



# Prudential Financial Inc. (PRU)

Updated February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, by Eli Inkrot

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$120	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	3.6%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$46 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$100	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	3.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	02/14/22
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	120%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	-3.6%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	03/11/22
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	4.0%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$116	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	14
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	C	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	B	<b>Last Dividend Increase:</b>	4.3%

## Overview & Current Events

Prudential Financial, now in business for over 140 years, operates in the United States, Asia, Europe and Latin America, with \$1.7 trillion in assets under management (AUM). The company provides financial products – including life insurance, annuities, retirement-related services, mutual funds and investment management. Prudential operates in four divisions: PGIM (formerly Prudential Investment Management), U.S. Businesses, International Businesses and Corporate & Other. The company trades with a \$43 billion market capitalization.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Prudential declared a \$1.20 quarterly dividend, marking a 4.3% increase.

Also on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Prudential released Q4 and full year 2021 results for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. For the quarter Prudential reported net income of \$1.208 billion or \$3.13 per share compared to \$819 million or \$2.03 per share in Q4 2020. After-tax operating income equaled \$1.227 billion or \$3.18 per share compared to \$1.13 billion or \$2.80 per share in Q4 2020.

For the year Prudential generated net income of \$7.724 billion or \$19.51 per share compared to a loss of -\$374 million or -\$1.00 per share in 2020. However, 2020 included significant investment losses. Adjusted after-tax operating income equaled \$5.772 billion or \$14.58 per share compared to \$3.913 billion or \$9.72 per share for 2020.

At quarter-end, Prudential held \$1.742 trillion in AUM versus \$1.721 trillion in the year ago period. Prudential's adjusted book value per share equaled \$108.72, up from \$94.79 in the year ago period.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
<b>EPS</b>	\$6.27	\$9.67	\$9.21	\$10.04	\$9.13	\$10.58	\$11.69	\$11.69	\$10.21	\$14.58	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$14.49</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$1.60	\$1.73	\$2.17	\$2.44	\$2.80	\$3.00	\$3.60	\$4.00	\$4.40	\$4.60	<b>\$4.80</b>	<b>\$5.84</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	463	461	454	447	430	423	411	399	396	390	<b>380</b>	<b>345</b>

If you look at 2007 (when the company was earning \$7.31 and paying out \$1.15) through 2019, Prudential grew earnings-per-share by about 4.0% per year. Results in 2020 proved to be a down year amid difficult circumstances; however, the bottom-line bounced back dramatically in 2021.

Higher interest rates and general economic improvement could be positives for the company's growth prospects over the long-term. Of course, there are offsetting factors; chief among them being lower rather than higher rates in the short-term. The majority of Prudential's business is in the U.S. and Japan, both of which are mature markets where we do not anticipate above average growth. Life insurance and annuities are highly competitive industries. Further, insurers do not know the price of the goods sold for years, allowing for the temptation to underprice policies in search for growth. We believe a slow, steady and profitable approach in this industry is prudent.

We are expecting lower earnings in 2022 to go along with a 3% intermediate term growth. Of course, the timing and magnitude of a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to be an unknown.

<sup>1</sup> In millions.

Disclosure: This analyst is long the security discussed in this research report.



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## Valuation Analysis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Now	2027
Avg. P/E	8.7	7.4	8.8	8.3	8.7	10.2	8.6	8.0	6.8	7.1	9.6	8.0
Avg. Yld.	2.9%	2.4%	2.5%	2.9%	3.5%	2.8%	3.6%	4.3%	6.4%	4.6%	4.0%	5.0%

In the last decade shares of Prudential have traded hands with an average P/E ratio between 8- and 9-times earnings. This may seem low compared to your average firm, but this has been typical of insurers. With shares currently trading at 9.6 times expected earnings, this implies the potential for a valuation headwind.

The dividend ought to add to shareholder returns, as it sits at 4% and yet makes up around a third of earnings.

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

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Payout	26%	18%	24%	24%	31%	28%	31%	34%	43%	32%	38%	40%

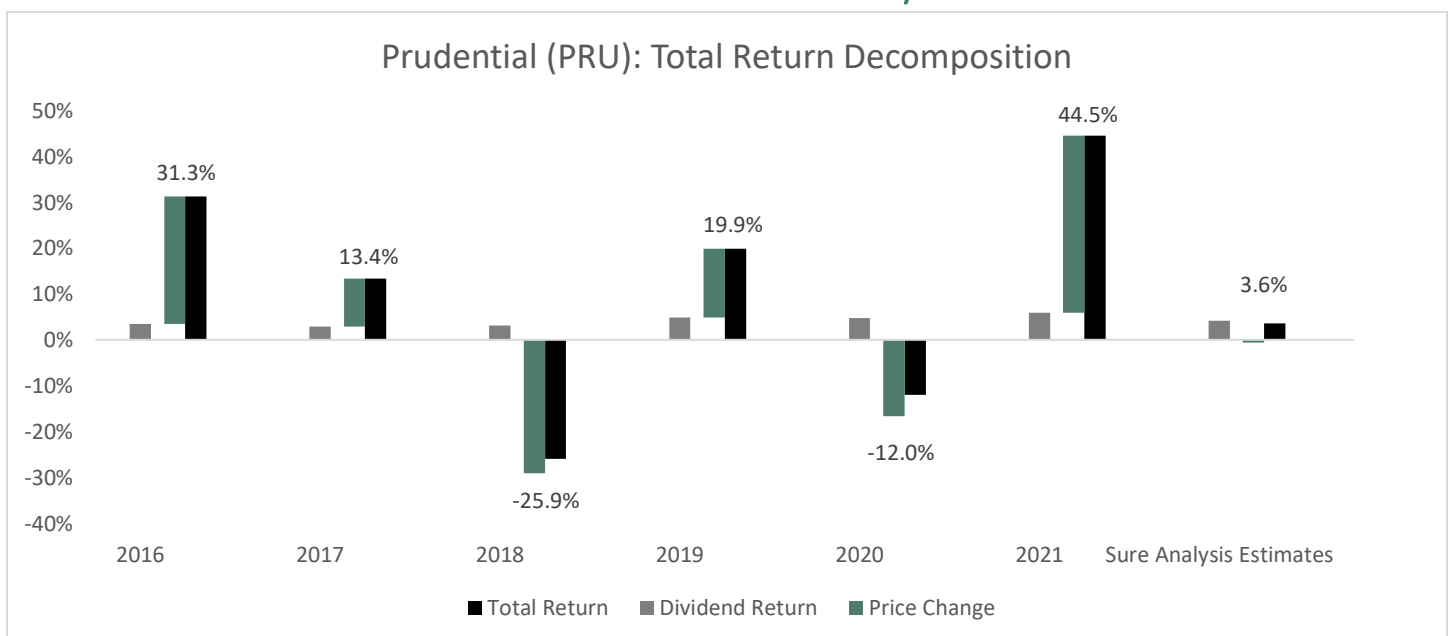
While Prudential is highly profitable and well-known, we do not believe the firm carries a significant competitive advantage over its competitors as the products it sells are highly commoditized.

During the Great Recession, Prudential generated earnings-per-share of \$7.31 in 2007 followed by \$2.69, \$5.58 and \$6.27 in 2008 through 2010. It wasn't until 2014 that earnings finally eclipsed their pre-recession peak. Similarly, the dividend was slashed from \$1.15 in 2007 down to \$0.58 in 2008 and did not recover until 2010. This sort of cyclicality is certainly possible in the next downturn. Still, the company has a reasonable payout ratio and financial position. We do note that while earnings dipped significantly during the Great Recession, dilutive activity was not excessive.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Shares are up 50% in the last year. Prudential has proven to be a solid business over the years with a variety of positive attributes. We are forecasting 3.6% annual total return potential, stemming from 3% growth and a 4.0% starting dividend yield, offset by a valuation headwind. There is a lingering negative: even in good times growth is not especially robust and in lesser times the rate of improvement can fall off completely. Shares earn a hold rating.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Revenue</b>	84847	41461	54105	57119	58779	59689	57570	57243	49830	61410
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	11094	11011	11807	10912	11779	11915	12967	14520	14900	13420
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	302	411	631	113	318	222	161	460	---	---
<b>Net Profit</b>	520	-667	1381	5642	4368	7863	4074	4186	(374)	7724
<b>Net Margin</b>	0.6%	-1.6%	2.6%	9.9%	7.4%	13.2%	7.1%	7.3%	(0.8%)	12.6%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	20909	8445	19396	13942	14815	13445	21660	19620	---	---
<b>Income Tax</b>	213	-1058	349	2072	1335	-1438	822	947	(81)	1674

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total Assets (\$B)</b>	709.24	731.78	766.66	757.26	783.96	831.92	815.08	896.55	940.7	937.6
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	18100	11439	14918	17612	14127	14490	15353	16327	13700	12890
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int.</b>	3248	3675	2836	2828	2314	1591	1850	1110	1103	771
<b>Total Liab. (\$B)</b>	670.12	695.90	724.31	715.33	737.87	777.58	766.05	832.83	872.5	875
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	28790	29524	29728	29407	21324	20070	20784	21853	20950	19620
<b>Total Equity</b>	38503	35278	41770	41890	45863	54069	48617	63115	67420	61880
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.75	0.84	0.71	0.70	0.47	0.37	0.43	0.35	0.31	0.32

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Return on Assets</b>	0.1%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	-0.04%	0.8%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	1.4%	-1.8%	3.6%	13.5%	10.0%	15.7%	7.9%	7.5%	-0.57%	12.0%
<b>ROIC</b>	0.8%	-1.0%	2.0%	7.9%	6.3%	11.1%	5.6%	5.4%	-0.43%	9.0%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	463	461	454	447	430	423	411	399	398	390
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	181.3	89.53	115.68	124.06	131.61	136.90	135.08	139.31	125.27	157.42
<b>FCF/Share</b>	44.67	18.24	41.47	30.28	33.17	30.84	50.84	47.77	---	---

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

### Disclaimer

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