

# The Prudent Investor

October 3, 2007

## Performance Overview

For the month of September the Model Stock Portfolio gained 0.4% versus a gain of 3.7% for the S&P 500 index (including dividends). This represents a loss of -3.3% over 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 down -15.6% versus the S&P 500 index's total return of 9.3%.

**Table 1: Model Stock Portfolio Returns<sup>1</sup>**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TPI Total Return	S&P 500 Return
<b>2003</b>	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%
<b>2004</b>	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%
<b>2005</b>	4.1%	2.1%	(6.3%)	(2.3%)	7.1%	6.6%	3.6%	(4.7%)	(3.0%)	(3.2%)	5.3%	2.8%	11.3%	4.9%
<b>2006</b>	6.6%	(3.5%)	3.4%	0.1%	(2.8%)	2.2%	(2.8%)	3.3%	1.4%	9.1%	3.0%	2.7%	24.2%	15.8%
<b>2007</b>	3.3%	(1.0%)	0.1%	7.7%	6.9%	(2.1%)	(18.2%)	(11.0%)	0.4%				(15.6%)	9.3%

## Market Valuation Update

Using our 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 22.2%. This suggests a relatively strong buy signal for stocks. We would recommend overweighting equities relative to fixed income investments at present. See our website at [www.PruInvestor.com](http://www.PruInvestor.com) 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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 9/28/07	Target Ownership 9/28/07	Required Adjustment	Shares Owned on 9/28/07	Actual \$ Ownership 9/28/07	Actual % Ownership 9/28/07
1	HERO	26.11	9.3%		195	\$5,091	8.7%
2	PRS	10.52	7.6%		400	\$4,208	7.2%
3	CPX	20.48	7.3%		150	\$3,072	5.3%
4	HLX	42.46	6.8%		90	\$3,821	6.6%
5	CSE	20.24	6.5%		120	\$2,429	4.2%
6	SUAI	7.00	6.3%		400	\$2,800	4.8%
7	ROSE	18.34	5.6%		180	\$3,301	5.7%
8	AYR	33.42	5.1%		85	\$2,841	4.9%
9	PSEC	17.02	5.1%		200	\$3,404	5.8%
10	KALU	70.57	5.0%		35	\$2,470	4.2%
11	NTRZ.OB	1.54	5.0%		1,400	\$2,156	3.7%
12	IOSP	22.78	4.8%	125	125	\$2,848	4.9%
13	PCAP	13.37	4.7%		200	\$2,674	4.6%
14	FCX	104.89	4.6%		25	\$2,622	4.5%
15	AOB	11.15	4.5%		295	\$3,289	5.6%
16	CBF	5.9	4.4%		280	\$1,652	2.8%
17	HWK	13.87	3.9%	160	160	\$2,219	3.8%
18	CVO	21.63	3.7%		140	\$3,028	5.2%
19	CXTI.OB	0.01	0.0%		900	\$9	0.0%
20	DFR	9.05	0.0%	(230)	0	\$0	0.0%
21	RAS	8.23	0.0%	(380)	0	\$0	0.0%
22	RSO	11.26	0.0%	(175)	0	\$0	0.0%
23	ZZCASH	1.00	0.0%	2,600	4,362	\$4,362	7.5%
			<b>100%</b>			<b>\$58,297</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 any incremental adjustments for stocks already in the portfolio. Most of them are 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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 71/29.

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 86/14%.

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 112%/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
<b>Percentage in Equities</b>			<b>60%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>112%</b>
Large Cap	RSP	Rydex S&P 500 Equal Weight	15.0%	17.8%	18.8%	21.5%	22.5%	28.1%
Mid Cap	VIMSX	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index	12.0%	14.2%	15.0%	17.2%	18.0%	22.4%
Small Cap	VISVX	Vanguard Small-Cap Value Index	18.0%	21.3%	22.5%	25.8%	27.0%	33.7%
REITS	VGSIX	Vanguard REIT Index	6.0%	7.1%	7.5%	8.6%	9.0%	11.2%
International	VEIEX	Vanguard Emerging Markets Index	9.0%	10.7%	11.3%	12.9%	13.5%	16.8%
<b>Percentage in Fixed Income</b>			<b>40%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Long Term Bonds	VBLTX	Vanguard Long-Term Bond Index	10.0%	7.2%	6.3%	3.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Medium Term Govt	VIPSX	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Sec.	20.0%	14.4%	12.5%	6.9%	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%	5.8%	5.0%	2.8%	2.0%	0.0%
Cash (Money Market)	VSGBX	Vanguard Short-Term Federal	2.0%	1.4%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%

## From the Editor's Desk

### *Calming Waters*

Here's hoping that the worst is over for the financial sector. September saw many financial stocks stabilize, bouncing back from their lows hit in August. It was a difficult decision but we opted for this month's rebalancing to abandon three stocks that are directly or indirectly tied to residential and/or commercial mortgages, in spite of the fact that two of the three had a pickup in insider buying, and all three appear to be very attractively valued. The problem right now, though, is that it's extremely difficult to determine a given company's exposure to bad mortgage debt, subprime or otherwise. We won't discuss the reasons why here; chances are, our prudent investors have already read details of how wild Wall Street had gotten in packaging and repackaging mortgage backed securities, to the point that no one has any idea what the risk is for any of these packaged securities. If you can't know the risk, how on earth do you determine a reasonable price?

Unfortunately, there may be ongoing tremors from the earthquake that hit in July and August that lasts for months among the financials. The safest course of action might be to abandon any stock that smells the least little bit like a financial service stock. *The Prudent Investor* has chosen (for now) to keep some financial stocks in its model portfolio, but we will continue to watch very closely what the insiders are doing.

### *Enron Redux*

In spite of our paltry return for September, most of the stocks in our model portfolio actually did quite well. What hurt the most was holding shares of CXTI, which now is looking like a Chinese version of Enron. Though not officially confirmed, it's starting to look like we may discover shortly that the attractive earnings growth the company had been reporting was a myth. We didn't remove it from our portfolio this month only because trading has been halted until October 16, but clearly it is a sell candidate...if there are any buyers out there for the stock.

We are licking our wounds on this one as we ignored a sell signal two or three months ago when the only insider, who had been purchasing large blocks of the company, suddenly began selling the stock. Normally an insider selling is not as clear of a signal as insider buying. In this case, at least with 20/20 hindsight, it should have been clear that with no other insiders buying, and the one major insider reversing course in mid stream, we should have sold the stock. We didn't only because the company had recently announced several new and very lucrative contracts that made the stock look cheap. Only, what we expect to find out shortly is that the contracts never existed except in the minds of some very creative employees. Maybe it won't turn out that way...here's hoping for a better outcome.