



# Dow Inc. (DOW)

Updated July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, by Josh Arnold

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$60	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	8.5%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$45 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$110	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	-7.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	08/27/21 <sup>1</sup>
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	55%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	12.9%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	09/11/21
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	4.7%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$76	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	0
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	D	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	B	<b>Last Dividend Increase:</b>	N/A

## Overview & Current Events

Dow Inc. is a new standalone company that was recently spun off from its former parent, DowDuPont. That company has broken into three publicly traded, standalone parts, with the former Materials Science business becoming the new Dow Inc. Dow began trading on its own on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, with the ticker DOW. It should produce about \$53 billion in revenue this year and trades with a market capitalization of \$45 billion.

Dow reported second quarter earnings on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, with results sailing past estimates on both the top and bottom lines. Dow noted that as the world economy continues to reopen from COVID-related shutdowns, it is seeing sizable benefits. In addition, the company said it expects additional improvements in the back half of the year in consumer spending, international travel, and industrial production.

Net income was \$1.9 billion in Q2, an immense improvement from the loss of -\$225 million suffered in the year-ago quarter. Total revenue soared 66% to \$13.9 billion. Local prices increased 53% year-over-year, and 16% against this year's Q1, reflecting gains in all of the company's operating segments and regions. These gains were driven by tight supply against strong demand.

Q2 volumes were up 9% year-over-year, led by polyurethane and silicones applications on recovery from COVID shutdowns. The Packaging and Specialty Plastics segment saw a 78% increase in sales year-over-year, while Industrial Intermediates and Infrastructure sales soared 74%, and Performance Materials and Coatings was up 33%.

We've boosted our earnings-per-share estimate for this year to \$8.45 after blockbuster Q2 results but note that this number is likely to set a multi-year peak for Dow. This is due to the massive pricing increases the company is seeing today being unsustainable.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
<b>EPS</b>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$3.99	\$3.49	\$1.66	<b>\$8.45</b>	<b>\$5.88</b>
<b>DPS</b>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	\$2.10	\$2.80	<b>\$2.80</b>	<b>\$2.80</b>
<b>Shares<sup>2</sup></b>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	747	743	745	<b>747</b>	<b>600</b>

We have reduced our earnings growth estimate once again, this time from -2% to -7%, as Dow's base of earnings is much higher for 2021. We also note that earnings growth for Dow and its predecessor companies has generally been a challenge, even under good conditions. With enormous pricing power helping drive results this year, we see it as very likely that 2021 marks a top in earnings for the foreseeable future.

Gains can accrue in the coming years from stabilized pricing, which management believes will continue to improve into 2021, margin gains from cost savings, and the company's share repurchase program. These factors combined should afford Dow the ability to produce some measure of earnings-per-share growth under normalized conditions, but we see normalized pricing as offsetting these factors in 2022 and beyond. We like the company's diverse product portfolio, and it should see demand hold up in a variety of environments. We note that 2020 is a negative outlier due to collapsing

<sup>1</sup> Estimated date

<sup>2</sup> Share count in millions

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demand in many of Dow's markets, but this should abate as the world's economy returns to normal over time. In reversing the losses suffered in 2020, 2021 is likely to prove an outlier as well, with mean reversion to follow.

The dividend was initiated at \$2.80 annually, good for a 4.7% yield on today's share price.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Now	2026
Avg. P/E	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	14.4	26.5	<b>7.1</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Avg. Yld.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.2%	6.4%	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

Since Dow only recently began trading on its own, there is no history in which to compare the current valuation. We see 13 times earnings as a reasonable valuation. That compares favorably to the current valuation of 7.1 times earnings, which implies the stock is undervalued. However, we note that expectations are currently for lower earnings after 2021, so the stock isn't quite as cheap as it appears. The yield is now down to 4.7% as well, so Dow's appeal as a pure income stock has waned with the recent rally.

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

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
Payout	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	60%	169%	<b>33%</b>	<b>48%</b>

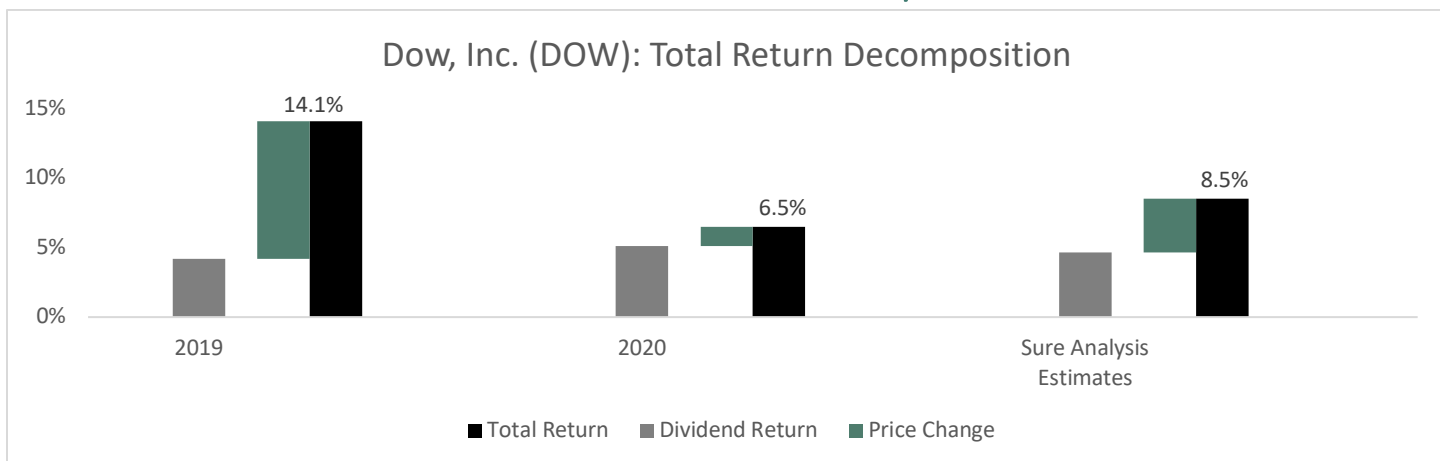
Dow's payout ratio is currently at 33% of estimated earnings. We think dividend raises will be tough to come by in the coming years, even as earnings are forecast to be quite strong this year.

While we don't have any data to understand how Dow will perform in a recession given that the business has only existed in its current form since April of 2019, we believe the company's product portfolio is not only its competitive advantage, but also should perform well enough during downturns to keep the company profitable. We see the company's focused efforts on high-growth areas such as consumer care, packaging, and infrastructure, as well as its very long operating history as a component of the former company, and its brand, as competitive advantages.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

We see Dow producing 8.5% total returns in the coming years, consisting of the ample yield, but earnings peaking in 2021. Dow's earnings outlook has improved since our last update, and we're reiterating the stock at a hold rating. The safety of the dividend appears to have improved with the 2021 outlook. However, we are very cautious on the company's ability to grow earnings from extremely high levels in 2021.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Revenue	---	---	---	---	---	48,158	55,508	60,278	42,951	38,542
Gross Profit	---	---	---	---	---	10,490	11,896	12,573	6,294	5,196
Gross Margin	---	---	---	---	---	21.8%	21.4%	20.9%	14.7%	13.5%
SG&A Exp.	---	---	---	---	---	4,066	3,602	2,846	1,590	1,471
D&A Exp.	---	---	---	---	---	2,862	3,155	3,329	2,938	2,874
Operating Profit	---	---	---	---	---	4,287	6,022	7,569	3,520	2,556
Operating Margin	---	---	---	---	---	8.9%	10.8%	12.6%	8.2%	6.6%
Net Profit	---	---	---	---	---	4,318	466	4,499	-1,359	1,225
Net Margin	---	---	---	---	---	9.0%	0.8%	7.5%	-3.2%	3.2%
Free Cash Flow	---	---	---	---	---	-6,948	-8,102	1,336	3,969	4,839
Income Tax	---	---	---	---	---	9	2,204	1,285	470	777

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Assets	---	---	---	---	---	---	79,940	77,378	60,524	61,470
Cash & Equivalents	---	---	---	---	---	---	6,188	2,669	2,367	5,104
Accounts Receivable	---	---	---	---	---	---	7,338	8,246	4,844	4,839
Inventories	---	---	---	---	---	---	8,376	9,260	6,214	5,701
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	---	---	---	---	---	---	19,487	18,761	12,555	12,260
Total Liabilities	---	---	---	---	---	---	52,931	49,409	46,430	48,465
Accounts Payable	---	---	---	---	---	---	5,360	5,378	3,889	3,763
Long-Term Debt	---	---	---	---	---	---	21,001	19,899	16,996	17,107
Shareholder's Equity	---	---	---	---	---	---	25,823	26,831	13,541	12,435
D/E Ratio	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.81	0.74	1.26	1.38

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Return on Assets	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	5.7%	-2.0%	2.0%
Return on Equity	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	17.1%	-6.7%	9.4%
ROIC	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9.4%	-3.4%	4.0%
Shares Out.	---	---	---	---	---	747	748	747	743	745
Revenue/Share	---	---	---	---	---	64.21	74.01	80.37	57.85	51.92
FCF/Share	---	---	---	---	---	-9.26	-10.80	1.78	5.35	6.52

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

### Disclaimer

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