



# Genuine Parts Co. (GPC)

Updated May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Josh Arnold

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$131	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	3.6%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$19 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$127	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	6.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	06/03/21
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	105%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	-4.7%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	07/01/21
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.5%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$138	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	65
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	A	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	A	<b>Last Dividend Increase:</b>	3.2%

## Overview & Current Events

Genuine Parts Company was founded in 1928 and since that time, it has grown into a sprawling conglomerate that sells automotive and industrial parts, electrical materials and general business products. Its global span reaches throughout North America, Australia, New Zealand and Europe and is comprised of more than 3,000 locations. It has about 50,000 employees and trades with a market capitalization of \$19 billion, with nearly \$18 billion in annual revenue.

Genuine Parts reported first quarter earnings on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, with results coming in better than expectations on both the top and bottom lines. Sales from continuing operations were up 9.1% year-over-year to \$4.5 billion, from \$4.1 billion in the year-ago period. The gain was attributable to a 4.6% increase in comparable sales, a 3.7% net benefit from forex translation, and a 0.8% gain from acquisitions.

Sales gains were driven by overall strength in the economy and stimulus initiatives in the US. The core automotive segment led the way in terms of growth, but the industrial business posted its third consecutive quarter of improving sales trends as well. Genuine Parts also saw its 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter of gross margin expansion, as it continues to manage expenses.

Net income was \$218 million, or \$1.50 per share. This was up sharply from \$117 million, or 80 cents per share, respectively, in the year-ago period. Management also boosted guidance for this year, adding 1% to its top line forecast, and 30 cents to its earnings-per-share forecast. We've boosted our estimate in kind, and we now expect \$6.05 for this year's earnings-per-share.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
<b>EPS</b>	\$3.58	\$4.14	\$4.19	\$4.61	\$4.63	\$4.59	\$4.71	\$5.68	\$5.69	\$5.27	<b>\$6.05</b>	<b>\$8.10</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$1.76	\$1.98	\$2.11	\$2.30	\$2.46	\$2.63	\$2.70	\$2.88	\$3.05	\$3.16	<b>\$3.26</b>	<b>\$3.97</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	156	155	154	153	150	148	147	147	146	144	<b>143</b>	<b>140</b>

Earnings-per-share growth has seen stops and starts but over the long-term, Genuine Parts delivers. The company's businesses are all what could be considered staples as it serves businesses and consumers in areas where there is likely to be demand for the long run. The company's acquisitions have led the way in terms of growth and will continue to do so moving forward. We are forecasting 6% annualized earnings-per-share growth for the next five years in a continuation of this trend, in addition to positive organic sales in the Automotive segment. The company's nearly constant acquisitions should help keep the top line moving, but we note that margins have been less than stellar of late, which we believe will keep a lid on future growth. In addition, the company's Industrial segment continues to struggle with COVID-related issues, but those seem to be abating somewhat. We note that divestitures in 2020 caused what we believe will be temporary weakness in revenue and earnings.

Genuine Parts' pipeline of new acquisitions should keep the trend of higher revenue in place for the foreseeable future, with sales growth being the primary driver of earnings-per-share growth moving forward, in concert with a small

<sup>1</sup> Share count in millions

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amount of share repurchases. We are concerned by the company's inability to grow margins while revenue is moving in the right direction, but thus far, it has been able to overcome this with share repurchases and revenue growth.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Now	2026
Avg. P/E	15.1	15.2	18.6	19.3	19.5	20.8	19.2	17.0	17.8	17.1	21.7	17.0
Avg. Yld.	3.3%	3.2%	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.5%	2.5%	2.9%

Genuine Parts' price-to-earnings ratio rose steadily in the period from 2009 to 2017, moving from 13.8 to 19.2 in that time frame. The stock has rallied sharply since our last update, now trading for 21.7 times our earnings estimate for this year. With the price-to-earnings ratio still above our long-term fair value estimate at 17, we see a meaningful annual headwind to total returns from the valuation.

Genuine Parts is famous for its dividend, as its 60+ consecutive years of increases makes it a Dividend King. The current yield of 2.5% is low by historical norms, and we expect the yield to remain under 3% for the foreseeable future.

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

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
Payout	49%	46%	50%	49%	52%	56%	57%	51%	54%	60%	54%	49%

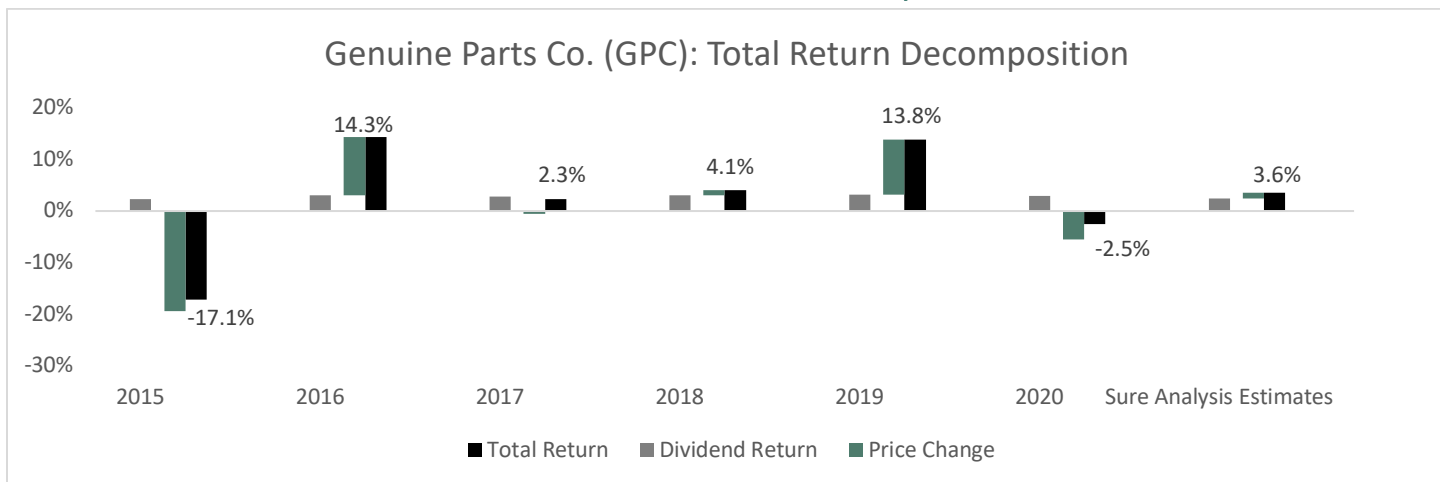
Genuine Parts' payout ratio has been quite steady between 50% and 60% of earnings for many years, and we do not expect that to change anytime soon. We see the dividend rising slightly slower than earnings, keeping the payout ratio at around half of earnings in the years to come, consistent with the past decade.

Genuine Parts' competitive advantages include its wide array of industries and customers served, geographic reach and the fact that it sells what amount to industrial staples. Genuine Parts is still prone to earnings declines during recessions but performs relatively well; this is a defensive stock for a retailer/wholesaler.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Overall, Genuine Parts Company looks significantly overvalued based upon both its current valuation and dividend yield. Given this, we are expecting total annual returns of 3.6% for the next five years. Returns could accrue from the current 2.5% yield and 6% earnings growth offset by a headwind from the valuation. Given this total return outlook, shares earn a hold rating.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Revenue</b>	12459	13014	14078	15342	15280	15340	16309	18735	19392	16,537
<b>Gross Profit</b>	3606	3778	4220	4594	4556	4600	4906	5984	6316	5,655
<b>Gross Margin</b>	28.9%	29.0%	30.0%	29.9%	29.8%	30.0%	30.1%	31.9%	32.6%	34.2%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	2594	2657	3028	3314	3277	3371	3705	4615	4934	4,387
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	89	98	134	148	142	147	168	242	270	273
<b>Operating Profit</b>	909	1015	1049	1124	1124	1070	1020	1110	1097	972
<b>Op. Margin</b>	7.3%	7.8%	7.5%	7.3%	7.4%	7.0%	6.3%	5.9%	5.7%	5.9%
<b>Net Profit</b>	565	648	685	711	706	687	617	810	621	(29)
<b>Net Margin</b>	4.5%	5.0%	4.9%	4.6%	4.6%	4.5%	3.8%	4.3%	3.2%	-0.2%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	521	804	933	682	1050	785	658	913	594	1,866
<b>Income Tax</b>	326	371	359	406	418	387	393	265	209	216

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total Assets</b>	6203	6807	7680	8246	8145	8859	12412	12683	14645	13,440
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	525	403	197	138	212	243	315	334	277	990
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	1461	1490	1665	1872	1822	1939	2422	2494	2635	1,557
<b>Inventories</b>	2440	2603	2946	3044	3000	3210	3771	3609	3831	3,506
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	280	498	1289	1387	1362	1575	3554	3540	3862	3,416
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	3449	3799	4322	4934	4986	5652	8948	9211	10950	10,222
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	1441	1682	2270	2555	2822	3081	3635	3996	4106	4,128
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	500	500	765	765	625	875	3245	3143	3426	2,677
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	2744	2998	3349	3301	3147	3194	3412	3450	3675	3,205
<b>D/E Ratio</b>	0.18	0.17	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.27	0.95	0.91	0.93	0.84

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Return on Assets</b>	9.7%	10.0%	9.5%	8.9%	8.6%	8.1%	5.8%	6.5%	4.5%	-0.2%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	20.4%	22.6%	21.6%	21.4%	21.9%	21.7%	18.7%	23.6%	17.4%	-0.8%
<b>ROIC</b>	17.2%	19.2%	18.0%	17.3%	18.0%	17.5%	11.4%	12.2%	9.0%	-0.4%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	156	155	154	153	150	148	147	147	146	144
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	79.02	83.20	90.41	99.38	100.20	102.40	110.42	127.24	132.45	113.96
<b>FCF/Share</b>	3.31	5.14	5.99	4.42	6.88	5.24	4.46	6.20	4.06	12.86

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

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