



Unit 01

210.95

Investment Environment

1.4

41%



Overview

- Real vs Financial Assets
- Financial Assets
- Financial Markets and the Economy
- Investment Process
- Competitive Markets
- Players in Financial Markets



Real vs Financial Assets

Real Assets

- Determine the productive capacity and net income of the economy
- Examples: Land, buildings, machines, knowledge used to produce goods and services

Financial Assets

- Claims on real assets, do not contribute directly to the productive capacity of the economy
- Examples: Stocks, bonds



Financial Assets

Fixed income or debt

 Promise either a fixed stream of income or a stream of income determined by a specified formula

Common stock or equity

- Represent an ownership share in the corporation

Derivative securities

Provide payoffs that are determined by the prices of other assets



Financial Markets and the Economy

- The Informational Role
 - Capital flows to companies with best prospects

Consumption Timing

 Use securities to store wealth and transfer consumption to the future

Allocation of Risk

 Investors can select securities consistent with their tastes for risk, which benefits the firms that need to raise capital as security can be sold for the best possible price



Investment Process

- Portfolio
 - Collection of investment assets
- Asset Allocation
 - Choice among asset classes
- Security Selection
 - Choice of Securities within each asset class



Investment Process

- "Top Down" approach
 - Asset allocation followed by security analysis to evaluate which particular securities to be included in the portfolio

"Bottom-up" approach

Investment based solely on the price-attractiveness,
which may result in unintended heavy weight of a portfolio in only one or another sector of the economy



Markets Are Competitive

- Risk-Return Trade-Off
 - Higher-risk assets are priced to offer higher expected returns than lower-risk assets

Efficient Markets

- In fully efficient markets when prices quickly adjust to all relevant information, there should be neither underpriced nor overpriced securities



Markets Are Competitive

- Passive Management
 - Holding a highly diversified portfolio
 - No attempt to find undervalued securities
 - No attempt to time the market

Active Management

- Finding misplaced securities
- Timing the market



- Players
 - Demanders of capital Firms
 - Suppliers of capital Households
 - Governments Can be both borrowers or lenders



Players

- Financial Intermediaries: Pool and invest funds
 - Investment companies
 - Banks
 - Insurance companies
 - Credit unions



Bank Activities

Investment Banking

- underwrite new securities issues
- sell newly issued securities to the public in the primary market
- investors trade previously issued securities among themselves in the secondary market

Commercial Banking

take deposits and make loans