**Presenting** debate on contemporary and emerging portfolio construction ssues



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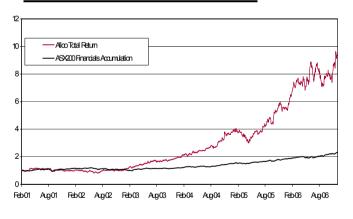
# **Allco Finance Group - Overview**

## Allco Finance - Group Overview



- Allco Finance Group is a global financial services organization specialising in structured asset finance, funds management and debt funding
- Allco is publicly listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and has a market capitalisation of approximately A\$4bn (ASX: AFG)
- Founded in Sydney in 1979, Allco has proven successful as a transaction originator, product innovator and arranger of complex asset and structured finance transactions
- ➤ Allco currently employs over 440 staff located in offices worldwide

#### **Allco Share Price Performance**





Source: Allco Research Estimates, Bloomberg



## **Introduction to Lease Finance**

## What Is Leasing Finance?



- ➤ A lease is an agreement to convey the use of an asset for a specific time period in return for rental compensation.
- ➤ Leasing is a major source of financing in capital-intensive industries, such as transportation.
- Traditionally split into "Operating Leases" and "Finance Leases".
- Operating leases usually have the following characteristics:
  - Shorter and more flexible term of lease
  - Lessor retains exposure to the residual value of the asset
  - Assets financed are off-balance for the lessee

## Advantages of Operating Leases



- Residual Value Risk. Lessees can focus on their core business rather than managing assets.
- ➤ Flexibility. Operating can take advantage of temporary demand fluctuations with short-term leases.
- Obsolescence Risk. Updating leased equipment is simpler than selling one set of assets and purchasing another.
- ➤ Capital Efficiency. Operating leases can provide 100% off-balance sheet financing at a competitive cost of capital.

Investors have had limited exposure to operating leases and little quantitative analysis has been available.... Until now.



## **Market Overview**

### **Market Characteristics - Aviation**



- > General: USD 400 billion of assets.
- Assets: Typical useful life of 25 years. Cyclical values but predictable longterm returns.
- Drivers: Demand for global air travel, which is strongly linked to global GDP.
- ➤ Leasing Market: 30% of total market and growing. ILFC and GECAS account for 50% of the market. Lease terms usually between 5 and 10 years. Lessees are commercial airlines and air freight companies.

## Market Characteristics - Shipping



- ➤ **General:** USD 500 billion of assets. Greater transparency than aviation or rail.
- ➤ **Assets:** Typical useful life of 30 years. 3 major vessel types tankers, bulk carriers and container ships. Volatile asset values, requiring expertise to manage.
- > **Drivers**: World GDP and growth in world trade are both strong drivers.
- ➤ Leasing Market: Highly segmented with a large number of privately owned niche providers. Lease terms usually between 6 months and 5 years. Lessees are shipping companies.

### Market Characteristics - Rail



- ➤ **General:** USD 200-300 billion of assets. Regional markets, largest being North America.
- ➤ Assets: Typical useful life of 30 to 40 years. 8 or 9 major types of rolling stock. Asset values are cyclical, but long term-returns are predictable.
- ➤ **Drivers:** GDP of the rail region and growth in world trade. Competes with other modes of land freight transport. Superior economics once infrastructure is established.
- ➤ Leasing Market: 50% of US assets are provided by lessors and growing. Lease terms are usually between 3 and 6 years long. Lessees are major railroads and freight companies.



## **Performance**

## Performance - Industry Returns



Research indicates that operating leases generate solid absolute returns with a high cash component and low correlation to traditional asset classes.

#### **Returns and Volatilities**

	Aviation	Shipping	Rail
Returns (ungeared, p.a.)	8.3%	13.0%	9.3%
Volatility (ungeared)	3.3%	10.5%	4.3%
Returns (industry gearing, p.a.)	12.4%	22.2%	17.4%
Volatility (industry gearing)	14.9%	32.7%	14.1%

#### Correlations

Aviation	1.0		
Shipping	0.3	1.0	
Rail	0.7	0.5	1.0
Australian Shares	-0.0	-0.1	0.3
Global Shares	0.0	0.1	0.6
Global Bonds	-0.0	0.2	-0.1
Global Property	-0.0	0.3	0.4
Global Infrastructure	0.3	0.4	0.8*

Source: Allco Research Estimates

### Performance - Risks



**Residual Value Risk:** is the risk that the asset is worth less than assumed in the pricing at the end of a lease. Managed by:

- Ensuring that assets are modern, well maintained and have a wide user base
- Diversifying by type of asset and maturity profile
- Using conservative pricing assumptions

**Re-Leasing Risk:** refers to the ability of a lessor to re-lease the asset under a range of circumstances and market conditions. Managed as per residual value risk.

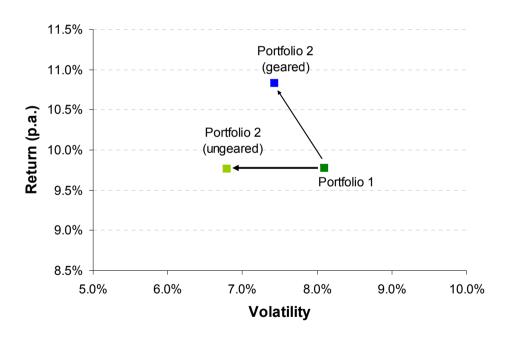
**Credit Risk:** deals with the potential for a lessor to lose income due to a default by a lessee. Managed by:

- Leasing to operators with a high credit rating
- Ensuring the assets are highly marketable

## Performance - Portfolio Applications



Research suggests that an allocation to operating leases improves the risk and return profile of a balanced portfolio.



Asset Class	Portfolio 1 Allocation	Portfolio 2 Allocation
Cash	10%	10%
Global Bonds	40%	35%
Australian Equities	30%	25%
Global Equities	10%	5%
Global Property	10%	10%
Aviation Operating Leases	0%	5%
Shipping Operating Leases	0%	5%
Rail Operating Leases	0%	5%

Source: Allco Research Estimates



# **Summary**

## Summary



## Operating leases:

- are key source of financing in transportation
- are growing their share of a growing market
- > ... but have been difficult for investors to access.

#### Allco's research indicates that operating leases:

- generate solid absolute returns, with
- low volatility,
- a high cash component, and
- low correlation to traditional asset classes

These qualities make operating leases an attractive proposition to a wide range of managed portfolios.