# REIT Valuation The NAV-based Pricing Model

# Green Street Advisors

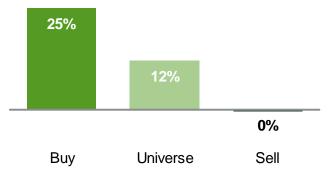
#### It's All Relative

Our NAV-based Pricing Model has served as the backbone of our stock selection process for over twenty years. The model is designed to assess relative valuations; i.e., it identifies the REITs that are most/least attractively valued.

The model combines NAV – a great starting point and high quality estimates are essential – with the factors that impact the premiums at which REITs should trade: franchise value, balance sheet risk, corporate governance, and overhead. The compartmentalized nature of the model forces discipline to consider all relevant valuation issues.

#### An Impressive Track Record

20+Yr Annualized Total Return of Green Street's Stock Recommendations\*



\* Past performance (as of 5/30/14) can not be used to predict future performance. Please see recommendation track record disclosure on page 20

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### **Executive Summary**

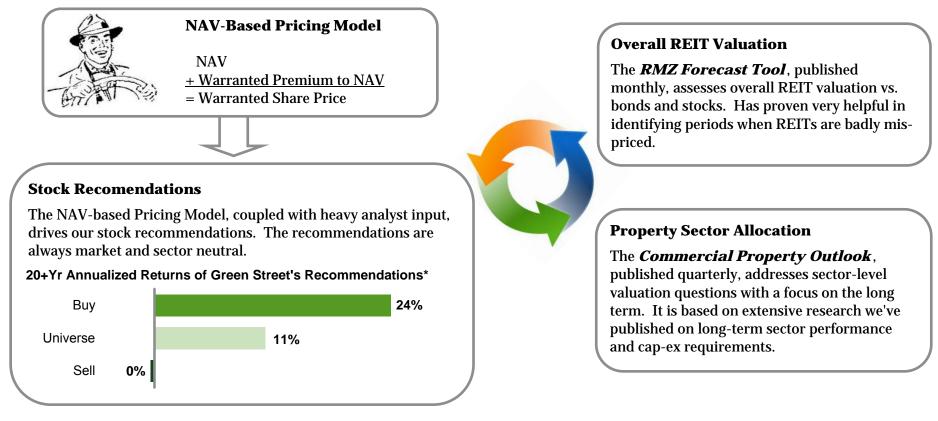
Overview	<ul> <li>Our NAV-based pricing model has been a driver of our stock recomendations for over twenty years</li> <li>It has played an instrumental role in our successful recommendation track record</li> <li>The compartmentalized nature of the model forces discipline to consider all relevant valuation issues</li> </ul>
The Basics	<ul> <li>NAV is the starting point - the value of a REIT is a function of the value of the assets it owns</li> <li>Warranted share price = NAV plus or minus a premium for future value added by management</li> <li>Franchise value, balance sheet risk, corporate governance and G&amp;A impact the size of the premium</li> <li>It is a relative valuation model: roughly equal number of Buys and Sells at all times</li> <li>Relative approach anchors around average sector premiums at which REITs trade</li> </ul>
The Components	<ul> <li>Franchise values are inherently subjective, but objective inputs help <ul> <li>Management Value Added (MVA) shines a bright light on performance attributable to mgm't</li> <li>Total returns relative to peers are also important</li> <li>Balance sheet acumen scores give credit for broad financing menus and low debt costs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Balance sheets are important; less leverage is better <ul> <li>REITs with less leverage have delivered far better returns</li> <li>Investors usually ascribe higher NAV premiums to REITs with low leverage</li> </ul> </li> <li>Corporate Governance scoring system ranks REITs in a systematic fashion</li> <li>The impact of G&amp;A is readily quantified and is dealt with apart from the other factors</li> <li>Differences in G&amp;A are large; they warrant large differences in unlevered asset value premiums</li> </ul>

### **Overview: A Disciplined Approach Toward Stock Selection**

A Key Driver of Success: The Green Street NAV-based pricing model is designed to assess the valuation of any REIT relative to sector-level peers. The discipline and rigor the model embodies have played a pivotal role in the two-decade-long success of our recommendation track record. While the model is designed to be neutral with regard to whether REITs in aggregate are cheap or expensive, investors can employ other Green Street analytic tools to help assess overall valuation and/or sector allocation issues.

### **Company Research**

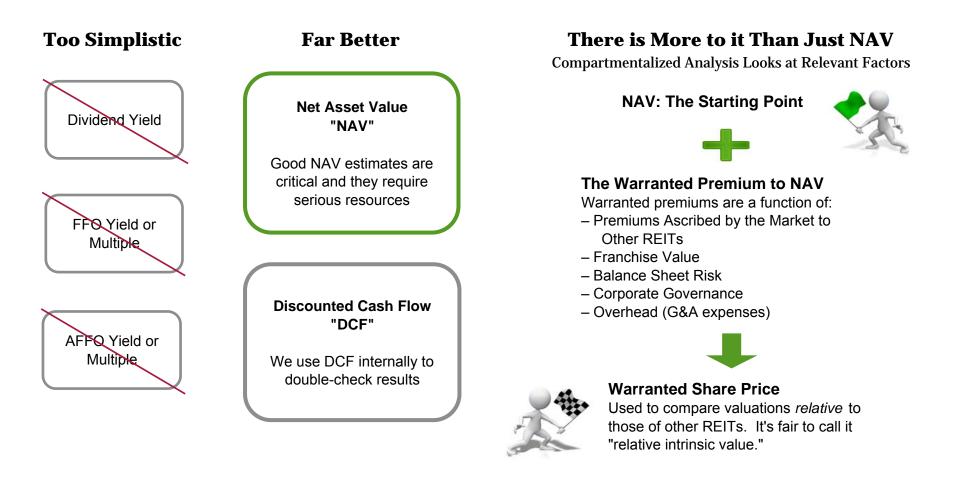
### **Macro Research**



\* Past performance can not be used to predict future performance. Please see recommendation track record disclosure on page 20

# Overview: Why Use NAV?

**Because We Can:** Most equity investors focus a great deal of attention on P/E multiples and/or yields, so it is fair to question why NAV should be the primary valuation benchmark for REITs. The short answer is that investors elsewhere would use NAV if they could, but the concept doesn't translate well to companies that are not in the business of owning hard assets. Because the value of a REIT is, first and foremost, a function of the value of the assets it owns, NAV is a great starting point for a valuation analysis.

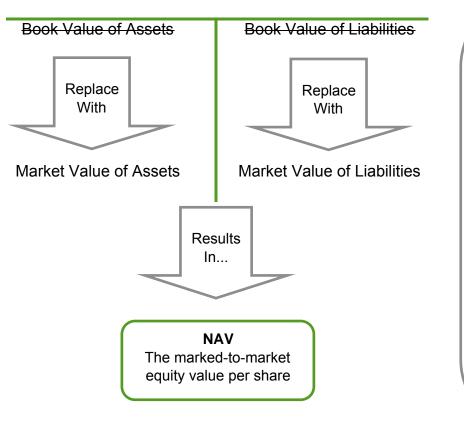


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### **Overview: What is NAV?**

Mark It to Market: An NAV-based valuation methodology is only as good as the underlying estimate of NAV. High-quality estimates of marked-to-market asset value require a great deal of effort and resources, but the estimate can be reasonably precise when done properly. It is also important to mark-to-market the right-hand side of the balance sheet, as the cost of in-place debt can stray substantially from prevailing market. Many market participants skip this important step.



### **REIT Balance Sheet**

**Common Question:** Many REIT investors and analysts do not mark debt to market. Is it really necessary?



except that one is encumbered by a 60% LTV mortgage carrying a 7% interest rate with another five years to run, while the other has an identical loan at a 5% rate. Which building will command the higher price?

**Imagine:** Two identical office buildings,









The answer is obvious to any real estate market practitioner. Building prices are profoundly impacted by assumed debt, and a high-cost mortgage negatively impacts pricing. The same holds true when those buildings are held by a REIT and if the debt is unsecured rather than secured. Marking assets to market without doing the same for liabilities yields the wrong answer.

# **Overview: NAV - A Simplified Example**

#### **Calculating NAV - A Simplified Example**

#### Balance Sheet for REIT XYZ (X's \$1,000)

	Analyze Market Value
	Book Value and Replace Current Value
Real Estate Assets Operating Real Estate	\$6,000,000 — A \$9,350,000 \$2,250,000
Construction in Progress	\$500,000 — B* \$550,000
Land	\$200,000 <u> </u>
Equity in Unconsolidated JVs	\$1,000,000 <b>*</b> \$0
Value of Fee Businesses	\$0 <u> </u>
Other Assets	\$100,000 F → \$68,625
Total Assets	\$7,800,000 \$12,880,625
Liabilities	\$5,000,000 G
Preferred Stock	\$500,000 \$500,000
Shareholders Equity Fully Diluted Shares	\$2,300,000 200,000 H 204,750
NAV	\$11.50 \$27.50

#### The Adjustments:

- A. Operating Real Estate: The most important part of an NAV analysis, this step invloves calculating a 12-month forward estimate of NOI and applying an appropriate cap rate. The quality of the analysis rests on an in-depth knowledge of prevailing cap rates, the quality/location of the real estate, and other required industry- and company-specific adjustments.
- **B. Construction in Progress:** Adjustments to the book value of CIP reflect the extent to which stabilized yields are likely to exceed an appropriately high risk-adjusted return bogey.
- C. Land: Land values can be much higher or lower than book.
- **D. Joint Venture Accounting is a Mess:** Because of that, we present a pro-rata allocation of JV assets and liabilities. There is no reliable way to otherwise value JV interests, as leverage within the JV typically renders more simplified approaches useless. A pro-rata allocation also does a much better job of showing leverage that may be embedded, but otherwise hidden, in JV investments.
- **E. Fee Income:** Some REITs generate asset management/property management fees associated with JV structures. This fee income can be lucrative, and the range of appropriate multiples to apply is dependent on the quality of the fee stream. This value is not reflected on GAAP balance sheets.
- **F. Other Assets:** REITs often have a material amount of intangible assets, which are deducted for this exercise.
- **G. Liabilities:** Mark-to-market adjustments are necessary where: subsidized financing is present, or market interest rates are materially higher or lower than contract rates on the REIT's debt.
- **H. Fully Diluted Shares:** All in-the-money options, converts, etc. need to be included in the share count.

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### Overview: NAV - More on Operating Real Estate

#### **Calculating NAV - More on Operating Real Estate**

Income Statement for REIT XYZ (X's \$1,000)

Three Months Ending XXX The Adjustments: GAAP Net Operating Income (NOI) \$149,500 Adjustments Straight-Line Rent (A) (\$1,250)at "cash" NOI. NOI of Properties Acquired During Quarter (B) \$1,750 Quarterly Pace of Net Operating Income \$150.000 Annual Pace NOI \$600,000 Estimated Growth Over Next 12 Months \$12,000 12-Month Look-Forward NOI Estimate \$612,000 Cap Rate (C) 6.5% on a market-by-market basis. Value of Operating Real Estate \$9,350,000

- A. Straight-Line Rent: GAAP requires that companies report average rental revenue over the term of the lease. For example, GAAP rent for a 10-yr lease with a starting rent of \$50/sqft and 2% annual escalators is \$55/sqft. Phantom income items like straight-line rent need to be deducted to arrive
- **B.** Acquisitions: Properties acquired during the guarter will contribute less to reported NOI than they would have had they been owned the full period. Reported NOI needs to be adjusted upward when this is the case.
- **C.** Cap Rate: The convention in the real estate industry is to quote pricing in terms of the first-year yield on investment. This measure is known as the capitalization rate (cap rate). Cap rates are the most critical input in the NAV analysis. An in-depth understanding of the location, age, and general desirability of the real estate portfolio coupled with a good handle on prevailing cap rates is essential to coming up with good estimates. The cap rate for the entire porttfolio is shown here, but the analysis is typically done

### Overview: Where Do Green Street NAVs Come From?

**Hard Work:** Green Street takes its NAVs very seriously. We devote a great deal of resources toward deriving the best possible estimates of NAV because it has always been the driver of our valuation conclusions.

#### Kicking the Tires Extensive property visits Deep market contacts - public & private Lengthy coverage of most REITs Strategic partner: Eastdil Secured

#### A Large Research Team

30 full-time research professionals in US We take NAV seriously It has always driven our Pricing Model

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#### **Real Estate Data Sources**

Green Street's property databases are extensive

We also use other research vendors Local leasing and sales brokers



#### Cap-ex: the 500-Pound Gorilla

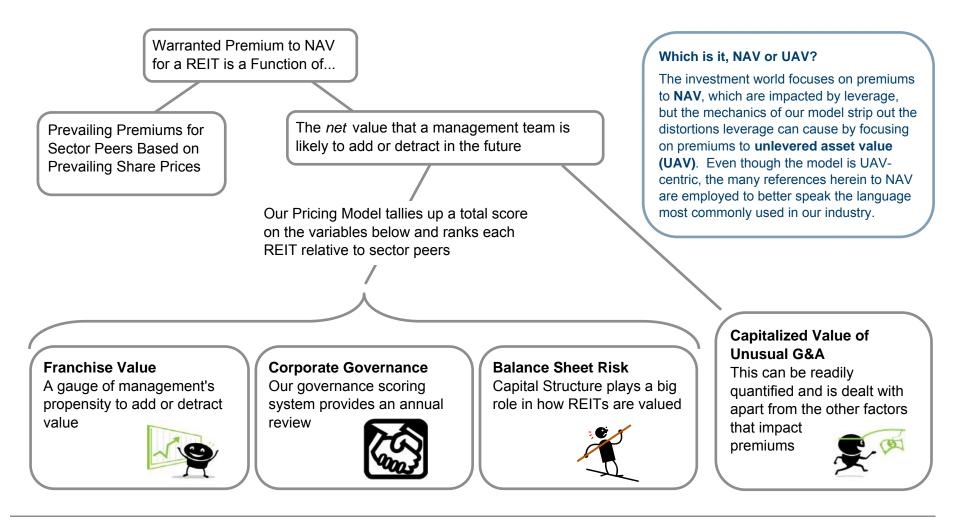
Capitalized costs are big and they need to be considered They vary a lot even among REITs in the same sector Cap-ex is broadly misunderstood...we have studied extensively Market participants underestimate cap-ex Cap-ex policies influence the cap rate used



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### **Overview: Warranted Premiums to NAV**

**NAV Plus or Minus?** Prospective future total returns for any REIT are a function of how its real estate portfolio is likely to perform, as well as the value that its management team is likely to add or detract. Our Pricing Model provides a systematic assessment of the four key variables - franchise value, corporate governance, balance sheet risk, and overhead - that typically distinguish REITs that deliver "real estate plus" returns from those in the "real estate minus" camp.

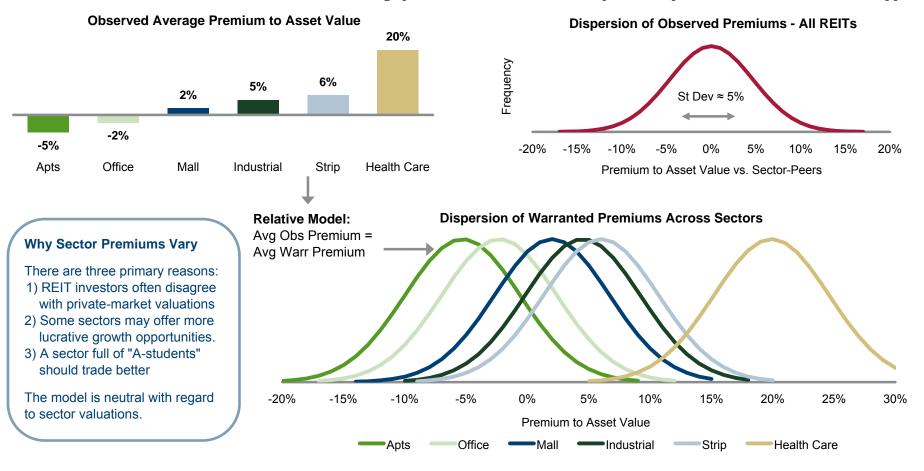


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### **Overview: The Influence of Property Sectors**

A Normal World: The starting point in calculating the warranted premium for any REIT is the sector-average premium ascribed by the market at current share prices. An assumption is made that the dispersion of observed premiums for the entirety of our coverage universe serves as a good indicator of how premiums should be dispersed in any given sector. REITs that stack up better in the Pricing Model relative to their sector peers are then ascribed better-than-average warranted premiums, and vice versa.

Each sector tends to march to its own drummer on average premiums... ... to which the dispersion of premiums for all REITs can be applied



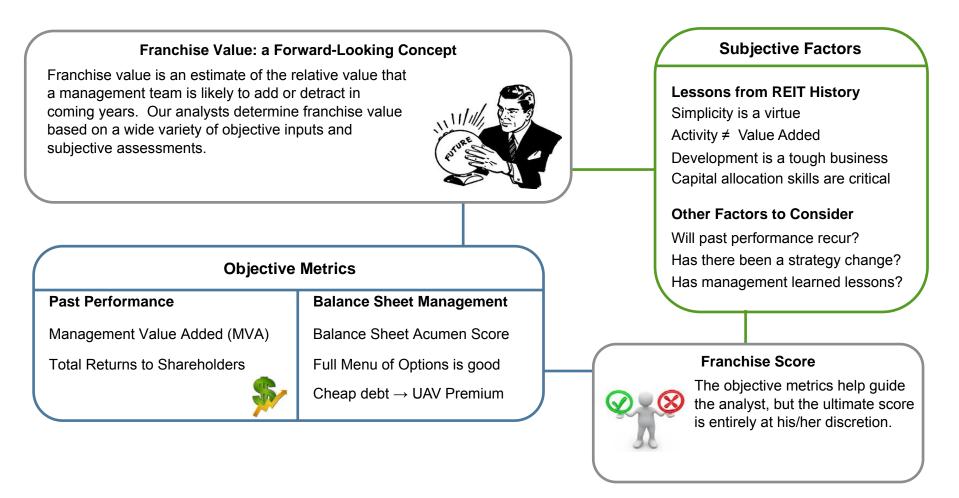
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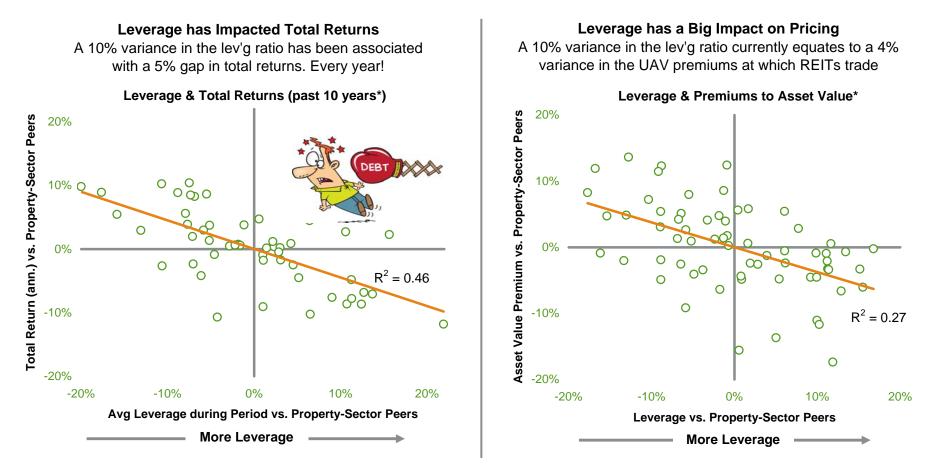
# Franchise Value: What is it?

An Important Assessment: Franchise value and G&A are the most important drivers of UAV premiums. Franchise value pertains to the value that a management team is likely to create in the future, which is a question best addressed by combining objective tools with subjective input from experienced analysts.



### Balance Sheet Risk: Balance Sheets Matter

Low Leverage is Better: Even though property prices have risen more than 50% over the last ten years, REITs that have employed less leverage have delivered far better returns over that time period than REITs with higher leverage. The same statement has held true over the vast majority of ten-year periods since the Modern REIT era commenced in the early-'90s. Not surprisingly, investors are willing to ascribe much higher NAV premiums to REITs with low leverage.



\* Charts are from Oct 2, 2012 Heard on the Beach. Left chart uses total returns from Aug '02 to Aug '12; right is based on stock pricing as of Sept '12.

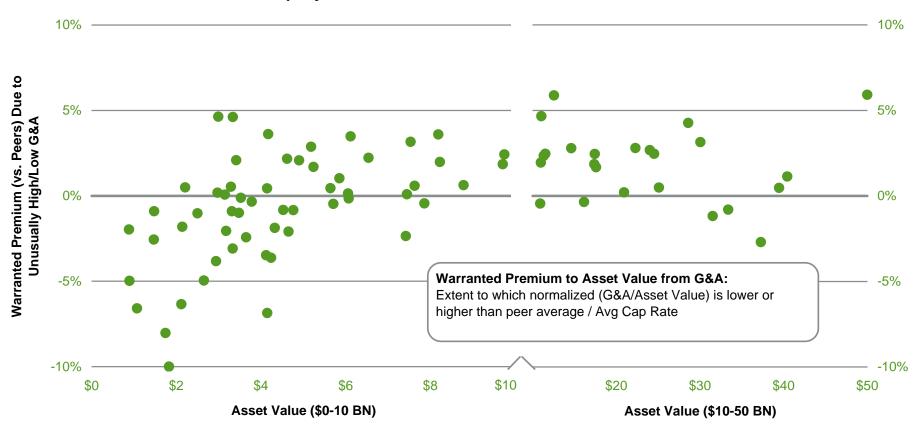
### **Corporate Governance**

**Green Street's Governance Scoring System:** Our governance ranking system, which is published annually, differs in two key respects from those provided by other evaluators: 1) our familiarity with the companies allows for subjective input; and 2) issues unique to REITs (e.g., the 5 or fewer rule) are ignored by others. Scoring is on a 100-point basis with the key inputs highlighted below. REITs with higher governance scores typically trade at larger premiums to asset value.

Category	Max Points	Ideal Structure	
<b>Board Rating:</b> Non-staggered Board Independent Board Investment by Board Members	20 5 5	Yes 80+% Large Investment by Numerous M	
Conduct <b>Total</b>	25 <b>55</b>	No Blemishes, Fair Comp, Leader	ship
<b>Anti-Takeover Weapons:</b> State Anti-takeover Provisions Ownership Limits from 5/50 Rule Shareholder Rights Plan Insider Blocking Power <b>Total</b>	12 5 10 <u>8</u> <b>35</b>	Opt out/Shareholders Approve Change Limit Waived for Ownership by other REITs Shareholders Must Approve Implementation No Veto Power	
Potential Conflicts of Interest: Business Dealings with Mgmt. Divergent Tax Basis of Insiders6 4Total10Perfect Score100		No Business Dealings Basis Near Share Price	Anti-Takeover Weapons There are only a handful of REITs where insiders hold a blocking position, but it's a big deal where it exists. Because of that, a cap is placed on how many points a REIT where blocking power is present can score on anti-takeover rankings. After all, the anti-takeover provisions don't matter much if insiders control the vote.

### Overhead: A Strong Connection with Size

**Big is Better:** A dollar of cash flow devoted to G&A is worth the same as a dollar of cash flow at the property level, and efficiency differences between REITs can have a profound impact on share valuation. The impact on appropriate unlevered valuations can be calculated by capping those differences at the all-REIT cap rate and adding or subtracting that figure directly as a warranted premium to unlevered asset value. Not surprisingly, big REITs are more efficient when it comes to overhead, and this efficiency should translate into higher relative valuations.



#### **Company Size and Warranted Premiums Attributable to G&A**

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

- Q. Net Asset Value (NAV) estimates are far from precise. It's very common to see NAV estimates for a given REIT spanning a broad range, with some being as much as 30% higher than others. Why base a model on such an imprecise estimate?
- A. NAV is admittedly an imprecise estimate of value. It may be best to consider NAV as the midpoint of a reasonable range in which a figure at least 5% higher or lower than the midpoint might be accurate. Reasonable minds can disagree within this range. However, this lack of precision should not be viewed as a serious shortcoming. Every valuation methodology lacks precision, and alternative methodologies are almost certainly less precise than NAV. For instance, where do appropriate Price/Earnings (P/E) multiples come from? EBITDA multiples? An NAV-based approach componentizes the valuation question into discrete pieces and incorporates private-market pricing information, attributes that should yield a higher level of precision than a broad-brush approach to entity valuation. When analyst estimates of NAV fall well outside a reasonable range, this probably reflects the quality of the analysis, as opposed to the metric's quality. In addition, most analysts only mark-to-market the left-hand side of the balance sheet; Green Street marks-to-market the right-hand side too. NAV calculations require a great deal of time, energy, and expertise to get right; big errors likely occur when shortcuts are taken.

# Q. An NAV analysis is only as good as the cap rate applied to net operating income (NOI). Where does Green Street get its cap rates?

- A. The choice of cap rates is the most important input in our model. Our analysts spend a great deal of time talking to market participants (e.g., REIT executives, private real estate participants, brokers, etc.), compiling databases of comparable transactions, reading trade publications, reviewing findings of providers of transaction information, and understanding the extent to which contractual rents are above or below market.
- Q. As the REIT industry continues to mature, analysts and investors will inevitably value these stocks the same way the vast majority of other stocks are valued. Approaches based on P/E multiples, EBITDA multiples, or discounted cash flow models will take the place of a REIT-centric concept like NAV. After all, no one tries to figure out the NAV of General Motors or Microsoft, so why bother to do so with REITs?
- A. The simple answer to this question is that investors in other sectors would use NAV if they could. However, their inability to do so relegates them to using generally inferior metrics. Thoughtfully applied alternative approaches to valuation should result in similar answers to an NAV-based approach, but these other methods must be used with caution.

### Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- Q. REITs are more than just a collection of assets. Management matters a lot, and an NAV-based approach can't possibly factor that in.
- A. Contrary to a widespread misperception, the use of an NAV-based model is consistent with a view that management is important. As long as an NAV-based model provides output with a sizable variance in company-specific warranted premiums/discounts, that model is implicitly acknowledging that management matters significantly. Capital allocation and balance sheet management are by far the key differentiators of management capabilities.

# Q. Many REITs own hundreds of properties spread across the U.S., and an asset-by-asset appraisal would take an enormous amount of time. How can an analyst know the value of any given portfolio?

- A. A reasonable NAV estimate can be derived if disclosure at the portfolio level is sufficient to allow for a comparison of the characteristics of a given portfolio with the characteristics of properties that have traded hands. No two portfolios are exactly the same, but plenty of pricing benchmarks exist to allow for adjustments based on portfolio location, quality, lease structure, growth prospects, etc.
- Q. REITs have broad latitude in how they expense many operating costs. Can an NAV-based approach be fooled if a REIT inflates NOI by moving costs to the General & Administrative (G&A) expense line?
- A. Yes. This is why an explicit valuation adjustment for G&A expense is included in our pricing model. It identifies companies that shift expenses in ways that are inconsistent with those of its peers.

### Q. An NAV analysis derived from real estate NOI seemingly ignores capital expenditures (cap-ex). How does cap-ex factor into the analysis?

A. One of the easiest ways to make big mistakes in an NAV analysis is to utilize simple rules of thumb with regard to cap-ex. Most rules of thumb undercount the magnitude of cap-ex. In addition, the range of appropriate reserves varies hugely by property sector, property quality, and accounting practices. Each factor needs to be addressed before choosing the cap-ex reserve to utilize for a particular portfolio. The real estate portfolios in any sector that offer the highest quality, best growth, and lowest risk should be accorded the highest valuation multiples (lowest cap rates), and vice versa. Thus, it is important to rank the portfolios relative to each other and to then ensure "economic" cap rates (based on NOI less a cap-ex reserve) line up in this manner. An analysis that does not back out cap-ex costs, and is instead based off of nominal cap rates, will generate misleading relative conclusions.

### Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

#### Q. NAV is a backward looking metric.

A. Real estate markets are active and liquid, and when buyers and sellers agree on deal terms (e.g., cap rates, price/square foot, etc.), those terms reflect their views of future prospects. When prevailing cap rates are applied to a REIT's forward-looking NOI estimate, the result is an estimate of value that is as forward looking as any other approach toward valuing stocks.



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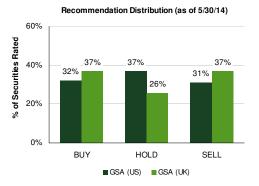
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Year	Buy	Hold	Sell	Universe <sup>3</sup>
2014 YTD	17 7%	14 6%	10 8%	14 4%
2013	4 1%	0 6%	1 7%	2 2%
2012	24 5%	24 7%	18 9%	23 0%
2011	18 9%	7 6%	4 7%	7 6%
2010	43 3%	32 8%	26 6%	33 8%
2009	59 0%	47 7%	6 0%	37 9%
2008	28 1%	30 9%	52 6%	37 3%
2007	6 9%	22 4%	27 8%	19 7%
2006	45 8%	29 6%	19 5%	31 6%
2005	26 3%	18 5%	1 8%	15 9%
2004	42 8%	28 7%	16 4%	29 4%
2003	43 3%	37 4%	21 8%	34 8%
2002	17 3%	2 8%	2 6%	5 4%
2001	34 9%	19 1%	13 0%	21 1%
2000	53 4%	28 9%	5 9%	29 6%
1999	12 3%	9 0%	20 5%	6 9%
1998	1 6%	15 1%	15 5%	12 1%
1997	36 7%	14 8%	7 2%	18 3%
1996	47 6%	30 7%	18 9%	32 1%
1995	22 9%	13 9%	0 5%	13 5%
1994	20 8%	0.8%	8 7%	3 1%
1993	27 3%	4 7%	8 1%	12 1%
Cumulative Total Return	10566 3%	856 2%	1 8%	961 4%
Annualized	24 5%	11 2%	0 1%	11 7%

The results shown in the table in the upper right corner are hypothetical; they do not represent the actual trading of securities. Actual performance will vary from this hypothetical performance due to, but not limited to 1) advisory fees and other expenses that one would pay; 2) transaction costs; 3) the inability to execute trades at the last published price (the hypothetical returns assume execution at the last closing price); 4) the inability to maintain an equally-weighted portfolio in size (the hypothetical returns assume an equal weighting); and 5) market and economic factors will almost certainly cause one to invest differently than projected by the model that simulated the above returns. All returns include the reinvestment of dividends. Past performance, particularly hypothetical performance.

(1) Results are for recommendations made by Green Street's North American Research Team only (includes securities in the US, Canada, and Australia). Uses recommendations given in Green Street's "Real Estate Securities Monthly" from January 28, 1993 through May 23, 2014. Historical results from January 28, 1993 through October 1, 2013 were independently verified by an international "Big 4" accounting firm. The accounting firm did not verify the stated results subsequent to October 1, 2013. As of October 1, 2013, the annualized total return of Green Street's recommendations since January 28, 1993 was: Buy +24.5%, Hold +10.9%, Sell -0.3%, Universe +11.5%.

(2) Company inclusion in the calculation of total return has been based on whether the companies were listed in the primary exhibit of Green Street's "Real Estate Securities Monthly". Beginning April 28, 2000, Gaming C-Corps and Hotel C-Corps, with the exception of Starwood Hotels and Homestead Village, were no longer included in the primary exhibit and therefore no longer included in the calculation of total return. Beginning March 3, 2003, the remaining Hotel companies were excluded.

(3) All securities covered by Green Street with a published rating that were included in the calculation of total return. Excludes "not rated" securities.

Per NASD rule 2711, "Buy" = Most attractively valued stocks. We recommend overweight position; "Hold" = Fairly valued stocks. We recommend market-weighting; "Sell" = Least attractively valued stocks. We recommend underweight position.

Green Street will furnish upon request available investment information regarding the recommendation