



Big Lots, Inc. (BIG)

Updated May 29th, 2022, by Tiago Dias

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$27	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	15.7%	Market Cap:	\$702 M
Fair Value Price:	\$50	5 Year Growth Estimate:	0.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	06/09/2022
% Fair Value:	54%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	13.1%	Dividend Payment Date:	06/24/2022
Dividend Yield:	4.4%	5 Year Price Target	\$50	Years Of Dividend Growth:	0
Dividend Risk Score:	C	Retirement Suitability Score:	B	Rating:	Buy

Overview & Current Events

Big Lots, Inc. (BIG) is a home discount retailer with a focus on closeouts and low prices. With \$6 billion in sales and a market cap of around \$830 million, this S&P 600 component can trace its history to 1967, although its regular dividend payments only started in 2014.

The company reported Q1 2022 earnings on May 27th, 2022, and announced a quarterly dividend of \$0.30 per share, in line with previous. With Q1 earnings at a net loss of -\$0.39 per share, this quarter's results do not cover the dividend declared and represent a significant downturn compared to both the 2021 Q1 results and the company's initial guidance.

The company is taking aggressive action to improve gross margins in the second half of the year, and expects to achieve significant improvements in Q3, and a Q4 that is in line with Q4 2021. In addition, the company will continue to take actions to reduce expenses. Given the atypically wide range of outcomes, the company is not providing earnings-per-share guidance at this point.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
EPS	\$2.93	\$2.15	\$2.46	\$2.81	\$3.32	\$4.48	\$3.83	\$2.69	\$7.35	\$5.33	\$5.00	\$5.00
DPS	---	---	\$0.51	\$0.76	\$0.84	\$1.00	\$1.20	\$1.20	\$1.20	\$1.20	\$1.20	\$1.20
Shares	57	58	53	49	44	42	40	39	36	28	26	22

While the earnings-per-share numbers may look impressive and steadily increasing over time, the company is in a low margin and competitive business. If we look at Big Lots' revenue from 2012 to the end of 2019, we can see that revenue did not grow at all for 7 years, and any changes in earnings-per-share numbers were primarily the result of share repurchases.

While 2020 and 2021 have brought substantial growth to the company's revenue and earnings, it's difficult to say whether this growth is here to stay or if it will slowly return to its no-growth history while maintaining its current revenue. While Q1 2022 results were disappointing, the wide range of outcomes means we're reticent to change our initial \$5.00 earnings-per-share estimate at this time, though we may review that stance if later quarters continue to disappoint. Due to this uncertainty, and despite the increase in stores, we estimate 0% earnings growth through 2027. Despite a low payout ratio, we expect the dividend to remain flat during that time as well due to the lack of consistent earnings growth.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Now	2027
Avg. P/E	12.2	16.2	16.9	16.1	14.5	11.5	11.1	10.4	5.1	10.5	5.4	10.0
Avg. Yld.	---	---	1.2%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	2.8%	4.3%	3.2%	2.1%	4.4%	2.4%

Historically speaking low margin retailers trade with lower P/E ratios, though those retailers are generally growing their topline revenue at around the same rate as GDP growth. Big Lots, however, has previously seen over 7 years without any

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revenue growth at all. The P/E ratio was around 16 in the 2013 – 2015 period, but it has been much lower since that time.

While the stagnation in revenue growth is now in the past, given the enormous revenues that 2020 and 2021 brought to the company, the uncertainty around the consistency of that revenue means that we don't expect the company to be re-rated by investors to its previously lofty valuation. We are forecasting a fair value P/E ratio of 10. Even so, with shares trading at 5.4 times earnings, this implies the potential for a meaningful valuation tailwind.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

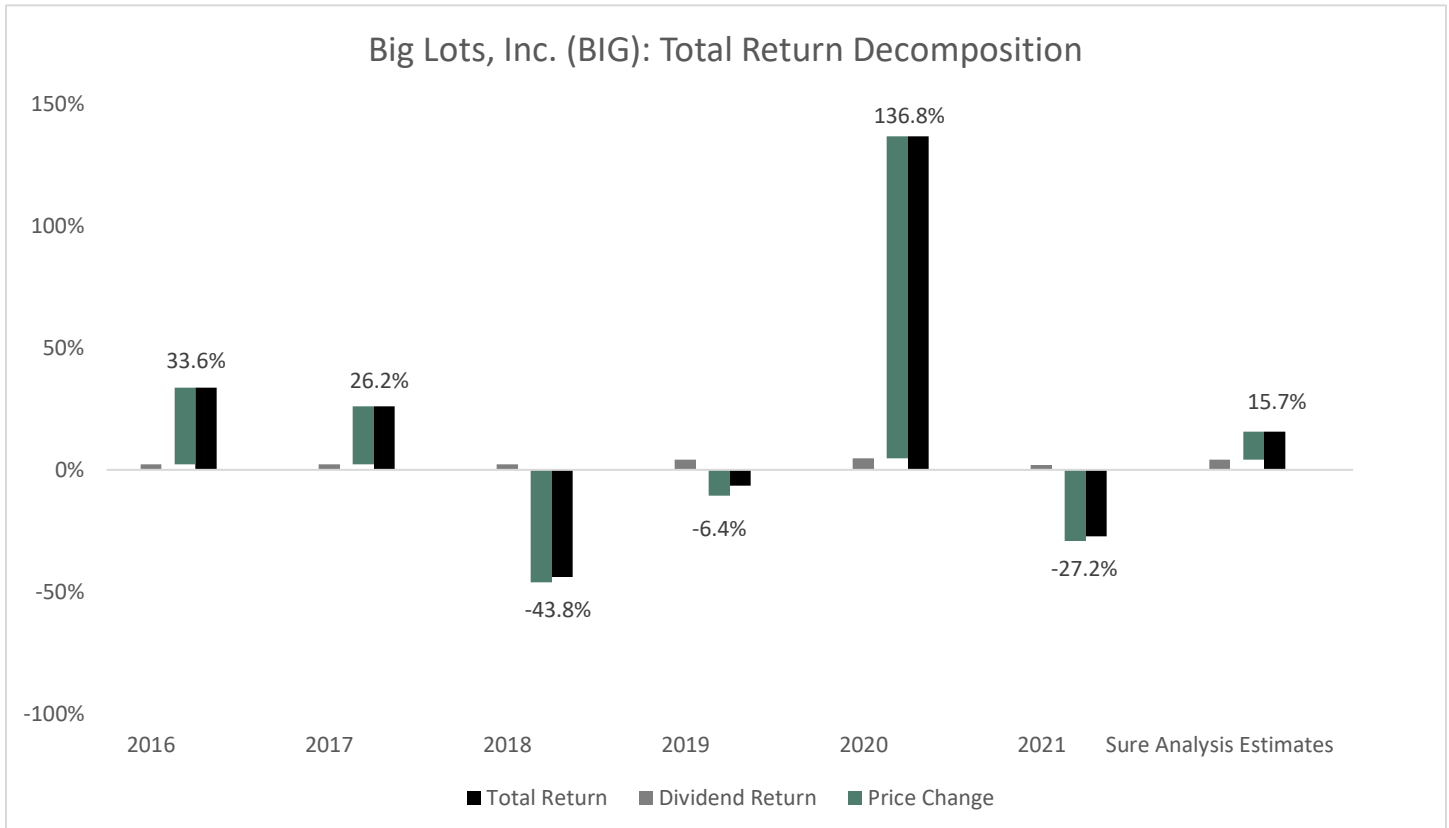
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Payout	---	---	21%	27%	25%	22%	31%	45%	16%	23%	24%	24%

As a business revolving around closeouts, and low-price points, the company has an interesting countercyclical theme where it does better than usual during times of economic uncertainty. In such times its inventory acquisition becomes easier and cheaper, and its value proposition for clients becomes more attractive, resulting in noticeably better sales and margins, as seen in 2020 and 2021. As such it may prove to be an interesting part of a defensive and diversified portfolio for investors looking for a countercyclical company.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Total annual return potential comes in at 15.7% per annum, driven by the 4.4% dividend yield and the potential for a sizable valuation tailwind. While the counterbalance against a downturn in the economy is a positive, the uncertainty of revenue growth is a concern. Shares earn a buy 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	5,212	5,125	5,177	5,191	5,194	5,264	5,238	5,323	6,199	6,151
Gross Profit	2,055	2,007	2,044	2,067	2,099	2,142	2,122	2,115	2,497	2,397
Gross Margin	39.4%	39.2%	39.5%	39.8%	40.4%	40.7%	40.5%	39.7%	40.3%	39.0%
SG&A Exp.	1,640	1,664	1,700	1,708	1,731	1,724	1,778	1,823	1,966	2,015
D&A Exp.	96	102	106	108	108	106	114	136	139	144
Operating Profit	312	230	224	236	248	301	219	156	393	240
Op. Margin	6.0%	4.5%	4.3%	4.5%	4.8%	5.7%	4.2%	2.9%	6.3%	3.9%
Net Profit	177	125	114	143	153	190	157	242	629	178
Net Margin	3.4%	2.4%	2.2%	2.8%	2.9%	3.6%	3.0%	4.6%	10.1%	2.9%
Free Cash Flow	150	94	225	216	222	92	(143)	74	264	33
Income Tax	117	86	85	84	91	106	51	75	215	54

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Assets	1,754	1,740	1,636	1,640	1,608	1,652	2,023	3,189	4,037	3,927
Cash & Equivalents	61	69	52	54	51	51	46	53	560	54
Inventories	918	915	852	850	859	873	970	921	940	1,238
Total Liabilities	995	838	846	920	957	982	1,330	2,344	2,760	2,920
Accounts Payable	394	366	359	382	400	351	397	378	398	587
Long-Term Debt	171	77	62	62	106	200	374	293	50	4
Total Equity	758	901	790	720	651	670	693	845	1,278	1,007
LTD/E Ratio	0.23	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.16	0.30	0.54	0.35	0.04	0.00

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Return on Assets	10.4%	7.2%	6.8%	8.7%	9.4%	11.6%	8.5%	9.3%	17.4%	4.5%
Return on Equity	22.4%	15.1%	13.5%	18.9%	22.3%	28.8%	23.0%	31.5%	59.3%	15.6%
ROIC	19.5%	13.1%	12.5%	17.5%	19.9%	23.3%	16.2%	22.0%	51.0%	15.2%
Shares Out.	57	58	53	49	44	42	40	39	36	28
Revenue/Share	86.19	88.42	93.19	101.85	112.98	121.58	127.88	135.27	158.68	184.40
FCF/Share	2.48	1.61	4.05	4.25	4.83	2.13	(3.49)	1.87	6.76	0.99

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

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