



Tennant Company (TNC)

Updated March 19th, 2022 by Jonathan Weber

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$85	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	10.0%	Market Cap:	\$1.6B
Fair Value Price:	\$89	5 Year Growth Estimate:	8.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	06/02/22 ¹
% Fair Value:	95%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	1.0%	Dividend Payment Date:	06/15/22 ²
Dividend Yield:	1.2%	5 Year Price Target	\$131	Years Of Dividend Growth:	49
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Retirement Suitability Score:	B	Last Dividend Increase:	8.7%

Overview & Current Events

Tennant Company is a machinery company that produces cleaning products and that offers cleaning solutions to its customers. In the US, the company holds the market leadership position in its industry, but the company also sells its products in more than 100 additional countries around the globe. Tennant was founded in 1870.

Tennant Company reported its fourth quarter earnings results on February 24. The company announced that it generated revenues of \$280 million during the quarter, which was 1% more than the top line number from the previous year's quarter. Revenues continued to recover from the previous year, which was still feeling some lingering effects of the pandemic. Revenues also were up slightly on a sequential basis.

Tennant Company generated earnings-per-share of \$0.71 during the fourth quarter, which was more than what the analyst community had forecasted, as the consensus estimate was beaten by \$0.08. The company hit the high-end of its earnings-per-share guidance for 2021, with earnings-per-share coming in at \$4.39, up strongly versus 2021.

Management is forecasting that adjusted earnings-per-share will fall into a range of \$4.40 to \$5.00 in 2022, which would be a strong improvement versus 2021, and which means new record profits for the current year.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
EPS	\$2.08	\$2.26	\$2.70	\$2.49	\$2.59	\$1.54	\$2.17	\$3.78	\$2.91	\$4.39	\$4.70	\$6.91
DPS	\$0.69	\$0.72	\$0.78	\$0.80	\$0.81	\$0.84	\$0.85	\$0.88	\$0.92	\$0.94	\$1.00	\$1.28
Shares³	18.5	18.5	18.4	17.7	17.7	17.9	18.3	18.6	18.6	18.8	18.5	18.0

Tennant Company's earnings-per-share were quite lumpy over the last decade. Overall, the trend pointed upwards, but there were a lot of ups and downs; the company has not been able to grow its earnings consistently. During the last financial crisis Tennant Company's earnings-per-share were roughly cut in half, from \$1.35 in 2008 to \$0.65 in 2009. The company was able to recover quickly from the impact of the last financial crisis.

Between 2010 and 2019, Tennant Company recorded an average annual earnings-per-share growth rate of 7%. Tennant Company's earnings-per-share saw some ups and downs in that time frame, however, such as in 2017, when profits were down considerably versus the previous year. Tennant Company has plans to grow its sales inorganically, especially in the Asia/Pacific region, where it benefits from above-average market growth rates. The takeover of Chinese cleaning equipment company Gaomei improves Tennant's sales outlook in the Chinese market, as well as in other Asian markets, over the next couple of years. As the coronavirus impact wanes, synergies from this acquisition and other moves to bolster the overall profitability and the business in Asia will increasingly pay off and should deliver attractive earnings growth for Tennant. Tennant Company felt a considerable impact from the pandemic in 2020, when earnings-per-share were down by roughly 25% versus pre-pandemic levels. That was more than balanced out by a steep increase in the company's profitability in 2021, however, which was a new record year for the company.

¹ Estimated date

² Estimated date

³ 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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Now	2027
Avg. P/E	19.8	23.8	25.1	25.1	22.7	44.9	24.0	22.1	24.1	18.5	18.1	19.0
Avg. Yld.	1.7%	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.0%

Tennant Company has been valued at high multiples throughout the last decade. This is somewhat surprising, as Tennant Company is not an ultra-high-quality company. Its growth has been solid, but not outstanding. We believe that an earnings multiple of more than 20 is not justified. Based on our earnings-per-share estimate, shares are trading slightly below what we deem a fair valuation for the company.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Payout	33.2%	31.9%	28.9%	32.1%	31.3%	45.5%	39.2%	23.3%	31.6%	21.4%	21.3%	18.5%

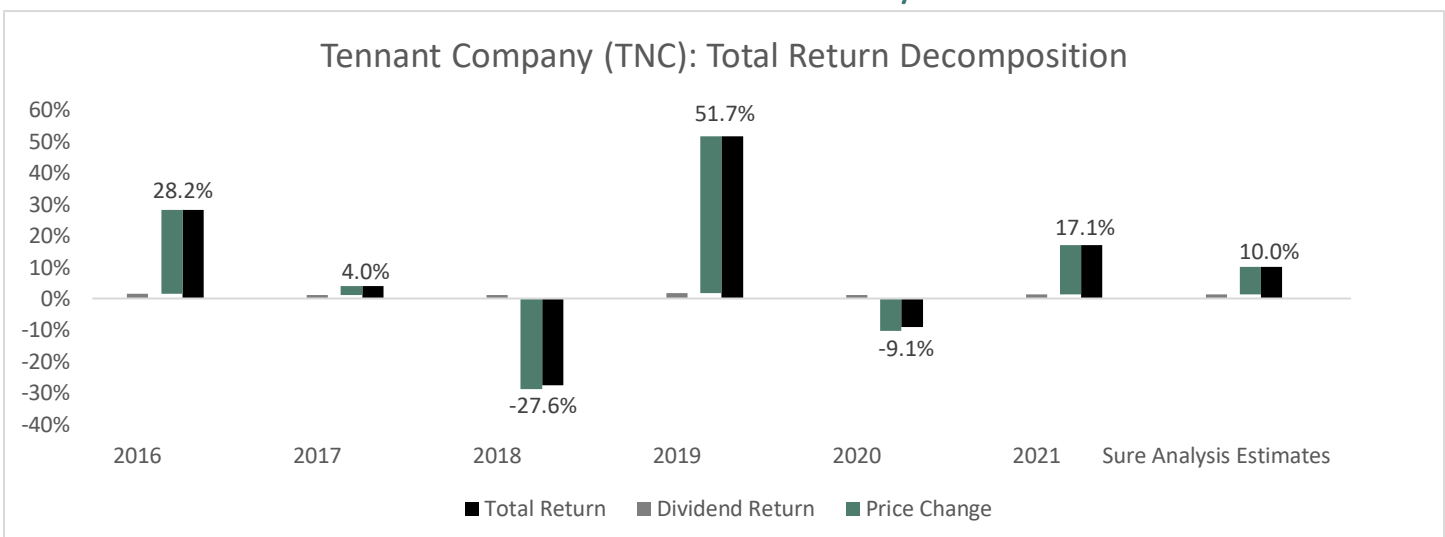
Tennant Company's dividend payout ratio was quite high during the last financial crisis, due to the company's below-average profitability during that time. Since then, the payout ratio has declined to a quite sustainable level. It seems unlikely that Tennant Company could be forced to cut its dividend, but due to its relatively low dividend yield Tennant nevertheless does not look like an attractive income stock; it is more of a capital appreciation play.

Tennant Company is the leader in the US cleaning machines market. This serves as a competitive advantage, as Tennant Company's market leadership allows for better economics of scale and a superior sales network compared to its peers. During the last financial crisis, Tennant remained profitable, but its earnings still suffered considerably. Tennant therefore has exposure to economic downturns, which was also visible in 2020's results, as the coronavirus impact resulted in below-average sales and profits during 2020. We do not believe that this will be a long-lasting issue.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Tennant Company is the leader in the niche market that the company serves. Organic growth in China could allow for an improved growth outlook compared to the growth that Tennant has achieved in the past, which is why we forecast a high single digit earnings-per-share growth rate over the coming years. Following a strong 2021, Tennant will likely see its profits rise further in 2022. Tennant shares promise strong total returns, which is why we rate them a buy.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	739	752	822	812	809	1,003	1,124	1,138	1,001	1,091
Gross Profit	325	326	352	349	352	400	445	462	408	438
Gross Margin	44.0%	43.3%	42.9%	43.0%	43.5%	39.9%	39.6%	40.6%	40.7%	40.2%
SG&A Exp.	234	233	251	252	249	335	356	357	314	322
D&A Exp.	21	20	20	18	18	43	54	54	53	53
Operating Profit	62	62	72	64	68	33	58	72	64	84
Operating Margin	8.4%	8.3%	8.8%	7.9%	8.4%	3.3%	5.2%	6.3%	6.4%	7.7%
Net Profit	42	40	51	32	47	(6)	33	46	34	65
Net Margin	5.6%	5.3%	6.2%	4.0%	5.8%	-0.6%	3.0%	4.0%	3.4%	5.9%
Free Cash Flow	32	45	40	20	31	31	58	33	104	46
Income Tax	18	20	19	18	20	5	2	8	7	9

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Assets	421	456	487	432	470	994	993	1,063	1,083	1,062
Cash & Equivalents	54	81	93	51	58	58	86	75	141	124
Accounts Receivable	131	135	147	136	145	203	208	217	200	211
Inventories	58	67	81	77	79	128	135	150	128	161
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	41	38	34	20	28	358	329	333	334	291
Total Liabilities	186	192	206	180	191	696	676	702	677	627
Accounts Payable	47	53	62	50	47	96	98	94	106	122
Long-Term Debt	32	32	28	25	36	377	355	339	308	268
Shareholder's Equity	235	264	281	252	279	297	314	360	405	434
LTD/E Ratio	0.14	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.13	1.27	1.13	0.94	0.76	0.62

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Return on Assets	9.8%	9.2%	10.7%	7.0%	10.3%	-0.8%	3.4%	4.5%	3.1%	6.1%
Return on Equity	18.2%	16.1%	18.6%	12.0%	17.6%	-2.2%	10.9%	13.6%	8.8%	15.5%
ROIC	15.9%	14.3%	16.8%	11.0%	15.8%	-1.3%	5.0%	6.7%	4.8%	9.2%
Shares Out.	18.5	18.5	18.4	17.7	17.7	17.9	18.3	18.6	18.6	18.8
Revenue/Share	38.69	39.93	43.86	43.90	44.98	56.69	61.26	61.65	53.72	57.87
FCF/Share	1.67	2.39	2.12	1.11	1.74	1.77	3.18	1.79	5.57	2.45

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

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