



# Verizon Communications (VZ)

Updated April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 by Nathan Parsh

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$57	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	11.4%	<b>Volatility Percentile:</b>	31.7%
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$67	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	4.0%	<b>Momentum Percentile:</b>	76.6%
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	85%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	3.3%	<b>Growth Percentile:</b>	23.4%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	4.1%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$82	<b>Valuation Percentile:</b>	81.7%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	C	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	B	<b>Total Return Percentile:</b>	71.2%

## Overview & Current Events

Verizon Communications was created by a merger between Bell Atlantic Corp and GTE Corp in June, 2000. Verizon is one of the largest wireless carriers in the country. Wireless contributes three-quarters of all revenues, and broadband and cable services account for about a quarter of sales. The company's network covers ~298 million people and 98% of the U.S. Verizon has a market capitalization of \$236 billion, with annual sales of \$131 billion.

Verizon reported financial results for the first quarter on 4/23/2019. The company earned \$1.20 per share, topping estimates by \$0.04 and growing 2.6% from the previous year. Revenue grew 1.1% year-over-year to \$32.1 billion, which was in-line with what analysts were expecting.

The wireless business had 61K retail postpaid net additions in the first quarter. 261K connected device net additions were offset by 44K phone net losses and 156K tablet net losses. Postpaid smartphone net additions totaled 174K during the quarter. Revenues for wireless grew almost 4% to \$22.7 billion. Higher priced plans helped grow service revenues by 4.4%. Postpaid phone churn was just 0.84%, a slight increase from the previous quarter, but still one of the lowest rates among wireless carriers. Verizon's wireline business experienced a revenue decline of 3.9% to \$7.3 billion. Fios sales improved 3.6% to \$3.1 billion. The company added 52K net Fios connections, but lost a net of 53K Fios video subscribers.

Based on first quarter results, Verizon now expects earnings-per-share to increase at a low-single-digit rate from 2018 versus previous guidance of no growth. We have updated our earnings-per-share estimate for 2019 to be 2% higher from last year. Revenues for the year are still expected to grow at a low single-digit rate. Shares of Verizon declined 2.1% following the release of results.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
<b>EPS</b>	\$2.40	\$2.21	\$2.15	\$2.32	\$4.00	\$3.35	\$3.99	\$3.87	\$3.75	\$4.71	<b>\$4.80</b>	<b>\$5.84</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$1.87	\$1.93	\$1.96	\$2.02	\$2.08	\$2.16	\$2.23	\$2.29	\$2.32	\$2.37	<b>\$2.41</b>	<b>\$2.93</b>
<b>Shares</b>	2836	2828	2836	2858	4141	4155	4073	4077	4080	4050	<b>4025</b>	<b>3950</b>

Verizon has seen its earnings-per-share grow at a rate of almost 5% per year for the past 10 years. We have lowered our forward growth rate to 4% from 5% due to the company's guidance of low single digit earnings growth. While a lower growth rate is not an ideal situation, Verizon is a clear beneficiary of a lower tax rate. The company added \$10 billion to its free cash flow in 2018. The company's effective tax rate should be ~25% in 2019. Applying our expected earnings growth rate to the company's guidance for 2019 means that shares of Verizon could earn \$5.84 per share by 2024.

Verizon gave shareholders a 2.1% dividend increase for payment made this past November. The company has now increased its dividend for the past 14 years, and has compounded it dividend by a rate of 2.4% over the last decade.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Now	2024
<b>Avg. P/E</b>	12.7	13.8	17.1	18.1	12.2	14.5	11.8	13.3	12.3	13.1	<b>11.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Avg. Yld.</b>	6.1%	6.3%	5.3%	4.8%	4.3%	4.4%	4.7%	4.5%	4.8%	4.1%	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

Disclosure: This analyst has a long position in the security discussed in this research report.



# Verizon Communications (VZ)

Updated April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 by Nathan Parsh

Shares of Verizon have increased \$4, or 7.5%, since our January 29<sup>th</sup> update. Based off the current share price and updated expectations for 2019 earnings-per-share, Verizon has a forward P/E of 11.9. This is below the decade long average P/E of 14. If shares were to return to this ratio by 2024, then valuation would be a 3.3% tailwind to total annual returns over this time. With a 4.1% dividend yield, Verizon offers investors a yield that is more than double that of the S&P 500 and is well above the yield of the 10-year Treasury Bond.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
Payout	78%	87%	91%	87%	52%	65%	56%	59%	61%	50%	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>

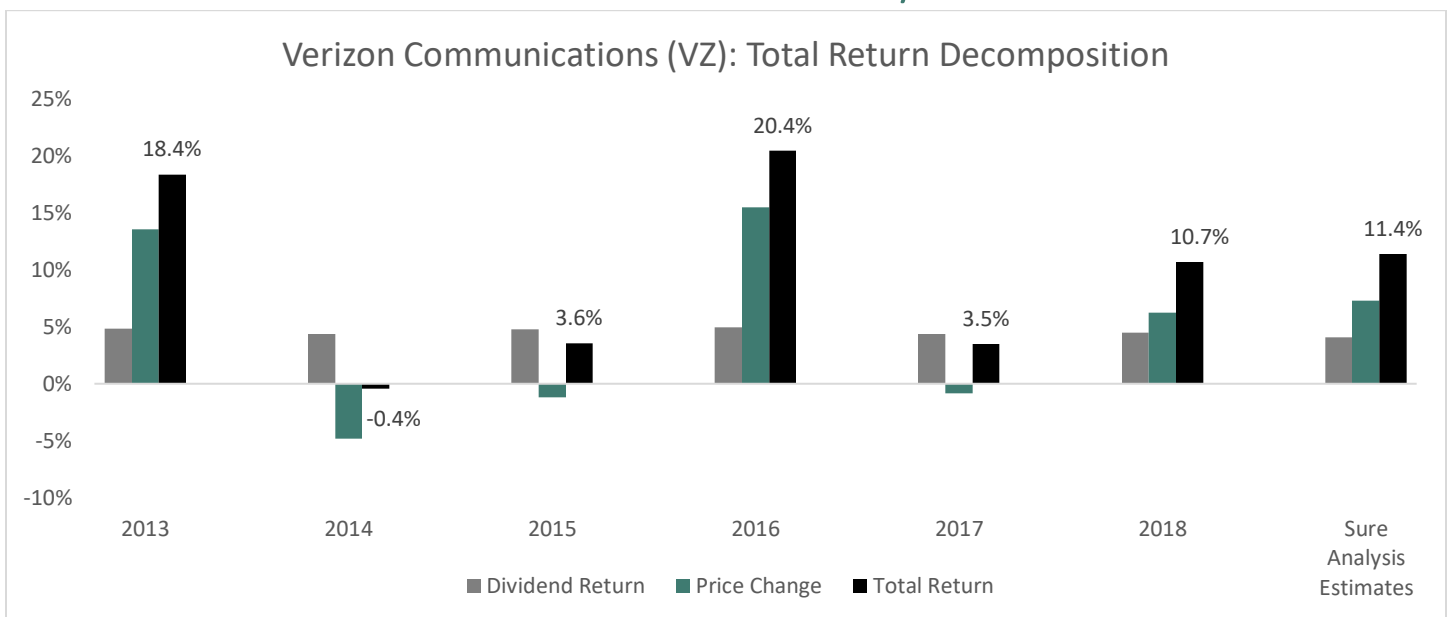
While investors aren't likely to see a sizeable pickup in earnings growth, Verizon offers a very high and stable dividend yield. The company has seen its cash flow increase dramatically thanks to a lower tax rate. While the current net debt level is still high, it was at reduced during the previous year.

One of Verizon's key competitive advantages is that it is often considered the best wireless carrier in the U.S. This is evident by the company's wireless net additions and very low churn rate. This reliable service allows Verizon to maintain its customer base as well as give the company an opportunity to move customers to higher priced plans. Another advantage for Verizon is the stock's ability to withstand a downturn in the market. For example, the stock weathered the selloff in late 2018 very well, gaining almost 7% for the year while the S&P 500 dropped 6%.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Shares of Verizon Communications are expected to offer a total annual return of 11.4% through 2024, down from 12.9% previously. This return is a combination of a lower expected earnings growth rate (4%), dividend yield (4.1%) and multiple expansion (3.3%). While the company is expecting a low single-digit earnings growth rate from 2018, this is an improvement from guidance following fourth quarter results. Verizon earns a buy recommendation from Sure Dividend as we feel the stock offers a solid combination of earnings growth, dividend yield and possible multiple expansion. The stock has a low valuation, which should help it hold up in a market wide sell off. We have increased our 2024 target price \$2 to \$82 due to updated guidance for the current year.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



[Click here to rate and review this research report. Your feedback is important to us.](#)

Disclosure: This analyst has a long position in the security discussed in this research report.



# Verizon Communications (VZ)

Updated April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 by Nathan Parsh

## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Revenue (\$B)</b>	107.8	106.6	110.9	115.8	120.6	127.1	131.6	126.0	126.0	130.9
<b>Gross Profit</b>	63229	62416	65000	69571	75663	77148	79063	73279	72971	75355
<b>Gross Margin</b>	58.6%	58.6%	58.6%	60.1%	62.8%	60.7%	60.1%	58.2%	57.9%	57.6%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	30717	31366	35624	39951	27089	41016	29986	27095	26818	31083
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	16534	16405	16496	16460	16606	16533	16017	15928	16954	17403
<b>Operating Profit</b>	15978	14645	12880	13160	31968	19599	33060	30256	29199	26869
<b>Op. Margin</b>	14.8%	13.7%	11.6%	11.4%	26.5%	15.4%	25.1%	24.0%	23.2%	20.5%
<b>Net Profit</b>	4894	2549	2404	875	11497	9625	17879	13127	30101	15528
<b>Net Margin</b>	4.5%	2.4%	2.2%	0.8%	9.5%	7.6%	13.6%	10.4%	23.9%	11.9%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	14518	16119	13315	11013	21634	13086	11310	4096	6488	16252
<b>Income Tax</b>	1919	2467	285	-660	5730	3314	9865	7378	-9956	3584

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total Assets (\$B)</b>	226.9	220.0	230.5	225.2	274.1	232.6	244.2	244.2	257.1	264.8
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	2009	6668	13362	3093	53528	10598	4470	2880	2079	2745
<b>Acc. Receivable</b>	12573	11781	11776	12576	12439	13993	13457	17513	23493	25102
<b>Inventories</b>	1426	1131	940	1075	1020	1153	1252	1202	1034	1336
<b>Goodwill/Int. (\$B)</b>	101.3	100.8	102.5	107.8	106.2	105.7	119.5	122.8	127.8	128.5
<b>Total Liab. (\$B)</b>	142.8	133.1	144.6	139.7	178.7	218.9	226.3	220.1	212.5	210.1
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	4337	3936	4194	4454	4954	5598	5700	7084	7063	7232
<b>LT Debt (\$B)</b>	62.3	52.8	55.2	52.0	93.6	113.3	109.7	108.1	117.1	113.1
<b>Total Equity</b>	41382	38569	35970	33157	38836	12298	16428	22524	43096	53145
<b>D/E Ratio</b>	1.50	1.37	1.53	1.57	2.41	9.21	6.68	4.80	2.72	2.13

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Return on Assets</b>	2.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.4%	4.6%	3.8%	7.5%	5.4%	12.0%	5.9%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	11.8%	6.4%	6.5%	2.5%	31.9%	37.6%	125%	67.4%	91.7%	32.3%
<b>ROIC</b>	3.5%	1.8%	1.7%	0.6%	7.0%	6.1%	14.0%	10.1%	20.5%	9.4%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	2841	2833	2839	2862	2874	3981	4093	4086	4089	4132
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	37.95	37.62	39.05	40.48	41.95	31.92	32.16	30.83	30.82	31.67
<b>FCF/Share</b>	5.11	5.69	4.69	3.85	7.53	3.29	2.76	1.00	1.59	3.93

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

### Disclaimer

Nothing presented herein is, or is intended to constitute, specific investment advice. Nothing in this research report should be construed as a recommendation to follow any investment strategy or allocation. Any forward-looking statements or forecasts are based on assumptions and actual results are expected to vary from any such statements or forecasts. No reliance should be placed on any such statements or forecasts when making any investment decision. While Sure Dividend has used reasonable efforts to obtain information from reliable sources, we make no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of third-party information presented herein. No guarantee of investment performance is being provided and no inference to the contrary should be made. There is a risk of loss from an investment in marketable securities. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance.