

Twitter Thread by [Tar](#) ■



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It's the weekend!

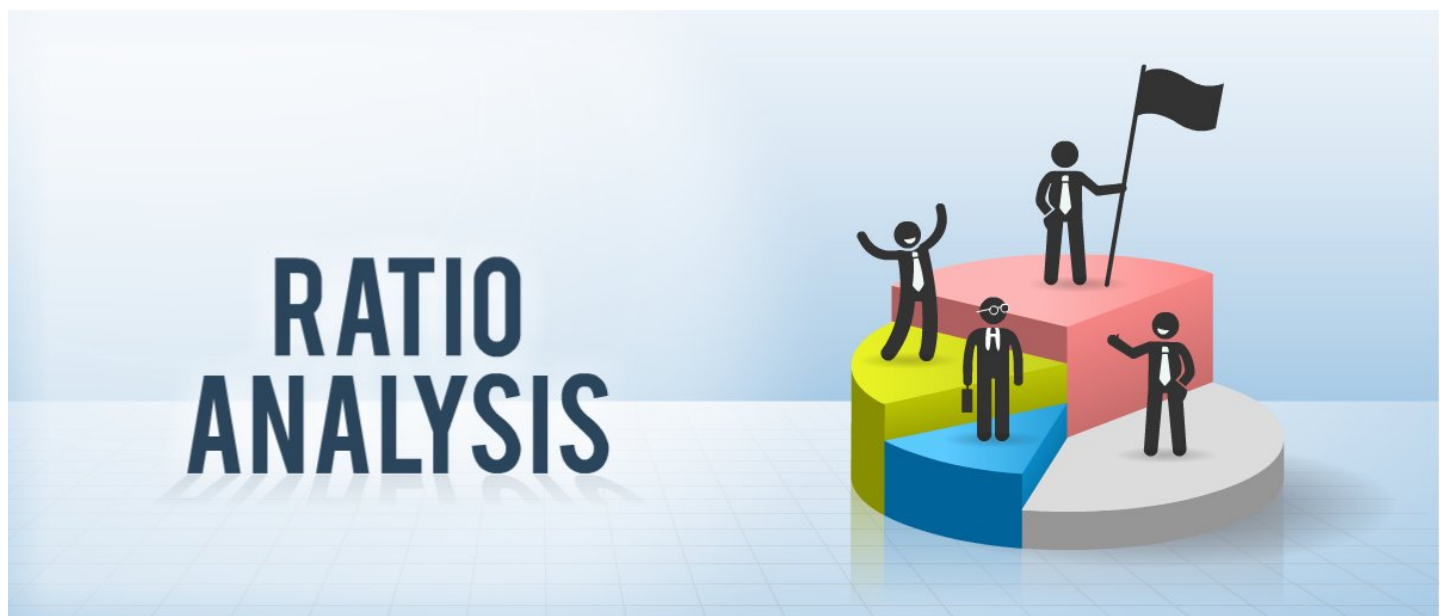
Grab a cup of coffee, in this thread I will explain

- 1. What are Valuation Ratios?**
- 2. What ratio should be used when?**
- 3. Why one standard ratio like a PE doesn't work all the time?**

Lets dive right in.

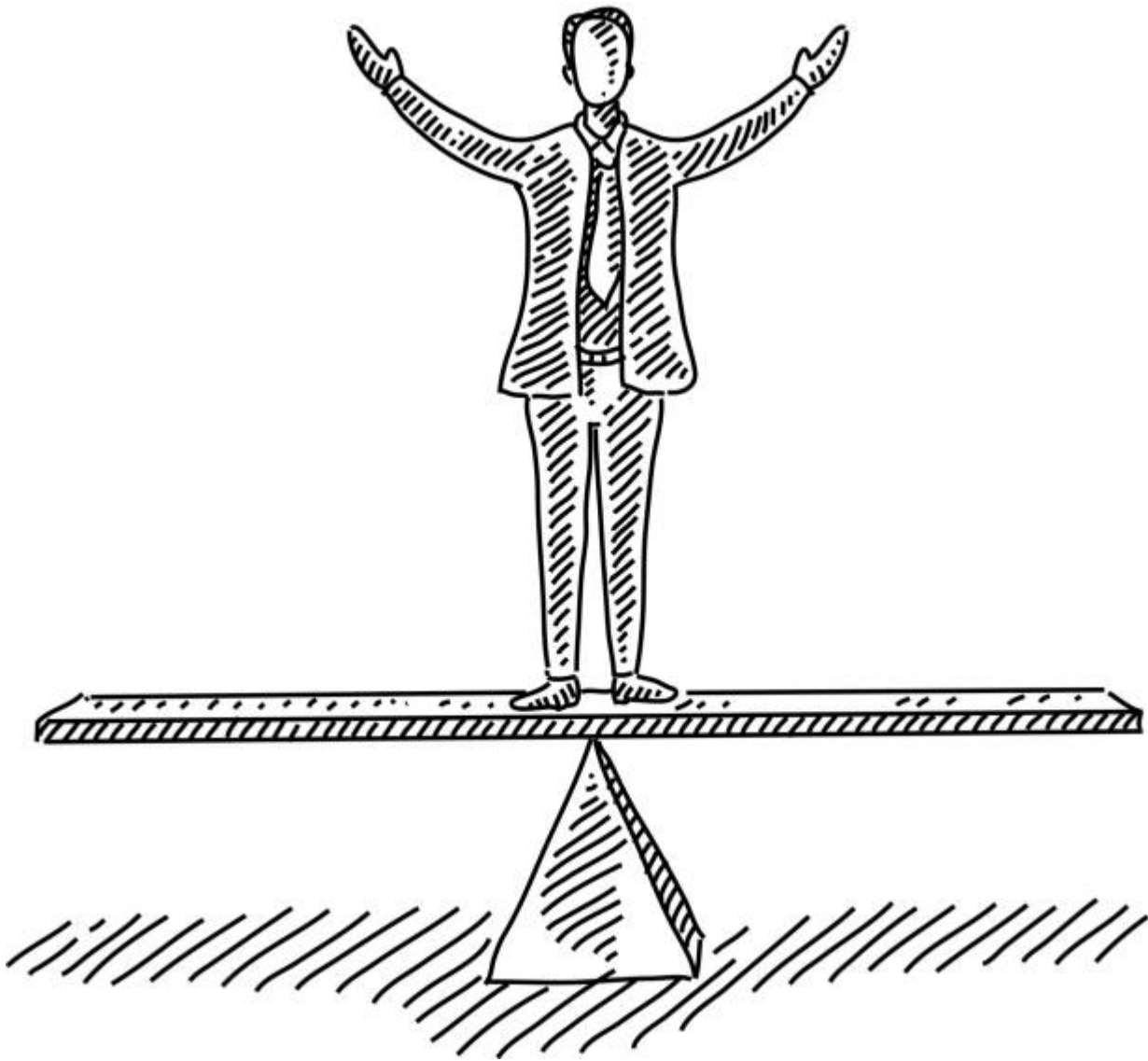


Valuation Ratios are a subset of ratios within the broader family of Ratio Analysis.



It is in this segment of Ratio Analysis, that you will find ratios like Price to Earnings, Price to Book, Price to Cash Flow, Price to Sales and many more.

Together these ratios help an investor understand if a company is valued cheap or expensive.



A novice investor tends to use Price to Earnings (PE) for everything - yet it is only one of the many ratios that should be used to judge the current valuation of a company.

When it comes to valuation esp. via Ratio Analysis - you cannot judge the valuation in isolation by using a single ratio.

You have to consider multiple characteristics and factors together while valuing a company.



More so, you need to understand what ratio to use when.

A Price to Book (PB) ratio doesn't work for companies with low assets and book values while it works perfectly for companies that are asset heavy.

So lets explore in detail, what each ratio means, what does it tell you about a company and what are the many pros and cons of using them.

Our first ratio is perhaps the most popular of them all - Price to Earnings or PE.



As the ratio suggests, Price to Earnings is just the current market price of a company divided by its most recent full year earnings per share.



Share Price

P/E
Ratio

=



Earnings per Share

This ratio is essentially telling you how much you're paying today for each Rupee earned per share.

Assuming the company passes on entire earnings as dividends, this ratio will also denote the number of years it takes for you to recoup your investment at the current share price.

Pros

- 1 ■ Easy to understand
- 2 ■ Quick tool to compare across peers
- 3 ■ Widely used

Cons

- 1 ■ Earnings per share is a highly managed accounting number
- 2 ■ Doesn't work for companies that have zero or negative earnings
- 3 ■ Doesn't reflect components of Balance Sheet like Debt

Here is something that is not taught a lot yet I believe is very simple tool for a new investor to understand.

If you flip the ratio of P/E to Earnings/Price, you get something known as an Earnings Yield.



$$\text{Earnings Yield} = \frac{\text{Earnings Per Share}}{\text{Stock Price Per Share}} \times 100$$



Yield refers to how much return an investment generates.

If a fixed deposit gives you 6% return, then its yield is said to be 6%.

Similarly a

PE ratio of 25 means an Earnings Yield of 4%

($1/25 = 0.04$)

PE ratio of 100 means an Earnings Yield of 1%

($1/100 = 0.01$)

Suddenly those stocks with a PE of 100 and beyond, don't look so good, do they?

When is PE suitable to use?

PE is good ratio to use when

- 1■ A company has earnings
- 2■ The company isn't cyclical, financial or in an asset heavy industry
- 3■ When you want to do a quick compare of peers in the industry

In any other case, PE is not suitable to use on it own. You always have to use these ratios in conjunction with various other metrics like

- 1■ Profit Margins
- 2■ Growth in Earnings
- 3■ Industry Structure
- 4■ Company Structure
- 5■ Cash Flows

Never invest just based on a single ratio.

An offshoot of PE is a ratio called PEG or Price to Earnings Growth.

PEG RATIO

Instead of just one time Earnings, this ratio changes the denominator to Earnings Growth.

This is a good ratio to use esp for fast growing companies, provided the growth in earnings is sustainable.

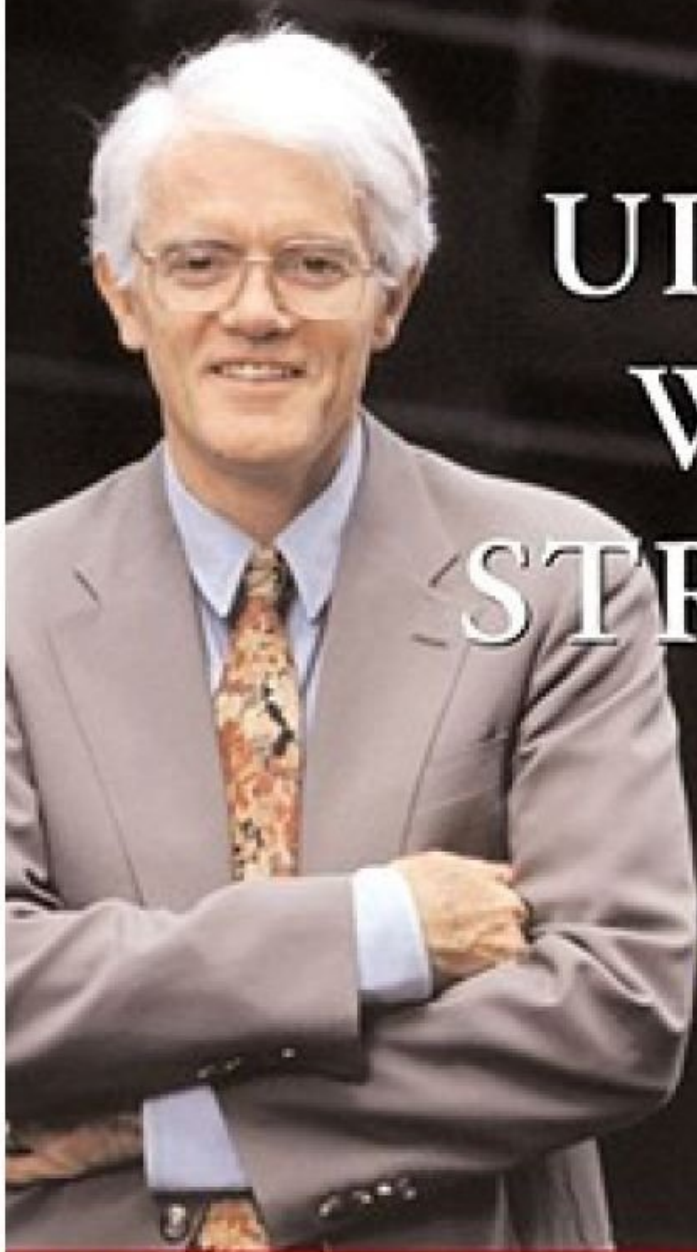
$$\frac{\textit{Price / Earnings}}{\textit{Growth}}$$

PEG Ratio of > 1 implies the company is overvalued

PEG Ratio of < 1 implies the company is undervalued

Fun Fact: Peter Lynch popularized the use of PEG Ratio through his book One Up on Wall Street.

"Mr. Lynch's investment record puts him in a league by himself."
—Anise C. Wallace, *The New York Times*



ONE UP ON WALL STREET

How to Use
What You
Already Know
to Make Money
in the Market

Over One
Million
Copies Sold

PETER LYNCH

WITH JOHN ROTHCHILD

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR

Let's explore another valuation ratio.

Price to Sales

Price to Sales is just what the name suggests.

Current Share Price / Most recent 12 month Sales per Share

$$\text{Price-to-Sales Ratio} = \frac{\text{Market Value per Share}}{\text{Sales per Share}}$$

Price to Sales is a relative valuation ratio - it is used to compare how cheap/expensive a company is valued in relation to its peers in the industry.

This is mostly used for companies that aren't earning any revenue yet and do not have a positive net income.

RELATIVE VALUATION OF STOCKS



Pros

- 1■ Less susceptible to accounting shenanigans: Sales of a company cannot be altered easily
- 2■ Sales unlike earnings for most part are not as volatile and relatively stable for company

Cons

- 1■ Does not take into account profitability

A company may be doing 100cr in sales every year but if its profit margin is 1% on that 100cr, its Price to Sales ratio will be

very less but that alone doesn't make it a good investment

Just like with PE, Price to Sales too need to be evaluated in conjunction with other metrics.

When to use Price to Sales?

- 1■ To compare companies across the industry and establish a benchmark ratio
- 2■ When a company isn't reporting any or low earnings and is in its growth phase

An offshoot of Price to Sales is a ratio called Enterprise Value to Sales.

In this instead of taking Current Share Price / Sales per Share

we take the total

Enterprise Value = (Value of Debt + Value of Equity - Net Cash)
and divide it with the actual yearly sales number.

EV to Sales Ratio


$$EV/Sales = \frac{\text{Enterprise Value}}{\text{Annual Sales}}$$

The main difference between EV to Sales and Price to Sales is that EV to Sales incorporates the Balance Sheet elements (Debt and Cash) in the ratio which Price to Sales does not.

EV to Sales gives a more comprehensive picture by incorporating the leverage (debt) of the company.

Price to Cash Flow

Price to Cash Flow is a measure of current market value relative to the cash generated by a business.

It is measured as

Current Share Price / Cash Flow per Share

Share Price

$$\text{Price/CF Ratio} = \frac{\text{Share Price}}{\text{Operating Cash Flow Per Share}}$$

The ratio is basically telling you how much you're paying for a company today for each rupee of future expected cash flow.

This is my go to ratio and I particularly like using this while screening stocks as it has several pros and limited cons.

Pros

- 1 ■ Unlike earnings, cash flow is very hard to manipulate
- 2 ■ Companies that do not have net earnings yet, can easily be compared on the basis of cash flow

Cons

- 1 ■ Doesn't incorporate Balance Sheet Leverage (Debt)
- 2 ■ Doesn't incorporate Growth in Cash Flow

When to use Price to Cash Flow?

Price to Cash Flow is most suitable to be used when evaluating Technology Product companies or companies who have reoccurring revenues with a limited asset base.

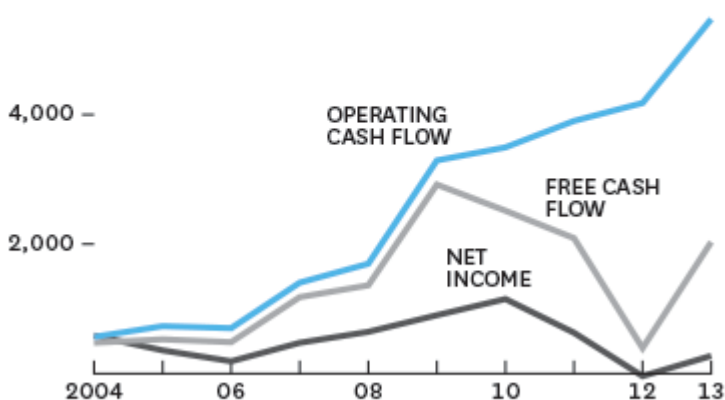
Most tech companies generate a very high cash flow yet they reinvest most of it into growing the company via Research and Development costs.

As such, these companies either do not have positive net earnings or if they do then these earnings are miniscule compared to cash flow.

AMAZON'S CASH MACHINE

Its earnings aren't much to look at, but the company's cash flows have been stupendous.

MILLIONS OF \$US
\$6,000 -



Using Price to Cash Flow to evaluate such businesses will give you far more clarity than using a Price to Earnings ratio would.

An offshoot of Price to Cash Flow is Price to Free Cash Flow.

Here, in the denominator instead of Cash Flow from Operations, we use Free Cash Flow.

Price to FCF, incorporates the effects of cash used by the companies for investing and financing purposes.

Free Cash Flow (FCF)

$$\text{FCF} = \text{Cash from Operations} - \text{Capital Expenditures}$$



Where, FCF is Generic Free Cash Flow

Price to Book or PB

As the name suggests,

Price to Book is ratio of current share price / most recent per share book value of the firm.

The formula for the price-to-book ratio

$$\text{Price-to-book ratio} = \frac{\text{Share price}}{\text{Book value per share} \frac{\text{assets} - \text{liabilities}}{\text{outstanding shares}}}$$

Book Value refers to the Net Assets available to a company's shareholders.

In case a company is liquidated this is the expected value each shareholder can expect to receive (at least theoretically).



When to use?

Financial and asset heavy cyclical companies are best evaluated using a Price to Book ratio.

The firms have a high asset base and due to the cyclical nature of their business peak earnings from these assets are achieved only in certain years.

The infographic features a light green background. At the top, the text 'WHAT IS' is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the main title 'PRICE-TO-BOOK RATIO?' is written in a large, bold, white font with a thick black outline. At the bottom, a teal rectangular box with a white border contains the text: 'The price-to-book (P/B) ratio is a valuation metric that is commonly used to value asset-heavy companies'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'Seedly Reads' consisting of a blue circular icon with a white leaf-like shape and the text 'Seedly Reads' next to it.

You cannot evaluate a technology company using a price to book ratio.

Why?

Cause technology companies do not need significant assets to conduct their business.

A true tech company will have a very small asset base and really high cash flow from that asset base.

Using a Price to Book ratio when a company has asset light balance sheet will not provide any information to you as an investor.

Pros

- 1■ Stable metric, the book value of a company doesn't fluctuate as much as earnings would
- 2■ Can be used to evaluate financial and cyclical companies

Cons

- 1■ Doesn't tell you anything about profitability of a company

The final ratio we will discuss today is called

EV to EBITDA



EV to EBITDA, takes the

Enterprise Value = (Value of Debt + Value of Equity - Net Cash)

and divides that with

Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization (also known as a proxy for cash flow)

Enterprise Value Formula

$$\text{Enterprise value} = \text{Equity Value} + \text{Debt} - \text{Cash}$$

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This is another one of my go to ratios to use as it essentially takes all the funds available to a company to use in the form of equity and debt and tells you how much cash a company is able to generate using those funds.

A EV by EBITDA ratio of 10 means you would have to pay 10 times yearly cash flow to acquire the entire business.

Pros

- 1■ Incorporates Balance Sheet elements like Debt
- 2■ Links Balance Sheet to Cash Flows

Cons

- 1■ Doesn't tell you anything about growth in earnings or cash flows

Finally, lets answer what is a good ratio to use?



What is a good P/E?

There is no single good ratio to judge an investment and company. You as an investor have to use multiple ratios and metrics to understand an entire company.

Every company is different and all ratios taken together can help you decipher an investment from all angles.

No single ratio tells the whole picture of any company's performance.

- True
- False

Just like Valuation Ratios, you have Profitability and Capital Efficiency ratios like ROE, ROIC and ROCE.

Learn all about them in this thread below.

<https://t.co/XFxH7hyhHu>

It's the weekend!

Grab a cup of coffee, in this thread I will explain

1. What is Dupont Method for ROE?
2. What is the difference between ROE, ROCE and ROIC?
3. How to identify companies that will improve their ROCE in future?

Lets dive right in. <pic.twitter.com/Co7LFFYto9>

— Tar \u26a1 (@itsTarH) [July 10, 2021](#)

If you're new here, I write a thread every weekend, explaining an investing concept.

Here is a link to my last weekend's thread

<https://t.co/w2jT7WVYt7>

It's the weekend!

Grab a cup of coffee, in this thread I will explain

1. How to do Industry Research?
2. How to research a Company from scratch?
3. How to determine Margin of Safety and build an Investment Case?

Lets dive right in. <pic.twitter.com/cijy1ilYZR>

— Tar \u26a1 (@itsTarH) [August 21, 2021](#)

I am an advocate of visual learning and visualizing numbers beyond the excel sheets

Teach a Free class on Data Visualizing using a tool called Tableau over [@skillshare](#)

Get access to the class by using the below link

<https://t.co/VyPiV7u7pp>

<https://t.co/UhAgK7aMIU>

I also teach a class on Personal Finance - concepts and frameworks that helped me achieve Financial Independence Early.

Here is a link to that class

(gives you Free access to all other classes on Skillshare for 30 days)

<https://t.co/NWZOPx8dvW>

<https://t.co/r7uNYuqjsn>

Also, write and publish long form articles on my substack (<https://t.co/pOJSMEyzOn>)

Subscribe for free, if you're interested.

Thank you to the 2500+ of you who already have!

Here, is a link to my last Deep Dive into PolicyBazaar.

<https://t.co/gWUpI3QHG8>