



SB Financial Group, Inc. (SBFG)

Published September 10th, 2024 by Quinn Mohammed

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$17	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	6.8%	Market Cap:	\$115 M
Fair Value Price:	\$15	5 Year Growth Estimate:	6.0%	Ex-Dividend Date¹:	11/09/2024
% Fair Value:	113%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-2.5%	Dividend Payment Date¹:	11/24/2024
Dividend Yield:	3.3%	5 Year Price Target	\$20	Years Of Dividend Growth:	11
Dividend Risk Score:	D	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

SB Financial Group, Inc. (SBFG) is a financial services holding company in the U.S. Its primary subsidiaries are State Bank & Trust Company (State Bank) and SBFG Title, LLC dba Peak Title (Peak Title). The company was founded in 1902 and now trades on the NASDAQ. It has a market capitalization of \$115 million and is headquartered in Defiance, Ohio. It has 22 bank offices in Ohio, and one in Indiana. It also has 23 ATMs and six loan production offices in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

On April 19th, 2024, Simmons announced a 4% increase to its quarterly dividend, now \$0.14 per share, marking its 11th consecutive annual dividend raise.

On August 14th, 2024, SB Financial Group announced it entered into a definitive agreement with Marblehead Bancorp to merge Marblehead Bank into State Bank. The combined entity will have total assets of \$1.4 billion, total net loans of roughly \$1.1 billion and total deposits of \$1.2 billion. The deal is expected to close in fourth quarter 2024.

SB Financial Group reported second quarter 2024 results on July 18th, 2024. Adjusted earnings for the quarter were \$3.08 million, with adjusted EPS of \$0.46, up one penny from the prior year period. Total loans increased 2.1% year-over-year to \$1.0 billion. Deposits rose 4.1% to \$1.12 billion.

SB Financial had no provision for credit losses in the quarter, a notable improvement over the prior year when it reported \$145K. Net charge-offs were -0.01% of average loans, an improvement over 0.01% in the second quarter of 2023, and 0.02% in the first quarter of 2024. Net interest margin was 3.10%, down 5 basis points from 3.15% in 2Q23. For the quarter, SB Financial's adjusted return on average assets was 0.92% while its return on average equity was 10.16%. Book value per share rose 8.7% to \$18.80 from \$17.30 a year ago.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
EPS	\$1.02	\$1.13	\$1.31	\$1.66	\$1.43	\$1.43	\$1.87	\$2.44	\$1.77	\$1.75	\$1.52	\$2.03
DPS	\$0.15	\$0.19	\$0.23	\$0.27	\$0.30	\$0.34	\$0.38	\$0.42	\$0.48	\$0.52	\$0.56	\$0.82
Shares²	5.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	8.1	8.3	8.0	7.5	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.8

SB Financial Group's average EPS growth rates over the past nine and five years have been 6.2% and 4.1%, respectively. We believe the company can generate 6% annual EPS growth from this point on, reaching \$2.03 in 2029.

The company can achieve this level of growth through loan and deposit growth, as well as strategic acquisitions and mergers.

The current proposed merger with Marblehead Bancorp will increase the company's assets but will not considerably expand its geographic scope, as has been the case with the majority of the company's past acquisitions. It is evident that the company prefers to remain within its area of competence and is conservatively run. It acquired Edon Bancorp, Inc. (with \$62M in assets) in 2020, as well as NBM Bancorp, Inc. (\$109M in assets) and Exchange Bancshares, Inc. (\$91M in assets) in 2008 and 2005, respectively.

¹ Estimate

² In millions

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To fuel growth, we would like to see additional acquisitions which can spread the bank's presence to more U.S. states. The company's dividend has increased much more quickly than its EPS, with a 9-year and 5-year CAGR of 14.8% and 10.5%, respectively. We expect slower dividend growth moving forward, but the bank can likely still grow it at a higher rate than its EPS for the time being.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Now	2029
Avg. P/E	8.5	9.5	9.4	12	10.7	12.1	10.7	7.2	9.2	8.2	11.3	10.0
Avg. Yld.	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	1.5%	1.6%	2.0%	2.5%	2.3%	2.5%	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%

SBFG's average PE ratios over the previous ten and five years have been 9.8 and 9.5, respectively. Its current PE ratio of 11.3 exceeds both its average PE ratio and our fair value estimate of 10.0. If the company's valuation were to revert to our estimate of fair value, the stock would incur a -2.5% annualized drag.

We are forecasting dividend growth of 8% in the intermediate term, lower than it's grown in recent years, as the payout ratio is becoming elevated. SBFG has paid an average dividend yield of 2.1% and 2.6%. Given the stock now yields 3.3%, it could be considered undervalued on this basis.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
Payout	15%	17%	18%	16%	21%	24%	20%	17%	27%	30%	37%	40%

SB Financial was among the many banks in the U.S. to cut their dividends during the Great Recession. From 2010 through 2012, SB Financial paid no dividends. Furthermore, when it reinstated its dividend in 2013, it did so at less than one-third of its previous payout (\$0.0238 quarterly vs \$0.0857 prior). Since the dividend was reinstated in 2013, SBFG has increased its dividend every year for an eleven-year consecutive dividend increase streak. During the pandemic, the company fared remarkably well, reporting record net income in 2020.

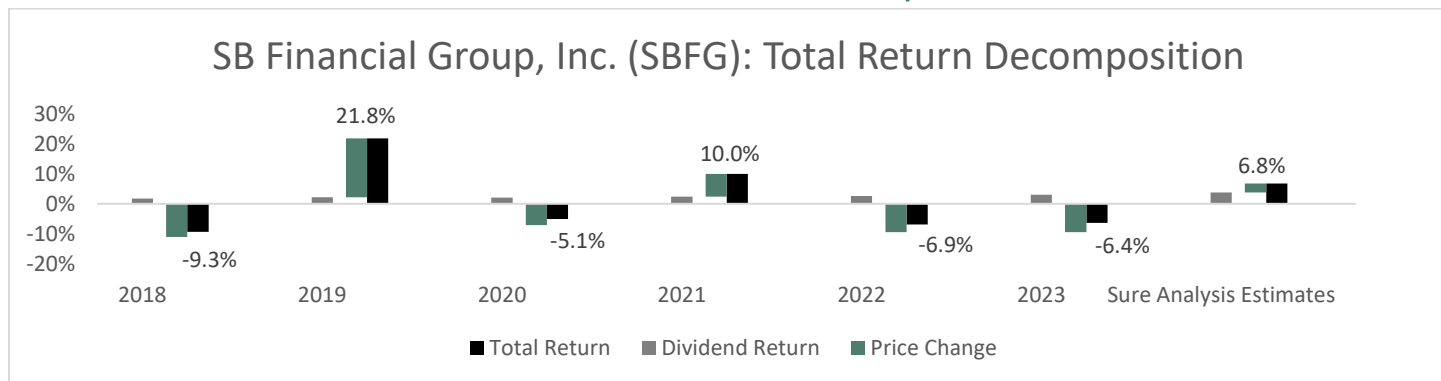
The forecasted payout ratio for 2024 of 37% is fairly elevated against its historical payout ratios, and we expect it will climb further into 2029 as dividend growth may continue to outpace EPS growth.

We don't see SB Financial boasting any strong competitive advantage over its peers in the regional banking industry, as banking services are essentially commoditized. Given SBFG's focus on Ohio, any headwinds in the local economy would have a severe negative impact on the bank.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

The share price of SBFG has risen by 14% year-to-date, which is in-line with the 15% increase of the S&P 500 Index. SB Financial could offer a 6.8% average annual return over the next five years stemming from 6% annual EPS growth and its 3.3% dividend, partly offset by -2.5% multiple compression. We initiate our coverage of SBFG at a hold.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenue	34	39	44	46	50	53	66	69	58	57
SG&A Exp.	14	16	19	20	22	24	27	28	26	24
D&A Exp.	2	2	3	3	3	4	7	6	4	4
Net Profit	5	8	9	11	12	12	15	18	13	12
Net Margin	15.6%	19.5%	20.1%	24.3%	23.3%	22.7%	22.6%	26.7%	21.7%	21.2%
Free Cash Flow	3	1	12	6	12	17	22	15	24	13
Income Tax	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Assets	684	733	816	877	987	1,039	1,258	1,331	1,336	1,343
Cash & Equivalents	28	20	17	27	48	27	147	152	30	25
Goodwill & Int.	22	24	25	26	28	29	30	35	37	37
Total Liab.	609	652	729	783	856	902	1,115	1,186	1,217	1,219
Accounts Payable	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
Long-Term Debt	30	35	27	19	16	16	8	25	80	103
Total Equity	62	67	73	80	116	136	143	145	118	124
LTD/E Ratio	0.40	0.43	0.31	0.20	0.12	0.12	0.06	0.17	0.67	0.83

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Return on Assets	0.8%	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%
Return on Equity	8.0%	9.7%	10.5%	12.3%	10.4%	9.0%	10.7%	12.7%	9.5%	10.0%
ROIC	5.9%	6.9%	7.7%	9.8%	9.0%	8.0%	9.9%	11.4%	6.8%	5.7%
Shares Out.	5.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	8.1	8.3	8.0	7.5	7.1	6.9
Revenue/Share	6.51	5.79	6.53	6.84	6.16	6.34	8.24	9.62	8.14	8.24
FCF/Share	0.60	0.21	1.85	0.91	1.46	2.01	2.74	2.08	3.34	1.88

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

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