



Comcast Corporation (CMCSA)

Updated January 24th, 2019 by Jonathan Weber

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$37	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	12.1%	Volatility Percentile:	27.8%
Fair Value Price:	\$43	5 Year Growth Estimate:	6.5%	Momentum Percentile:	42.1%
% Fair Value:	85%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	3.3%	Growth Percentile:	60.5%
Dividend Yield:	2.3%	5 Year Price Target	\$60	Valuation Percentile:	73.8%
Dividend Risk Score:	B	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Total Return Percentile:	67.2%

Overview & Current Events

Comcast is a media, entertainment and communications company that offers video, internet and phone services. Its business units include Cable Communications (video, Internet, voice; Xfinity brand), Cable Networks (cable networks, regional sports, news, etc.), Broadcast Television (NBC, Telemundo), Filmed Entertainment and Theme Parks. Comcast was founded in 1963, is headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, and is currently valued at \$168 billion.

Comcast reported its fourth quarter and fiscal 2018 earnings results on January 23. The company reported revenues of \$27.9 billion for Q4, an increase of 26% year over year. This tremendous top line growth rate was possible due to the closing of the acquisition of Sky which happened during the fourth quarter, and which impacted Comcast's results positively. The underlying organic revenue performance has not been bad either, though, as cable communications revenues rose 5.2% year over year, driven by a further increase in Comcast's customer count. NBCUniversal also generated a solid revenue growth rate, as the segment's top line rose by 7.1% year over year, with positive growth in all sub segments, including Cable Networks, Broadcast Television, and Filmed Entertainment.

Comcast was able to translate the compelling revenue growth rate into a strong earnings-per-share performance, as Q4's earnings-per-share of \$0.64 were up 36% year over year. For all of 2018 Comcast has generated earnings-per-share of \$2.55, an increase of 26% compared to fiscal 2017.

Comcast raised its dividend by 10.5%, to \$0.21 per share per quarter, on January 23.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
EPS	\$0.63	\$0.65	\$0.79	\$1.14	\$1.28	\$1.47	\$1.63	\$1.74	\$2.06	\$2.55	\$2.80	\$3.84
DPS	\$0.15	\$0.19	\$0.23	\$0.33	\$0.39	\$0.45	\$0.50	\$0.55	\$0.61	\$0.76	\$0.84	\$1.40
Shares	5.68	5.55	5.41	5.26	5.19	5.06	4.88	4.75	4.64	4.60	4.55	4.40

Comcast has a very compelling earnings growth history. From 2009 to 2018 its earnings-per-share grew every year. The annual growth rate averaged 17% over those nine years. Over the last five years its growth has slowed down a bit, averaging 14.8% annually since 2013, which has still been a very compelling - and consistent - rate of earnings growth.

There are several drivers for Comcast's earnings growth. The first one is ongoing revenue growth, driven primarily by Cable revenues. Cable revenues grew by five percent during Q4, primarily due to a higher customer count. Cable revenues have grown by mid-single digits for the last ten quarters, and it seems reasonable to assume that growth will continue going forward. The Video segment is battling against the impact of cord-cutting, but so far higher revenues in the high-speed internet business could offset this headwind. NBCUniversal saw its revenues rise as well during 2018, with a positive contribution from all its segments. The Filmed Television segment can be a bit cyclical, though.

Apart from revenue growth Comcast's earnings were driven by margin increases in the past, but more recently Comcast was not able to increase its margins by much. During all of fiscal 2018, Comcast has been able to grow its EBITDA by 7.9% compared to the prior year, although EBITDA growth accelerated during the fourth quarter, to 22%. Comcast benefited a lot from tax law changes, going forward Comcast will not be able to grow its earnings-per-share as fast as during 2018. The company's share count will likely continue to decline, which is a positive for Comcast's EPS.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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Valuation Analysis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Now	2024
Avg. P/E	11.8	14.3	14.9	14.0	16.9	18.2	18.1	18.2	18.6	13.3	13.2	15.5
Avg. Yld.	2.0%	2.1%	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%

Comcast's shares are currently valued at roughly 13 times 2019's earnings, which represents a discount relative to how Comcast's shares were valued throughout most of the last decade. Shares traded at a high-teens earnings multiple several years in a row, and we see considerable upside potential towards a fair earnings multiple around 15.5.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
Payout	23.8%	29.2%	29.1%	28.9%	30.5%	30.6%	30.7%	31.6%	29.6%	29.8%	30.0%	36.5%

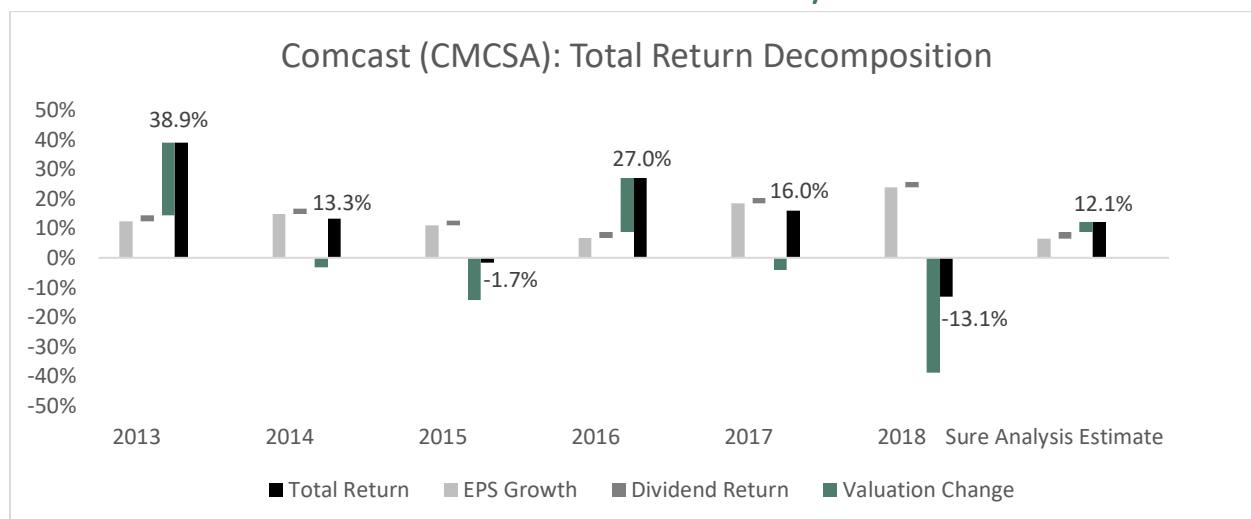
Comcast has raised its dividend for 10 years in a row, and its dividend growth rate was considerable throughout that decade. The fast dividend growth was possible through a combination of a compelling earnings growth rate and an increase in Comcast's dividend payout ratio. The dividend payout ratio is still not high at all, though, and we believe that the dividend looks very safe for the foreseeable future, as it is well-covered by both earnings and cash flows.

Comcast is, together with Disney, one of the largest players in the entertainment industry. New market entrants would have to spend many billions to establish themselves as a cable player or major entertainment network, thus competitive pressures are not very high. The whole cable industry is impacted by the nationwide cord-cutting trend, though, as some customers are ditching traditional pay-tv entirely. Comcast has so far been able to withstand this trend through growth from its other businesses. During the last financial crisis Comcast grew its EPS, largely because demand for its services is not cyclical.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Comcast has been a high-quality growth company over the last decade, the company has produced a highly compelling earnings growth rate and raised its dividend at a fast pace on top of that. Going forward earnings-per-share growth will slow down, we believe, but the company should be able to withstand the cord-cutting trend. We believe that total returns will be attractive over the coming years, and we thus rate undervalued Comcast a buy right here.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue	35756	37937	55842	62570	64657	68775	74510	80403	84526	94507
Gross Profit	21376	29400	39246	42641	44987	47863	51960	55940	59142	64815
Gross Margin	59.8%	77.5%	70.3%	68.1%	69.6%	69.6%	69.7%	69.6%	70.0%	68.6%
SG&A Exp.	7662	14804	20889	22664	23553	24940	27282	29523	31330	35130
D&A Exp.	6500	6803	14423	7798	7871	8019	8680	9558	9825	10676
Operating Profit	7214	7980	10721	12179	13563	14904	15998	16859	17987	19009
Op. Margin	20.2%	21.0%	19.2%	19.5%	21.0%	21.7%	21.5%	21.0%	21.3%	20.1%
Net Profit	3638	3635	4160	6203	6816	8380	8163	8695	22714	11731
Net Margin	10.2%	9.6%	7.4%	9.9%	10.5%	12.2%	11.0%	10.8%	26.9%	12.4%
Free Cash Flow	4642	5682	8084	8217	6555	8403	9616	9004	10106	12588
Income Tax	1478	2436	3050	3744	3980	3873	4959	5308	-7578	3380

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Assets (\$B)	112.73	118.53	157.82	164.97	158.81	159.19	166.57	180.50	186.95	251.68
Cash & Equivalents	671	5984	1620	10951	1718	3910	2295	3301	3428	3814
Acc. Receivable	1711	1855	4652	5521	6376	6321	6896	7955	8546	11104
Goodwill/Int. (\$B)	78.49	78.00	109.64	109.24	108.79	109.39	115.11	119.87	122.00	171.71
Total Liab. (\$B)	69.76	73.96	110.16	115.18	107.76	106.12	112.60	124.33	117.50	179.18
Accounts Payable	N/A	N/A	5705	6206	5528	5638	6215	6915	6926	8494
Long-Term Debt	29096	31415	39309	40458	47847	48081	52621	61046	64556	111743
Total Equity	42721	44354	47274	49356	50694	52711	52269	53943	68606	71613
D/E Ratio	0.68	0.71	0.83	0.82	0.94	0.91	1.01	1.13	0.94	1.56

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Return on Assets	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	3.8%	4.2%	5.3%	5.0%	5.0%	12.4%	5.3%
Return on Equity	8.7%	8.3%	9.1%	12.8%	13.6%	16.2%	15.6%	16.4%	37.1%	16.7%
ROIC	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%	7.0%	7.2%	8.4%	7.9%	7.8%	18.1%	7.4%
Shares Out.	5.68	5.55	5.41	5.26	5.19	5.06	4.88	4.75	4.64	4.60
Revenue/Share	6.20	6.73	10.05	11.51	12.13	13.13	14.80	16.49	17.66	20.37
FCF/Share	0.80	1.01	1.46	1.51	1.23	1.60	1.91	1.85	2.11	2.71

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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