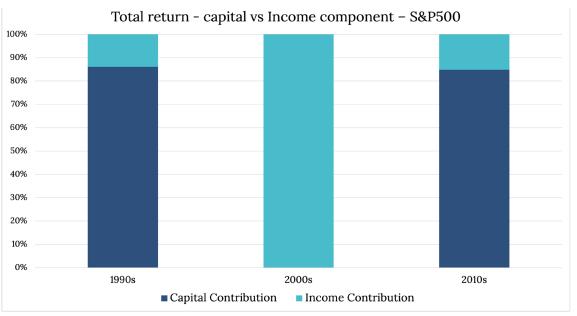


Why you need an income engine

June 28, 2021

Savers have long recognised the need to balance income and capital, but recently this has proven difficult as yields of all asset classes have fallen to very low levels. At the same time capital returns have had a bull run.

In fact, the only decade where returns to capital in the S&P500 were as high as the last decade was the 1990s, and subsequently the following decade's return was entirely down to the income component.



Source: S&P Bloomberg

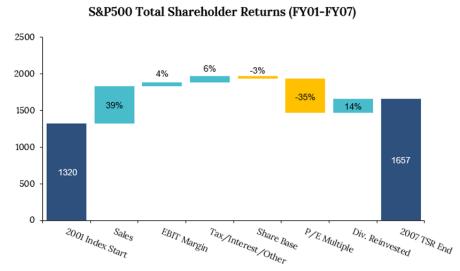
So, since the GFC, it has been better to hold the capital than seek income but with prospective returns now low and interest rates at some point likely to rise this is going to change.

In practical terms, income will be a greater component of total returns going forward regardless of the inflation outlook.

Looking at the breakdown below you can see that from 2001 to 2007, even though the index as a whole continued to grow sales (4.7% p.a.), the starting valuations were so high that the sales' growth was offset by a valuation de-rate (-35% p/e) such that the shares only increased 1.5% p.a.

However, if you had the income component, you boosted your total return by over 50% p.a. during that 7-year period.





| S&P500 | |
|----------------------|------|
| CAGR 2001-2007 | |
| Sales | 4.7% |
| EBIT | 5.2% |
| NPAT | 5.9% |
| EPS | 5.6% |
| Dividends Reinvested | 1.8% |
| S/P | 1.5% |
| Total Returns | 3.3% |

Source: Talaria, Bloomberg

The issue of course in equity markets is where to get such yield?

Many equities with higher prospective yields are challenged with all or some of a trade-off between yield and growth, yields that are unsustainably high, high volatility, and a greater sensitivity to risk-off events.

Finding a source of income which diversifies risk, does not result in markedly higher volatility, and changes the mix of savers' returns to a greater balance of the capital and income components is important but not easy.

Not easy but possible - and in our case achieved through the implementation process, receiving a minimum 15% contracted rate of return per annum as a result of our commitment to buy a share we want to own. This flows through in the form of an income stream which is not dependent on a company's ability or management's desire to pay a dividend to shareholders.

In other words, an income engine.