

HEDGE FUNDS AND ALTERNATIVE ASSETS

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Differences between traditional long-only investments and hedge funds / absolute return strategies

1. Legal structures
2. Market risk
3. Short selling and leverage
4. Return objectives
5. Risk measures
6. Incentives

Risk-return profile of hedge funds / absolute return strategies

1. Risks in hedge fund strategies
2. Exposure to non-traditional risk factors
3. Operational risk
4. Hedge funds are not an asset class

Distribution of returns and optionality

1. Long volatility strategies
2. Short volatility strategies
3. Volatility and asymmetric return distributions
4. ROA vs ROE

Risk management

1. Risk management vs risk measurement
2. Active risk management
3. Asymmetric return profile
4. Leverage risk

Operational risk

1. Misrepresentation and fraud
2. Pricing
3. Complexity
4. Illiquidity
5. OTC and counterparty risk
6. Risk management

Business risk

1. Hedge funds are businesses
2. Incentives
3. The hedge fund game (short put)
4. Behavior of hedge fund managers during drawdown periods

Role of hedge funds and alternative investments in diversified portfolios