



Main Street Capital Corporation (MAIN)

Updated March 1st, 2024 by Quinn Mohammed

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$45	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	9.8%	Market Cap:	\$3.9 B
Fair Value Price:	\$55	5 Year Growth Estimate:	1.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	03/07/2024
% Fair Value:	83%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	3.8%	Payment Date:	03/15/2024
Dividend Yield:	6.3%	5 Year Price Target	\$58	Years of Dividend Growth:	9
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Headquartered in Houston, TX, Main Street Capital Corporation is a Business Development Company (BDC) that provides long-term debt and equity capital to lower middle market companies and debt capital to middle market companies. Main Street defines lower middle market companies as generally having annual revenues between \$10 million and \$150 million. The company's investments typically support management buyouts, recapitalizations, growth financings, refinancing, and acquisitions. The company has a market capitalization of \$3.9 billion and generated \$339 million in net investment income in 2023. At the end of Q4 2023, Main Street had an interest in 80 lower middle market companies (valued at \$2.3 billion), 23 middle market companies (\$244 million) and 87 private loan investments (\$1.5 billion).

On November 1st, 2023, Main Street Capital announced a 2.1% dividend increase to \$0.24 per share paid monthly.

On February 22nd, 2024, Main Street Capital reported fourth quarter 2023 results. Net investment income of \$90.1 million for the quarter was a 19% increase compared to \$75.9 million in Q4 2022. The corporation generated net investment income per share of \$1.07, up 9% year-over-year from \$0.98 per share. Distributable net investment income per share totaled \$1.12, up 9% from \$1.03 in Q4 2022.

Main Street's net asset value per share increased compared to December 31st, 2022, from \$26.86 to \$29.20, an 8.7% increase. The corporation declared monthly dividends of \$0.24 to be paid in the second quarter of 2024, which are 6.7% higher than those declared a year ago, as well as a supplemental \$0.30 dividend to be paid in March.

As of the end of the fourth quarter 2023, the corporation had aggregate liquidity of \$1.125 billion, consisting of \$60 million in cash and cash equivalents, and \$1.065 billion of unused capacity under the revolving credit facility.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
NIIPS	\$2.20	\$2.18	\$2.23	\$2.39	\$2.60	\$2.50	\$2.10	\$2.65	\$3.29	\$4.14	\$4.06	\$4.27
DPS	\$2.55	\$2.65	\$2.73	\$2.79	\$2.85	\$2.91	\$2.46	\$2.48	\$2.60	\$2.75	\$2.88	\$3.03
Shares¹	44	49	52	57	60	63.0	66.0	70.0	77.8	84.4	90.0	110.0

NIIPS stands for Net Investment Income Per Share. Main Street's calculation of distributable net investment income excludes the impact of share-based compensation. We believe this is a real expense, and thus have elected to use net investment income instead. Main Street has put together a solid record in the past decade, with a nine-year and five-year net investment income per share CAGR of 7.3% and 9.8%, respectively. This even though the company pays out basically all its income in the form of dividends and needs to issue shares in order to fund growth. Speaking of which, both aspects are worth describing in a bit more detail. Main Street's dividend policy is somewhat different from your typical firm. The company pays a monthly dividend, currently sitting at \$0.24 or \$2.88 on an annual basis, along with supplemental dividends (skipped in 2020 due to COVID-19). The upcoming supplemental dividend amounts to \$0.30 per share to be paid in March, while the company keeps its trend of increasing the regular monthly dividend slightly every year. The supplemental dividends have been a result of generating realized gains from Main Street's equity investments.

¹ In millions

Disclosure: This analyst has a position in the security discussed in this research report.



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Starting in 2019, Main Street began gradually reducing its supplemental dividend and absorbing it into the regular monthly dividend. Importantly, as a result of the BDC structure, dividends are classified as both ordinary and qualified dividends along with realized gains. Regarding the share count, you can see this growing significantly over time. In order to avoid corporate income tax, Main Street must distribute at least 90% of their taxable income, leaving little wiggle room to fund growth. While this strategy has worked extremely well since the last recession, we do caution that this method of funding becomes substantially less attractive (and more expensive) in lesser times. As such, we have tempered our growth expectations, and expect the company to post just 1% annual growth into 2029.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Now	2029
Avg. P/E	13.3	13.3	16.5	16.6	13.3	16.4	17.4	15.3	12.1	9.7	11.2	13.5
Avg. Yld.	6.9%	7.3%	7.4%	7.0%	6.7%	6.8%	7.6%	5.8%	6.1%	7.2%	6.3%	5.3%

Over the past decade shares of Main Street have traded at an average P/E ratio of 14.4 times earnings. Given the current environment and Main's recent performance, we estimate fair value of 13.5 times earnings, which implies the potential for a valuation tailwind.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

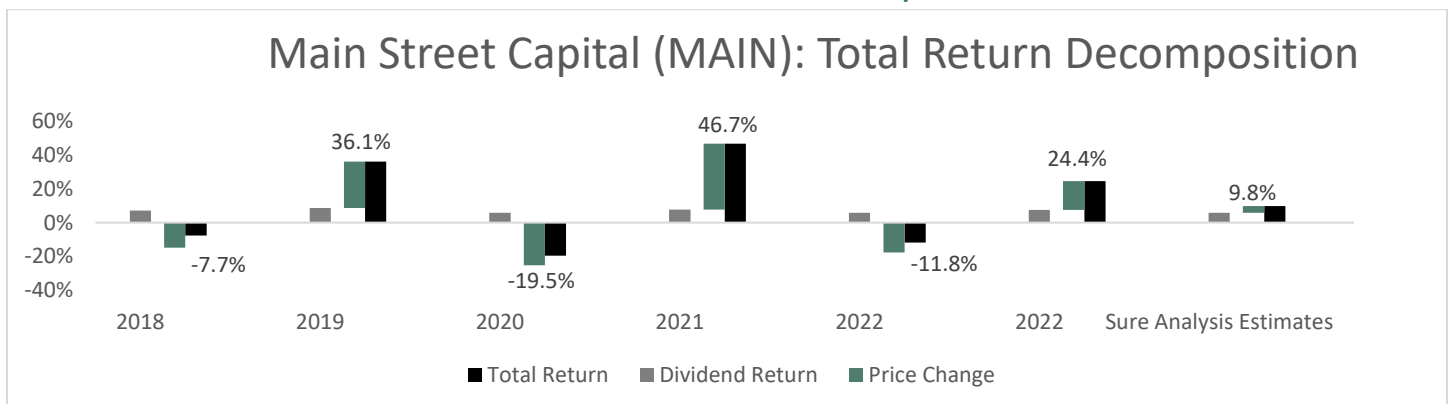
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
Payout	116%	122%	122%	117%	110%	116%	117%	93%	79%	66%	71%	71%

Main Street's competitive advantage lies in its portfolio of small company interests, allowing for equity and debt exposure that would be difficult to replicate, along with the company's management. In the last decade, the company has performed well, acting like a fund for small companies and passing along the income and gains to investors. The payout ratio detailed above is notable for two reasons. From an income standpoint, it highlights the BDC's pass through status, requiring the company to pay a substantial dividend. From a safety standpoint, it shows that there is not much room for lesser performance. Indeed, given the idea of continued equity issuance to fund investments, growth came under pressure during the COVID-19 crisis, though investment income held up well overall.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Main Street has put together a solid record in the last decade. The company's model is unusual for common equity, but typical of a pass-through entity – paying out all of its earnings and funding growth by issuing shares. This leads to two distinct items: an above average dividend yield and an ever-increasing share count. MAIN could offer 9.8% annualized total returns moving forward, consisting primarily of the dividend. Shares of MAIN earn a hold rating here.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenue	142	126	173	234	216	174	58	421	331	510
SG&A Exp.	7	9	9	12	12	13	13	12	16	-4
Net Profit	101	104	139	171	168	130	29	331	242	428
Net Margin	71.1%	82.6%	80.5%	72.8%	77.9%	74.3%	50.3%	78.5%	73.0%	83.9%
Free Cash Flow	-191	-131	-43	73	-109	-34	-54	-515	-247	285
Income Tax	6	-9	-1	24	6	1	-14	33	23	23

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Assets	2,712	2,553	2,265	2,072	1,879	1,694	1,360	1,036	4242	4444
Cash & Equivalents	55	54	52	24	20	60	35	64	49	60
Total Liabilities	1,175	1,077	885	871	808	754	568	393	2133	1966
Accounts Payable	45	64	77	31	28	38	47	38	86	100
Long-Term Debt	1,114	996	797	840	780	707	515	343	1999	1802
Shareholder's Equity	1,536	1,476	1,380	1,201	1,071	940	793	643	2109	2477
LTD/E Ratio	0.73	0.67	0.58	0.70	0.73	0.75	0.65	0.53	0.95	0.73

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Return on Assets	4.9%	7.0%	7.9%	7.0%	5.8%	6.6%	8.1%	11.8%	6.1%	9.9%
Return on Equity	8.6%	11.8%	13.2%	12.2%	10.4%	11.6%	13.5%	19.9%	12.4%	18.7%
ROIC	5.1%	7.2%	8.1%	7.1%	6.0%	6.8%	8.4%	12.2%	6.3%	10.2%
Shares Out.	44	49	52	57	60	63.0	66.0	70.0	74.48	81.92
Revenue/Share	2.77	3.59	4.13	3.32	2.58	3.25	3.01	4.23	4.45	6.22
FCF/Share	-0.54	-1.81	1.29	-0.82	-2.68	-4.39	-6.57	-4.59	-3.32	3.48

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

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