

Stock Valuation Summary

I. The general case

In general, the price today of a share of stock, P_0 , is the present value of all of its future dividends, D_1, D_2, D_3, \dots :

$$P_0 = \frac{D_1}{(1+R)^1} + \frac{D_2}{(1+R)^2} + \frac{D_3}{(1+R)^3} + \dots$$

where R is the required return.

II. Constant growth case

If the dividend is constant and equal to D , then the price can be written as:

$$P_0 = \frac{D}{R}$$

If the dividend grows at a steady rate, g , then the price can be written as:

$$P_0 = \frac{D_1}{R-g}$$

This result is called the *dividend growth model*.

III. Nonconstant Growth

If the dividend grows steadily after t periods, then the price can be written as:

$$P_0 = \frac{D_1}{(1+R)^1} + \frac{D_2}{(1+R)^2} + \dots + \frac{D_t}{(1+R)^t} + \frac{P_t}{(1+R)^t}$$

where

$$P_t = \frac{D_t \times (1+g)}{(R-g)}$$

IV. Valuation Using Multiples

For stocks that don't pay dividends (or have erratic dividend growth rates), we can value them using the PE ratio and/or the price-sales ratio:

$$P_t = \text{Benchmark PE ratio} \times \text{EPS}_t$$

$$P_t = \text{Benchmark price-sales ratio} \times \text{Sales per share}_t$$

V. The required return, R , can be written as the sum of two things:

$$R = D_1/P_0 + g$$

where D_1/P_0 is the *dividend yield* and g is the *capital gains yield* (which is the same thing as the growth rate in dividends for the steady growth case).