Republic Bancorp (RBCAA)

Published April 25th, 2023 by Aristofanis Papadatos

Key Metrics

Current Price:	$40	**5 Year CAGR Estimate:**	11.4%	**Market Cap:**	$815 M
Fair Value Price:	$52	**5 Year Growth Estimate:**	3.0%	**Ex-Dividend Date:**	6/15/23[1]
% Fair Value:	77%	**5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:**	5.3%	**Dividend Payment Date:**	7/14/23
Dividend Yield:	3.8%	**5 Year Price Target**	$60	**Years Of Dividend Growth:**	22
Dividend Risk Score:	A	**Retirement Suitability Score:**	A	**Rating:**	Buy

Overview & Current Events

Republic Bancorp is a financial holding company that is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, and provides both traditional and non-traditional banking products to its customers. It has 42 full-service banking centers in five states, with most of the centers in Kentucky, and has a market cap of $815 million. The bank offers savings, checking and money market accounts while it also originates residential mortgage loans, home equity loans, commercial real estate loans, credit lines and offers personal and business banking services. Republic Bancorp is characterized by conservative management and thus it has raised its dividend for 22 consecutive years.

In mid-April, Republic Bancorp reported (4/20/23) financial results for the first quarter of fiscal 2023. It grew its loans significantly and expanded its net interest margin from 2.90% in the prior year's quarter to 4.07% thanks to higher interest rates and low deposit costs. On the other hand, non-interest income dipped and non-interest expense rose. As a result, the bank posted flat earnings-per-share of $1.42 and missed the analysts' consensus by $0.33. It was the first earnings miss after seven consecutive quarters.

Most banks faced material loan losses due to the pandemic in 2020, but Republic Bancorp proved resilient to that crisis thanks to its disciplined business model. The bank grew its earnings-per-share by 3% in 2020 and 6% in 2021. The stock is under pressure right now due to the sell-off of regional banks after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Credit Suisse. However, we remain confident in the prospects of this prudently managed bank.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
EPS	$1.22	$1.38	$1.70	$2.22	$2.50	$3.74	$3.89	$3.99	$4.24	$4.59	***$4.50***	***$5.22***
DPS	$0.69	$0.74	$0.78	$0.83	$0.87	$0.97	$1.06	$1.14	$1.23	$1.36	***$1.50***	***$1.84***
Shares[2]	20.9	20.9	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.1	20.8	20.0	***19.5***	***19.0***

Republic Bancorp has exhibited a solid performance record over the last decade. It has grown its earnings-per-share at a 15.9% average annual rate over the last decade and at a 12.9% average annual rate over the last five years. The bank is trying to grow by expanding its reach via digital channels and acquiring smaller peers, while it is also doing its best to reduce its operating costs. In addition, the Fed is raising interest rates aggressively in an effort to restore inflation to its long-term target. This creates a tailwind for Republic Bancorp, as it enhances its net interest margin, i.e., the difference between the interest rate it charges on its loans minus the interest rate it pays on its deposits. However, due to this tailwind, the earnings of this year form a somewhat high comparison base. We thus expect 3.0% growth going forward.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	19.6	17.1	14.6	13.2	14.7	11.6	11.6	8.6	11.2	9.6	***8.9***	***11.5***
Avg. Yld.	2.9%	3.1%	3.1%	2.8%	2.4%	2.2%	2.4%	3.3%	2.6%	3.1%	***3.8%***	***3.1%***

[1] Estimated date.

[2] In millions.

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Republic Bancorp is currently trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 8.9, which is lower than its 7-year average price-to-earnings ratio of 11.5. The cheap valuation has resulted primarily from the sell-off of regional banks in the aftermath of the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Credit Suisse. We expect Republic Bancorp to endure the ongoing downturn without any issues and thus we expect the stock to revert to its average valuation level over the next five years. In such a case, the stock will enjoy a 5.3% annualized gain thanks to the expansion of its valuation level.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	57%	54%	46%	37%	35%	26%	27%	29%	29%	30%	***33%***	***35%***

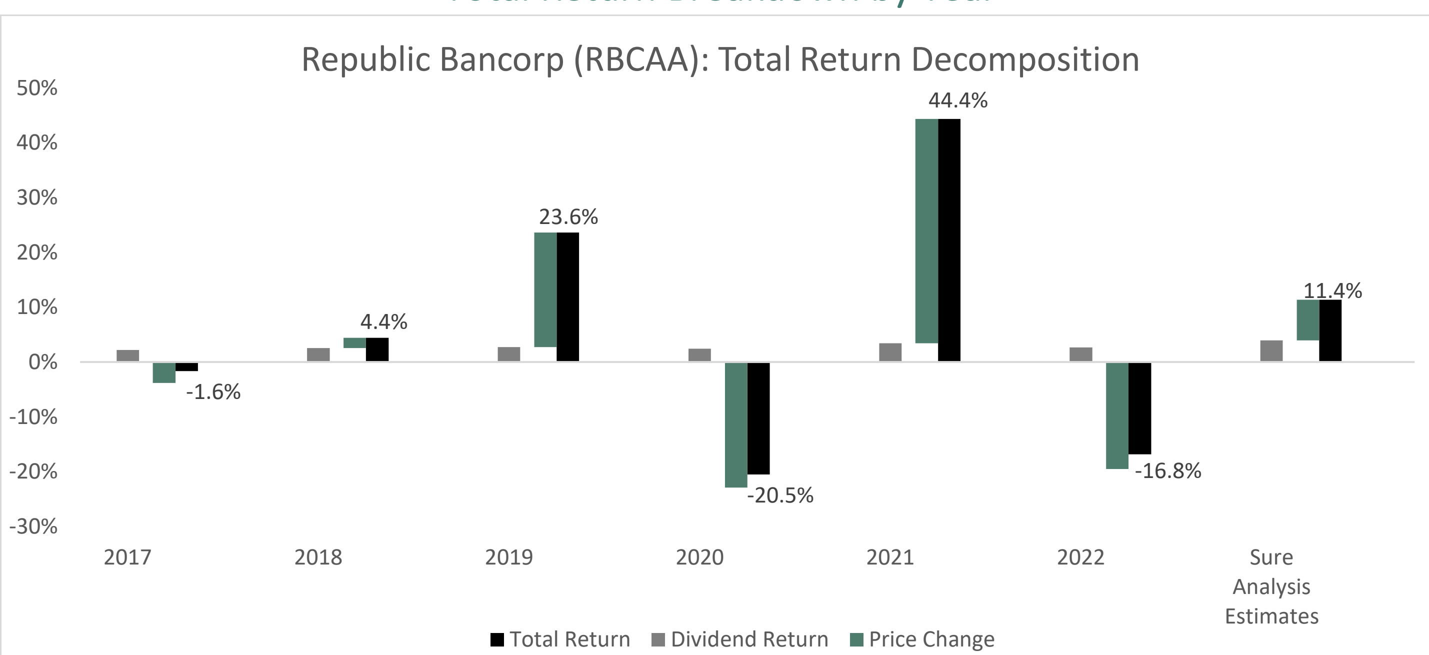
Republic Bancorp is characterized by disciplined management, which is focused on maintaining pristine credit quality metrics. Non-performing loans are only 0.34% of total loans while net loan charge-offs are only 0.01% of total loans. Thanks to its prudent strategy, the company has proved resilient to recessions. In the Great Recession, the worst financial crisis of the last 90 years, when most banks incurred severe losses and cut their dividends, Republic Bancorp continued growing its earnings and its dividend. The bank has proved resilient throughout the pandemic as well.

The conservative strategy of the bank results in slower growth during boom times but much more reliable performance during downturns. This helps explain the superior dividend growth record of Republic Bancorp, which has raised its dividend for 22 consecutive years. Given its solid payout ratio of 33% and its defensive business model, the bank can keep raising its dividend for many more years.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Republic Bancorp is a high-quality bank, which has proved resilient to recessions. The stock is currently under pressure due to the ongoing financial turmoil but we expect this well-managed bank to endure the downturn without any problem. We expect the stock to offer an 11.4% average annual return over the next five years thanks to 3.0% earnings-per-share growth, its 3.8% dividend and a 5.3% annualized valuation tailwind. We rate the stock as a buy but we note that patience may be required. In addition, investors should be aware of the low trading volume of this small-cap stock.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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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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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	155	152	168	209	253	285	298	315	302	309
SG&A Exp.	71	68	73	87	103	113	130	140	145	120
D&A Exp.	8	8	8	9	10	11	11	13	12	10
Net Profit	25	29	35	46	46	78	92	83	87	91
Net Margin	16.4%	19.0%	20.9%	21.9%	18.0%	27.3%	30.7%	26.4%	28.7%	29.4%
Free Cash Flow	17	19	45	41	65	109	92	72	94	151
Income Tax	15	16	18	23	33	16	21	19	24	26

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets	3,372	3,747	4,230	4,816	5,085	5,240	5,620	6,168	6,094	5,836
Cash & Equivalents	171	73	210	289	299	351	385	486	757	314
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	10	10	10	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Total Liabilities	2,829	3,188	3,654	4,212	4,453	4,550	4,856	5,345	5,259	4,979
Long-Term Debt	646	749	741	844	779	851	791	276	25	95
Shareholder's Equity	543	559	577	604	632	690	764	823	834	857
LTD/E Ratio	1.19	1.34	1.28	1.40	1.23	1.23	1.04	0.34	0.03	0.11

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Return on Assets	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%	1.5%	1.7%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%
Return on Equity	4.7%	5.2%	6.2%	7.8%	7.4%	11.8%	12.6%	10.5%	10.5%	10.8%
ROIC	2.2%	2.3%	2.7%	3.3%	3.2%	5.3%	5.9%	6.3%	8.9%	10.1%
Shares Out.	20.9	20.9	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.1	20.8	20.1
Revenue/Share	7.42	7.27	8.03	9.99	12.04	13.53	14.12	14.95	14.57	15.36
FCF/Share	0.82	0.91	2.14	1.94	3.11	5.19	4.37	3.41	4.51	7.53

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