



Abbott Laboratories (ABT)

Updated January 24th, 2024, by Nathan Parsh

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$111	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	5.1%	Market Cap:	\$193 B
Fair Value Price:	\$92	5 Year Growth Estimate:	7.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	01/11/24
% Fair Value:	121%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-3.7%	Dividend Payment Date:	02/15/24
Dividend Yield:	2.0%	5 Year Price Target	\$129	Years Of Dividend Growth:	52
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Retirement Suitability Score:	B	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Abbott Laboratories, founded in 1888, is one of the largest medical appliances & equipment manufacturers in the world, comprised of four segments: Nutrition, Diagnostics, Established Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices. Abbott Laboratories provides products in over 160 countries and employs 115,000 people. The company generated \$40 billion in sales and \$8.3 billion in profit in 2023.

On December 15th, 2023, Abbott Laboratories raised its quarterly dividend 7.8% to \$0.55, extending the company's dividend growth streak to 52 years.

On January 24th, 2024, Abbott Laboratories announced fourth quarter and full earnings results for the period ending December 31st, 2023. For the quarter, the company generated \$10.24 billion in sales (61.4% outside of the U.S.), representing a 1.4% increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. Adjusted earnings-per-share of \$1.19 compared to \$1.03 in the prior year. Revenue was \$50 million more than expected while adjusted earnings-per-share were in-line with estimates. For the year, revenue decreased 8.2% to \$40.1 billion while adjusted earnings-per-share of \$4.44 compared unfavorably to \$5.34 in 2022, but matched the midpoint of the company's guidance.

U.S. sales declined 14.8% while international was lower by 3.3%. Companywide organic sales decreased 6.2%. However, excluding Covid-19 testing products, organic growth was 11.6%. Nutrition grew 13.9% organically as the company continues to see a recovery in market share of its infant formula business following a stoppage of production in 2022. Results in Canada and Latin America were very encouraging as well. Diagnostics fell 22.3%, mostly due to fewer Covid-19 tests being sold. Excluding this, revenue was higher by 2.2%. Established Pharmaceuticals increased 8.8% due to strength in cardiometabolic, respiratory, gastroenterology, and central nervous system/pain management. Medical Devices grew 15.4%, led by continued high demand for Diabetes Care, Structural Heart, Electrophysiology, and Heart Failure, and Rhythm Management.

Abbott Laboratories provided guidance for 2024 as well, with the company expecting adjusted earnings-per-share in a range of \$4.50 to \$4.70 for the year.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
EPS	\$2.28	\$2.15	\$2.20	\$2.50	\$2.88	\$3.24	\$3.65	\$5.21	\$5.34	\$4.44	\$4.60	\$6.45
DPS	\$0.88	\$0.96	\$1.04	\$1.06	\$1.12	\$1.28	\$1.44	\$1.80	\$1.88	\$2.04	\$2.20	\$3.09
Shares¹	1,508	1,473	1,473	1,744	1,756	1,781	1,786	1,789	1,754	1,748	1,748	1,740

Abbott Laboratories spun off its biotech business (which is now publicly traded as AbbVie with the ticker ABBV) in 2013.

AbbVie has been a very successful standalone company. When it was still owned by Abbott Laboratories it was a major growth driver. However, since the spin-off Abbott Laboratories' earnings-per-share growth rate has still been very solid. Results have also been very consistent. Earnings-per-share have a CAGR of 7.7% since 2014 and 7.3% to 2019. With its strong position in growth markets such as diagnostics, where Abbott Laboratories is the market leader in point-of-care diagnostics - and cardiovascular medical devices, Abbott Laboratories should be able to generate attractive long-term

¹ In millions.

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growth rates for both earnings-per-share and dividends. We are now forecasting 7% growth coming off expected earnings-per-share of \$4.60 for 2024.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Now	2029
Avg. P/E	18.0	21.5	18.4	19.4	22.3	24.9	26.3	22.6	20.6	24.5	24.1	20.0
Avg. Yld.	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%

Shares of Abbott Laboratories have increased \$16, or 16.8%, since our October 18th, 2023 report. The stock's price-to-earnings ratio expanded after the spin-off of AbbVie, which is not surprising, as AbbVie had been the somewhat riskier part of the business. In addition, shares were coming off recession lows. Abbott Laboratories as a med-tech pure play is a low-risk investment. We believe that shares are trading above fair value, pegged at 20 times earnings, implying the potential for a small valuation headwind of 3.7% annually through 2029.

Abbott Laboratories has declared 400 consecutive dividends and increased its payout for 52 consecutive years.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
Payout	39%	45%	47%	42%	39%	40%	39%	35%	35%	46%	48%	48%

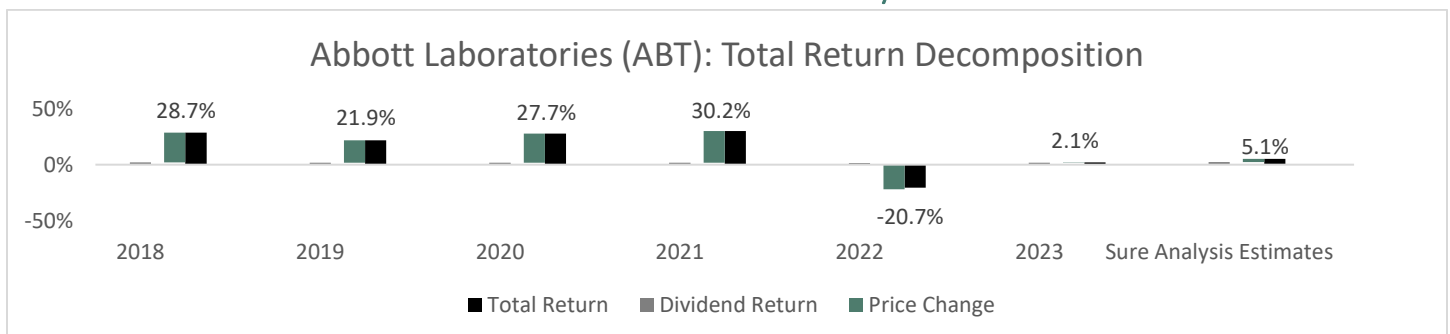
Abbott Laboratories' dividend payout ratio has never been above 50% throughout the last decade. Coupled with the fact that the company's earnings-per-share did not decline during the last financial crisis – it actually continued to grow – Abbott Laboratories' dividend looks very safe.

After the spin-off of AbbVie, Abbott Laboratories has proven to be a very stable performer with a solid outlook. The markets that Abbott Laboratories addresses are not cyclical as medical devices and diagnostics are needed whether the economy is doing well or not. This explains why Abbott Laboratories performed so well during the last financial crisis. Moreover, for future recessions, we believe Abbott Laboratories will most likely not be vulnerable. The company is a leader in the markets it addresses, such as in point-of-care diagnostics, which provides competitive advantages due to Abbott Laboratories' scale and global reach. This was especially true during the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

We continue to find that Abbott Laboratories is a fundamentally strong company that addresses attractive and growing markets. We are projecting total annual return potential of 5.1%, down from 5.8% previously. This estimate stems from 7% earnings growth and a 2.0% starting dividend yield, offset by a low single-digit valuation headwind. The impact of Covid-19 testing related revenues continues to be felt, but the remaining businesses are performing quite well. We have raised our 2029 price target \$16 to \$129 due to earnings guidance for 2024. Shares continue to earn a hold rating due to projected returns, but we again note the high-quality nature of the company.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	19657	20247	20405	20853	27390	30578	31904	34610	43075	43653
Gross Profit	10464	11029	11658	11759	14981	17872	18673	19600	24538	24511
Gross Margin	53.2%	54.5%	57.1%	56.4%	54.7%	58.4%	58.5%	56.6%	57.0%	56.1%
SG&A Exp.	6372	6530	6785	6736	9182	9744	9765	9696	11324	11248
D&A Exp.	1719	1548	1472	1353	3021	3278	3014	3327	3538	3267
Operating Profit	2133	2599	2867	3026	1564	3650	4532	5357	8425	8362
Op. Margin	10.9%	12.8%	14.1%	14.5%	5.7%	11.9%	14.2%	15.5%	19.6%	19.2%
Net Profit	2576	2284	4423	1400	477	2368	3687	4495	7071	6933
Net Margin	13.1%	11.3%	21.7%	6.7%	1.7%	7.7%	11.6%	13.0%	16.4%	15.9%
Free Cash Flow	2179	2598	1856	2082	4435	4906	4498	5724	8648	7804
Income Tax	53	797	577	350	1878	539	390	497	1140	1373

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets	42953	41207	41247	52666	76250	67173	67887	72550	75196	74438
Cash & Equivalents	3475	4063	5001	18620	9407	3844	3860	6838	9799	9882
Acc. Receivable	3986	3586	3418	3248	5249	5182	5425	6414	6487	6218
Inventories	2693	2643	2599	2434	3601	3796	4316	5012	5157	6173
Goodwill & Int.	15507	16265	15200	12222	45493	42196	40220	38530	35970	33253
Total Liabilities	17686	19568	19921	31949	45152	36451	36586	39540	39172	37533
Accounts Payable	1026	1064	1081	1178	2402	2975	3252	3946	4408	4607
Long-Term Debt	6561	7830	9001	22006	27924	19566	18139	18750	18050	16773
Total Equity	25171	21526	21211	20538	30897	30524	31088	32780	35802	36686
LTD/E Ratio	0.26	0.36	0.42	1.07	0.90	0.64	0.58	0.57	0.50	0.46

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Return on Assets	4.7%	5.4%	10.7%	3.0%	0.7%	3.3%	5.5%	6.4%	9.6%	9.3%
Return on Equity	9.9%	9.8%	20.7%	6.7%	1.9%	7.7%	12.0%	14.1%	20.6%	19.1%
ROIC	6.5%	7.5%	14.8%	3.8%	0.9%	4.3%	7.4%	8.9%	13.4%	12.9%
Shares Out.	1548	1508	1473	1473	1744	1760	1781	1786	1789	1754
Revenue/Share	12.49	13.26	13.55	14.06	15.66	17.28	17.91	19.38	24.08	24.75
FCF/Share	1.38	1.70	1.23	1.40	2.54	2.77	2.53	3.21	4.83	4.42

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

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