



Auburn National Bancorporation, Inc. (AUBN)

Updated October 30th, 2023, by Patrick Neuwirth

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$21	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	7.9%	Market Cap:	\$72 M
Fair Value Price:	\$22	5 Year Growth Estimate:	2.0%	Ex-Dividend Date¹:	12/08/23
% Fair Value:	94%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	1.3%	Dividend Payment Date¹:	12/22/23
Dividend Yield:	5.2%	5 Year Price Target	\$24	Years Of Dividend Growth:	22
Dividend Risk Score:	B	Retirement Suitability Score:	A	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Auburn National Bancorporation, Inc. is a bank holding company with total assets of approximately \$1.0 billion as of September 30th, 2023. Through its principal subsidiary, AuburnBank, the company provides a full range of banking services to commercial and retail customers. AuburnBank is community oriented and focuses primarily on offering commercial and consumer loan and deposit services to individuals, and small and middle market businesses in East Alabama, including Lee County and surrounding areas. The Bank has 8 offices and 13 ATM locations throughout the communities it serves. The company was founded in 1907 and has 150 employees.

On October 26th, 2023, Auburn National released its third quarter 2023 results for the period ending September 30th, 2023. For the quarter, the company reported net earnings of \$1.5 million compared to \$2.0 million for the same quarter last year. Reported earnings per diluted share for the same periods were \$0.43 and \$0.57, a decrease of 24.6%. For the first nine months of 2023, net earnings were \$5.4 million, or \$1.54 per share, compared to \$5.9 million, or \$1.67 per share, for the same period in 2022.

The company faced a difficult operating environment in the third quarter due to increased market interest rates and competition for deposits. Despite higher deposit costs, the company still benefited from strong loan growth, good asset quality, and lower deposit costs compared to its peers. Net interest income (tax-equivalent) declined 8%, mainly due a decline in the company's net interest margin, which decreased to 2.73% in the third quarter of 2023 compared to 3.00% in the same period of 2022. This decrease was primarily due to increased cost of funds, generally and changes in deposit mix, which was partially offset by a more favorable asset mix and higher yields on interest earning assets. Average loans for the third quarter of 2023 were \$529.4 million, a 16% increase from the third quarter of 2022. The company reported also total deposits growth to \$964.6 million, compared to \$950.8 million in the previous quarter. The efficiency ratio of 74.01% in the third quarter of 2023 was down slightly from 74.82% in the second quarter of 2023, but up from 65.94% in the third quarter of 2022 primarily due to a decrease in total revenue. A fall in the efficiency ratio indicates an improvement in profitability.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
EPS	\$1.95	\$2.04	\$2.16	\$2.24	\$2.15	\$2.42	\$2.72	\$2.09	\$2.27	\$2.95	\$2.00	\$2.21
DPS	\$0.84	\$0.86	\$0.88	\$0.90	\$0.92	\$0.96	\$1.00	\$1.02	\$1.04	\$1.06	\$1.08	\$1.24
Shares²	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3

The company has grown earnings by 4.7% per year over the past nine years and decreased -3.7% over the past five years. We expect earnings to increase by 2% per year for the next five years. The company has been able to increase its dividend for an impressive 22 consecutive years. The annual dividend grew from \$0.80 in 2012 to the most recent full-year payment of \$1.08. This means an average annual dividend growth rate of 2.4%. In February 2023, the company increased its quarterly dividend by 1.9% from \$0.265 to \$0.27 per share. The company repurchased 10,108 shares for \$0.2 million in the first nine months of 2023.

¹ Estimated date

² 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.



Auburn National Bancorporation, Inc. (AUBN)

Updated October 30th, 2023, by Patrick Neuwirth

Valuation Analysis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Avg. P/E	12.9	11.9	11.9	12.6	16.1	17.0	14.3	22.0	16.1	11.0	10.3	11.0
Avg. Yld.	1.9%	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%	2.7%	2.3%	2.6%	2.2%	2.9%	4.1%	5.2%	5.1%

During the past decade shares of Auburn National have traded with an average price-to-earnings ratio of about 14.6 and today, it stands at 10.3. We are using 11 times earnings as a fair value baseline, implying the potential for a valuation tailwind. The company's dividend yield is currently 5.2% which is well above the average yield over the past decade of 3.0%.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	43%	42%	41%	40%	43%	40%	37%	49%	46%	36%	54%	56%

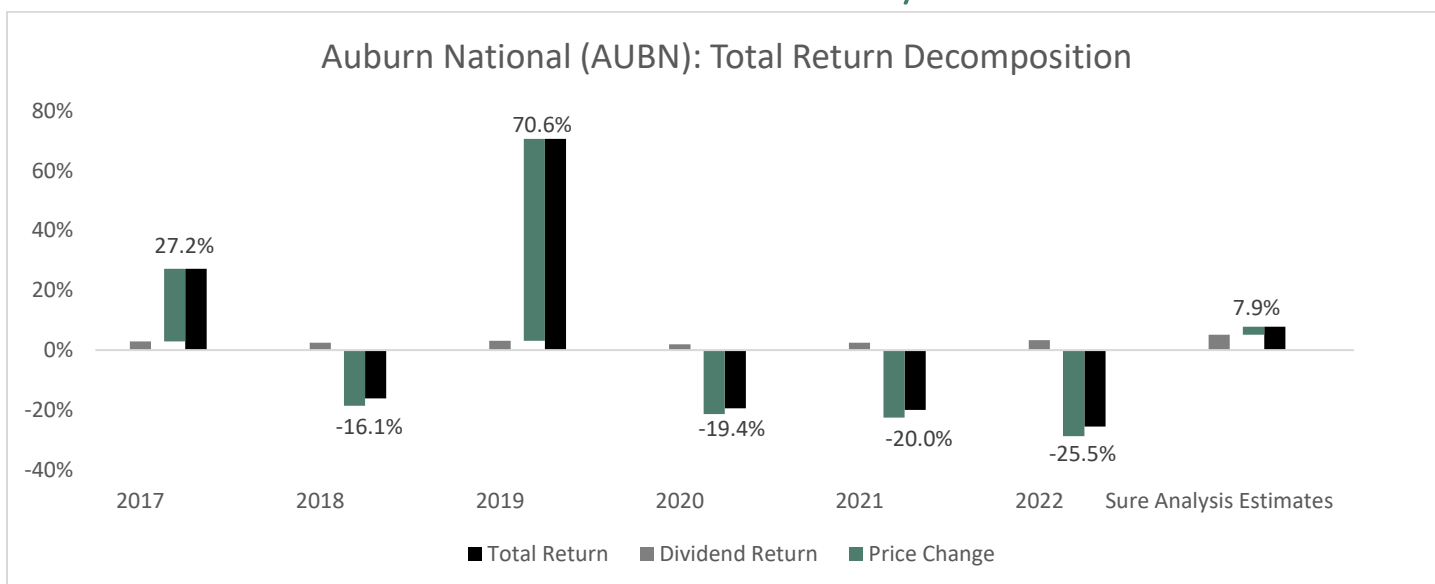
During the past five years, the company's dividend payout ratio has averaged around 48%. Auburn National's dividend is comfortably covered by earnings at the moment. It is important to note that Auburn National earnings per share has basically not grown from where it was five years ago, which could mean that the payout ratio will increase further. One should keep an eye on the payout ratio when the dividend growth rate keeps outpacing the earnings per share growth rate.

Auburn National Bancorporation's business model is primarily built upon lending money to local businesses and residents within the local communities the bank serves. The funding of those loans is done by gathering local deposits through their community offices. Net interest income representing almost 90% of the total revenues.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Auburn National Bancorporation is a small and conservative community bank operating in East Alabama. Investors could be attracted to the stock based on its dividend growth track-record and the above average dividend yield of 5.2%. The dividend growth rate is currently outpacing the earning growth rate which is something to monitor. The share price is down 12% over the last year. We estimate total return potential of 7.9% per year for the next five years based on a 2% earnings-per-share growth, the dividend yield, and a valuation tailwind. The shares earn a hold rating.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



[Click here to rate and review this research report. Your feedback is important to us.](#)

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.



Auburn National Bancorporation, Inc. (AUBN)

Updated October 30th, 2023, by Patrick Neuwirth

Income Statement Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	27	25	27	26	28	29	32	30	28	30
SG&A Exp.	9	9	10	10	10	11	12	12	12	11
D&A Exp.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1.5
Net Profit	7	7	8	8	8	9	10	7	8	10
Net Margin	26.2%	29.3%	28.8%	31.2%	28.1%	30.6%	30.9%	25.1%	28.4%	33.3%
Free Cash Flow	13	10	9	9	8	12	9	1	(8)	4
Income Tax	2	3	3	3	4	2	2	2	1	2.5

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets	751	789	817	832	853	818	828	957	1,105	1,042
Cash & Equivalents	27	15	57	79	64	38	66	84	79	18
Goodwill & Int.	2	2	2							
Total Liabilities	687	713	737	750	766	729	730	849	1,001	956
Long-Term Debt	12	12	7	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total Equity	64	76	80	82	87	89	98	108	104	68
LTD/E Ratio	0.19	0.16	0.09	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	-	-

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Return on Assets	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%
Return on Equity	10.6%	10.6%	10.1%	10.1%	9.3%	10.0%	10.4%	7.2%	7.6%	12.1%
ROIC	8.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.4%	8.9%	9.9%	10.4%	7.2%	7.6%	12.1%
Shares Out.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.5
Revenue/Share	7.47	6.97	7.48	7.17	7.68	7.93	8.81	8.33	7.98	8.67
FCF/Share	3.64	2.69	2.56	2.55	2.14	3.27	2.52	0.39	(2.22)	1.12

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

Disclaimer

Nothing presented herein is, or is intended to constitute, specific investment advice. Nothing in this research report should be construed as a recommendation to follow any investment strategy or allocation. Any forward-looking statements or forecasts are based on assumptions and actual results are expected to vary from any such statements or forecasts. No reliance should be placed on any such statements or forecasts when making any investment decision. While Sure Dividend has used reasonable efforts to obtain information from reliable sources, we make no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of third-party information presented herein. No guarantee of investment performance is being provided and no inference to the contrary should be made. There is a risk of loss from an investment in marketable securities. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance.