



PennantPark Floating Rate (PFLT)

Updated February 16th, 2023 by Samuel Smith

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$10.9	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	9.0%	Market Cap:	\$516.4 M
Fair Value Price:	\$10.8	5 Year Growth Estimate:	0.1%	Ex-Dividend Date:	03/15/23
% Fair Value:	101%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-0.2%	Dividend Payment Date:	04/03/23
Dividend Yield:	11.0%	5 Year Price Target:	\$11	Years Of Dividend Growth:	1
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Rating:	Hold

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 \$516.4 million. PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd. is managed by PennantPark Investment Advisers, LLC.

On February 8th, 2023 PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd. announced financial results for the first fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2022. The Board of Directors declared a distribution of \$0.10 per share, an increase of 5.3% from the most recent distribution. For the three months ended December 31, 2022 investment income was \$31.3 million, which was attributable to \$27.6 million from first lien secured debt and \$3.7 million from other investments. For the three months ended December 31, 2021 investment income was \$26.3 million, which was attributable to \$20.1 million from first lien secured debt and \$6.2 million from other investments. The increase in investment income compared to the same period in the prior year was primarily due to the increase in the cost yield of the company's debt portfolio.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
EPS	\$1.25	\$1.38	\$0.77	\$1.25	\$1.20	\$0.87	\$0.29	\$0.47	\$1.02	\$1.18	\$1.24	\$1.23
BVPS	\$14.20	\$14.2	\$13.70	\$14.10	\$13.90	\$13.70	\$13.00	\$12.31	\$12.62	\$11.77	\$11.34	\$11.38
DPS	\$1.03	\$1.08	\$1.12	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.14	\$1.20	\$1.19
Shares¹	6.9	14.9	14.9	26.7	26.7	38.5	38.8	38.8	38.8	45.3	45.4	50.0

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 more than they have already 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 fairly stagnant over the next half decade. However, we do expect book value per share to increase a little bit from current levels as the business continues to make accretive investments and issue shares whenever it is accretive to book value to do so.

¹ 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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Avg. P/B	0.96	0.97	0.82	1.00	0.99	0.85	0.94	0.86	1.00	0.96	0.96	0.95
Avg. Yld.	7.6%	7.8%	10.0%	8.1%	8.3%	9.8%	9.3%	10.8%	8.8%	10.1%	11.0%	11.0%

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 roughly fairly valued at present.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	82%	78%	145%	91%	95%	131%	393%	243%	112%	97%	97%	97%

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.

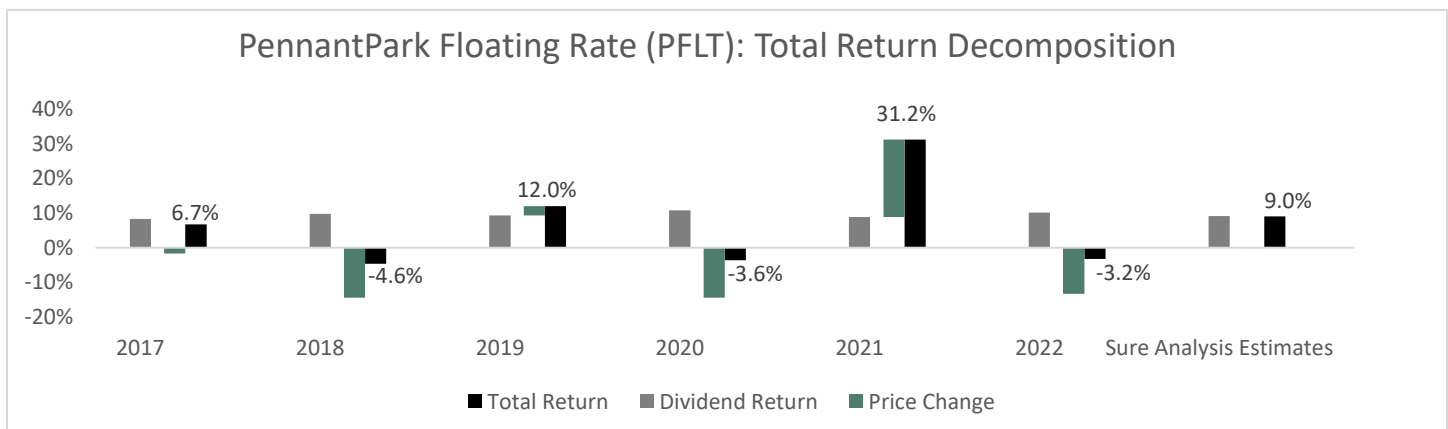
PennantPark Floating Rate also has a highly leveraged balance sheet and a payout ratio that often nears or exceeds 100% of earnings. While the company can probably sustain this model while the economy is running smoothly – as the growing and stable dividend over the past decade has shown – it may collapse 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, 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 get 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 9% annualized total return potential and an attractive 11% dividend yield. It trades slightly below 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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	14	24	17	38	41	50	20	23	62	12
SG&A Exp.	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	2	3
Net Profit	12	21	13	33	36	33	11	18	57	3
Net Margin	83.3%	86.9%	72.4%	88.8%	88.8%	67.5%	57.2%	81.2%	91.3%	29.7%
Free Cash Flow	(124)	(22)	(2)	(165)	(77)	(208)	(121)	(5)	50	(50)

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets	329	373	416	631	747	1,076	1,152	1,148	1,171	1,224
Cash & Equivalents	5	13	21	29	19	72	63	58	50	48
Total Liabilities	119	158	43	256	289	541	649	671	680	697
Accounts Payable	16	5	12	18	26	66	19	11	23	12
Long-Term Debt	100	147	30	232	257	468	624	653	653	673
Shareholder's Equity	210	215	373	376	458	536	503	477	491	527
LTD/E Ratio	0.47	0.69	0.08	0.62	0.56	0.87	1.24	1.37	1.33	1.28

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Return on Assets	4.7%	5.8%	3.2%	6.4%	5.3%	3.7%	1.0%	1.6%	4.9%	0.3%
Return on Equity	7.8%	9.7%	4.3%	8.9%	8.7%	6.7%	2.2%	3.8%	11.7%	0.7%
ROIC	5.0%	6.1%	3.3%	6.6%	5.5%	3.9%	1.1%	1.6%	5.0%	0.3%
Shares Out.	6.9	14.9	14.9	26.7	26.7	38.5	38.8	38.8	38.8	39.2
Revenue/Share	1.50	1.58	1.06	1.41	1.35	1.30	0.51	0.58	1.60	0.28
FCF/Share	(13)	(1.49)	(0.14)	(6.19)	(2.53)	(5.44)	(3.13)	(0.13)	1.28	(1.22)

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

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