# Factor Research: pb

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### 1 Data

### 1.1 Time period

2000.1.31 - 2020.6.30. The SHARADAR data source has a fixed 20 years window. We regularly download data from there to our local in an accumulation manner so we would go beyond the 20 years limit.

#### 1.2 Universe

We manually re-construct historical SP500 line-up as our universe. So this research by nature is large-cap oriented

#### 1.3 Data preparation

Our fundamental analysis is based on a quarterly rebalance frequency, which also matches thel reporting period of companies. Our rebalance dates are the last dates of each quarter. Given the different earning dates of different company, at those dates, some companies latest finacial reports may have not come out yet. So directly using the rebalance date as the date for the fundamental information would cause look-forward bias. To address this, at each rebalance date, we use the most recent financial information prior to that date for each companies.

# 2 Methodology

#### 2.1 Z Score

At each reabalance date, we rank the above-mentioned universe by the relevant column/factor (pb in this case). We take the z-score of the rank. We also group the universe by sector/industry to examine the z score of stocks in each group.

Note as a classical constituent of value factor, a low pb value indicates a more valuestyled stock as a high pb means a more growthy stock 2.2 IC

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### 2.3 L/S Portfolio

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# 3 Observation

## 3.1 Z Score

Figure 1 shows the overview of all sectors. We break them down into the following categories:

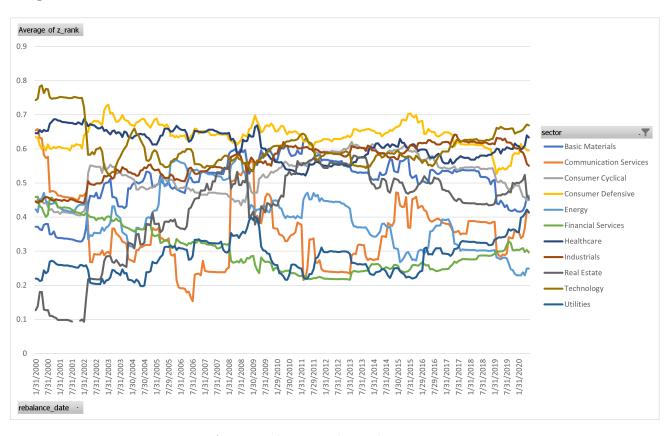


Figure 1: Average pb z score by each sector

• Sectors of high z scores (> 0.5)

As shown in Figure 2, **Technology**, **Healthcare**, **Consumer Defensive** and **Consumer Cyclical** are sectors of consistent high pb ranks historically. Among them, **Technology**, **Healthcare** are the classical growthy sectors. For **Consumer** 

**Defensive** and **Consumer Cyclical**, we took a deeper look into the individual stocks in those sectors.

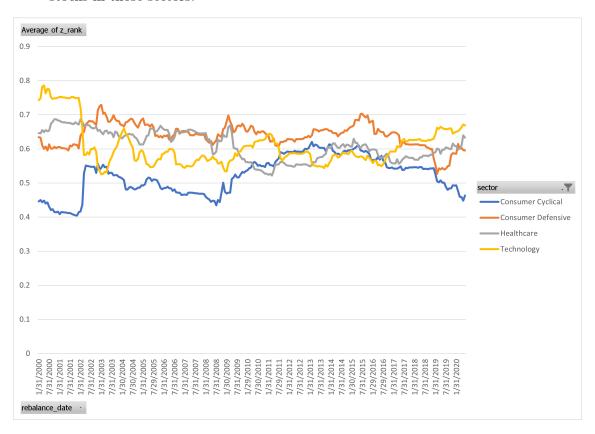


Figure 2: Sectors of high historical z-scores

• Sectors of low z scores (< 0.5)

As shown in Figure 3, **Financials** and **Utilities** have a consitent low pb rank historically. This reflects their nature as traditional value sectors.

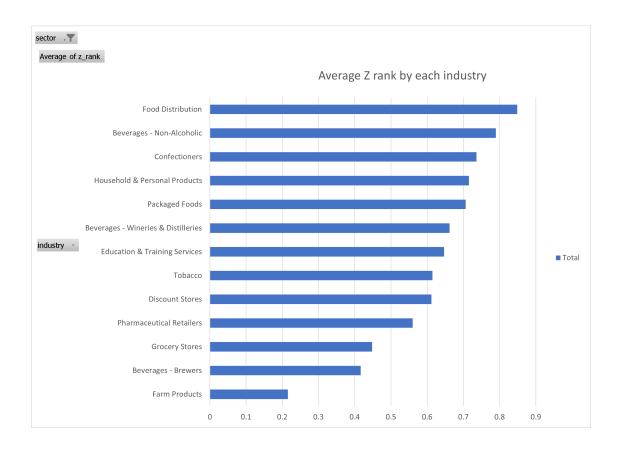


Figure 3: Sectors of low historical z-scores

# 3.2 Sector Investigation

## 3.2.1 Consumer Defensive

We started by looking at each industry.



The Food Distribution only has one company (in our universe) – SYY, Sysco. As shown in Fig-4. This company becomes very growthy since 2019 as P/B, P/E etc. ratios took off. Part of the reason according to Fig-?? is the drastic decline in its earning – -88.1%. However, its stock price only tank -21.3%. This would make PE ratio relative higher than the historical average. However, we are not able to justify its high PB ration prior to 2019.

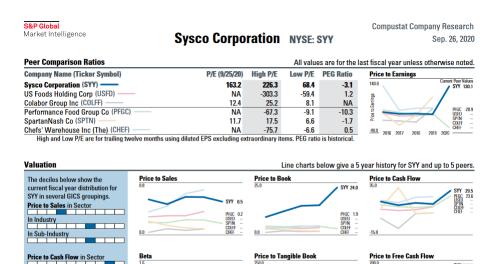


Figure 4: Valuations of SYY as of 9/25/2020

SYY -8.3 PFGC -15.7 USFD -SPIN -COLIF -CHEF -

### Sysco Corporation NYSE: SYY

Price Performance		Key Statistics (Latest 4 Quarters)		
Price on 9/25/20	\$62.01	EPS Growth	-88.1%	
52-Week High/Low	\$85.98 / 26.00	EPS Growth 3 Year, annualized	-41.3%	
Volume on 9/25/20	2,543,564	EPS Growth 5 Year, annualized	-18.2%	
10-Day Avg. Volume	3,487,094	Sales Growth	-42.7%	
Price 1 Month Ago	\$61.89	Asset Turnover	2.6x	
1 Month Price Performance	0.2%	Inventory Turnover	12.3x	
Price 3 Months Ago	\$52.30	Receivables Turnover	13.7x	
3 Month Price Performance	18.6%	Effective Tax Rate	26.6%	
Price 6 Months Ago	\$50.45	Total Debt to Equity	556.6x	
6 Month Price Performance	22.9%	Interest Coverage	1.5x	
Price 12 Months Ago	\$78.80	Quick Ratio	0.9x	
12 Month Price Performance	-21.3%	Current Ratio	1.5x	
Market Capitalization	\$31.5 Billion	Payout Ratio	428.6%	
Beta	1.10	Debt to Capital	0.8x	

Figure 5: Key statistics of SYY as of 9/25/2020

For Beverages - Non Alcoholic sector, we took Pepsi Co (PEP) as an example. From Fig-6 we can see that during the past one year, the valuation mesures of PEP are fairly stable. However, from Fig-7 we observed that its Debt to Capital ratio is relatively high 0.7x. As the book values is the net equity of the company,we wonder the high leverage causes the company's equity value relatively small and eventually leads to a higher PB ratio. We also found the similar pattern in SYY (0.8x debt ratio). To validate our assumption that high leverage would inflate the PB ratio, we can examine

the P/EV ratio which also considers companies liabilities. This would be the next topic of our factor research.

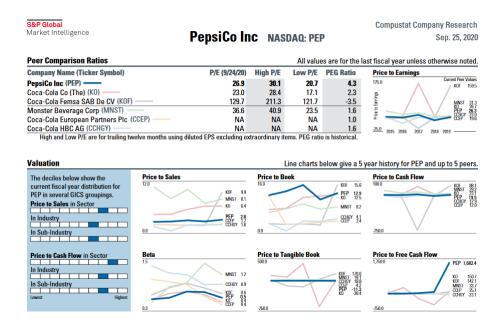


Figure 6: Valuations of PEP as of 9/25/2020

### PepsiCo Inc NASDAQ: PEP

Price Performance		Key Statistics (Latest 4 Quarters)		
Price on 9/24/20	\$131.58	EPS Growth	-45.8%	
52-Week High/Low	\$147.20 / 101.42	EPS Growth 3 Year, annualized	6.0%	
Volume on 9/24/20	4,316,594	EPS Growth 5 Year, annualized	4.0%	
10-Day Avg. Volume	4,719,625	Sales Growth	-3.1%	
Price 1 Month Ago	\$138.40	Asset Turnover	0.8x	
1 Month Price Performance	-4.9%	Inventory Turnover	7.4x	
Price 3 Months Ago	\$131.41	Receivables Turnover	8.0x	
3 Month Price Performance	0.1%	Effective Tax Rate	21.2%	
Price 6 Months Ago	\$120.26	Total Debt to Equity	280.5x	
6 Month Price Performance	9.4%	Interest Coverage	NA	
Price 12 Months Ago	\$135.36	Quick Ratio	0.8x	
12 Month Price Performance	-2.8%	Current Ratio	1.0x	
Market Capitalization	\$182.2 Billion	Payout Ratio	83.6%	
Beta	0.53	Debt to Capital	0.7x	

Figure 7: Key statistics of PEP as of 9/25/2020

## 3.2.2 Consumer Cyclical

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3.4 L/S Portfolio

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