Harbour: The Future

What will happen, what could happen and what to invest in

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Future of growth? Future of Equity Returns?

- Real GDP has grown at a modest pace despite:
 - central bank cash rates at all-time lows
 - large asset purchasing programs

What do you think will happen to GDP over the next 10 years?

- Recover
- Stay the same

A recent paper by the Federal Reserve that suggests that **low investment**, **low interest rates** and **low output growth** are here to stay - a **new normal**.

Gagnon, Etienne, Benjamin K. Johannsen, and David Lopez-Salido (2016). http://dx.doi.org/10.17016/FEDS.2016.080



Economics of growth:

$$Y = A \int (K, L)$$

Output = Technology \int

(Capital, Labour)

GDP

- = Automation
 - New Technologies

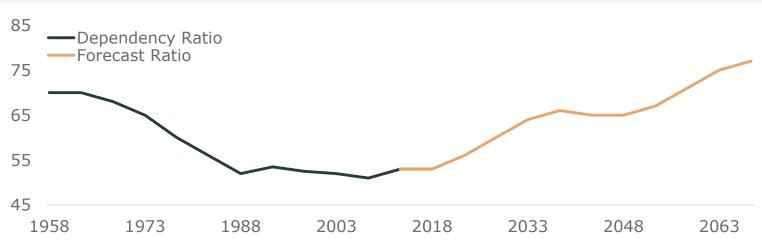
Cobb-Douglas production function.

- Machinery
- Equipment
- Buildings
- Financial Assets

Person hours worked per year



Labour: New Zealand Dependency Ratio (aged 0-14 and 65+ years):



Source: Statistics New Zealand historical data, median scenario data and Harbour.

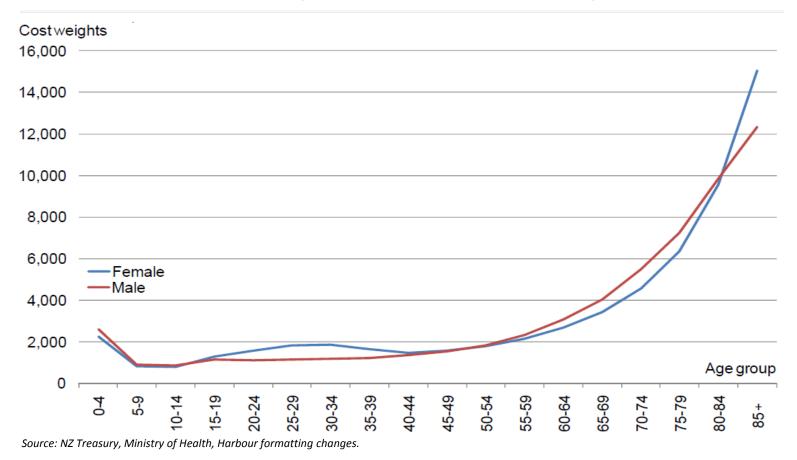
- Changes in the age structure of the workforce is found to be significantly correlated with changes in aggregate productivity (Feyrer 2005).
- > If baby boomers retire at age 65, they started retiring in 2008
- Half of the working age population are providing for dependents expected to decrease to one quarter.

Feyrer, J. (2005). "Aggregate Evidence on the Link Between Demographics and Productivity", Population and Development Review, vol. 34, no. 1,



pp. 78-99.

Healthcare Spending Rises Sharply With Age:



> The healthcare expense in the dependency ratio between youth and the old is not one for one

Labour



Image Source: Shutterstock.com.



Capital and Technology

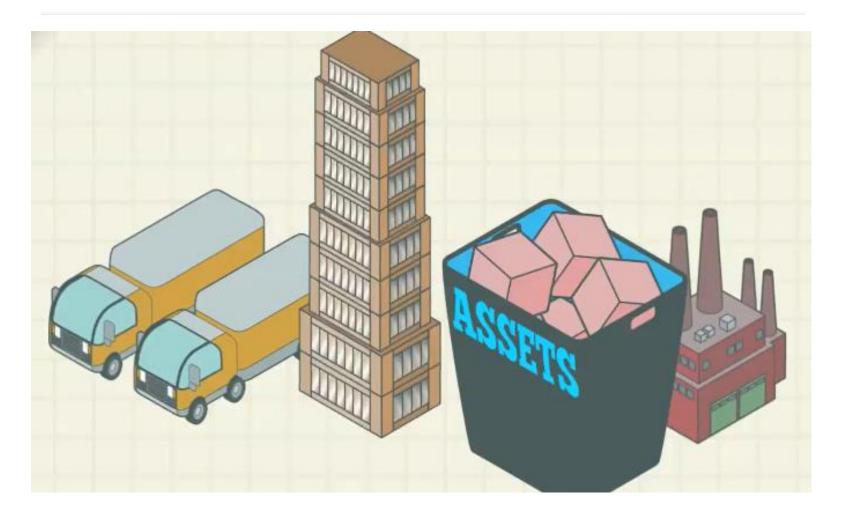
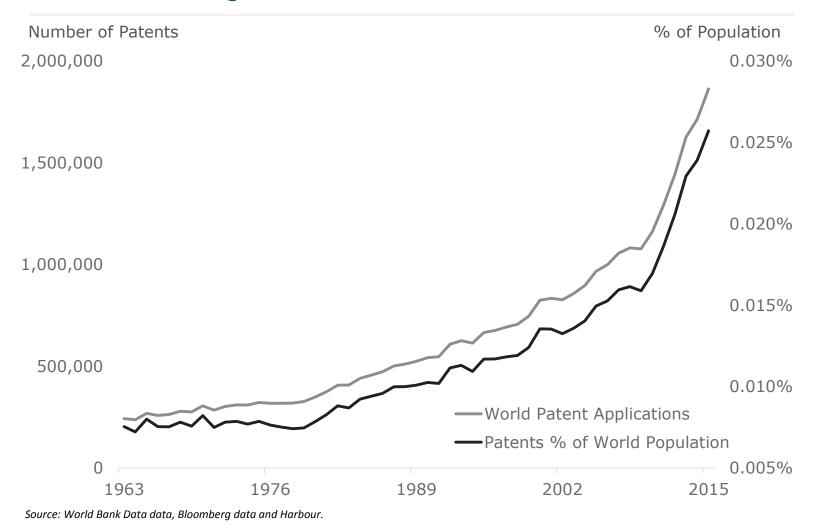


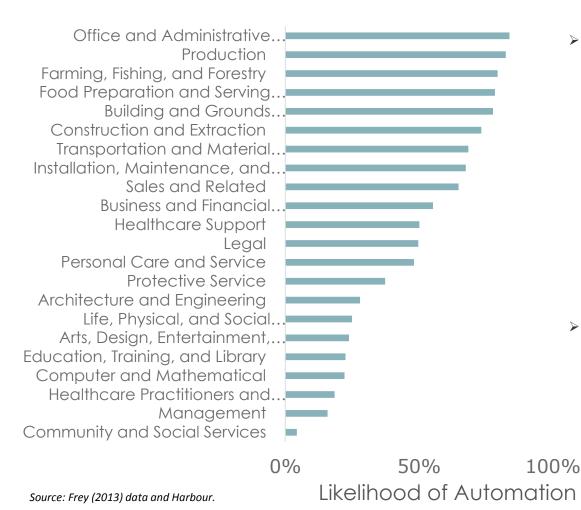
Image Source: Investopedia.



New Technologies:



Automation:



- Frey (2013) explores 702
 detailed occupations
 susceptible to
 computerisation in the US
 based on developments
 in:
 - machine learning
 - > artificial intelligence
 - mobile robotics
- Automation may diminish the competitive advantage of low skilled labour. Autor and Dorn (2013)
 - > May lead to reshoring

Autor, D. and Dorn, D. (2013). "The growth of low skill service jobs and the polarization of the US labor market." American Economic Review, 103(5): 1553–1597.

Frey, C. B. and Michael A. O. (2013) "The future of employment: how susceptible are jobs to computerisation.

"http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/academic/The_Future_of_Employment.pdf



Central Bank and Fiscal Policy:

Cycle between **Demographics** and **Technology**

Central Bank

- Demographics suggest a lower growth rate
 - Stimulatory response, low cash rate
 - Largest impact on borrowers
- Technology improvements to capital suggest a reasonable growth rate
 - Normal business cycle

Government

Provide infrastructure to adapt to new technology and growth



What does this all mean for asset prices:

Behavioural Life-cycle Theory Shefrin and Thaler (1988).

Strategies

- > Yield quality companies, defensive, pay out profits and grow their dividends
- Value cheap stocks, cyclical, correlated to the business cycle
- > Growth earnings growth, structural, related to changes in the economy
- > Size small stocks, cyclical with sensitivity to the economic cycle

Sectors and Stocks

- > Healthcare, consumer staples, financial services, travel, entertainment
- Technology and other sectors that drive improvement to domestic productivity or exploit growth opportunities



Economic drivers of top quartile equity performance

Quarterly Data New Zealand							
	GDP	BOP CA	Interest Rates	Business Confidence	Consumer Confidence		
Low Price/Earnings	1.54	1.89	-0.74	2.09	4.62		
High Dividend yield	0.71	2.38	1.81	2.4	4.85		
High Earnings EPS	1.72	0.99	0.62	2.83	4.75		
High ROE	2.09	1.31	0.3	3.68	4.67		
High Momentum 3m	1.63	1.34	0.95	4.89	3.23		
Small Size	1.67	1.98	0.87	2.21	2.38		
Market Equal Weight	2.76	1.93	-1.44	2.55	3.34		

Quarterly Data Australia								
	GDP	BOP CA	Interest Rates	Business Confidence	Consumer Confidence			
Low Price/Earnings	-0.3	2.98	0.43	5.05	4.12			
High Dividend yield	1.09	2.65	3.19	4.91	4.37			
High Earnings EPS	1.22	4.27	1.03	5.81	4.36			
High ROE	2.81	3.09	1.27	5.56	4.06			
High Momentum 3m	3.09	2.83	1.16	6.05	4.5			
Small Size	-0.46	4.01	0.39	4.33	4.52			
Market Equal Weight	0.61	3.6	0.98	5.03	4.04			

> T-Statistics

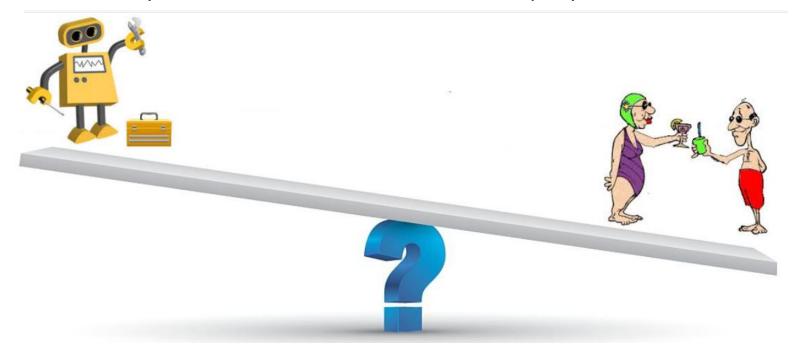
> Data: 2004-Jun 2017, from Bloomberg. Quarterly.

Universe: S&P/NZX 50 Stocks and S&P/ASX 300.

Data Source: Bloomberg.



Summary what does this mean for Equity Portfolios



Active Factor Tilts – Research into new technology and pace of adoption.

Portfolio Construction diversification – strategies perform at different times.

Leading indicators: best place to look for expected equity market returns.

 ${\it Image Sources: Florida \ Centre for \ Instructional \ Technology, \ Patpowell.com \ and \ Getty \ Images.}$



Questions?



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