



PennantPark Floating Rate (PFLT)

Updated March 3rd, 2022 by Samuel Smith

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$13	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	6.8%	Market Cap:	\$511 M
Fair Value Price:	\$12	5 Year Growth Estimate:	0.4%	Ex-Dividend Date:	03/16/22
% Fair Value:	107%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-1.4%	Dividend Payment Date:	04/01/22
Dividend Yield:	8.8%	5 Year Price Target:	\$12	Years Of Dividend Growth:	0
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Last Dividend Increase:	N/A

Overview & Current Events

PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd. is a business development company that seeks to make secondary direct, debt, equity, and loan investments. The fund also aims to invest through floating rate loans in private or thinly traded or small market-cap, public middle market companies, equity securities, preferred stock, common stock, warrants or options received in connection with debt investments or through direct investments. It generally invests in the United States and to a limited extent non-U.S. companies. It aims to invest in companies not rated by national rating agencies. The firm has a market capitalization of approximately \$511 million and produced roughly \$88.3 million in revenue in 2021.

PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd. is managed by PennantPark Investment Advisers, LLC.

PennantPark Floating Rate reported first quarter earnings on February 9th, 2022. Total investment income for the quarter came in at \$26.34 million, up by 27.1% from \$20.73 million in the year-ago quarter. Moreover, the company invested \$335.1 million during the quarter in sixteen new and thirty-six existing portfolio companies with a weighted average yield on debt investments of 7.8%. That said, the company's sales and repayments of investments for the same period totaled \$238.4 million. Cash and cash equivalents at quarter end stood at \$61.3 million.

Meanwhile, FQ1 net investment income increased to \$0.33 from \$0.26 in the year-ago period. Finally, PennantPark's portfolio totaled \$1,179.8 million, which includes \$1,024.8 million of first lien secured debt, \$4.4 million of second lien secured debt and \$150.5 million of preferred and common equity.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
EPS	\$1.75	\$1.25	\$1.38	\$0.77	\$1.25	\$1.20	\$0.87	\$0.29	\$0.47	\$1.02	\$1.18	\$1.20
BVPS	\$14.0	\$14.2	\$14.2	\$13.7	\$14.1	\$13.9	\$13.7	\$13.0	\$12.31	\$12.62	\$12.73	\$13.00
DPS	\$0.91	\$1.03	\$1.08	\$1.12	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14
Shares¹	6.9	14.9	14.9	26.7	26.7	38.5	38.8	38.8	38.8	39.2	39.2	40.0

As a BDC, PennantPark Floating Rate pays out virtually all of its profits out via dividends. As a result, whenever the business suffers an impairment from meaningful loan losses, its book value will decline with little means of regaining that value. As a result, we expect book value per share to remain relatively stagnant over time and with it, earnings per share. The only thing that would meaningfully boost earnings per share is a large increase in interest rates. Given that the company invests primarily in floating interest rates, rising interest rates would potentially help PennantPark Floating Rate.

However, we do not foresee interest rates rising meaningfully over the next few years as the Federal Reserve cannot raise interest rates too much or they risk crashing the stock market and sending the economy into recession. Therefore, we expect book value per share and the dividend per share to be stagnant over the next half decade. However, we do expect book value per share to increase a little bit from current levels as the economy continues to recover as it remains suppressed from pre-COVID-19 levels.

¹ In millions

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Valuation Analysis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Avg. P/E	7.3	11.0	9.9	14.6	11.3	11.4	13.3	42.0	18.0	12.0	11.0	11.4
Avg. P/B	0.91	0.96	0.97	0.82	1.00	0.99	0.85	0.94	0.86	1.00	1.02	0.95
Avg. Yld.	7.1%	7.6%	7.8%	10.0%	8.1%	8.3%	9.8%	9.3%	10.8%	8.8%	8.8%	9.2%

For BDCs, we prefer to use Price-to-Book-Value for our primary valuation metric instead of Price-to-Earnings. We believe that a slight discount to book value is warranted given the high leverage applied and general riskiness of the business model. Although the dividend has grown over time and book value has not dropped too much. As a result, we believe that 0.95 is a fair Price-to-Book-Value multiple, making shares appear somewhat overvalued at present.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021	2026
Payout	52%	82%	78%	145%	91%	95%	131%	393%	243%	112%	97%	95%

PennantPark Floating Rate does not have any meaningful competitive advantage and was not active during the Great Recession. However, given that the majority of its loans are in the BB – CCC range, we can infer that many of them would struggle to perform under distressed conditions.

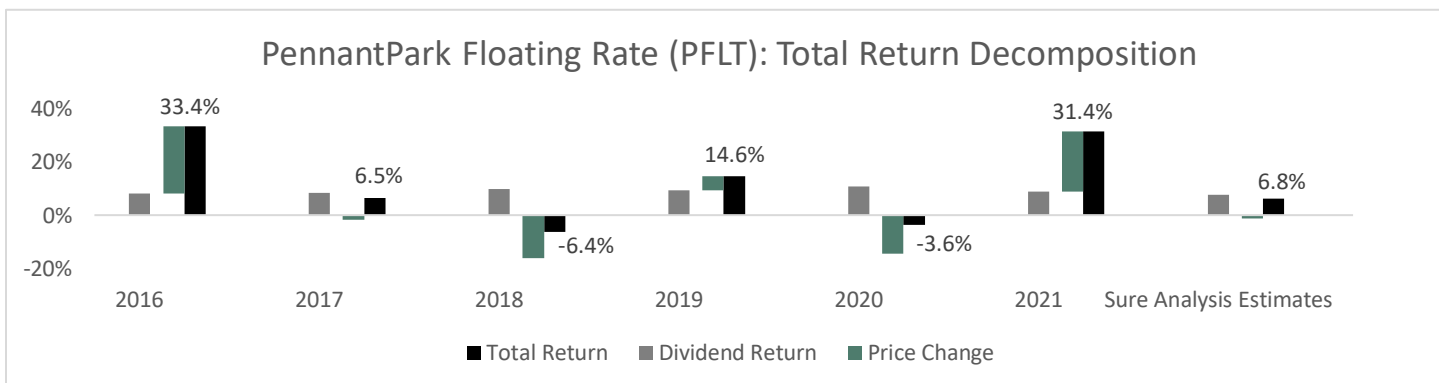
PennantPark Floating Rate also has a highly leveraged balance sheet and a payout ratio that often nears or exceeds 100% of earnings. While the company can probably sustain this model while the economy is running smoothly – as the growing and stable dividend over the past decade has shown – it may collapse if the economy experiences a significant and prolonged downturn that would cause its loans to underperform.

Management seems to have steered the company through the COVID-19 crisis well so far, thanks in part to the stimulus and bailout packages that were provided to small businesses. However, given the low quality of the balance sheets undergirding the portfolio and their high leverage, in a real sustained downturn we expect things to go much worse. Given the high payout ratio, we would also expect a dividend cut to follow.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

PennantPark Floating Rate has a strong track record of paying a stable dividend and offers investors decent 6.8% annualized total return potential and an attractive 8.8% dividend yield. It trades above its book value at the moment. For investors looking to hedge their portfolio against rising interest rates, its exposure to floating interest rates is a plus. That said, the high leverage and lower quality loans underpinning the portfolio mean it is not a low-risk investment opportunity. 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
Revenue	14	15	24	17	37	45	42	20	9	74
SG&A Exp.	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	2
Net Profit	12	12	21	13	33	36	33	11	18	57
Net Margin	86.5%	81.2%	85.0%	74.8%	90.0%	81.6%	80.0%	57.2%	217%	76.9%
Free Cash Flow	(48)	(124)	(22)	(2)	(165)	(77)	(208)	(121)	(5)	50

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Assets	178	329	373	416	631	747	1,076	1,152	1,148	1,171
Cash & Equivalents	4	5	13	21	29	19	72	63	58	50
Total Liabilities	83	119	158	43	256	289	541	649	671	680
Accounts Payable	4	16	5	12	18	26	66	19	11	23
Long-Term Debt	75	100	147	30	232	257	468	624	653	653
Shareholder's Equity	96	210	215	373	376	458	536	503	477	491
LTD/E Ratio	0.78	0.47	0.69	0.08	0.62	0.56	0.87	1.24	1.37	1.33

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Return on Assets		4.7%	5.8%	3.2%	6.4%	5.3%	3.7%	1.0%	1.6%	4.9%
Return on Equity	12.7%	7.8%	9.7%	4.3%	8.9%	8.7%	6.7%	2.2%	3.8%	11.7%
ROIC		5.0%	6.1%	3.3%	6.6%	5.5%	3.9%	1.1%	1.6%	5.0%
Shares Out.	6.9	14.9	14.9	26.7	26.7	38.5	38.8	38.8	38.8	39.2
Revenue/Share	2.02	1.54	1.62	1.03	1.39	1.47	1.09	0.51	0.22	1.90
FCF/Share	(6.9)	(12.9)	(1.49)	(0.14)	(6.19)	(2.53)	(5.44)	(3.13)	(0.13)	1.28

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

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