

The Prudent Investor

July 6, 2005

Performance Overview

For the month of June the Model Stock Portfolio gained 6.6% versus a gain of 0.1% for the S&P 500 index (including dividends). This represents a gain of 6.5% above the S&P 500 index for the month. Table 1 shows the Model Stock Portfolio monthly and annual returns since January 2003. Year-to-date the model is up 10.9% versus the S&P 500 index's total return of -0.8%.

Table 1: Model Stock Portfolio Returns¹

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total Return	S&P 500 Return
2003	0.5%	1.2%	4.1%	9.5%	9.8%	6.9%	3.5%	(0.9%)	2.7%	19.2%	8.8%	8.8%	102.3%	28.7%
2004	1.4%	9.7%	3.1%	(7.6%)	1.6%	6.3%	1.7%	1.8%	5.3%	(2.2%)	11.5%	5.6%	43.7%	10.9%
2005	4.1%	2.1%	(6.3%)	(2.3%)	7.1%	6.6%							10.9%	(0.8%)

Market Valuation Update

Using the (modified) "Fed Model" to gauge the fair market value of the stock market, we estimate that the market is currently undervalued relative to bonds by 20.1%. This suggests a short-term buy signal for stocks. We would recommend overweighting equities relative to fixed income investments over the next few months. See our website at www.PruInvestor.com (coming soon) for more information on the Fed Model.

Model Stock Portfolio

The Prudent Investor's Model Stock Portfolio for the current month is presented in Table 2. On January 1, 2005 the model was reset to equal to \$50,000.

In Table 2 the column entitled "Target Ownership" represents the ideal percentage investment of each asset in the model portfolio. The Actual Ownership column (far right) represents the model's actual ownership from month to month of each stock. The two are not always identical because we take into consideration trading costs when reallocating the portfolio each month. In general, we do not adjust the allocation until the size of adjustment for any given security exceeds 2% of the total portfolio size. The Target Ownership also differs from the Actual Ownership column because we cannot buy fractional shares of a security to meet the Target Ownership percentages.

Starting a Portfolio: If you are just getting started, we recommend that you purchase all the securities in Table 2, using the Target Ownership column to calculate the number of shares needed for each security. If you do not have at least \$50,000 available for investment purposes, you may wish to follow one of the Asset Allocation Models presented below and purchase mutual funds instead of individual stocks.

If you have less than \$50,000 to invest but would still like to follow our Model Stock Portfolio, consider the following alternative strategy: Purchase the top 10 ranked stocks shown in Table 2 (with approximately 10% of your total invested in each stock) and hold each stock until it falls off of Table 2. Then replace the stock you sell with the highest ranked new stock in the table. This strategy will be more volatile than purchasing all the stocks in Table 2, but investment returns should be similar over time.

¹ Monthly returns for the Model Stock Portfolio for years 2003-2004 represent actual (unleveraged) returns, after all trading costs.

Table 2: Model Stock Portfolio

Rank	Stock	Current Price on 6/30/05	Target Ownership 6/30/05	Required Adjustment	Shares Owned on 6/30/05	Actual \$ Ownership 6/30/05	Actual % Ownership 6/30/05
1	TARR	\$25.25	8.4%		190	\$4,798	8.6%
2	KBH	\$76.23	8.2%		70	\$5,336	9.6%
3	RNHDA	\$27.45	6.3%		90	\$2,471	4.5%
4	QNTA	\$6.23	5.5%	500	500	\$3,115	5.6%
5	TOPT	\$15.87	5.5%		100	\$1,587	2.9%
6	OSG	\$59.65	5.1%		35	\$2,088	3.8%
7	IMH	\$18.65	5.0%		125	\$2,331	4.2%
8	CAA	\$11.70	5.0%		125	\$1,463	2.6%
9	NHI	\$28.07	4.9%		80	\$2,246	4.0%
10	ZNT	\$67.86	4.6%		40	\$2,714	4.9%
11	ACAS	\$36.11	4.3%		55	\$1,986	3.6%
12	ENH	\$37.82	4.3%		75	\$2,837	5.1%
13	SYXI	\$14.18	4.2%		180	\$2,552	4.6%
14	TRMM	\$16.82	4.1%		150	\$2,523	4.5%
15	GI	\$36.00	4.0%		75	\$2,700	4.9%
16	NFI	\$39.15	4.0%		70	\$2,741	4.9%
17	CHK	\$22.80	3.9%		125	\$2,850	5.1%
18	PNFP	\$24.00	3.3%		90	\$2,160	3.9%
19	GGP	\$41.09	3.2%		55	\$2,260	4.1%
20	EFSC	\$23.65	3.2%		90	\$2,129	3.8%
21	ERF	\$38.20	3.1%		45	\$1,719	3.1%
22	MIG	\$5.24	0.0%	(465)	0	\$0	0.0%
23	ZZCASH	\$1.00	0.0%	(601)	865	\$865	1.6%
			100%			\$55,469	100%

The adjustments to our Model Stock Portfolio this month are shown in Table 2. If you do not have low trading costs (i.e., brokerage commissions), you may wish to forego the incremental adjustments for stocks already in the portfolio. Most of them were made in keeping with our 2% rule where we will buy or sell shares once the “Target Ownership” is greater or less than 2% of the “Actual Ownership.”

If you would like to follow our monthly Model Stock Portfolio, but do not wish to manage your funds yourself, please contact us. We can put you in touch with a registered investment advisor who can manage your investments for you. They will be able to take into consideration your specific tax situation when making buy/sell decisions that are recommended in this newsletter.

Asset Allocation Model

Table 3 below shows The Prudent Investor’s recommended asset allocation for three model portfolios.² These portfolios represent a solid diversified investment strategy for an investor. Suggested mutual funds are listed in the table for you to purchase. However, you may wish to substitute any or all of these funds with other funds of your preference in the same asset class. Most mutual funds within the same asset class (e.g., “Large Cap” class) have very similar returns over longer periods of time.

² You may wish to adjust the asset allocation of your portfolio on a quarterly basis rather than monthly. In most cases this will have only a small impact on total returns. This newsletter does not take into consideration the potential tax implications of more frequent rebalancing. For retirement accounts, tax consequences from more frequent trading are not a concern.

Note: If you follow the Model Stock Portfolio published in this newsletter each month, you may wish to use one of the Asset Allocation Models below to determine your equity/fixed-income ratio for your overall investment portfolio. Then, instead of purchasing the suggested equity mutual funds given in Table 3, you can merely purchase all the stocks in the Model Stock Portfolio shown in Table 2. This substitution is not a one-to-one match with respect to diversification, but it should be sufficient to give you at least a moderately diversified stock portfolio with attractive upside potential.

Conservative Portfolio:

- **Best For:** This asset allocation is appropriate for investors who are looking to participate in the stock market but who are risk adverse. Investors nearing retirement age may wish to consider this allocation, as well as those saving for college or for a house purchase within five years.
- **Fair Value Allocation:** When the stock market is considered to be at “fair value,” the Conservative Portfolio will have a 60%/40% equity/fixed-income split.
- **Current Allocation:** Based on current market conditions, the suggested equity/fixed-income allocation is 70/30%.

Moderate Portfolio:

- **Best For:** Appropriate for investors who are willing to take more risk in the stock market in order to seek a higher long-term total return. Investors who are further from retirement will find this portfolio suitable to their needs. It also is recommended for investors who have under \$100,000 to invest in stocks and bonds.
- **Fair Value Allocation:** When the stock market is considered to be at “fair value,” the Moderate Portfolio will have a 75%/25% equity/fixed-income split.
- **Current Allocation:** Based on current market conditions, the suggested equity/fixed-income allocation is 85/15%.

Aggressive Portfolio:

- **Best For:** Appropriate for investors who have a high tolerance for enduring market fluctuations and who seek above-average returns over the long term. Investors who are further from retirement will find this portfolio suitable to their needs. Only investors who have in excess of \$100,000 to invest, and who are not close to retirement, should consider this asset allocation.
- **Fair Value Allocation:** When the stock market is considered to be at “fair value,” the Conservative Portfolio will have a 90%/10% equity/fixed-income split.
- **Current Allocation:** Based on current market conditions, the suggested equity/fixed-income allocation is 110%/0%. (A number greater than 100% for equities means the portfolio will be leveraged.)

Table 3: Asset Allocation Models

Category	Mutual Fund Symbol	Mutual Fund Name	Conservative Portfolio		Moderate Portfolio		Aggressive Portfolio	
			"Fair Value" Target	Current Target	"Fair Value" Target	Current Target	"Fair Value" Target	Current Target
Percentage in Equities			60%	70%	75%	85%	90%	110%
Large Cap	VFINX	Vanguard 500 Index	15.0%	17.5%	18.8%	21.3%	22.5%	27.5%
Mid Cap	VIMSX	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index	12.0%	14.0%	15.0%	17.0%	18.0%	22.0%
Small Cap	VISVX	Vanguard Small-Cap Value Index	18.0%	21.0%	22.5%	25.5%	27.0%	33.0%
REITS	VGSIX	Vanguard REIT Index	6.0%	7.0%	7.5%	8.5%	9.0%	11.0%
International	VEIEX	Vanguard Emerging Markets Index	9.0%	10.5%	11.3%	12.8%	13.5%	16.5%
Percentage in Fixed Income			40%	30%	25%	15%	10%	0%
Long Term Bonds	VBLTX	Vanguard Long-Term Bond Index	10.0%	7.5%	6.3%	3.7%	2.5%	0.0%
Medium Term Govt	VIPSX	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Sec.	20.0%	15.0%	12.5%	7.5%	5.0%	0.0%
High Yield Bonds	VWEHX	Vanguard High-Yield Corp.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
International Bonds	FNMIX	Fidelity New Markets Income	8.0%	6.0%	5.0%	3.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Cash (Money Market)	VSGBX	Vanguard Short-Term Federal	2.0%	1.5%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%

Note: We currently have a zero percent weighting for the high yield bonds asset class. For all of 2003 and 2004, high yield bonds enjoyed a substantial (though somewhat volatile) rally. However, the current yield spread between low-grade (credit ratings of BB, B, and CCC) and high-grade (credit ratings of AA and AAA) corporate debt has narrowed to as little as 40 basis points in the latter part of 2004. Declining yield spreads between higher quality corporate bonds versus “junk” bonds suggest investors have little concern currently with the risks inherent in owning such high yield (“junk”) bonds. We believe the 40 basis point spread is too small to justify ownership in lower quality bonds at present.

From the Editor's Desk

This month we take a sobering look at the state of affairs of the average American and his or her retirement preparation. Of course all readers of *The Prudent Investor* are without doubt *above average*, so you may decide the following does not apply to you. Still, you may wish to educate yourself on how your neighbor and other family members are faring when it comes to retirement.

The following is excerpted from a longer article written by Gary North entitled "Saving for a Rainy Quarter Century." You can read the entire article here:

<http://www.investorsinsight.com/article.asp?id=jmotb010305>

The Problem

The percentage of people who are actively saving enough money to achieve this goal [of retirement] is so small as to be statistically irrelevant. The savings rate in the United States is close to zero. It has been falling for two years.

The average American family's income is about \$40,000 a year. The average family therefore needs to have as a goal a retirement fund of \$600,000 to \$800,000. But the only asset they own that may possibly enable them to achieve this is their home....

The point is, making sure you have a swell retirement is up to you. Not to Uncle Sam, usually not to your employer, not to your kids. You have to max out your IRA's, your Keoghs, your 401K's and do it sensibly, and then some. And you have to start with that all important plan.

Today, the personal savings rate in the United States is 0.2%. The typical American family, which earns \$40,000 a year, is putting away a whopping \$80 a year. Some retirement.

How much should this family be saving? At least \$4,000 a year. Like clockwork.

The Clock Is Ticking

It takes high income, good investment knowledge, and self-discipline to save enough money to provide for a comfortable retirement. It also takes the ability to stay ahead of price inflation. This is not easy.

The key to success is a person's willingness to act in terms of the ticking clock. It means facing reality young, and then acting in terms of this reality, month by month, no matter what.

The problem is, it takes only one disaster to eat up the program, such as sickness or lawsuit judgment. Insurance can offset some of this risk, but not all of it.

This is why most people in history have died poor. They did not leave much of a legacy to their heirs. They had little capital. Yet the West has known about this truth for over three millennia: 'A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just' (Proverbs 13:22).

The problem that most people face is that their appetites grow alongside the rate of growth. Their tastes change. Usually, these tastes become more costly.

Then, with plenty of warning but without preparation, couples find themselves retired. They must cut expenditures by 50% to 75% overnight. This kind of reduction in lifestyle comes at a high emotional price. Most people start spending their savings in order to delay the required transformation in their consumption habits. The less habitual their discipline of thrift, the less

prepared they are for the day of reckoning. They fail to adjust fast enough. This is going to happen to tens of millions of retirees. They don't see it coming.

The Government Will Not Be There

Most American assume that the government will pay for their expenses. They have not checked with Social Security to see what they can expect as their monthly check. They don't want to know. If they knew, this would pressure them to make major adjustments now. They don't want to make adjustments now. The estimated \$44 trillion unfunded liability of Social Security/Medicare is about four years of all productivity, including government. This unfunded liability remains unfunded, and so continues to compound. We cannot 'grow our way out of it.' It grows right along with economic growth. It is expected to be \$51 trillion in 2008.

So, the average American trusts in an institution that can change the law at any time, and has, repeatedly. It's all a matter of voting blocs.

Conclusion

The lack of personal saving by Americans is a widespread phenomenon. It has not arrived overnight; it will not depart overnight. It represents a major shift in the direction of present-orientation. Americans are buying present goods with the money they could have invested in order to establish a legal claim on future goods (interest and dividends)....

Watch List

We are suspending publication of the Watch List beginning with our July newsletter. We hope to rework the structure of the list and include it in later newsletters if our readers find it of value. Please feel free to register your voice as a “yea” or “nay” as to whether we should include the Watch List in future editions of *The Prudent Investor*.

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