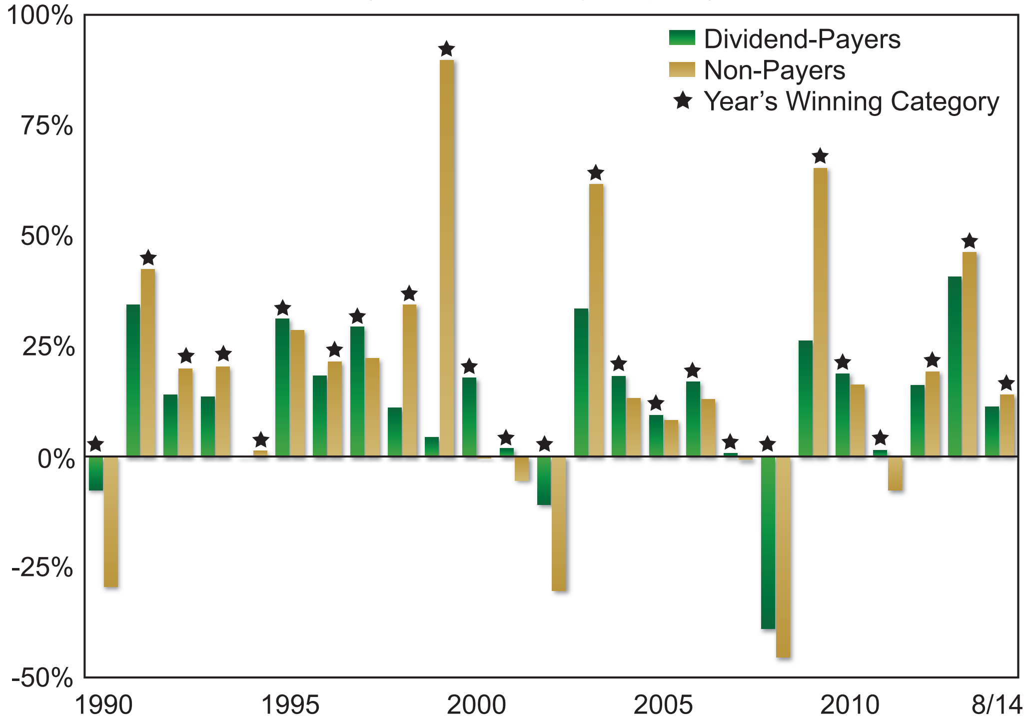
Growth-Oriented Stocks in the S&P 500 Outperforming Dividend-Payers (2012-Present)

S&P 500 Index Annual Total Returns

(Stocks are equally weighted)



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

View from the Observation Deck

1. One of the ways in which S&P Dow Jones Indices tracks the performance of the constituents in the S&P 500 is by separating those that pay a dividend from those that do not.
2. There are actually 502 stocks in the index at the present time, 424 of them distribute cash dividends to shareholders, while 78 do not.
3. The number of S&P 500 companies that distribute dividends fluctuates over time. Since 1990, the numbers have ranged from a high of 438 in 1990 to a low of 351 in 2000 and 2001.
4. From 1990-2013, the dividend-payers category outperformed the non-payers category, on a total return basis, in 13 of the 24 calendar years, or 54% of the time.
5. Since 2000, however, the dividend-payers category outperformed the non-payers category, on a total return basis, in 10 of the 14 calendar years, or 71% of the time.
6. Historically, growth stocks have tended to assume the leadership role during bull markets when economic growth turns robust, or at least accelerates over a sustained period of time.
7. In the 1990s, the non-payers category outperformed the dividend-payers category in 7 of the 10 calendar years, including a four-year run from 1991-1994.
8. Real U.S. GDP growth averaged 3.3% per year in the 1990s, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. From 2000-Q2'14, real U.S. GDP growth averaged 1.9%.
9. The International Monetary Fund is forecasting 3.0% real GDP growth for the U.S. in 2015 and 2016.
10. The non-payers category outperformed, on a total return basis, the dividend-payers category in 2012, 2013 and year-to-date (thru August). This is the first multi-year streak since 1998-1999.