

# Performance Measurement for Alternative Investments

By Timothy F. Peterson



# **Performance Measurement for Alternative Investments** By Timothy F. Peterson

Despite enormous growth in alternative investment, performance measurement practices in this area are rough around the edges. Performance analysts tasked with measuring and reporting the returns of alternative assets face issues regarding which return method to use, leverage that creates negative denominators in the return calculation, a host of valuation concerns, and challenges associated with benchmarking these unique strategies.

Performance Measurement for Alternative Investments is the first of its kind to explain how to overcome these major hurdles, and seeks to help unite two worlds that heretofore have been kept fairly well apart: that of the performance analyst seeking to communicate results to stakeholders, and that of the portfolio manager responsible for investment decision making.

Author Timothy Peterson, a Partner at Ashland Partners with executive responsibility for over 100 client relationships, including the firm's largest household name clients, is an investment performance measurement expert who specialises in alternative assets.

The job of a performance measurement analyst is to calculate and report the rate of return on investments. These returns are reported to existing investors, and often reported to prospective clients as part of a marketing initiative. For traditional investment management (stocks and bonds) this is relatively simple and ample resources exist to aid a performance analyst or portfolio manager in that regard. However, for alternative investment (venture capital, private equity, hedge funds), calculation and reporting investment returns is more complicated. This book explains how to calculate and report those returns it is a how to manual designed with the practitioner in mind, the person that is actually tasked with calculating and presenting investment results.

As the investment community and infrastructure globalizes, non-U.S. firms must become increasingly aware of what is arguably the strictest investment regulatory environment in the world. No firm that hopes to market or operate in the U.S. can

do so without a fairly comprehensive understanding of the thousands of pages of regulation that govern investment advisers, companies, and securities issuance in the U.S.

Performance Measurement for Alternative Investments:

- Enables the reader to correctly calculate long-short performance;
- Provides a general hierarchy for performance presentations that addresses all the various fee and expense treatments associated with alternative investment vehicles;
- Describes how to calculate and report returns on derivatives and other assets that use notional values; and
- Addresses the challenges and potential solutions of benchmarking alternative investment strategies.

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

An excellent book on a subject not covered that well in current literature.

All chapters are worth reading but Chapter 2 - The Mathematics of Return Calculation, Chapter 13 Treatment on Fees and expenses and Chapter 14 Benchmarking alternative Investment Strategies are particularly worth the read. --Carl Bacon, Risk Books Customer

#### About the Author

Timothy F. Peterson, CFA, CAIA, CIPM is a Partner with Ashland Partners & Company, LLP, a global investment-specialist CPA firm, providing audit and consulting services to hundreds of hedge funds, private equity and real estate firms, RIA's, investment companies, and insurance companies worldwide. Prior to joining Ashland Partners, Timothy served as the CFO for a Houston-based financial firm where he had responsibility for co-managing an option based hedging strategy as well as the firm s real estate portfolio. Other experience includes serving as Global Head of Performance and Attribution for an international asset management firm, and as Director of Performance Reporting for a leading national SMA wrap fee investment manager.

Timothy is a dual graduate of the University of Colorado where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Finance as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst, a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst, and has earned the Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement.

Timothy is an investment performance measurement expert with specialization in alternative assets. He has been involved with examination grading and curriculum review for all three of the designations he holds: CFA, CAIA, and CIPM. Professional volunteer work also includes serving on the REIS Council, chair of the REIS Compliance working group, chair of the REIS Performance Measurement Resource Manual working group, member of the REIS Implementation Survey working group, and Treasurer for the CU Boulder Alumni Association Board of Directors. Timothy has authored numerous papers and articles and has spoken at conferences around the world on topics such as valuation policy, performance reporting practices, and internal controls.

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