity

Gannett - Hypothetical?

- Was this a real-world case?
- Yes:
 - Based on real data, using this approach
- No:
 - I didn't personally buy and sell shares of Gannett and actually make this return

LaFarge (LAF)

- Purchased LAF shares on 4/26/2000 at \$24.94 per share (P/E 6.5)
- Sold all shares on 3/4/2002 at \$41.30 per share (P/E 14.3)
- Collected \$1.20 per share in dividends
- 33% compound annualized return
 - (69% increase over 22 months)



LAF on 4/26/2000

		Current	Price: \$24,94	52 Wk High	52 Wk High: \$36.77 52 Wk Low: \$18.81 Dividend: \$0.60					
Year		A B		C Earnings Per		E iings Ratio	F Dividend Per	G % Payout	H % Hi. Yield	
		HIGH	LOW	Share	HIGH (A+C)	LOW (B+C)	Share	F+C X 100	F÷B X 100	
1	1995	\$22.30	\$16.60	\$1.51	14.8	11.0	\$0.38	25.2%	2.3%	
2	1996	\$21.90	\$18.10	\$1.95	11.2	9.3	\$0.40	20.5%	2.2%	
3	1997	\$34.30	\$20.10	\$2.54	13.5	7.9	\$0.42	16,5%	2.1%	
4	1998	\$42.10	\$23.80	\$3.24	13.0	7.3	\$0.51	15.7%	2.1%	
5	1999	\$40.80	\$25.70	\$3.77	10.8	6.8	\$0.60	15.9%	2.3%	
6	TOTAL		\$104.30		63.3	42.4		93.9%		
7	AVO.		\$20.00		12.7 11.0	8.3 7.0		18.8%		
8	AVERAGE	EPE	100	10.0 9.0	9 GUF	RRENT PE	6.5	EPS=\$3.83	RV=72.4	
				Pr	oject ed Values	PE C.5 EP	CO CO CO CO	2.4 Q=0 PE	G Ratio=1.02	

4 EVALUATING RISK and REWARD over the next 5 years

Assuming one recession and one business boom every 5 years, calculations are made of how high and how low the stock might sell. The upside-downside ratio is the key to evaluating risk and reward.

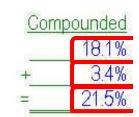


LAF on 4/26/2000

C ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL RETURN OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS

Avg. 5 Year Appreciation Potential = Average Yield (5B)	$\frac{129.8\%}{5}$ (4E)=
Average Total Annual Return Over th	e Next 5 Years (50)

	Simple
	26.0%
+	3.4%
=	29.3%



- Potential Total Return: 21.5%
- 18.1% of that is potential price appreciation
- What part of the 18.1% is from EPS growth?
- 6.4% (SSG page 1)
 - Expecting lots of P/E expansion

LAF on 3/4/2002

		Current	Price: \$41.30	52 Wk High	: \$43.1 <mark>0 5</mark> 2	Wk Low: \$28.	45 Dividend:	\$0.60	
	Year	A B		C Earnings Per	D Price Earr	D E Price Earnings Ratio		G % Payout	H % Hi. Yield
		HIGH	LOW	Share	HIGH (A+C)	LOW (B+C)	Per Share	F+G X 100	F+B X 100
1	1996	\$21.90	\$18.10	\$1.95	11.2	9.3	\$0.40	20.5%	2.2%
2	1997	\$34.30	\$20.10	\$2.54	13.5	7.9	\$0.42	16.5%	2.1%
3	1998	\$42.10	\$23.80	\$3.24	13.0	7.3	\$0.51	15.7%	2.1%
4	1999	\$40.80	\$25.70	\$3.77	10.8	6.8	\$0,60	15.9%	2.3%
5	2000	\$28.30	\$16.70	\$3.51	8.1	4.8	\$0.60	17.1%	3.6%
6	TOTAL		\$104.40		56.6	36.1		85.8%	
7	AVG.		\$20.88		11.3 11.0	7.2 7.0		17.2%	
8	AVERAGE	EPE		9.4 9.0	9 GUF	RRENT PE	14.3	EPS=\$2.88	RV=159.3
				Proie	cted Values:	PE=14.3 EPS	=\$2.88 RV=15	593 Q=0 P	EG Ratio=1.47

4 EVALUATING RISK and REWARD over the next 5 years

Assuming one recession and one business boom every 5 years, calculations are made of how high and how low the stock might sell. The upside-downside ratio is the key to evaluating risk and reward.



LAF on 3/4/2002

C ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL RETURN OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS

- Potential Total Return: now just 5.6%
- 4.1% of that is potential price appreciation
- Current P/E is so high that we actually expect P/E contraction from here
 - Time to replace

Summary

- Slower growing stocks can make sense
- One approach to investing in tortoises:
 - Buy quality stocks when P/E is below average.
 - Consider selling when future Total Return is inadequate (P/E is above average)
 - Or, if you're satisfied with a lower return continue to hold; it's up to you!

Summary

 Does it always work out as easily and nicely as in the examples?

- Of course not!
- But the approach can work well
- And, it expands your investment possibilities

A big thank you to

BRIAN LEWIS and JIM THOMAS

who both taught this material before me and contributed so much to the class material.



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