



Icahn Enterprises L.P. (IEP)

Updated November 12th, 2024 by Nikolaos Sismanis

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$12.66	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	7.8%	Market Cap:	\$6.38 B
Fair Value Price:	\$12.66	5 Year Growth Estimate:	-5.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	11/18/2024
% Fair Value:	100%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	0.0%	Dividend Payment Date:	12/26/2024
Dividend Yield:	15.8%	5 Year Price Target	\$9.80	Years Of Dividend Growth:	0
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Through its subsidiaries, Icahn Enterprises L.P. operates in investment, energy, automotive, food packaging, metals, real estate and home fashion businesses in the United States and Internationally. The company's Investment segment focuses on finding undervalued companies to allocate capital through its various private investment funds. Significant positions include FirstEnergy Corporation (FE), Xerox Corporation (XRX), Herc Holdings, Inc. (HRI), Newell Brands, Inc. (NWL), and Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc. (SWX). Some of its positions ultimately result in control or complete ownership of the target company. For example, in 2012, the company acquired a controlling interest in CVR Energy (CVI). After continuous stake additions, Icahn Enterprises has ended up owning around 71% of the company.

Carl Icahn owns 100% of Icahn Enterprises GP, the general partner of Icahn Enterprises and Icahn Enterprises Holdings, and approximately 90% of Icahn Enterprises' outstanding shares.

On November 8th, 2024, the partnership halved its quarterly distribution to \$0.50. This follow last year's 50% cut.

On the same day, the partnership reported its Q3 results for the period ending September 30th, 2024. For the quarter, revenues came in at \$2.22 billion, 26% lower year-over-year, while the income per unit was \$0.05 compared to a negative \$0.01 in Q3-2023. Lower sales were due to Icahn's portfolio recording weaker results compared to last year.

The company employs a complex accounting method by realizing revenues through its investment funds, not its subsidiaries' actual sales. Consequently, the company posts net losses in operating activities and only profits from its "investment activities" segment of its cash flows. The company does not specifically report investment income per share.

The partnership's recent distribution cuts may have proven Hindenburg's earlier short report, which argued that the stock is trading at an "inflated" valuation against NAV, to be right.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
EPU	(\$3.08)	(\$9.29)	(\$8.07)	\$14.94	\$11.33	(\$5.38)	(\$7.33)	(\$2.32)	(\$0.57)	(\$1.75)	\$2.00	\$1.55
DPS	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$2.00	\$1.55
Units¹	119	126	137	161	180	200	221	260	316	382	477	700

Note that we are using earnings per unit (EPU) and distributions per share (DPS) as Icahn Enterprises is structured as an MLP (Master Limited Partnership). The company essentially operates like a hedge fund, making it difficult to forecast net investment income per unit. Distributions have not historically been covered by EPU, though through another complexity, they actually are. Mr. Icahn owns 90% of the units. When the company declares a distribution, Mr. Icahn chooses to be paid in additional units instead of receiving the actual cash payment. Hence, the company does pay a huge distribution per unit, but only on around 10% of its total units. As a result, every quarter, Mr. Icahn increases his ownership stake (or maintains it by then selling the units) in the company through DRIP, as the table above showing units over time illustrates.

¹ Unit count is in millions.

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We have used an underlying earnings power estimate of \$2.00 per unit for our estimates, assuming that the company pays out what it could earn overtime. That said, we assume EPU, and thus DPU, decline by 5% per annum over the medium-term. This estimate, albeit somewhat arbitrary, seeks to capture the likelihood of additional reductions in the company's EPU and DPU due to the recent signs of an unsustainable payout strategy. Additionally, it considers the substantial dilution that may result for common unit holders as a consequence of the aforementioned strategy.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Now	2029
Avg. P/E	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.3	6.3
Avg. Yld.	3.2%	5.2%	7.6%	11.3%	11.6%	8.8%	11.3%	16.0%	14.5%	18.3%	15.8%	15.8%

Due to the company's obscure reporting, the stock's historical valuation is not meaningful. If we assume that the company distributes all of its potential profits due to its MLP structure, units are currently trading around 4 times its prospective income. The seemingly depressed valuation is due to speculation over IEP's actual NAV as well as the most recent distribution cut. We remind investors that due to Mr. Icahn's strategy to increase his ownership in the company, Icahn Enterprises has been able to maintain hefty distributions due to not having to pay the majority of the actual payments in cash. Icahn Enterprises is a truly unique stock and likely one of the most peculiar we have encountered in terms of reporting. Thus, we are not making forecasts with regards to the valuation's future multiple.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

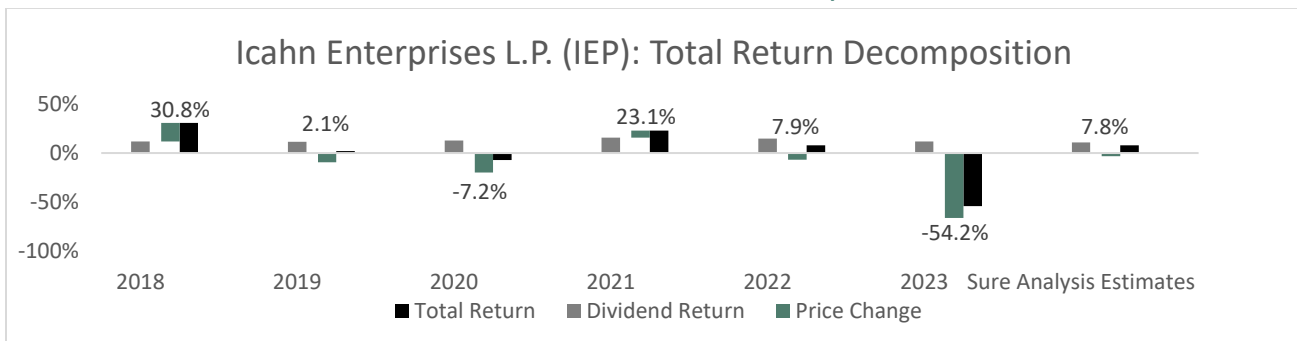
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
Payout	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100%	100%

The stock's distribution could be considered safe in the sense that only a small part of the company's shares receives the underlying DPU. For context, in FY2021, investing activities reported cash flows of \$282 million, while the company only paid out \$226 million in distributions. Still, even investing cash flows can often be oddly derived and do not provide a clear picture. The company does not have a competitive advantage, in our view, since it essentially operates like a hedge fund. Shareholders are subject to various risks, including obscure accounting, lack of guidance, and no voice in how the operation is run. Essentially, unit-holders are trusting in Mr. Icahn's ability to deliver value.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Icahn Enterprises is an unusual company. With some of its units witnessing a dip in value subsequent to a recent distribution reduction, the stock has seemingly lost favor among investors, even though its current yield remains notably substantial. On the whole, this security remains considerably speculative from every angle, while common unit-holders have no say in how the business is run. Units earn a hold rating, but we feel only investors who can adequately digest the partnership's investing strategy, reporting, and financial engineering practices should consider purchasing the stock.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenue	19,322	15,990	8,580	10,049	11,223	10,386	7,423	10,940	14,130	11,850
Gross Profit	2,224	2,606	1,112	1,311	1,692	1,656	1,103	1,460	2,437	2,500
Gross Margin	11.5%	16.3%	13.0%	13.0%	15.1%	15.9%	14.9%	13.3%	17.2%	21.1%
SG&A Exp.	1,625	1,908	1,001	1,269	1,386	1,376	1,191	1,241	1,250	852
D&A Exp.	809	863	526	518	508	519	510	517	509	518
Operating Profit	631	698	111	42	306	280	(575)	(294)	604	886
Operating Margin	3.3%	4.4%	1.3%	0.4%	2.7%	2.7%	-7.7%	-2.7%	4.3%	7.5%
Net Profit	(373)	(1,194)	(1,128)	2,454	1,482	(1,098)	(1,653)	(518)	(183)	(684)
Net Margin	-1.9%	-7.5%	-13.1%	24.4%	13.2%	-10.6%	-22.3%	-4.7%	-1.3%	-5.8%
Free Cash Flow	(1,801)	(611)	971	(1,664)	651	(1,710)	(615)	16	717	3,433
Income Tax	(103)	68	(88)	(532)	(14)	20	(116)	(78)	34	90

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Assets	35,790	36,407	33,371	31,801	23,489	24,639	24,990	27,750	27,910	20,860
Cash & Equivalents	2,908	2,078	1,833	1,164	2,656	3,794	1,699	2,321	2,337	2,951
Accounts Receivable	1,691	1,685	1,609	473	474	475	502	546	606	485
Inventories	1,879	2,259	2,983	1,730	1,779	1,812	1,580	1,478	1,531	1,047
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	3,088	2,612	2,252	871	748	713	958	885	821	754
Total Liabilities	23,400	26,374	25,354	20,433	10,509	13,697	15,730	18,400	18,360	14,780
Accounts Payable	1,387	1,416	1,765	980	832	945	738	805	870	830
Long-Term Debt	11,588	12,453	11,119	7,372	7,326	8,192	8,059	7,692	7,096	7,207
Shareholder's Equity	5,443	3,987	2,154	5,106	6,560	5,456	3,382	3,544	3,900	3,208

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Return on Assets	-1.1%	-3.3%	-3.2%	7.5%	5.4%	-4.6%	-6.7%	-2.0%	-0.7%	-2.8%
Return on Equity	-6.5%	-25.3%	-36.7%	67.6%	25.4%	-18.3%	-37.4%	-15.0%	-4.9%	-8.8%
ROIC	-2.1%	-6.4%	-6.4%	16.0%	10.8%	-8.0%	-12.0%	-3.4%	-1.4%	-6.0%
Shares Out.	119	126	137	161	180	200	221	260	316	382
Revenue/Share	161.51	126.90	62.63	62.42	62.35	51.93	33.59	42.08	44.70	31.01
FCF/Share	(15.05)	(4.85)	7.09	(10.34)	3.62	(8.55)	(2.78)	0.06	2.27	8.99

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

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