



Value Line®
Publishing, Inc.

Definitive Guide

The Value Line
Timeliness
Ranking System

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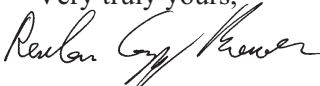
THE VALUE LINE RANKING SYSTEM

A Statement from
 Reuben Gregg Brewer,
 Executive Director of Research

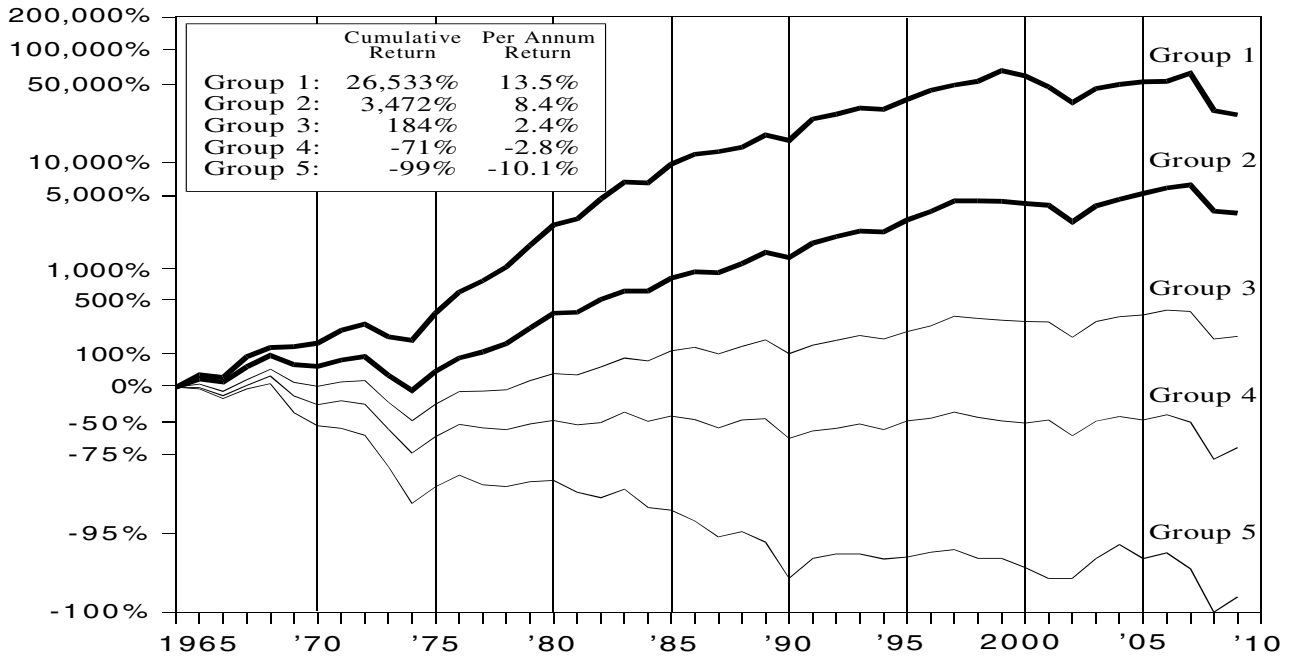
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The Value Line Timeliness Ranking System is a time-proven disciplined system that ranks a stock's likely relative performance over the next six to 12 months from 1 (Highest), to 5 (Lowest). Our record of performance speaks for itself.

If you are looking for unbiased, independent, and objective investment research and ideas, look no further than Value Line - we answer only to you.

Very truly yours,

 Reuben Gregg Brewer,
 Executive Director of Research

Record of Value Line Ranks for Timeliness Allowing for Changes in Rank Each Week (1965 - 2009**)



April 16, 1965 to June 30, 2009

VALUE LINE'S RANKING SYSTEM

The *Value Line Investment Survey* is probably most famous for its time-honored Ranking Systems for *Timeliness* and *Safety*, which rank approximately 1,700 stocks relative to each other for price performance during the next six to 12 months. The newer *Value Line Technical Ranking System* is designed to predict stock price movements over a three to six month time period. In each case, stocks are ranked from 1 to 5, with 1 being the Highest ranking.

Note: Any one Value Line stock rank is always relative to the ranks of all other stocks in the Value Line universe of approximately 1,700 stocks.

TIMELINESS

The *Value Line Timeliness* rank measures probable relative price performance of the approximately 1,700 stocks during the next six to 12 months on an easy-to-understand scale from 1 (Highest) to 5 (Lowest). The components of the *Timeliness Ranking System* are the 10-year trend of relative earnings and prices, recent earnings and price changes, and earnings surprises. All data are actual and known. A computer program combines these elements into a forecast of the price change of each stock, relative to all of the approximately 1,700 stocks for the six to 12 months ahead. The Value Line Universe of 1,700 stocks accounts for approximately 95% of the market capitalization of all stocks traded on the U.S. exchanges.

Rank 1 (Highest): These stocks, as a group, are expected to be the best performers relative to the Value Line universe during the next six to 12 months (100 stocks).

Rank 2 (Above Average): These stocks, as a group, are expected to have better-than-average relative price performance (300 stocks).

TIMELINESS	4	Lowered 2/8/08
SAFETY	3	New 7/27/90
TECHNICAL	3	Raised 8/1/08

Ranks Box

Rank 3 (Average): These stocks, as a group, are expected to have relative price performance in line with the Value Line universe (approximately 900 stocks).

Rank 4 (Below Average): These stocks, as a group, are expected to have below-average relative price performance (approximately 300 stocks).

Rank 5 (Lowest): These stocks, as a group, are expected to have the poorest relative price performance (100 stocks).

Changes in the *Timeliness* ranks can be caused by:

1. New earnings reports
2. Changes in the price movement of one stock relative to the approximately 1,700 other stocks in the publication
3. Shifts in the relative positions of other stocks

Value Line's Timeliness Rank Record

The *Value Line Timeliness Ranking System* has been operating essentially in its present form since 1965. Its exemplary record has attracted the attention of academicians and has been the subject of numerous articles in scientific and financial journals.

Our performance record is discussed here and shown in the graphs on pages 6 and 7. The first shows that through June 2009 our 1-ranked stocks had appreciated 26,533% (before commission costs and before dividends) between April 16, 1965 and June 30, 2009. That compared with a gain of 826% for the Dow Jones Industrial Average. That is, if you consistently owned the one hundred stocks ranked number one out of the total of approximately 1,700, the portfolio, as a whole, would have appreciated more than 26,000%. The second graph shows that if you bought all our 1-ranked stocks at the beginning of January of each year, held them until the end of December, and then set up a new portfolio of 1-ranked stocks at the beginning of each subsequent year, the portfolio would have risen 13,481% since 1965. These are records we believe nobody else has ever matched.

Making Changes Weekly

Value Line has been calculating changes in the *Timeliness Ranking System* on a weekly basis for more than 44 years and has been publishing the results in *Selection & Opinion*. The record of weekly performance is outstanding and is shown in the chart and table on page 6. There you can see just how stocks ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 for Timeliness have done, assuming that all rank changes were implemented each week.

What you can clearly see is that there have been spectacular results not only for stocks in Groups 1 and 2, but also, in reverse, for those in Groups 4 and 5. You can see that our evaluations for *Timeliness* are equally effective in showing both good stocks to seek and poor ones to avoid.

Stocks ranked 1 or 2 for *Timeliness* cannot be expected to outperform the market in every single week or month. But over a longer period, the expectation that they will do so as a group is warranted, as our actual results demonstrate.

Making Annual (Once a Year) Changes

Most investors do not buy and sell stocks every week. Doing so could result in large commission costs and a material tax liability, not to mention the time and effort such frequent trading requires. For these reasons, we have also regularly published a record of the results of annual changes in the *Timeliness Ranking System*. In what we call the “Frozen Record,” we assume that investors buy stocks on the first business day of each year and hold them until the last day of the same year. Here, too, the top groups have consistently surpassed the growth of the other groups, as can be seen on page 7.

SAFETY

A second investment criterion is the *Safety* rank assigned by Value Line to each of the approximately 1,700 stocks. The *Value Line Safety* rank measures the total risk of a stock relative to the approximately 1,700 other stocks. It is derived from a stock’s Price Stability rank and from the Financial Strength rating of a company, both shown in the lower right hand corner of each page in *Ratings & Reports*. Safety ranks are also given on a scale from 1 (Safest) to 5 (Riskiest) as follows:

Rank 1 (Highest): These stocks, as a group, are the safest, most stable, and least risky investments relative to the Value Line universe, which accounts for about 95% of the market capitalization of all stocks in the U.S.

Rank 2 (Above Average): These stocks, as a group, are safer and less risky than most.

Rank 3 (Average): These stocks, as a group, are of average risk and safety.

Rank 4 (Below Average): These stocks, as a group, are riskier and less safe than most.

Rank 5 (Lowest): These stocks, as a group, are the riskiest and least safe.

Stocks with high *Safety* ranks are often associated with large, financially sound companies; these same companies also often have somewhat less-than-average growth prospects because their primary markets tend to be growing slowly or not at all. Stocks with low *Safety* ranks are often associated with companies that are smaller and/or have weaker-than-average finances; on the other hand, these smaller companies sometimes have above-average growth prospects because they start with a lower revenue and earnings base.

Value Line’s Safety Rank Record

Safety becomes particularly important in periods of stock market downswings, when many investors want to try to limit their losses. As with *Timeliness*, the record of *Safety* over the years is impressive. When you study the data (shown in the table on page 8), you will find that stocks with high *Safety* ranks generally fall less than the market as a whole when stock prices drop. The table shows how the *Safety* ranks worked out in all major market declines between 1966 and the present.

The lesson is clear. If you think the market is headed lower, but prefer to maintain a fully invested position in stocks, concentrate on stocks ranked 1 or 2 for *Safety*. Also, at the same time, try to keep your portfolio ranked as high as possible for *Timeliness*. You may not be able to find stocks ranked high on both counts. You then must decide which is more important—price performance over the next six to 12 months, or *Safety*. A compromise involving picking stocks ranked 1 or 2 for Timeliness and

1 or 2 for Safety may be worth considering.

The Penalty and Reward of Risk

A risky stock is one which has low Price Stability and whose price fluctuates widely around its own long-term trend. It may also be a stock of a company with a low Financial Strength rating. One may reasonably assume that the price of a risky stock will go up more than that of a safe stock in a generally strong market. Yet, if in the interim it went down more sharply and you had to sell at an inopportune time, you could suffer a heavier penalty for having bought the high-risk stock instead of the safer one.

High Value Line *Timeliness* ranks give some protection against a general market decline, but only over a period of six to 12 months. They cannot be relied upon to help protect against a sharp drop in the stock market in every week or month, as a high *Safety* rank may do.

TECHNICAL

The Value Line *Technical* rank uses a proprietary formula to predict short-term (three to six month) future price returns relative to the Value Line universe. It is the result of an analysis which relates 10 price trends of different duration for a stock during the past year to the relative price changes of the same stock expected over the succeeding three to six months. The *Technical* rank is best used as a secondary investment criterion. We do not recommend that it replace the *Timeliness* rank. As with the other ranks, the *Technical* rank goes from 1 (Highest) to 5 (Lowest.)

The results of the *Technical* ranks since the beginning of 1984, are shown on page 8. From that data, we can calculate that from December 31, 1983, through June 2009, the stocks with *Technical* ranks of 1 rose 1,697%. Those ranked 5 rose just 306%. By way of comparison, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index, a recognized measure of broad stock market performance, was up 457% in the same period.

INDUSTRY

Value Line also publishes *Industry* ranks, which show the *Timeliness* of each industry. These ranks are updated weekly and published on the front and inside pages of the *Summary & Index*. They also appear at the top of each Industry Report. The *Industry* Rank is calculated by

averaging the *Timeliness* ranks of each of the stocks which have been assigned a *Timeliness* rank in a particular industry.

VALUE LINE INDEXES

On June 30, 1961, we introduced the Value Line Composite Index. This market benchmark assumes equally weighted positions in every stock covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey*. That is, it is assumed that an equal dollar amount is invested in each and every stock. The returns from doing so are averaged geometrically every day across all the stocks in *The Survey* and, consequently, this index is frequently referred to as the Value Line (Geometric) Average (VLG). The VLG was intended to provide a rough approximation of how the median stock in the Value Line universe performed.

On February 1, 1988, Value Line began publishing the Value Line (Arithmetic) Average (VLA) to fill a need that had been conveyed to us by subscribers and investors. Like the VLG, the VLA is equally weighted. The difference is the mathematical technique used to calculate the daily change.

The VLA provides an estimate of how an equal-dollar weighted portfolio of stocks will perform. Or, put another way, it tracks the performance of the average, rather than the median, stock in our universe. It can be shown mathematically, for all practical purposes, that the daily percentage price change of the VLA will always be higher than the VLG. The systematic understatement of returns of VLG is a major reason that the VLA was developed. Moreover, although the differences between daily price changes may seem small, the magnitude of the annual differential between the two averages can be very large. The greater the market volatility, the larger the spread between the geometric and arithmetic averages becomes.

In 1965, when the current *Timeliness* Ranking System began, our only market average was the VLG, so we scored the ranks on a geometric basis. This allowed us to compare the performance of the ranks versus the market (as measured by the VLG). After we started the VLA, we began scoring the ranks both on a geometric and arithmetic basis.

THE VALUeline RANKING SYSTEM FIRST HALF, 2009

The stock market in the first half of 2009 was a speculator's and risk taker's delight. Investors who threw all caution to the wind were the big winners, particularly in the quarter ended June 30th. Investors who were sensitive to risk, earnings growth, and previous price behavior fared less well. Unfortunately, Value Line's Ranking Systems fell in the latter category. The Timeliness Ranking System avoided stocks that had collapsed as a result of credit problems (the banks and other financials) and companies whose earnings and dividends were disappointing. It was these same depressed stocks, having risen dramatically in price starting in early March, 2009, that caused the Ranking System to lag the market in the second quarter. And this occurred despite the fact that the System had a good start in the early months of the year and *The Investment Survey* was recommending a favorable asset allocation to stocks, as well.

Low-priced, small-cap stocks, many selling below \$5 per share, accumulated enormous percentage gains, despite the fact that fundamentals failed to justify their moves. The poorer the earnings, the better the performance; the less favorable the previous stock price action, the more they outperformed. This type of behavior should not come as a total surprise, however, since such patterns tend to occur at major market bottoms and, indeed, argues for such having been the case in March, 2009 with the Dow Jones Industrials at 6500. At such times, stocks

that have fallen the hardest during the period of the overall market collapse tend to reverse course and rise rapidly. Of course, one would have had to identify March, 2009 as a major market bottom at that time—which few, if any, did. As a matter of fact, Value Line came close when it raised the recommended allocation to stocks to 75%-85% in the fourth quarter of 2008. Stocks ranked poorly in *The Survey* advanced broadly as speculators found opportunities in the beaten down areas of the market. The past three months have handsomely rewarded the risk takers, while many good-quality growth stocks have languished, and many sold-out investors have been eagerly waiting for any opportunity to join the game.

The Timeliness and Technical Ranking Systems are largely momentum-based. As such, they tend to produce the best results in between turning points, rather than at market extremes when reversal is the name of the game. If we are correct in recognizing the March, 2009 low as the bottom of the recent debacle, then it is reasonable to expect that Value Line's systems will resume their historical behavior and successfully discriminate among stock prices in the periods ahead. In the meantime, we continue to search for factors that will help us navigate through storms of volatility such as have characterized the markets in the past several years.

Samuel Eisenstadt
Research Chairman

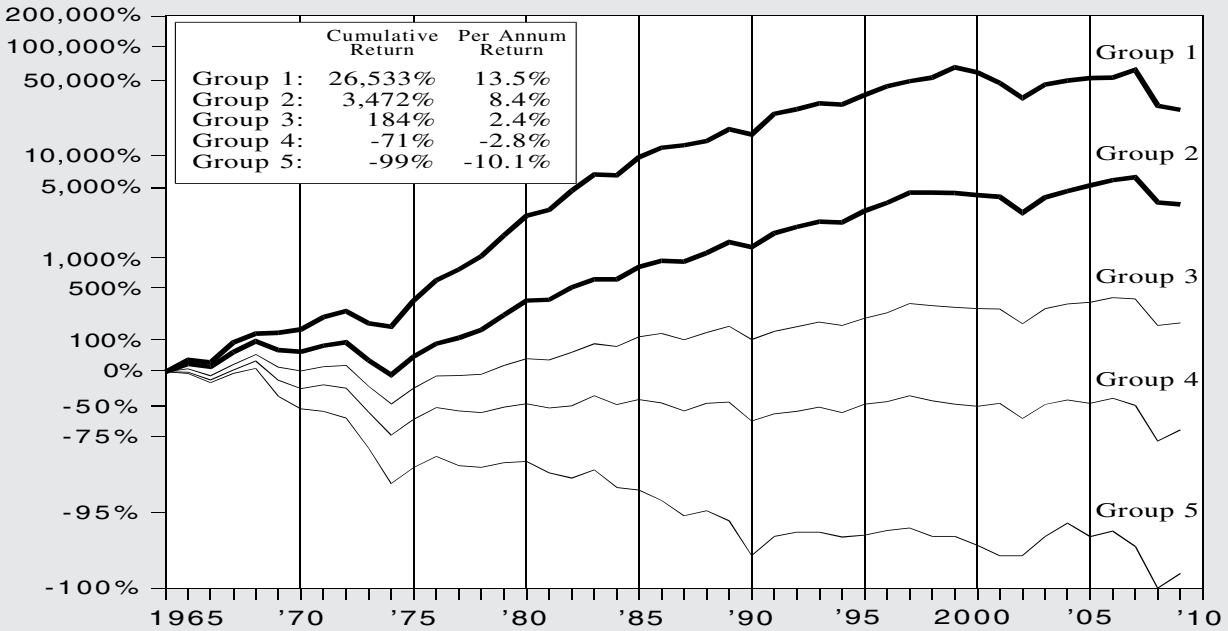
RECORD OF TIMELINESS RANKS			
Without Allowing for Changes in Rank		Allowing for Changes in Rank Each Week	
Average Percentage Change in Price 12/31/08 to 6/30/09		Average Percentage Change in Price 12/31/08 to 6/30/09	
Group 1	0.5%	Group 1	-8.2%
Group 2	1.8%	Group 2	-3.7%
Group 3	10.3%	Group 3	5.6%
Group 4	35.6%	Group 4	27.0%
Group 5	69.1%	Group 5	36.9%
Average	16.8%		
Dow Jones Ind'l Avg.	-3.8%		
S&P 500	1.8%		
Wilshire 5000	3.8%		
	<i>(arithmetic averaging)</i>	<i>(geometric averaging)</i>	<i>(arithmetic averaging)</i>

RECORD OF TIMELINESS RANKS	
Allowing for Changes in Rank Each Quarter	
Average Percentage Change in Price 12/31/08 to 6/30/09	
Group 1	-2.6%
Group 2	0.3%
Group 3	10.2%
Group 4	44.3%
Group 5	90.4%
	<i>(arithmetic averaging)</i>

RECORD OF TECHNICAL RANKS	
Allowing for Changes in Rank Each Quarter	
Average Percentage Change in Price 12/31/08 to 6/30/09	
Group 1	-3.4%
Group 2	-2.7%
Group 3	13.7%
Group 4	39.9%
Group 5	94.2%
	<i>(arithmetic averaging)</i>

Record of Value Line Ranks for Timeliness

Allowing for Changes in Rank Each Week (1965 - 2009**)



RECORD OF VALUE LINE RANKINGS FOR TIMELINESS (ALLOWING FOR CHANGES IN RANK EACH WEEK)†

April 16, 1965 to June 30, 2009

Group	'65*	'66	'67	'68	'69	'70	'71	'72	'73	'74	'75	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84
1	28.8%	-5.5%	53.4%	37.1%	-10.4%	7.3%	30.6%	12.6%	-19.1%	-11.1%	75.6%	54.0%	26.6%	32.6%	54.7%	52.6%	13.6%	50.6%	40.9%	-2.1%
2	18.5	-6.2	36.1	26.9	-17.5	-3.2	13.7	7.4	-28.9	-29.5	47.4	31.2	13.4	18.3	38.0	35.7	1.8	31.0	19.1	-0.8
3	6.7	-13.9	27.1	24.0	-23.8	-8.0	9.3	3.5	-33.6	-34.1	40.7	29.0	1.3	3.0	20.7	15.4	-3.3	17.9	20.2	-5.6
4	-0.4	-15.7	23.8	20.9	-33.3	-16.3	8.4	-7.1	-37.9	-40.6	39.3	28.8	-6.9	-3.8	12.8	7.4	-8.7	5.1	25.0	-17.4
5	-3.2	-18.2	21.5	11.8	-44.9	-23.3	-5.5	-13.4	-43.8	-55.7	40.9	26.7	-17.6	-3.2	10.4	2.9	-21.4	-10.9	19.0	-31.0

Group	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04
1	47.0%	22.9	5.4%	9.5%	27.9%	-10.4%	55.4%	10.0%	13.4%	-2.6%	22.8%	20.4%	11.3%	8.2%	24.1%	-10.4%	-20.3%	-27.2%	33.8%	8.4%
2	30.7	14.4	-2.4	20.4	26.5	-10.2	34.1	14.3	12.4	-2.2	28.1	19.0	24.0	0.1	-0.5	-4.4	-3.8	-28.8	38.2	14.5
3	22.8	7.7	-12.6	16.1	13.7	-24.4	18.9	11.0	9.8	-6.9	16.6	12.3	21.5	-3.9	-3.3	-3.2	-0.8	-27.1	38.2	10.5
4	11.4	-6.8	-15.8	17.6	2.6	-33.7	16.7	6.2	8.5	-9.9	17.1	7.1	14.5	-11.0	-7.5	-3.7	5.9	-26.7	34.2	9.4
5	-5.6	-19.6	-28.0	11.4	-19.2	-45.5	25.5	15.4	0.3	-15.2	5.2	7.5	16.6	-11.5	-1.3	-19.7	-7.2	-15.7	52.2	15.2

Group	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09**	'65* to 2009**
1	5.6%	0.7%	18.2%	-53.4%	-8.2	26,533%
2	12.9	12.1	6.6	-41.6	-3.7	3,472
3	3.6	11.3	-2.6	-43.5	5.6	184
4	-6.7	11.8	-14.3	-53.8	27.0	-71
5	-12.6	7.8	-28.0	-73.3	36.9	-99

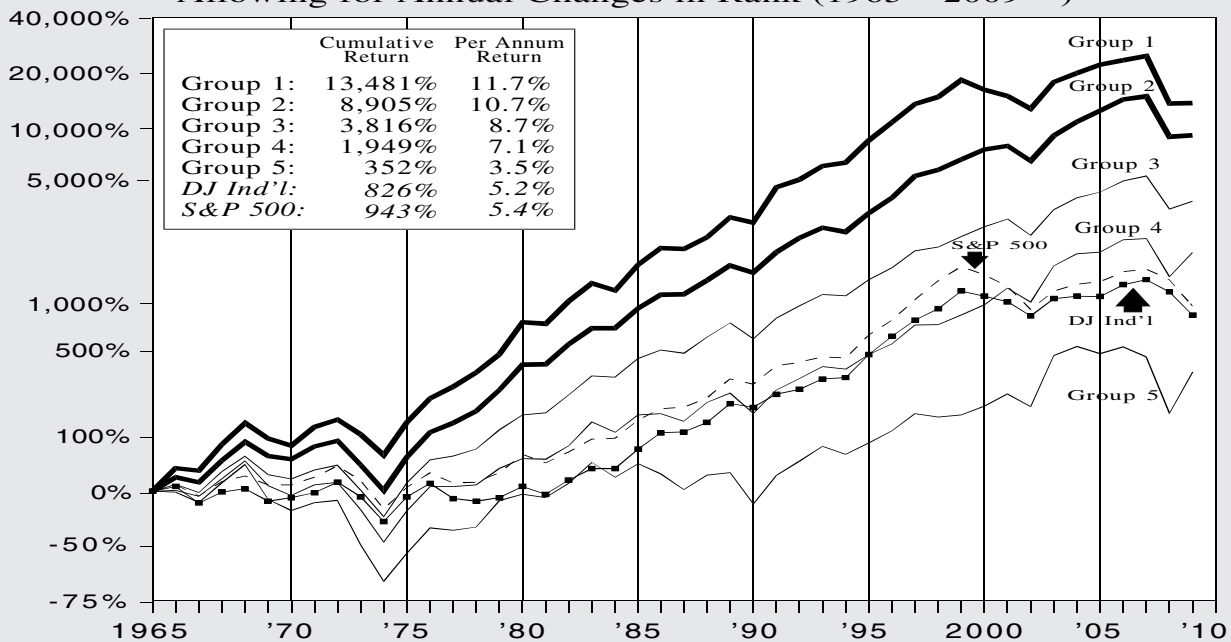
*April through December
 ** Six months ending June 30, 2009
 †Geometric Averaging

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Record of Value Line Ranks for Timeliness

Allowing for Annual Changes in Rank (1965 - 2009**)



RECORD OF VALUE LINE RANKINGS FOR TIMELINESS (WITHOUT ALLOWING FOR CHANGES IN RANK EACH WEEK)†

April 16, 1965 to June 30, 2009

Group	'65*	'66	'67	'68	'69	'70	'71	'72	'73	'74	'75	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	
1	33.6%	-3.1%	39.2%	31.2%	-17.7%	-8.9%	26.5%	10.1%	-17.1%	-23.1%	51.6%	35.3%	15.8%	19.8%	25.6%	50.2%	-1.9%	33.7%	25.2%	-8.6%	
2	18.9	-6.0	31.9	26.3	-16.3	-4.0	17.4	7.5	-26.2	-27.8	53.0	36.3	12.7	16.1	30.8	37.4	0.7	29.0	22.2	-0.1	
3	8.9	-9.7	30.1	21.4	-20.7	-5.5	12.2	6.2	-27.0	-28.5	52.9	33.8	5.2	9.2	27.6	20.8	2.7	25.5	26.7	-1.6	
4	0.8	-7.2	25.1	25.1	-26.8	-11.7	14.2	3.2	-29.1	-33.6	48.4	36.1	-0.2	2.4	23.1	13.2	-0.9	18.1	35.2	-12.3	
5	-1.2	-12.4	28.4	25.9	-35.7	-13.1	10.5	2.9	-43.1	-36.8	42.1	38.2	-2.8	4.0	39.9	8.4	-4.2	19.9	30.0	-17.1	
Avg.	10.1	-7.9	29.9	24.6	-22.1	-7.5	14.9	5.5	-27.7	-29.6	51.2	35.1	5.8	9.6	28.0	23.4	0.9	25.0	27.5	-4.7	
Group	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	
1	38.6%	23.5%	-1.2%	16.0%	28.7%	-6.6%	56.7%	10.1%	18.5%	4.6%	31.3%	27.0%	25.8%	9.3%	23.7%	-11.7%	-7.4%	-15.0%	40.1%	12.2%	
2	29.5	18.7	0.4	19.7	20.3	-8.7	29.8	19.9	13.6	-5.3	27.1	21.4	31.3	8.5	13.9	13.2	4.8	-17.3	37.9	18.8	
3	26.6	11.5	-4.1	23.2	19.6	-18.6	30.0	17.5	15.3	-1.6	22.8	16.1	24.1	4.8	14.5	13.0	10.2	-18.8	38.6	15.8	
4	24.6	1.5	-9.1	27.2	12.4	-22.8	34.1	15.6	16.5	-2.9	20.2	14.3	26.6	0.6	13.5	14.0	23.3	-16.2	58.2	16.5	
5	18.7	-12.1	-17.9	20.0	3.3	-33.0	43.8	19.9	20.3	-9.3	15.7	15.8	24.4	-4.0	2.8	11.6	16.4	-14.5	90.1	12.3	
Avg.	27.0	10.2	-4.9	22.6	17.8	-17.6	33.4	17.3	15.7	-2.6	23.2	17.4	26.1	4.4	14.0	11.4	11.0	-17.5	45.4	16.0	
Group	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09**	'65* to 2009**															
1	11.3	5.7%	5.4%	-45.0%	0.5%	13,481%															
2	15.0	15.6	3.9	-40.1	1.8	8,905%															
3	7.8	15.2	6.4	-34.2	10.3	3,816%															
4	2.4	16.7	1.4	-38.2	35.6	1,949%															
5	-8.7	9.1	-12.0	-50.9	69.1	352%															
Avg.	7.3	14.6	3.7	-38.0	16.8	3,930%															
						Dow Jones Industrials	826%														
						S&P 500	943%														

*April through December
 ** Six months ending June 30, 2009
 †Arithmetic Averaging

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RESULTS OF SAFETY RANKS IN MAJOR MARKET DECLINES

Safety Rank	4/14/72- 9/11/74	6/17/81- 8/11/82	8/26/87- 12/4/87	7/13/90- 11/2/90	4/22/98- 10/08/98	5/22/01- 9/21/01	4/16/02- 10/9/02	5/5/06- 6/13/06	10/9/07- 1/22/08	6/5/08- 3/9/09
Group 1	-40.5%	-10.5%	-24.7%	-19.0%	-6.1%	-11.5%	-20.8%	-5.1%	-13.3%	-32.5%
Group 2	-39.9	-16.2	-28.7	-15.5	-14.0	-14.0	-23.8	-5.9	-17.4	-42.0
Group 3	-47.2	-25.2	-36.0	-24.9	-29.7	-23.4	-33.1	-11.7	-19.6	-53.2
Group 4	-53.3	-33.6	-40.7	-33.2	-41.7	-41.7	-55.2	-17.1	-25.9	-61.1
Group 5	-70.0	-31.4	-46.9	-33.1	-37.8	-34.3	-51.7	-19.5	-25.6	-67.0

RECORD OF TECHNICAL RANKS (QUARTERLY REBALANCING)

	1	2	3	4	5
1984	-14.9%	-8.8%	-6.0%	-5.5%	0.0%
1985	42.5	32.3	28.1	19.7	4.5
1986	36.6	25.0	18.4	4.5	-11.7
1987	-7.7	-6.2	-6.7	-5.8	-18.2
1988	11.2	13.3	16.0	22.2	10.1
1989	27.6	25.0	19.9	9.0	-15.6
1990	-15.2	-11.2	-14.6	-28.5	-45.6
1991	61.9	32.1	31.7	44.5	43.5
1992	19.7	12.1	11.4	9.9	12.4
1993	41.5	21.7	12.3	14.7	19.2
1994	-1.4	-3.1	-2.3	-3.4	-7.6
1995	31.1	27.2	24.6	16.7	11.0
1996	21.5	22.6	16.6	15.0	19.3
1997	40.4	31.6	24.9	22.5	8.7
1998	26.5	16.9	2.5	-6.9	-8.8
1999	70.0	17.6	1.1	-0.5	8.7
2000	-7.0	10.1	12.9	12.2	-7.3
2001	-5.3	7.6	9.8	22.9	34.6
2002	-42.9	-25.8	-14.2	-8.3	-3.4
2003	57.2	39.2	38.4	55.3	122.9
2004	21.8	15.3	15.6	16.4	19.5
2005	11.1	11.9	5.8	8.8	7.1
2006	11.3	14.4	16.5	13.4	11.0
2007	7.7	7.6	1.2	-5.2	-1.3
2008	-39.4	-43.6	-36.0	-41.2	-42.7
6/30/09	-3.4	-2.7	13.7	39.9	94.2
TOTAL	1697%	832%	637%	425%	306%
S&P:	457%				

Notes



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