



Equitable Holdings (EQH)

Updated May 21st, 2023, by Tiago Dias

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$25	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	19.3%	Market Cap:	\$9.2 B
Fair Value Price:	\$41	5 Year Growth Estimate:	6.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	05/26/2022 ¹
% Fair Value:	61%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	10.5%	Dividend Payment Date:	06/06/2022 ²
Dividend Yield:	3.5%	5 Year Price Target	\$55	Years Of Dividend Growth:	5
Dividend Risk Score:	C	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Rating:	Buy

Overview & Current Events

Equitable Holdings, Inc. (EQH) is a leading financial services company specializing in Individual retirement, Group Retirement, Investment Management and Research, and Protection Solutions. With a history tracing back to 1859, this \$9.2 billion market cap company has raised its dividend every year since 2018.

Equitable Holdings reported Q1 2023 earnings on May 3rd, 2023. For the quarter, the company reported \$0.45 earnings per share, compared to the \$1.32 in earnings per share in the same period of 2022. The company has not yet announced the next ex-dividend date, but they have announced an increase in the quarterly dividend to \$0.22 per share of common stock. This dividend is expected to be formally announced shortly.

The company has put heavy focus on the balance sheet, and the management team believes that they are well-positioned for periods of market stress with a conservatively positioned and high-quality investment portfolio, which is A2-rated with fixed maturities that are 96% investment grade, as well as a strong capital position comprised of \$1.8 billion in cash and liquid assets.

During the quarter the company has enhanced its disclosures, providing further transparency into the strength of its integrated business model.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
EPS	--	--	--	--	--	\$3.89	\$4.85	\$4.99	\$6.58	\$4.49	\$5.50	\$7.36
DPS	--	--	--	--	--	\$0.26	\$0.58	\$0.66	\$0.71	\$0.78	\$0.88	\$1.18
Shares	--	--	--	--	--	528	463	440	391	379	370.0	300.0

Insurance companies are stable non-cyclical businesses with generally reliable revenue and income streams that allow them to pay consistent dividends and return capital to shareholders. Equitable Holdings has certainly fit that mold, with its performance since the AXA spin-off showing consistently increasing earnings and dividends, as well as regular share buybacks. While the company could certainly stand to increase its dividend a bit faster, its current low payout ratio gives it some breathing room that will be valuable in the current era of increasing inflation and interest rates.

Despite a stellar performance since 2018, due to the lack of long-term standalone performance data, and a worsening macro climate, we expect that earnings and dividends will grow at a CAGR of around 6% over the next 5 years, with expected 2028 EPS of around \$7.36 and a dividend payment of \$1.18 per share.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	--	--	--	--	--	5.3	4.4	4.2	4.7	6.5	4.5	7.5
Avg. Yld.	--	--	--	--	--	1.3%	2.7%	3.2%	2.3%	2.7%	3.5%	2.1%

¹ Estimated

² Estimated

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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Equitable Holdings has traded at a significant discount to both the general market and its peers in the insurance industry since it became public in 2018. While it's possible that such a discount will remain, particularly when considering the inherent risks and issues involved with life insurance, we think that the company's solid earnings, book value and track history may allow it to be re-rated closer to the market average, and in-line with the insurance PE ratio average.

As such we expect that by 2028 it will be trading at a multiple of around 7.5 times earnings.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	--	--	--	--	--	7%	12%	13%	11%	17%	16%	16%

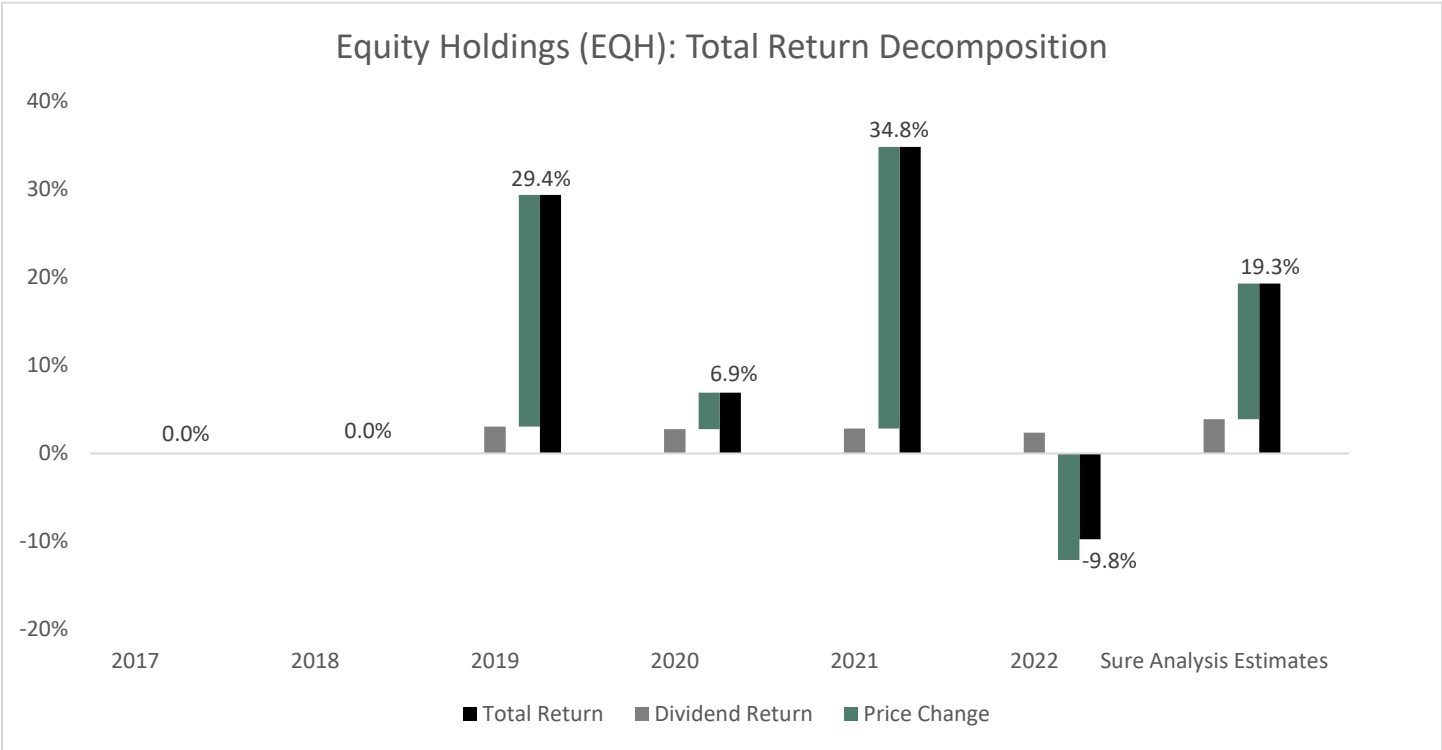
With reliable earnings, and an extremely low payout ratio, Equitable Holdings is well positioned to carry on its growth strategy even in the face of rising interest rates and an overall negative macro climate. With the consistent cashflows from premiums coming in, and a comparatively low dividend expense, we believe that Equitable Holdings can make good on its commitments to shareholders and clients, while maintaining a growth strategy that will bring the company better quality and higher margin business than its traditional retirement business.

The quality of the business can often be misjudged by the market, and its share price may remain unduly depressed for years, despite an otherwise stellar operational performance. It's for these reasons that dividends provide an attractive strategy for investors to get investment returns in difficult macro times.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

With an attractive and secure 3.5% dividend yield, an expected growth rate of 6% and a multiple re-rating as a result of extreme undervaluation, we are forecasting a total return potential of 19.3% per annum. As a result, the company's shares earn a buy 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		13063	10079	11763	12460	12069	9619	12415	11036	14017
SG&A Exp.		2109	2165	1965	1980	2079	2081	2096	2360	2199
D&A Exp.		353	9	758	399	296	675	1757	497	814
Net Profit		1630	333	1254	834	1855	(1764)	(648)	(439)	1785
Net Margin		12.5%	3.3%	10.7%	6.7%	15.4%	-18.3%	-5.2%	-4.0%	12.7%
Free Cash Flow		(720)	(275)	(333)	(345)	(62)	(309)	(168)	(876)	(1018)
Income Tax		477	(217)	378	49	301	(593)	(744)	(145)	499

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets			205569	216614	235615	220797	249818	275397	292262	253468
Cash & Equivalents			6557	5654	4814	4469	4405	6179	5188	4281
Acc. Receivable			5270	5220	5023	4895	4592	4566	14679	17201
Goodwill & Int.			5242	5243	4824	4780	4751	4737	4728	5482
Total Liabilities			192000	202017	219097	205365	234771	258220	278699	249615
Accounts Payable			1945	2048	2219	1869	2126	2824	2664	2248
Long-Term Debt			6451	4509	6030	4955	4111	4428	5122	5231
Total Equity			10440	11455	13421	13866	12681	14307	9957	96
LTD/E Ratio			0.62	0.39	0.45	0.36	0.31	0.28	0.44	3.16

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Return on Assets				0.6%	0.4%	0.8%	-0.7%	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.7%
Return on Equity				11.5%	6.7%	13.6%	-13.3%	-4.8%	-3.6%	35.5%
ROIC				6.4%	4.0%	8.6%	-8.9%	-3.1%	-2.2%	12.9%
Shares Out.						528	463	450	417	380
Revenue/Share		23.29	17.97	20.97	22.21	21.69	19.49	27.56	26.44	36.90
FCF/Share		(1.28)	(0.49)	(0.59)	(0.62)	(0.11)	(0.63)	(0.37)	(2.10)	(2.68)

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

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