

What do we  
mean by Margin  
of Safety?





---

# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

---

- ❖ This is one of Warren Buffets core investing principles
- ❖ Essentially, if the market value of the company is 30% less than the intrinsic value, you have a 30% margin of safety
- ❖ The intrinsic value is calculated using a Discounted Cash Flow model



---

# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

---

- ❖ “If you understood a business perfectly and the future of the business, you would need very little in the way of a margin of safety. So, the more vulnerable the business is, assuming you still want to invest in it, the larger the margin of safety you’d need. If you’re driving a truck across a bridge that says it holds 10,000 pounds and you’ve got a 9,800 pound vehicle, if the bridge is 6 inches above the crevice it covers, you may feel okay; but if it’s over the Grand Canyon, you may feel you want a little larger margin of safety.” Warren Buffett



---

# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

---

- ❖ The Margin of Safety calculation is not difficult providing you understand the principles we have been discussing in the course
- ❖ We have included a MOS Calculator in Excel Format with this lecture.



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ Lets do this calculation for Apple Inc
- ❖ First we need to put in some basic inputs
- ❖ Initial Cash Flow - Cash generated from Operating Activities

	Apple Inc	2018	
Initial Cash Flow:		US\$77,434	
Growth Rate:			
Years:	1-5	11.6%	
	6-10	4.0%	
Terminal Growth Rate:		2.0%	
Discount Rate:		5.0%	
Shares Outstanding:		5,000,109	
Debt Level:		US\$102,519	
Margin of Safety:		30%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ Revenue growth between 2017 and 2018 was 11.6%
- ❖ We have assumed a more modest 4% in the second period of 5 years

	Apple Inc	2018	
Initial Cash Flow:		US\$77,434	
Growth Rate:			
Years:	1-5	11.6%	
	6-10	4.0%	
Terminal Growth Rate:		2.0%	
Discount Rate:		5.0%	
Shares Outstanding:		5,000,109	
Debt Level:		US\$102,519	
Margin of Safety:		30%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ The Terminal Growth Rate is 2%
- ❖ The Discount Rate is a modest 5%
- ❖ The Discount Rate should be derived from the WACC

	Apple Inc	2018	
Initial Cash Flow:		US\$77,434	
Growth Rate:			
Years:	1-5	11.6%	
	6-10	4.0%	
Terminal Growth Rate:		2.0%	
Discount Rate:		5.0%	
Shares Outstanding:		5,000,109	
Debt Level:		US\$102,519	
Margin of Safety:		30%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ From the 10K we know that there are 5 million fully diluted shares in issue
- ❖ Term Debt - current and long term is just over \$102m

	Apple Inc	2018	
Initial Cash Flow:		US\$77,434	
Growth Rate:			
Years:	1-5	11.6%	
	6-10	4.0%	
Terminal Growth Rate:		2.0%	
Discount Rate:		5.0%	
Shares Outstanding:		5,000,109	
Debt Level:		US\$102,519	
Margin of Safety:		30%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ We are aiming for a target 30% margin of safety

	Apple Inc	2018	
Initial Cash Flow:		US\$77,434	
Growth Rate:			
Years:	1-5	11.6%	
	6-10	4.0%	
Terminal Growth Rate:		2.0%	
Discount Rate:		5.0%	
Shares Outstanding:		5,000,109	
Debt Level:		US\$102,519	
Margin of Safety:		30%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ The model calculates the discounted cash flows for the 10 year period
- ❖ The Terminal Value cash flow
- ❖ The PV of the 10 year cash flows

	Apple Inc		2018	
Year	Flows		Growth	Value
1	US\$	86,416	12%	US\$ 82,301
2	US\$	96,441	12%	US\$ 87,475
3	US\$	107,628	12%	US\$ 92,973
4	US\$	120,113	12%	US\$ 98,817
5	US\$	134,046	12%	US\$ 105,028
6	US\$	139,407	4%	US\$ 104,028
7	US\$	144,984	4%	US\$ 103,037
8	US\$	150,783	4%	US\$ 102,056
9	US\$	156,814	4%	US\$ 101,084
10	US\$	163,087	4%	US\$ 100,121
Terminal Year			US\$166,349	
PV of Year 1-10 Cash Flows:			US\$976,920	
Terminal Value:			US\$3,404,123	
Total PV of Cash Flows:			US\$4,381,044	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ The Terminal Value
- ❖ The Total PV of all the Cash Flows

	Apple Inc	2018	
Year	Flows	Growth	Value
1	US\$ 86,416	12%	US\$ 82,301
2	US\$ 96,441	12%	US\$ 87,475
3	US\$ 107,628	12%	US\$ 92,973
4	US\$ 120,113	12%	US\$ 98,817
5	US\$ 134,046	12%	US\$ 105,028
6	US\$ 139,407	4%	US\$ 104,028
7	US\$ 144,984	4%	US\$ 103,037
8	US\$ 150,783	4%	US\$ 102,056
9	US\$ 156,814	4%	US\$ 101,084
10	US\$ 163,087	4%	US\$ 100,121
Terminal Year		US\$166,349	
PV of Year 1-10 Cash Flows:		US\$976,920	
Terminal Value:		US\$3,404,123	
Total PV of Cash Flows:		US\$4,381,044	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ From the Total PV of Cash Flows we can calculate an Intrinsic Value Per Share



	Apple Inc	2018	
Total PV of Cash Flows:		US\$4,381,044	
Number of Shares:		5,000,109	
Intrinsic Value (IV):		US\$85.57	
Margin of Safety		US\$59.90	
Stocks Current Share Price		US\$54.76	
Margin of Safety - Intrinsic Value Versus Actual Share Price		36%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ The 30% Margin of Safety assumption gives us a \$59.90 value per share

	Apple Inc	2018	
Total PV of Cash Flows:		US\$4,381,044	
Number of Shares:		5,000,109	
Intrinsic Value (IV):		US\$85.57	
Margin of Safety		US\$59.90	
Stocks Current Share Price		US\$54.76	
Margin of Safety - Intrinsic Value Versus Actual Share Price		36%	



# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

- ❖ The Actual Stock price is noted here
- ❖ This shows that on the basis of these assumptions the stock is trading at a 36% discount to the current share price
- ❖ On this basis, we would buy the shares

	Apple Inc	2018	
Total PV of Cash Flows:		US\$4,381,044	
Number of Shares:		5,000,109	
Intrinsic Value (IV):		US\$85.57	
Margin of Safety		US\$59.90	
Stocks Current Share Price		US\$54.76	
Margin of Safety - Intrinsic Value Versus Actual Share Price		36%	



---

# What do we mean by Margin of Safety?

---

- ❖ The objective is to only purchase companies which are undervalued by the market and this approach ensures that you have plenty of margin for error, i.e. Margin of Safety



What do we  
mean by Margin  
of Safety?

