



First Financial Corporation Indiana (THFF)

Updated November 29th, 2020 by Josh Arnold

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$38	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	1.7%	Market Cap:	\$527 M
Fair Value Price:	\$36	5 Year Growth Estimate:	0.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	01/07/21
% Fair Value:	106%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-1.2%	Dividend Payment Date:	01/15/21
Dividend Yield:	2.8%	5 Year Price Target	\$36	Years Of Dividend Growth:	32
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Retirement Suitability Score:	A	Last Dividend Increase:	1.9%

Overview & Current Events

First Financial Corporation Indiana is the holding company for First Financial Bank N.A. The company has locations in Indiana and Illinois and can trace its roots back to 1834. First Financial offers clients savings accounts, certificates of deposit and life insurance products, as well as home, automobile, agricultural and commercial loans. The company has a market capitalization of \$527 million and produces about \$190 million in annual revenue.

First Financial reported third quarter earnings on October 28th, 2020 with both the top and bottom line coming in ahead of expectations. Net interest income was \$36.5 million, up 7.5% from \$34 million year-over-year. Net interest margin was 3.99%, essentially flat year-over-year, and extremely strong compared to other banks in our coverage universe.

Nonperforming loans were \$23.7 million, up from \$14.4 million at the same time last year, which is attributable to COVID-related weakness. Provisions for loan losses were \$4.43 million, nearly triple the year-ago level.

Net income was \$14 million, up from \$12.3 million for the same period of 2019. On a per-share basis, net income came to \$1.02, up nicely from \$0.93 in the same period a year ago. We've boosted our estimate for earnings-per-share this year by a dime to \$3.25.

First Financial also raised its dividend for the 32nd consecutive year, raising the payout by 1.9% for the January payout. First Financial pays its dividend semi-annually.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
EPS	\$2.14	\$2.83	\$2.48	\$2.37	\$2.55	\$2.35	\$3.12	\$2.38	\$3.80	\$3.80	\$3.25	\$3.25
DPS	\$0.92	\$0.94	\$0.95	\$0.96	\$0.98	\$0.98	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.02	\$1.03	\$1.06	\$1.17
Shares¹	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.0	12.7	12.2	12.3	12.3	13.7	14.0	16.0

First Financial saw its earnings decrease just -8.5% from 2008 to 2009 – an excellent performance compared to many financial companies. In recent years, First Financial has seen earnings-per-share fluctuate rather wildly. For example, earnings-per-share declined in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017. The company has an earnings-per-share growth rate of just ~2% per year over the past decade. Applying no projected growth to expected 2020 earnings-per-share of \$3.25, shares of First Financial could earn \$3.25 by 2025. We see tailwinds and headwinds offsetting each other, mostly from higher loan balances and strong net interest margin performance. First Financial could also see a margin tailwind from lower expenses relative to revenue, but lending margins will face headwinds from perpetually low rates.

First Financial pays a semi-annual dividend to shareholders in the months of January and July. The company has raised its dividend an average of 1.5% per year over the past ten years. First Financial issued a special dividend of \$1.50 per share on 10/20/2017, though this is not a common occurrence and should not be expected to recur in the future. We are targeting a sub-40% payout ratio going forward for First Financial, translating to a \$1.17 dividend in 2025.

¹ Share count in millions

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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Now	2025
Avg. P/E	13.6	11.2	12.4	13.5	12.9	14.6	12.2	18.4	14.2	11.1	11.7	11.0
Avg. Yld.	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.6%	2.3%	2.2%	2.4%	2.8%	3.3%

Based off of estimates for 2020, shares have a forward price-to-earnings ratio of 11.7. First Financial's stock has traded with an average multiple of 14.6 over the past ten years. However, there have been three years (2008, 2009 and 2017) where the multiple was artificially elevated due to earnings declines. Excluding these outlier years, First Financial has traded with an average earnings multiple of 12.9, and we see fair value at 11 due to declining sector valuations. Thus, we see a small negative impact on total returns from the valuation in the coming years.

First Financial has increased its dividend for the past 32 years. While earnings-per-share figures declined in 2009, the company's dividend grew. Investors shouldn't expect the company to have high dividend growth, however. First Financial has not shown a willingness to be more aggressive with its dividend increases, likely due to irregular earnings performance. We see the yield staying essentially flat with current level, pending what happens to the valuation.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
Payout	43%	33%	38%	41%	38%	42%	32%	42%	27%	27%	33%	36%

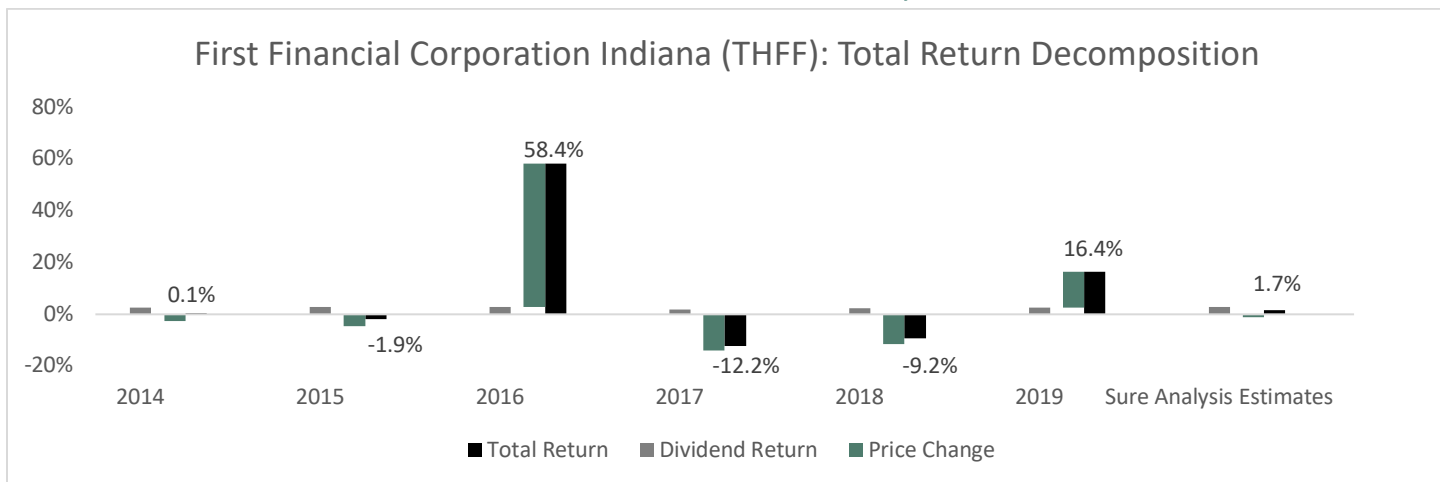
While earnings did decline in 2009, First Financial managed to weather the last recession well. Earnings recovered above 2008's earnings-per-share total in 2010. Since then, the company has experienced varied earnings growth. Investors looking for consistent earnings growth will likely be disappointed by First Financial.

If First Financial has a competitive advantage, it is the bank's presence in its small home markets. In addition, its net interest margin is very high against other banks. However, First Financial doesn't have any sort of competitive moat from its business model as it competes in the same ways every other small bank does.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

After Q3 results, we now anticipate that First Financial Corporation Indiana could offer annual returns of just 1.7% through 2025, which is lower than our last update. Shares are a bit more expensive, but earnings estimates are slightly higher. Still, we see First Financial as a sell with no projected growth and a valuation above our estimate of fair value.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Revenue	126.4	132.5	148.5	147.7	148.6	143.7	151.9	143.8	154.8	170
SG&A Exp.	47.7	47.2	58.2	57.1	57.9	61.9	54.0	52.2	51.6	56
D&A Exp.	4.6	3.9	5.1	5.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.4	4	5
Net Profit	28.0	37.2	32.8	31.5	33.8	30.2	38.4	29.1	46.6	49
Net Margin	22.2%	28.1%	22.1%	21.3%	22.7%	21.0%	25.3%	20.3%	30.1%	28.7%
Free Cash Flow	46.2	41.8	43.5	60.2	52.5	37.8	38.1	47.2	55	49
Income Tax	12.0	14.4	13.8	13.8	14.2	10.4	19.9	20.6	11.1	12

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Assets	2451.1	2954.1	2895.4	3018.7	3002.5	2979.6	2988.5	3000.7	3008.7	4023
Cash & Equivalents	58.5	134.3	87.2	71.0	78.1	88.7	75.0	74.1	74.4	127
Acc. Receivable	11.2	12.9	12.0	11.6	11.6	11.7	12.3	12.9	14.0	19
Goodwill & Int.	11.3	42.0	41.5	44.4	43.4	42.7	36.5	36.0	35.6	89
Total Liabilities	2129.4	2607.1	2523.3	2632.5	2608.3	2569.3	2574.1	2587.1	2566.0	3466
Long-Term Debt	159.9	246.4	160.3	117.9	60.9	46.5	81.1	57.7	69.7	31
Total Equity	321.7	347.0	372.1	386.2	394.2	410.3	414.4	413.6	442.7	558
D/E Ratio	0.50	0.71	0.43	0.31	0.15	0.11	0.20	0.14	0.16	0.14

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Return on Assets	1.1%	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%	1.0%	1.6%	1.4%
Return on Equity	8.9%	11.1%	9.1%	8.3%	8.7%	7.5%	9.3%	7.0%	10.9%	9.8%
ROIC	4.9%	6.9%	5.8%	6.1%	7.0%	6.6%	8.1%	6.0%	9.5%	9.0%
Shares Out.	13.15	13.20	13.29	13.34	12.94	12.74	12.22	12.25	12.25	13.7
Revenue/Share	9.64	10.07	11.21	11.10	11.24	11.19	12.33	11.76	12.63	13.22
FCF/Share	3.52	3.17	3.29	4.52	3.97	2.94	3.10	3.86	4.52	3.79

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

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