## Dividend Performance in the Stock Market Comparing the S\&P 500 Composite and the S\&P 500 Total Return 1950-2017

While there is honest debate as to whether dividend-paying stocks offer superior returns to non-dividend paying stocks, what is not in debate is the comparative value of the S\&P 500's historical growth, with and without dividends.

Since 1950, the S\&P 500's preferred starting point, the S\&P 500 Composite delivered an annual return of $9.09 \%$, while the S\&P 500 Total Return produced an annual return of $12.75 \%$. Therefore, the dividend represented $29 \%$ of the annual return average.

However, on a compounding basis, the cumulative value of a $\$ 1,000$ investment in the S\&P 500 Composite grew to a December 31, 2017 value of $\$ 161,188$, while the S\&P 500 Total Return grew to a staggering value of $\$ 1,501,670$ !

As you can see in the chart below, dividends fell substantially in the 1990s and 2000s, rebounding somewhat in the 2010s; however, as a value to the overall return, it has a prominent place.

| Decade | Dividend | Dividend as a <br> Percent of Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 1950 s | $5.75 \%$ | $35 \%$ |
| 1960 s | $3.39 \%$ | $96 \%$ |
| 1970 s | $4.24 \%$ | $38 \%$ |
| 1980 s | $4.98 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| 1990 s | $2.86 \%$ | $45 \%$ |
| 2000 s | $1.82 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| 2010 s | $2.33 \%$ | $35 \%$ |

The complete report follows:

| Year | Composite Return | Total Return | Dividend Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1950 | 23.01\% | 31.72\% | 8.71\% |
| 1951 | 16.46\% | 24.02\% | 7.56\% |
| 1952 | 11.78\% | 18.35\% | 6.57\% |
| 1953 | -6.62\% | -0.98\% | 5.64\% |
| 1954 | 45.02\% | 52.62\% | 7.60\% |
| 1955 | 26.40\% | 31.57\% | 5.17\% |
| 1956 | 2.62\% | 6.56\% | 3.94\% |
| 1957 | -14.31\% | -10.78\% | 3.53\% |
| 1958 | 38.06\% | 43.36\% | 5.30\% |
| 1959 | 8.48\% | 11.96\% | 3.48\% |
| 1960 | -2.97\% | 0.47\% | 3.44\% |
| 1961 | 23.13\% | 26.82\% | 3.69\% |
| 1962 | -11.81\% | -8.75\% | 3.06\% |
| 1963 | 18.89\% | 22.65\% | 3.76\% |
| 1964 | 12.97\% | 16.39\% | 3.42\% |
| 1965 | 9.06\% | 12.35\% | 3.29\% |
| 1966 | -13.09\% | -10.06\% | 3.03\% |
| 1967 | 20.09\% | 23.95\% | 3.86\% |
| 1968 | 7.66\% | 11.08\% | 3.42\% |
| 1969 | -11.36\% | -8.47\% | 2.89\% |
| 1970 | 0.10\% | 3.99\% | 3.89\% |
| 1971 | 10.79\% | 14.32\% | 3.53\% |
| 1972 | 15.63\% | 18.94\% | 3.31\% |
| 1973 | -17.37\% | -14.80\% | 2.57\% |
| 1974 | -29.72\% | -26.49\% | 3.23\% |
| 1975 | 31.55\% | 37.27\% | 5.72\% |
| 1976 | 19.15\% | 23.61\% | 4.46\% |
| 1977 | -11.50\% | -7.40\% | 4.10\% |
| 1978 | 1.06\% | 6.52\% | 5.46\% |
| 1979 | 12.31\% | 18.48\% | 6.17\% |
| 1980 | 25.77\% | 32.48\% | 6.71\% |
| 1981 | -9.73\% | -4.95\% | 4.78\% |
| 1982 | 14.76\% | 21.55\% | 6.79\% |
| 1983 | 17.27\% | 22.56\% | 5.29\% |
| 1984 | 1.41\% | 6.27\% | 4.86\% |
| 1985 | 26.33\% | 31.73\% | 5.40\% |


| Year | Composite Return | Total Return | Dividend Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1986 | $14.62 \%$ | $18.67 \%$ | $4.05 \%$ |
| 1987 | $2.03 \%$ | $5.25 \%$ | $3.22 \%$ |
| 1988 | $12.40 \%$ | $16.61 \%$ | $4.21 \%$ |
| 1989 | $27.25 \%$ | $31.69 \%$ | $4.44 \%$ |
| 1990 | $-6.56 \%$ | $-3.11 \%$ | $3.45 \%$ |
| 1991 | $26.31 \%$ | $30.47 \%$ | $4.16 \%$ |
| 1992 | $4.47 \%$ | $7.62 \%$ | $3.15 \%$ |
| 1993 | $7.06 \%$ | $10.08 \%$ | $3.02 \%$ |
| 1994 | $-1.54 \%$ | $1.33 \%$ | $2.87 \%$ |
| 1995 | $34.11 \%$ | $37.58 \%$ | $3.47 \%$ |
| 1996 | $20.26 \%$ | $22.96 \%$ | $2.70 \%$ |
| 1997 | $31.01 \%$ | $33.36 \%$ | $2.35 \%$ |
| 1998 | $26.67 \%$ | $28.58 \%$ | $1.91 \%$ |
| 1999 | $19.53 \%$ | $21.05 \%$ | $1.52 \%$ |
| 2000 | $-10.14 \%$ | $-9.11 \%$ | $1.03 \%$ |
| 2001 | $-13.04 \%$ | $-11.88 \%$ | $1.16 \%$ |
| 2002 | $-23.37 \%$ | $-22.10 \%$ | $1.27 \%$ |
| 2003 | $26.38 \%$ | $28.69 \%$ | $2.31 \%$ |
| 2004 | $8.99 \%$ | $10.87 \%$ | $1.88 \%$ |
| 2005 | $3.00 \%$ | $4.89 \%$ | $1.89 \%$ |
| 2006 | $13.62 \%$ | $15.80 \%$ | $2.18 \%$ |
| 2007 | $3.53 \%$ | $5.49 \%$ | $1.96 \%$ |
| 2008 | $-38.49 \%$ | $-37.00 \%$ | $1.49 \%$ |
| 2009 | $23.45 \%$ | $26.46 \%$ | $3.01 \%$ |
| 2010 | $12.78 \%$ | $15.07 \%$ | $2.29 \%$ |
| 2011 | $0.14 \%$ | $2.11 \%$ | $1.97 \%$ |
| 2012 | $13.41 \%$ | $16.00 \%$ | $2.59 \%$ |
| 2013 | $29.60 \%$ | $32.39 \%$ | $2.79 \%$ |
| 2014 | $11.39 \%$ | $13.69 \%$ | $2.30 \%$ |
| 2015 | $0.00 \%$ | $2.04 \%$ | $2.04 \%$ |
| 2016 | $9.37 \%$ | $11.73 \%$ | $2.36 \%$ |
| 2017 | $18.59 \%$ | $20.91 \%$ | $2.32 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Average | $9.09 \%$ | $12.75 \%$ | $3.66 \%$ |
| Dividends as a Percent of Growth |  | $29 \%$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |

