

# U.S. Bancorp (USB)

Updated October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, by Josh Arnold

#### Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$31	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	13.9%	Market Cap:	\$48 B
Fair Value Price:	\$42	5 Year Growth Estimate:	3.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	12/29/23 <sup>1</sup>
% Fair Value:	74%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	6.3%	Dividend Payment Date:	01/15/24
Dividend Yield:	6.2%	5 Year Price Target	\$49	Years Of Dividend Growth:	11
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	D	Retirement Suitability Score:	В	Rating:	Buy

## **Overview & Current Events**

U.S. Bancorp traces its lineage back to 1863 when the First National Bank of Cincinnati opened for business. It has since grown to 75,000 employees, a \$48 billion market capitalization, and about \$28 billion in annual revenue. The bank has expanded from a regional player to a national powerhouse in recent years, becoming the fifth-largest bank by assets in the U.S. It competes mostly in traditional banking activities, but also offers wealth management, payment, and investment services.

U.S. Bancorp posted third quarter earnings on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and results were better than expected on both revenue and earnings. Adjusted earnings-per-share came to \$1.05, which was a nickel better than estimates. Revenue was \$7.03 billion, up more than 11% year-over-year, and about \$10 million better than expected. Net interest income was \$4.3 billion, and noninterest income came to \$2.8 billion.

Average total loan growth was 11.9% year-over-year, but a decline of 3.1% against the second quarter of this year. The management team noted it would be a decline of just 0.9% when adjusted for balance sheet repositioning and capital management actions.

Provisions for credit losses came to \$515 million, which was better than \$821 million in Q2, but higher year-over-year from \$362 million. Net interest margin was 2.81%, down from 2.9% in Q2, and fractionally lower from last year's Q3, which was 2.83%.

Average deposits rose to \$512 billion, up from \$497 billion in the previous quarter. Average total loans fell from \$389 billion to \$377 billion. We now see \$4 in earnings-per-share for this year as the environment for banking continues to deteriorate, given demand for loans and interest rate movements.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
EPS	\$3.00	\$3.08	\$3.16	\$3.24	\$3.51	\$4.14	\$4.16	\$3.06	\$5.10	\$3.69	\$4.00	\$4.64
DPS	\$0.89	\$0.97	\$1.01	\$1.07	\$1.16	\$1.34	\$1.58	\$1.68	\$1.76	\$1.88	\$1.92	\$2.34
Shares <sup>2</sup>	1,825	1,786	1,745	1,697	1,656	1,608	1,534	1,507	1,484	1,485	1,450	1,375

### Growth on a Per-Share Basis

U.S. Bancorp's earnings-per-share history has been strong since the financial crisis ended, as it was one of very few banks to grow earnings every year since 2009, although that streak ended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following 2022 results that produced much lower earnings for U.S. Bancorp, we have a higher expected growth rate. We expect growth of 3% annually, which is down from 5% prior.

We think the combined headwinds of relatively low net interest margin, and a lack of loan growth, combined with somewhat lower levels of share repurchases will keep a lid on earnings growth in the coming years. However, with lending rates on the rise, these headwinds could unwind starting in 2023 so long as any potential recession isn't too harsh, and drive our growth estimate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Estimated date

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Share count 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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U.S. Bancorp's payout ratio is in line with its peers, and we expect growth in the payout to continue, growing to \$2.34 in five years. That would keep the payout ratio around 50% of earnings and in line with the bank's capital return strategy, affording it the opportunity to continue to buy back shares.

## **Valuation Analysis**

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	12.0	13.7	13.7	13.2	15.0	12.7	12.8	13.3	11.0	11.8	7.8	10.5
Avg. Yld.	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	2.5%	2.2%	2.6%	3.0%	4.1%	3.1%	4.3%	6.2%	4.8%

U.S. Bancorp's price-to-earnings ratio has moved up in recent years as the bank has become more highly valued by investors than its competitors due to its outstanding profitability metrics. The current valuation is well below our estimate of fair value at 10.5 earnings, so we see a sizable tailwind from the valuation in the coming years.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

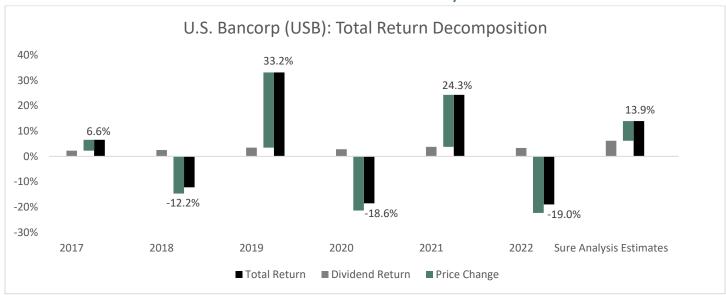
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	32%	34%	34%	36%	36%	32%	38%	55%	35%	51%	48%	50%

We see the payout remaining around 50% of earnings in the coming years, which is ahead of historical norms. U.S. Bancorp's dividend appears safe, and we see no risk of a cut at this point. We think U.S. Bancorp will continue to produce mid-single digit dividend increases.

U.S. Bancorp's competitive advantage is in its stellar operating history and world-class management team. It operates as a regional bank, but on a massive scale, and as a result, it has been stronger through recessions than its larger peers. Indeed, earnings were not even cut in half in 2009 when many banks were struggling just to stay in business, and U.S. Bancorp came out of the recession in better shape in relation to its competitors than it was before the crisis.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

We see earnings as producing a rebound this year off of last year's low base. We now forecast 13.9% total annual returns in the coming years from a combination of an increased valuation (+6.3%), earnings growth (3%), and the robust dividend yield (6.2%). USB earns 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	19,378	19,939	19,969	20,956	21,697	22,521	22,883	23,226	22,721	24,184
SG&A Exp.	5,868	5,946	6,142	6 <i>,</i> 655	7,422	7,822	8,037	8,256	9,094	9,613
D&A Exp.	520	501	481	470	468	467	502	527	497	560
Net Profit	5,836	5,851	5,879	5,888	6,218	7,096	6,914	4,959	7,963	5,825
Net Margin	30.1%	29.3%	29.4%	28.1%	28.7%	31.5%	30.2%	21.4%	35.0%	24.1%
Free Cash Flow	11,446	5,332	8,782	5,336	6,472	10,564	4,889	3,716	9,870	21,119
Income Tax	2,032	2,087	2,097	2,161	1,264	1,554	1,648	1,066	2,181	1,463

## **Balance Sheet Metrics**

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets (\$B)	364.02	402.53	421.85	445.96	462.04	467.37	495.43	553.9	573.3	674.8
Cash & Equivalents	8,477	10,654	11,147	15,705	19,505	21,453	22,405	62,580	28,905	53,542
Goodwill & Int.	12,734	12,551	12,711	12,647	12,662	12,761	12,878	12,782	14,000	19,528
Total Liab. (\$B)	322.21	358.36	375.04	398.03	412.37	415.72	442.94	500.18	517.9	623.6
Long-Term Debt	44,276	59,522	58,216	46,038	47,855	52,439	61,897	50,856	43,921	69,388
Total Equity	36,357	38,723	40,630	41,797	43,621	45,045	45,869	47,112	48,547	43,958
LTD/E Ratio	1.08	1.37	1.26	0.97	0.98	1.03	1.19	0.96	0.80	1.37

## **Profitability & Per Share Metrics**

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Return on Assets</b>	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	0.9%	1.4%	0.9%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	16.5%	15.6%	14.8%	14.3%	14.6%	16.0%	15.2%	10.7%	16.6%	12.6%
ROIC	6.9%	6.2%	5.6%	5.9%	6.5%	7.0%	6.3%	4.5%	7.8%	5.4%
Shares Out.	1,825	1,786	1,745	1,697	1,656	1,608	1,534	1,507	1,484	1,490
Revenue/Share	10.48	11.00	11.34	12.24	12.98	13.75	14.46	15.38	15.25	16.23
FCF/Share	6.19	2.94	4.96	3.10	3.85	6.45	3.09	2.46	6.62	14.17

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

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