



# Sure Passive Income

Rising Passive Income From Buy & Hold Forever Securities

## March 2025 Edition

By Ben Reynolds & Nikos Sismanis

Edited by Brad Beams

Published on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

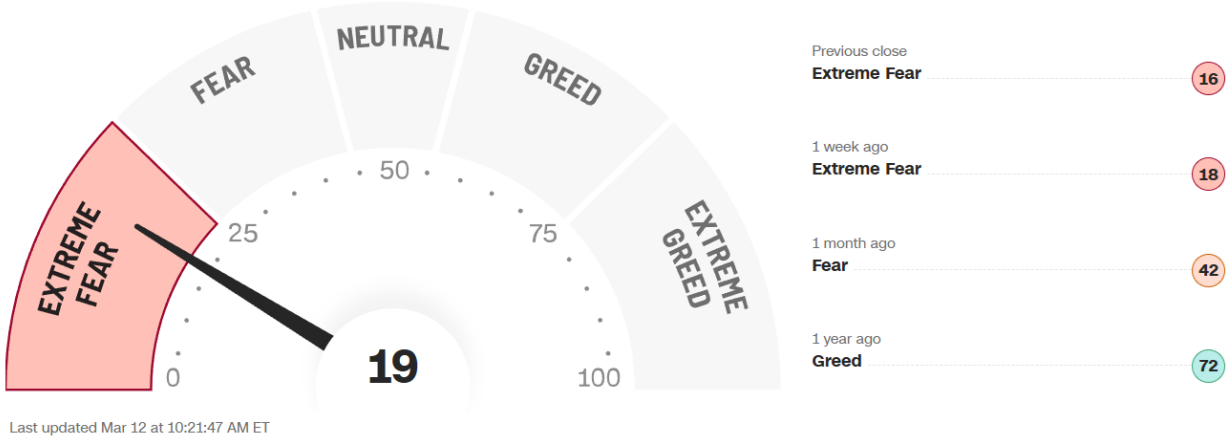
# Table of Contents

<b>Opening Thoughts - Don't Fear A Discount - .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sure Passive Income Top 10 – March 2025 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Automatic Data Processing Inc. (ADP) .....	5
Elevance Health Inc. (ELV).....	9
Atmos Energy Corp. (ATO) .....	13
Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) .....	17
UnitedHealth Group Inc. (UNH) .....	21
Yum! Brands Inc. (YUM).....	25
The Home Depot Inc. (HD) .....	29
American Water Works Co. Inc. (AWK) .....	33
WEC Energy Group Inc. (WEC) .....	37
McCormick & Co. Inc. (MKC) .....	41
<b>Buying &amp; Ranking Criteria .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Portfolio Building Guide .....</b>	<b>46</b>
Examples.....	46
<b>Past Recommendation Performance &amp; Sells.....</b>	<b>47</b>
Past Recommendations (Unsold).....	47
Past Recommendations (Sold).....	49
Performance Summary .....	49
<b>List of Securities by Dividend Risk Score.....</b>	<b>50</b>

# Opening Thoughts

## - Don't Fear A Discount -

The S&P 500 ETF (SPY) declined 9.3% from February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 through March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. CNN's fear gauge says the market currently exhibits "Extreme Fear."



Source: [CNN](#), from morning 3/12/25.

Around 10% market declines are not uncommon. There have been 21 10%+ market corrections<sup>1</sup> since 1980. Something that happens almost annually on average is not cause for real "extreme fear."

Fears surrounding the impacts of tariffs appear to be causing the market selloff. Just as it's important to understand the historical frequency of an ~10% market decline, it's also important to recognize that this is not the first time in recent years that the U.S. has implemented tariffs.

The average tariff rate<sup>2</sup> of all imported goods to the United States went from 1.5% to 2.8% from 2016 to 2020. The tariff rate doubled, from 1.5% to 3.0% from 2016 through 2021. It is expected to go to 7.1% in 2025, more than doubling from previous highs.

While this is a change, it's not something that's worlds different from what U.S. businesses have experienced in the last decade. Businesses exist in a competitive landscape with one another. Tariffs are very unlikely to pose an existential threat to quality businesses with long histories of success – the type of businesses we focus on in the *Sure Passive Income Newsletter*.

There's no telling what the market will do. But market fluctuations, whatever their cause, present an *opportunity* to buy shares of great dividend growth stocks at discounts.

***"We simply attempt to be fearful when others are greedy and to be greedy only when others are fearful."***

– Warren Buffett, [Berkshire Hathaway 1986 Chairman's Letter](#)

When you see the market is down 10% (or more), think to yourself that there's a sale on great businesses (a 10% or more discount). That is not cause for concern, any more than receiving a coupon in the mail for something you'd normally buy is cause for concern.

To your compounding passive income,

Ben Reynolds

Founder, Sure Dividend

**The next *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* publishes on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

<sup>1</sup> Source: [Baird Private Wealth Management](#).

<sup>2</sup> Source: Data for this paragraph is from [Statista](#).

## Sure Passive Income Top 10 – March 2025

Name & Ticker	Sector	Div. Risk Score	Stock Price	# Years Div. Increases	Div. Yield	Exp. Growth	Exp. Growth + Div. Yield
<a href="#">Automatic Data (ADP)</a>	Industrials	A	\$291	50	2.1%	9.0%	11.1%
<a href="#">Elevance Health (ELV)</a>	Health Care	A	\$419	15	1.6%	9.0%	10.6%
<a href="#">Atmos Energy (ATO)</a>	Utilities	A	\$147	41	2.4%	7.0%	9.4%
<a href="#">Johnson &amp; Johnson (JNJ)</a>	Health Care	A	\$163	62	3.0%	6.0%	9.0%
<a href="#">UnitedHealth Group (UNH)</a>	Health Care	B	\$482	15	1.7%	10.0%	11.7%
<a href="#">Yum! Brands (YUM)</a>	Cons. Disc.	B	\$153	8	1.9%	9.0%	10.9%
<a href="#">Home Depot (HD)</a>	Cons. Disc.	B	\$349	16	2.6%	8.0%	10.6%
<a href="#">American Water (AWK)</a>	Utilities	B	\$140	16	2.2%	8.0%	10.2%
<a href="#">WEC Energy Group (WEC)</a>	Utilities	B	\$105	22	3.4%	6.0%	9.4%
<a href="#">McCormick (MKC)</a>	Cons. Staples	B	\$81	39	2.2%	7.0%	9.2%

**Notes & Disclosures:** Data for the table above is from the 3/14/25 spreadsheet of our [Sure Analysis Research Database](#) and general data over the same week. “Div.” stands for Dividend. “# Years Div. Increases” shows the consecutive years of dividend growth. “Exp. Growth” means expected annualized growth on a per share basis over the next five years. Data in the table above might be slightly different than individual company analysis pages due to writing the company reports throughout the past week.

**Disclosures:** Ben Reynolds is long JNJ. Sure Dividend is long ATO and UNH.

The following securities were replaced in the March 2025 Top 10: Nordson (NDSN), Hormel Foods (HRL), Graco (GGG) and Mondelez (MDLZ) were replaced by Automatic Data Processing (ADP), Elevance Health (ELV), Yum! Brands (YUM) and Home Depot (HD). As a reminder, securities that fall out of the Top 10 are *holds*, not sells.

The Top 10 has the following average characteristics:

	Sure Passive Income Top 10	S&P 500
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.3%	1.4%
<b>Growth Rate:</b>	7.9%	5.5%

Please keep reading to see detailed analyses of this month’s Top 10.

**Note:** Data for this newsletter is from 3/11/25 through 3/14/25.

# Automatic Data Processing Inc. (ADP)

## Overview & Current Events

ADP is a cloud-based human resource (HR) capital management solutions platform that operates globally. The company has two operating segments: Employer Services and its Professional Employer Organization (PEO). The Employer Services segment offers HR outsourcing solutions, including payroll, benefits administration, talent management, workforce management, compliance services, and HCM solutions. PEO offers similar services to small and mid-sized businesses. ADP was founded in 1949, generates over \$19 billion in annual revenue, and trades with a market cap of \$118.2 billion. In addition, the company has a 50-year dividend increase streak.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, ADP released its Q2 fiscal 2025 results, for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Earnings surpassed expectations on both the top and bottom lines. Adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) came in at \$2.35, exceeding estimates by \$0.05. Revenue grew more than 8% year-over-year to \$5 billion, beating expectations by \$40 million. Strength was driven by better-than-expected revenue growth and margin expansion, supported by new business bookings and higher client funds interest revenue.

Employer Services revenue increased 8% to \$3.39 billion compared to last year. Segment earnings rose 11% to \$1.18 billion, with a pretax margin improving 90 basis points to 34.9%. PEO Services revenue also grew 8% year-over-year to \$1.66 billion, though segment earnings declined modestly to \$252 million. Still, pretax margin expanded from 24.5% to 25.0%.

Management reaffirmed its fiscal 2025 guidance, forecasting 6% to 7% revenue growth, 7% to 9% adjusted EPS growth, and 30 to 50 basis points of adjusted EBIT margin expansion.

## Safety

ADP's dividend safety is outstanding, given that it has a high level of predictable earnings and limited long-term debt. Recessions are somewhat harmful for the company's earnings, in that its revenue and earnings are reliant upon high employment. However, apart from the most severe recessions, ADP has experienced excellent earnings stability and growth throughout its history. During the Great Recession, earnings-per-share increased in fiscal 2008 and 2009, then fell by just 8.7% in fiscal 2010. Earnings-per-share also grew in 2020 and 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADP's payout ratio is 62% of earnings for fiscal 2025. Given the slight earnings declines the company has experienced during past recessions, we believe a dividend cut would be unlikely even in the event of an economic downturn. ADP's history of half a century of dividend growth looks to remain intact for many years to come. In addition, ADP could fund its dividend temporarily from its balance sheet.

## Growth Prospects

ADP's earnings-per-share have grown by nearly 14% annually on average over the past decade; a highly attractive growth record. We believe ADP can produce 9% growth going forward, which could accrue from a combination of revenue growth, margin expansion, and share repurchases. ADP is seeing a sizable tailwind from higher interest rates, as the company can earn more interest from payroll customer funds it holds. With unemployment remaining relatively low, ADP's revenue should stay strong. Barring a prolonged recession, we see the outlook for ADP as quite strong.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	50	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	9.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.1%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	10.0%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	A	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$291

## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	10,939	11,668	12,372	13,328	14,175	14,590	15,005	16,047	17,199	19,203
<b>Gross Profit</b>	4,511	4,828	5,128	5,517	6,089	6,145	6,365	6,585	7,245	8,726
<b>Gross Margin</b>	41.2%	41.4%	41.4%	41.4%	43.0%	42.1%	42.4%	41.0%	42.1%	45.4%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	2,497	2,637	2,774	2,959	3,064	3,003	3,041	3,233	3,551	3,745
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	278	289	316	378	409	480	511	515	549	562
<b>Operating Profit</b>	2,014	2,191	2,354	2,557	3,024	3,142	3,325	3,351	3,694	4,981
<b>Operating Margin</b>	18.4%	18.8%	19.0%	19.2%	21.3%	21.5%	22.2%	20.9%	21.5%	25.9%
<b>Net Profit</b>	1,453	1,493	1,788	1,885	2,293	2,467	2,599	2,949	3,412	3,752
<b>Net Margin</b>	13.3%	12.8%	14.5%	14.1%	16.2%	16.9%	17.3%	18.4%	19.8%	19.5%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	1,639	1,511	1,655	2,044	2,122	2,410	2,587	2,546	3,636	3,594
<b>Income Tax</b>	694	741	829	398	713	716	763	855	1,026	1,120

## Balance Sheet Metrics

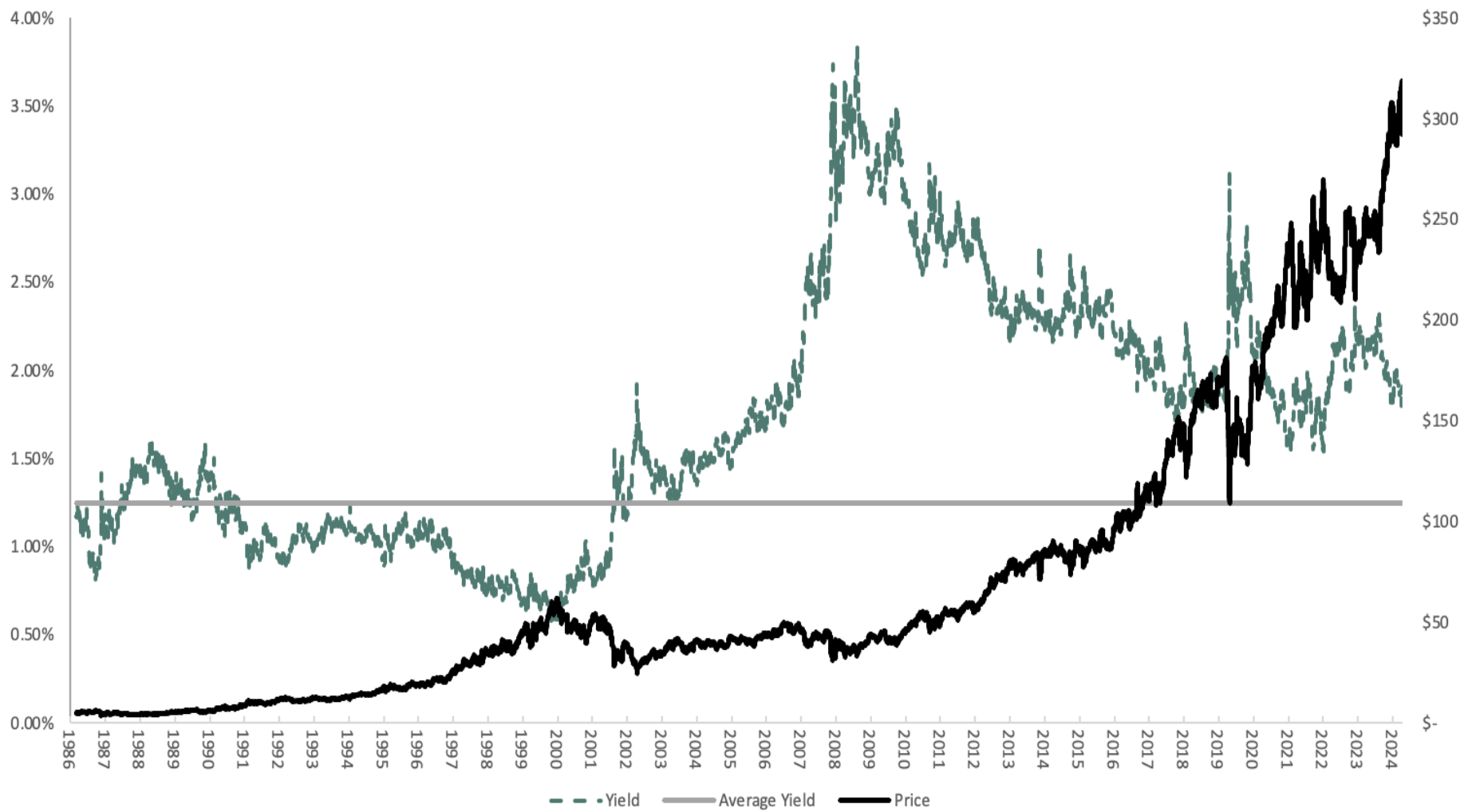
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	33,111	43,670	37,180	38,849	41,888	39,166	48,773	63,068	50,971	54,363
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	1,639	3,191	2,780	2,170	1,949	1,909	2,575	1,436	2,084	2,913
<b>Acc. Receivable</b>	1,547	1,743	1,704	1,984	2,439	2,441	2,727	3,171	3,010	3,428
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int.</b>	2,297	2,216	2,361	3,130	3,395	3,525	3,549	3,634	3,683	3,690
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	28,302	39,188	33,203	34,113	36,488	33,413	43,102	59,843	47,462	49,815
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	195	152	150	135	126	102	141	110	97	101
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	9	2,008	2,002	2,002	2,002	2,005	2,985	3,124	2,989	3,377
<b>Total Equity</b>	4,809	4,482	3,977	4,736	5,400	5,752	5,670	3,225	3,509	4,548
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.00	0.45	0.50	0.42	0.37	0.35	0.53	0.97	0.85	0.74

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

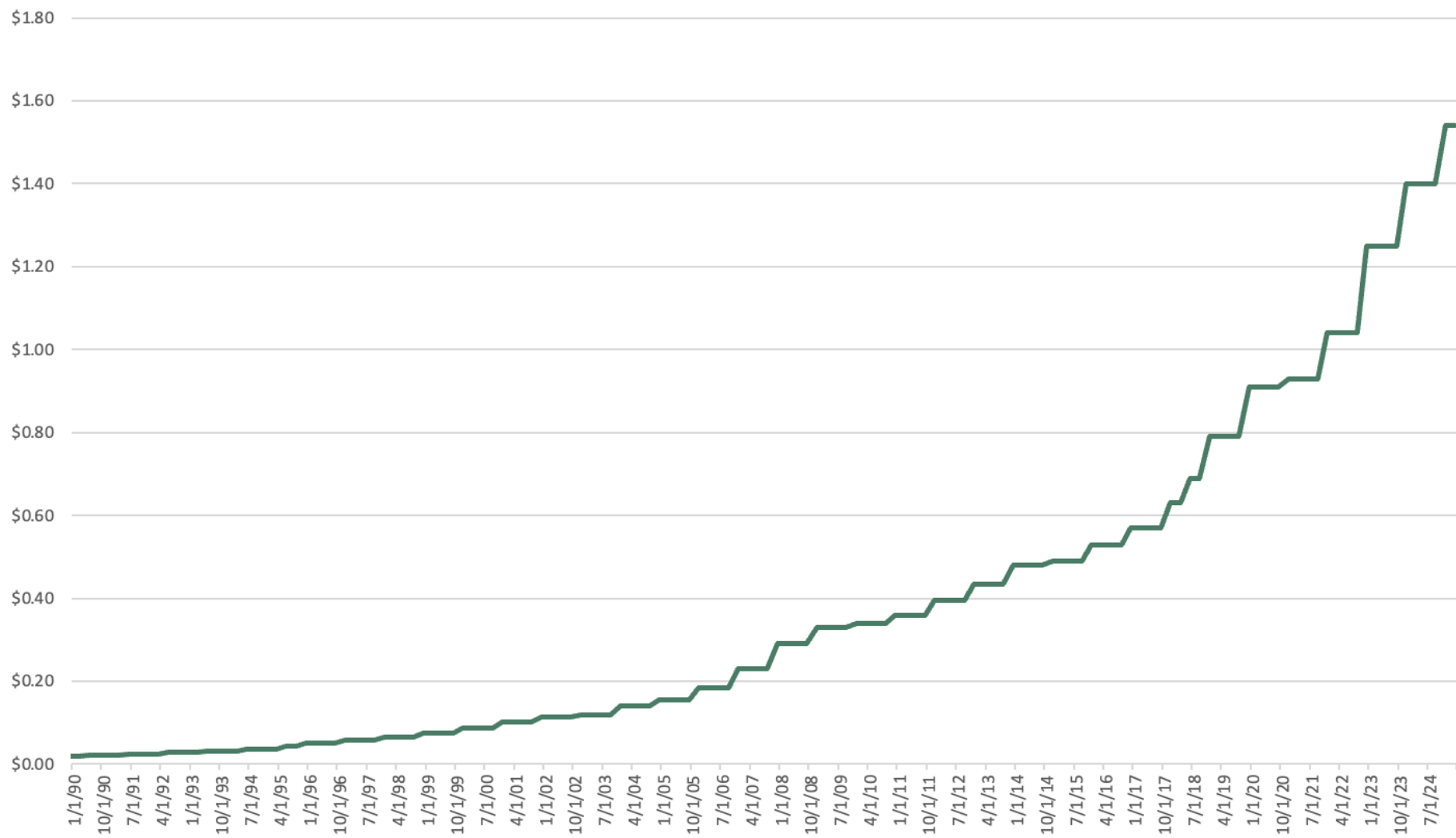
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	4.5%	3.9%	4.4%	5.0%	5.7%	6.1%	5.9%	5.3%	6.0%	7.1%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	25.3%	32.1%	42.3%	43.3%	45.2%	44.2%	45.5%	66.3%	101%	93.1%
<b>ROIC</b>	21.2%	26.4%	28.7%	29.6%	32.4%	32.5%	31.7%	39.2%	53.7%	51.7%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	466	456	445	439	436	429	424	421	416	412
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	22.99	25.41	27.48	30.06	32.39	33.72	35.05	38.11	41.37	46.59
<b>FCF/Share</b>	3.44	3.29	3.68	4.61	4.85	5.57	6.04	6.05	8.75	8.72

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

### Automatic Data Processing Inc (ADP) Dividend Yield History



### Automatic Data Processing Inc (ADP) Dividend Per Share History





# Elevance Health Inc. (ELV)

## Overview & Current Events

Elevance Health is a healthcare benefits company serving nearly 46 million members through its plans. The company offers managed care plans to a wide range of markets, including individual, commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid. Its two largest customer segments are government programs (~60% of annual sales) and commercial businesses (~30% of sales). Elevance generates annual revenues of \$177 billion and has a market capitalization of \$94.9 billion.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, Elevance raised its dividend by 4.9% to a quarterly rate of \$1.71.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Elevance reported its Q4 and full-year 2024 results. Quarterly revenue grew by 5.9% to \$45 billion, beating estimates by \$280 million. Adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) fell to \$3.84 from \$5.62 last year, missing expectations by \$0.01.

Revenue growth stemmed from higher premium yields in Health Benefits and higher product revenue for CarelonRx, partially offset by declining Medicaid membership. The benefit expense ratio rose 320 basis points to 92.4% in Q4 and 150 basis points to 88.5% for the year due to Medicaid cost trends. Further, Health Benefits revenue grew 3% to \$37.6 billion, while medical membership declined by 1.1 million (2%) year-over-year, primarily due to Medicaid eligibility changes. Offsetting this decline were gains in Employer Group fee-based and Affordable Care Act memberships. Carelon revenue surged 19% to \$14.7 billion, driven by Carelon Services growth and acquisitions. Elevance forecasts 2025 adjusted EPS of \$34.15 to \$34.85, implying 4.4% growth at the midpoint.

## Safety

Elevance's dividend safety is bolstered by its strong position in the managed healthcare industry, which tends to generate stable and recurring revenue regardless of broader economic conditions. As one of the nation's largest health benefits providers, the company benefits from a sizable membership base that drives consistent cash flow, even during economic downturns. Earnings-per-share did indeed decline from \$5.57 to \$4.95 for the 2007 to 2009 period. However, the company returned to growth the very next year. Earnings-per-share grew consistently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

Today, the company's payout ratio is at a moderate 20% of this year's projected earnings (it has historically hovered around the low- to mid-20% range), leaving ample headroom for continued dividend increases. Also, although Elevance carries a sizable debt load, its healthy cash generation and stable membership revenues help mitigate leverage concerns.

## Growth Prospects

Elevance has increased its EPS at an impressive annual rate of nearly 15% over the past decade. This growth has been driven by business advancements and share repurchases, which have reduced the company's share count by 1.3% annually during this period.

Considering the company's size and current guidance, we project a more conservative earnings growth rate of 9% going forward, to be driven by continued membership growth, accretive M&A opportunities and partnerships, and disciplined cost management. The aging U.S. population and rising demand for healthcare services should also act as tailwinds, while ongoing share repurchases will further boost per share results.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	15	<b>5-Years Growth Estimate:</b>	9.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	1.6%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	4.9%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	A	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$419

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	79157	84863	90040	92105	104213	121867	138639	156595	171340	176810
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	908	912	891	1132	1133	1154	1302	1675	1745	1393
<b>Net Profit</b>	2560	2470	3843	3750	4807	4572	6158	5894	5987	5980
<b>Net Margin</b>	3.2%	2.9%	4.3%	4.1%	4.6%	3.8%	4.4%	3.8%	3.5%	3.4%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	3574	2686	3394	2619	4984	9667	7277	7247	6765	4552
<b>Income Tax</b>	2071	2085	121	1318	1178	1666	1846	1712	1724	1933

### Balance Sheet Metrics

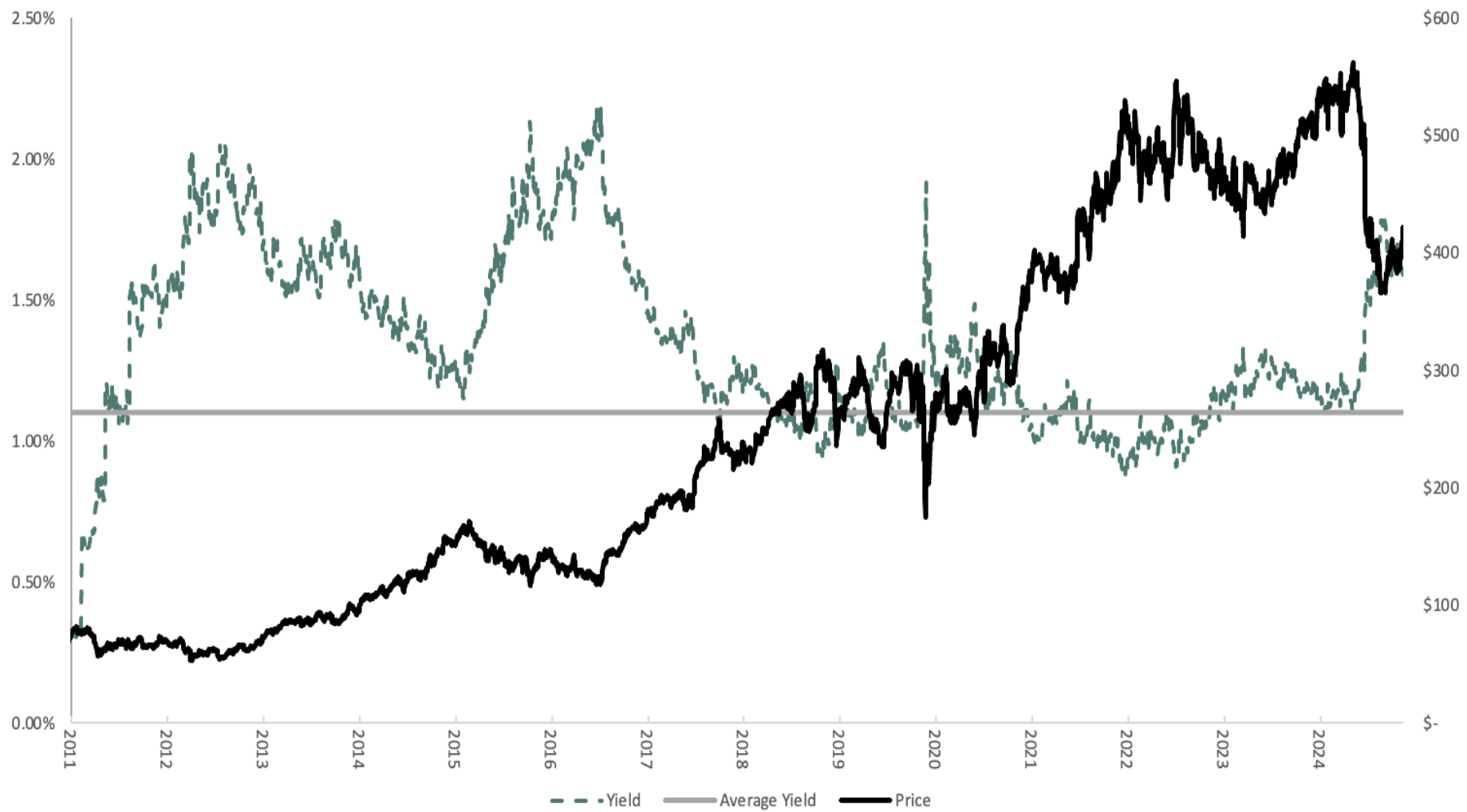
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	61718	65083	70540	71571	77453	86615	97460	102755	108928	116673
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	2114	4075	3609	3934	4937	5741	4880	7387	6526	8288
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	4603	5861	6185	6743	5014	5279	5681	7083	7902	18796
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	25720	25526	27599	29511	29174	31096	34843	34698	35590	40371
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	38674	39983	44037	43030	45725	53416	61332	66425	69523	75247
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	10889	11908	13016	12413	13040	16852	18488	21203	23021	15626
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	15865	15727	19932	19211	20085	20035	23031	24114	25120	31232
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	23044	25100	26503	28541	31728	33199	36060	36243	39306	41315
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.69	0.63	0.75	0.67	0.63	0.60	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.76

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

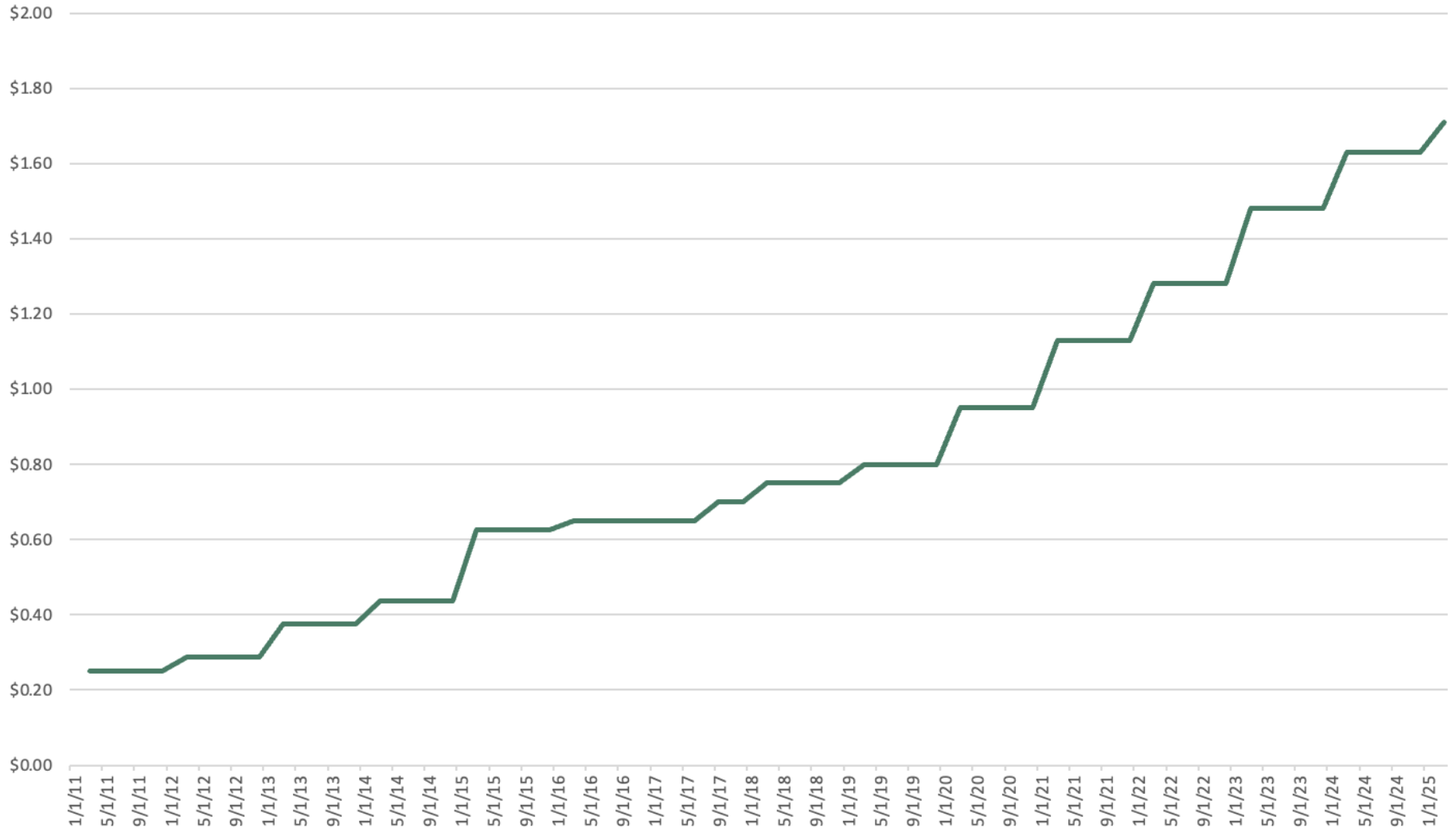
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	4.1%	3.9%	5.7%	5.3%	6.5%	5.6%	6.7%	5.9%	5.7%	5.3%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	10.8%	10.3%	14.9%	13.6%	16.0%	14.1%	17.8%	16.3%	15.8%	14.8%
<b>ROIC</b>	6.5%	6.2%	8.8%	8.0%	9.7%	8.7%	11.0%	9.9%	9.6%	8.7%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	261	264	256	257	253	245	247	241	236	231
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	290.06	316.53	336.22	362.19	400.36	479.23	561.75	644.95	721.74	759.17
<b>FCF/Share</b>	13.10	10.02	12.67	10.30	19.15	38.01	29.49	29.85	28.50	19.54

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

### Elevance Health Inc (ELV) Dividend Yield History



### Elevance Health Inc (ELV) Dividend Per Share History



# Atmos Energy Corp. (ATO)

## Overview & Current Events

Atmos Energy's roots stretch back to 1906, when it was founded in Texas. Over the decades, Atmos has evolved into one of the largest natural gas-only distributors in the U.S, delivering reliable energy across eight states to more than 3 million customers. Through a blend of strategic mergers and steady organic growth, Atmos has a market capitalization of \$23 billion. Last year, the company generated \$4.2 billion in revenue. An especially noteworthy achievement is its 41-year streak of annual dividend hikes, placing Atmos among the elite group of stocks known as Dividend Aristocrats.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Atmos reported its Q1 results for fiscal 2025 (its Fiscal Year ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>), for the period ending December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Its results surpassed expectations.

Earnings-per-share came in at \$2.23, topping consensus estimates by two cents and marking an over 7% increase year-over-year. The company's consolidated operating income increased 15% to \$459 million, driven by \$69 million in rate increases and an additional \$10 million from customer growth. However, operating expenses increased by \$41 million due to a higher headcount, compliance costs, and expanded pipeline safety initiatives.

During Q1, Atmos secured over \$1 billion in long-term debt and equity financing, which included \$650 million in long-term debt and \$380 million in equity forward agreements, boosting its total available liquidity to \$5.2 billion.

With a strong start to the year, we now project adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) of \$7.20 for 2025.

## Safety

Atmos Energy stands out for its highly predictable, recession-resistant business model, anchored by a regulated natural gas distribution network facing minimal direct competition across its servicing areas. The essential nature of natural gas usage ensures consistent demand. Even during economic downturns, residential and commercial customers typically maintain their consumption levels.

This stability was evident during the 2020 recession, when Atmos continued to perform reliably. The company's payout ratio stands below 50%, which is a conservative ratio for a utility. The safe payout ratio supports the 2.4% dividend yield and makes future dividend growth quite likely.

## Growth Prospects

Atmos has demonstrated a consistent upward trend in earnings-per-share over the past decade, powered by both organic growth and acquisitions. We expect this momentum to continue, and project an annual EPS growth rate of 7.0% through 2030. We believe Atmos can achieve this growth through further improvements in gross margins, the continued reduction of operating costs as a percentage of revenue, and steady top-line gains driven by acquisitions and customer base expansion.

Further, the company's track record of filing favorable rate cases has regularly resulted in incremental revenue increases, also supporting our conviction that Atmos can achieve high to mid-single-digit EPS growth. While the distribution segment remains the primary growth driver, we note that pipeline and storage has underperformed by comparison, despite a strong showing in 2024.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	41	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	7.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.4%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	8.1%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	A	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$147

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	2927	2455	2760	3116	2902	2,821	3,407	4,202	4,275	4,165
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1631	1708	1834	1948	2043	2,162	2,375	2,519	2,058	2,412
<b>Gross Margin</b>	55.7%	69.6%	66.5%	62.5%	70.4%	76.6%	69.7%	59.9%	48.1%	57.9%
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	275	293	320	361	391	430	478	536	604	670
<b>Operating Profit</b>	612	657	736	728	746	824	905	921	1,067	1,355
<b>Operating Margin</b>	20.9%	26.8%	26.7%	23.4%	25.7%	29.2%	26.6%	21.9%	25.0%	32.5%
<b>Net Profit</b>	315	350	396	603	511	601	666	774	886	1,043
<b>Net Margin</b>	10.8%	14.3%	14.4%	19.4%	17.6%	21.3%	19.5%	18.4%	20.7%	25.0%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	-152	-292	-270	-343	-725	-898	-3,054	-1,467	654	-1,203
<b>Income Tax</b>	190	197	221	8	139	145	154	78	114	193

### Balance Sheet Metrics

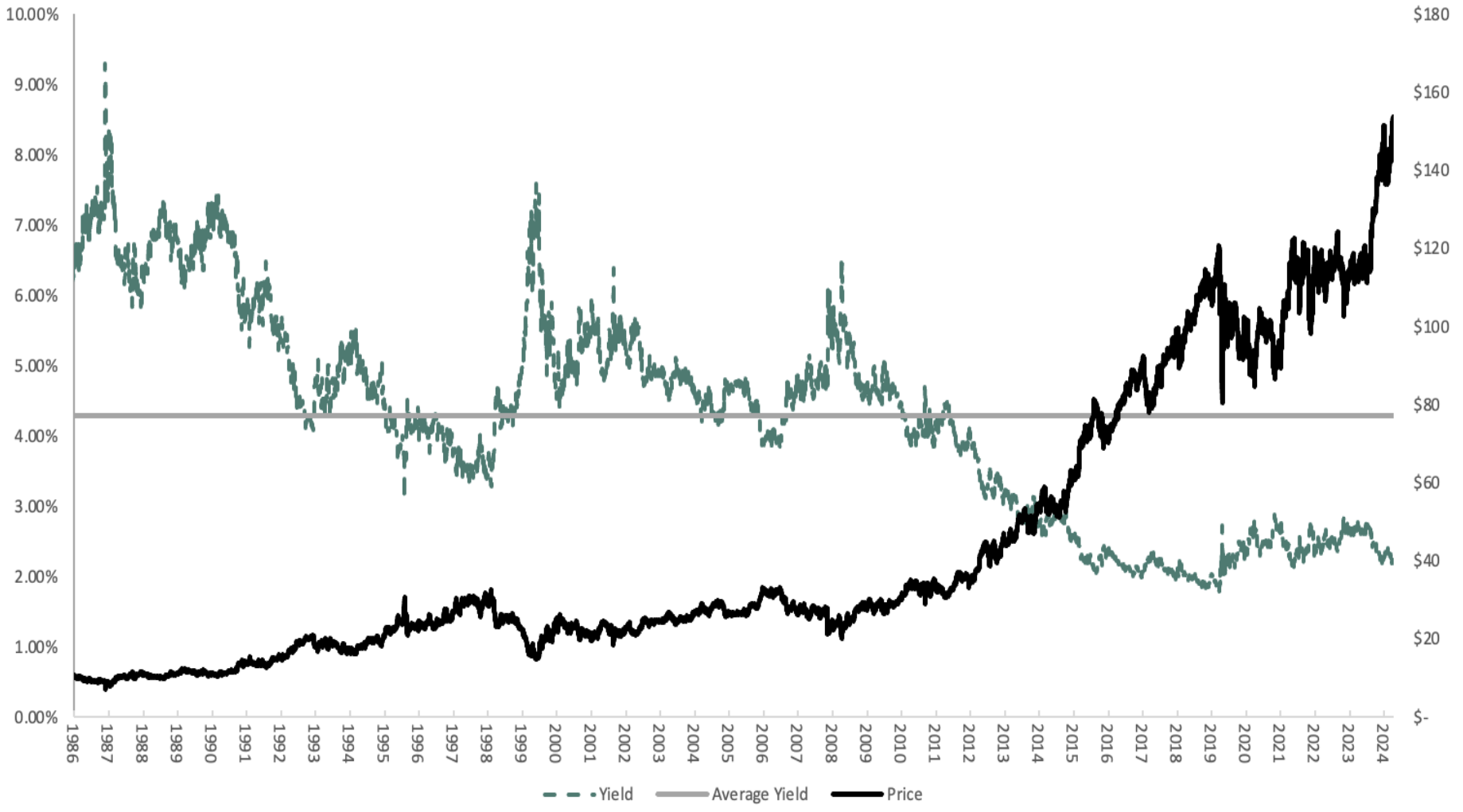
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	9075	10011	10750	11874	13368	15,359	19,609	22,193	22,517	25,194
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	29	48	26	14	25	21	117	52	15	307
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	205	120	135	139	127	140	343	258	329	221
<b>Inventories</b>	249	185	189	174	136	119	178	384	246	186
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	743	727	730	730	731	731	731	731	823	814
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	5880	6548	6851	7104	7617	8,568	11,702	12,774	11,647	13,037
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	79	114	143	135	177	141	423	259	218	342
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	2895	3269	3515	3644	3994	4,523	4,930	8,095	6,893	7,870
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	3195	3463	3899	4770	5750	6,791	7,907	9,419	10,870	12,158
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.91	0.94	0.90	0.76	0.69	0.67	0.62	0.86	0.63	0.65

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

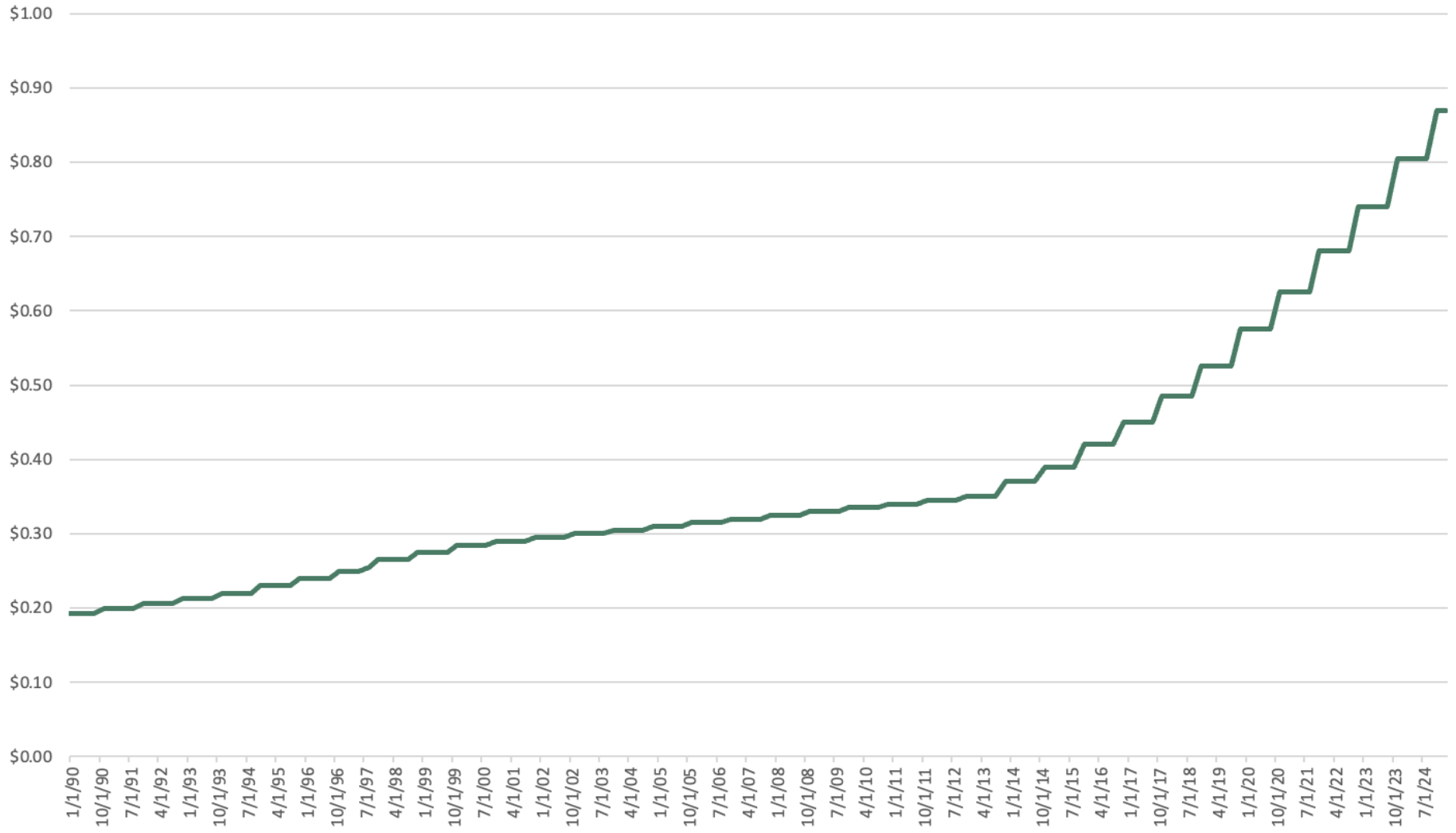
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%	5.3%	4.1%	4.2%	3.8%	3.7%	4.0%	4.4%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	10.0%	10.5%	10.8%	13.9%	9.7%	9.6%	9.1%	8.9%	8.7%	9.1%
<b>ROIC</b>	5.3%	5.5%	5.6%	7.6%	5.6%	5.7%	5.0%	4.8%	5.0%	5.5%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	100	101	104	106	117	123	130	138	145	153
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	28.73	23.71	26.01	28.06	24.70	22.96	26.24	30.43	29.45	27.28
<b>FCF/Share</b>	-1.49	-2.82	-2.54	-3.09	-6.17	-7.31	-23.52	-10.62	4.50	-7.88

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

### Atmos Energy Corp (ATO) Dividend Yield History



### Atmos Energy Corp (ATO) Dividend Per Share History





# Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)

## Overview & Current Events

Johnson & Johnson is a diversified healthcare company recognized as a leader in innovative medicines, medical devices, and consumer health products. Founded in 1886, it has grown to employ over 131,000 people worldwide, serving customers in over 60 countries. With a market cap of \$395 billion, Johnson & Johnson ranks among the 25 largest publicly traded companies in the United States.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Johnson & Johnson agreed to acquire Intra-Cellular Therapies (ITCI) for \$14.6 billion. Expected to close this year, the acquisition bolsters J&J's neuroscience portfolio with CAPLYTA for schizophrenia and a pipeline targeting anxiety and Alzheimer's.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, Johnson & Johnson released its Q4 and full-year results for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Quarterly revenue rose 5.1% to \$22.5 billion, beating estimates by \$50 million. Adjusted EPS came in at \$2.04 and beat expectations by \$0.02 but was down from \$2.29 last year.

Annual revenue grew 4.3% to \$88.8 billion, while adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) grew to \$9.98. Results included acquisition-related cost adjustments. Excluding COVID-19 vaccine sales, Q4 revenue grew 5.5%. Innovative Medicines rose 4.4% (6.5% ex-FX), while Infectious Disease fell 9.2% due to a decline in vaccine sales. Oncology increased 19%, driven by Darzalex gains. Immunology declined, with Stelara hit by inventory issues and EU biosimilar competition. MedTech grew 6.7% (7.6% ex-FX), while Cardiovascular rose 23.6% on strong electrophysiology and new products.

The company projects 2025 revenue of \$90.9 to \$91.7 billion and adjusted EPS of \$10.75 to \$10.95.

## Safety

Johnson & Johnson has shown resilience and solid performance through multiple economic downturns. From 2007 to 2009, the company's EPS increased by nearly 12%, showcasing its stability even during challenging times. Although EPS fell by 7.5% in 2020 amid the pandemic's peak, it rebounded swiftly, achieving a new record high the following year. Notably, the company maintained its streak of annual dividend increases throughout both periods, as it has consistently done across several recessions.

With one of the longest dividend growth records in the market, Johnson & Johnson's success in raising dividends is a testament to its diversified business model and careful management. While the spinoff of Kenvue (KVUE) in 2023 slightly narrowed its portfolio, Johnson & Johnson is still a leader in the areas of health care it operates in. For 2025, the anticipated payout ratio is a reasonable 46%, positioning the company well to continue its legacy of dividend growth for the foreseeable future.

## Growth Prospects

Johnson & Johnson has increased its earnings-per-share at a rate of 6.9% annually over the last decade. After the Kenvue spinoff, the higher-margin Innovative Medicines and MedTech businesses remain to drive growth. With a strong oncology pipeline, surgical robotics advancements, and emerging market penetration, J&J is set for sustained earnings growth.

The pending Intra-Cellular Therapies acquisition could also boost growth as that company nears profitability. This mix, along with its long-term track record, supports our forecast of 6.0% annual earnings growth through 2030 and could lead the market to assign a higher valuation to the stock.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	62	<b>5-Years Growth Estimate:</b>	6.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	3.0%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	4.2%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	A	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$163

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	70,074	71,890	76,450	81,581	82,059	82,584	93,775	94,943	85,159	88,821
Gross Profit	48,538	50,101	51,011	54,490	54,503	54,157	63,920	63,854	58,606	61,350
Gross Margin	69.3%	69.7%	66.7%	66.8%	66.4%	65.6%	68.2%	67.3%	68.8%	69.1%
D&A Exp.	3,746	3,754	5,642	6,929	7,009	7,231	7,390	6,970	7,486	---
Operating Profit	18,289	20,891	18,897	21,175	20,970	19,733	23,647	23,703	22,009	21,249
Operating Margin	26.1%	29.1%	24.7%	26.0%	25.6%	23.9%	25.2%	25.0%	25.8%	23.9%
Net Profit	15,409	16,540	1,300	15,297	15,119	14,714	20,878	17,941	35,153	14,066
Net Margin	22.0%	23.0%	1.7%	18.8%	18.4%	17.8%	22.3%	18.9%	41.3%	15.8%
Free Cash Flow	16,106	15,541	17,777	18,531	19,918	20,189	19,758	17,185	17,778	21,249
Income Tax	3,787	3,263	16,373	2,702	2,209	1,783	1,898	3,784	1,736	---

### Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Assets (\$B)	133.4	141.2	157.3	153.0	157.7	174.9	182.0	187.4	167.6	---
Cash & Equivalents	13,732	18,972	17,824	18,107	17,305	13,985	14,487	14,127	21,859	---
Acc. Receivable	10,734	11,699	13,490	14,098	14,481	13,576	15,283	16,160	14,873	---
Inventories	8,053	8,144	8,765	8,599	9,020	9,344	10,387	12,483	11,181	---
Goodwill & Int.	47,393	49,681	85,134	78,064	81,282	89,795	81,638	93,556	70,733	---
Total Liabilities (\$B)	62.26	70.79	97.14	93.20	98.26	111.62	107.99	110.57	98.78	---
Accounts Payable	6,668	6,918	7,310	7,537	8,544	9,505	11,055	11,703	9,632	---
Long-Term Debt	19,861	27,126	34,581	30,480	27,696	35,266	33,751	39,659	29,332	---
Total Equity	71,150	70,418	60,160	59,752	59,471	63,278	74,023	76,804	68,774	---
LTD/E Ratio	0.28	0.39	0.57	0.51	0.47	0.56	0.46	0.52	0.43	---

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

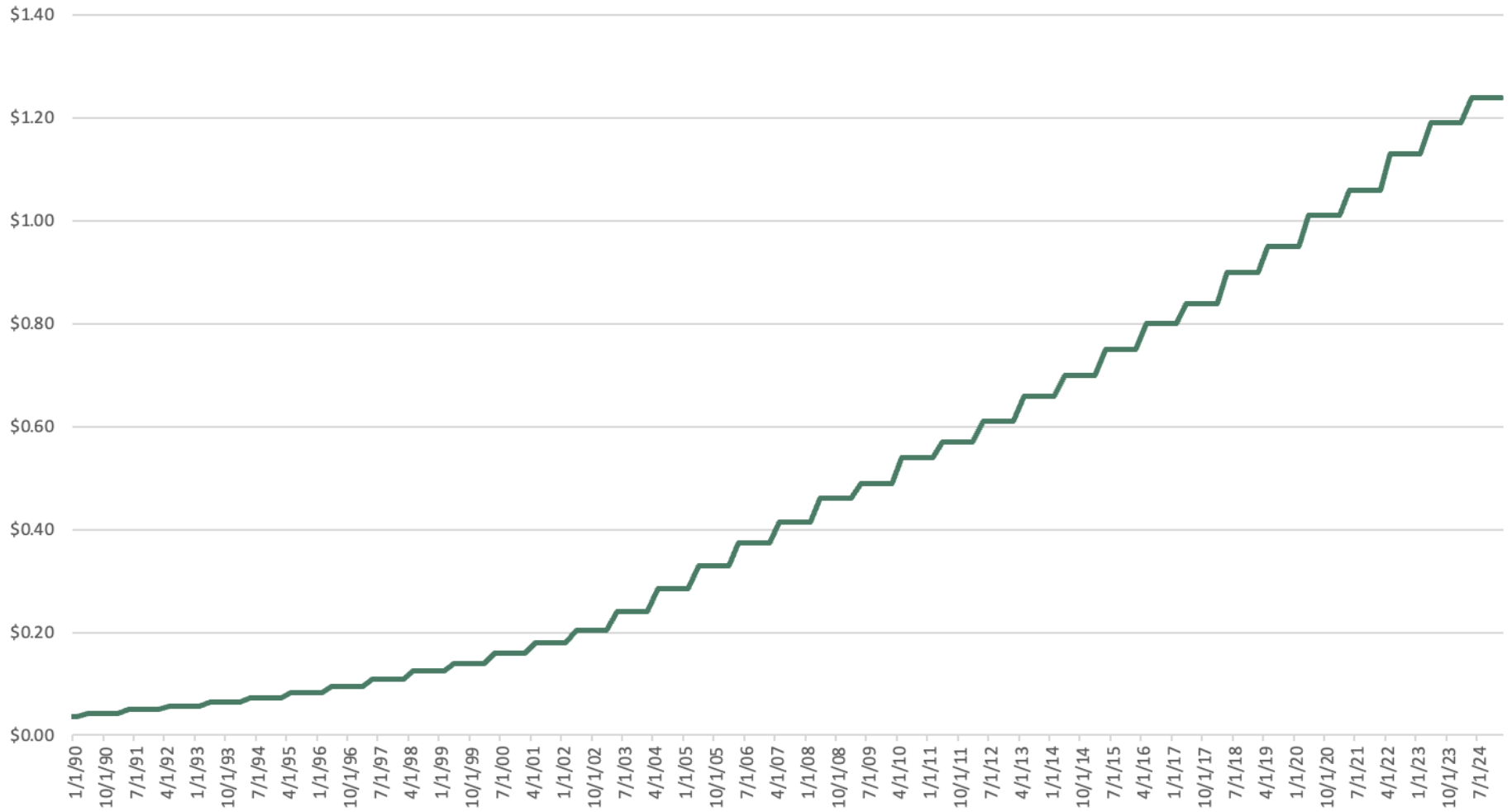
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Return on Assets	11.7%	12.0%	0.9%	9.9%	9.7%	8.8%	11.7%	9.7%	19.8%	---
Return on Equity	21.9%	23.4%	2.0%	25.5%	25.4%	24.0%	30.4%	23.8%	48.3%	---
ROIC	17.2%	17.5%	1.4%	16.5%	17.0%	15.8%	20.2%	16.0%	32.8%	---
Shares Out.	2755	2707	2683	2650	2684	2669	2667	2661	2560	2429
Revenue/Share	24.91	25.78	27.85	29.90	30.57	30.92	35.07	35.64	33.26	36.56
FCF/Share	5.73	5.57	6.48	6.79	7.42	7.56	7.39	6.45	6.94	---

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise. Some 2024 data is not yet in from our table data provider, YCharts.

### Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) Dividend Yield History



### Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) Dividend Per Share History



# UnitedHealth Group Inc. (UNH)

## Overview & Current Events

UnitedHealth has two major reporting segments: UnitedHealthcare and Optum. The former provides global healthcare benefits to individuals, employers, and Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries. Optum is a services business that seeks to lower healthcare costs and optimize outcomes for its customers.

UnitedHealth's market capitalization is \$481 billion.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, UnitedHealth posted its Q4 and full-year results for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Notably, the numbers showed a rare miss on the top line. Despite shares already being well off their highs before the report, the stock declined further post-earnings as the company disappointed investors for the first time in a while.

Adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) was \$6.81, seven cents above estimates. However, consolidated revenue was up only 6.8% to \$100.8 billion, missing by almost a billion dollars. Specifically, UnitedHealthcare saw revenue of \$74.1 billion during the quarter, missing consensus by \$1.3 billion. OptumRx reported \$35.8 billion in revenue, up 15% year-over-year and beating estimates. OptumHealth registered a 5% growth year-over-year to \$25.7 billion, also beating estimates.

The company's medical care ratio reached 85.5% in 2024, reflecting a year-over-year decline of about 230 basis points. This deterioration was primarily driven by increased reductions in Medicare funding and changes in member mix. Management provided guidance for this year, projecting adjusted EPS in the range of \$29.50 to \$30.00.

## Safety

We believe that UnitedHealth's business model offers a high degree of safety for investors, thanks to its essential services, vast scale, and deeply entrenched customer base. Healthcare remains a necessity regardless of economic conditions, which helps stabilize UnitedHealth's revenue and earnings over time. The dividend is also well covered, as UnitedHealth has a low payout ratio of just 28%.

This resilience was evident during the Great Recession, when the company's earnings-per-share dipped by 14% in 2008 but bounced quickly with 10% growth in 2009 and 27% in 2010. Since then, EPS has grown every year, including through the global disruption caused by COVID-19. Also, high switching costs in the healthcare sector further solidify UnitedHealth's defensiveness, ensuring a rather reliable foundation for long-term shareholder returns.

## Growth Prospects

We anticipate UnitedHealth's EPS will expand at a roughly 10% annual rate through 2030, fueled by continued margin expansion and steady revenue gains. Despite its vast scale, which can indeed make incremental growth more challenging, both of the company's core segments, UnitedHealthcare and Optum, continue to deliver strong results.

While UnitedHealth did post a modest miss in its Q4 results, there is little evidence to suggest that its impressive streak of EPS growth is ending, while ongoing strength across both business lines suggests there could be additional upside beyond our current 10% forecast.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	15	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	10.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	1.7%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	11.7%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$481

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue (\$B)</b>	156.40	184.01	200.14	224.87	240.27	255.6	285.3	324.2	371.6	400.3
<b>Gross Profit</b>	36,316	42,558	45,988	52,470	55,712	65,498	67,328	77,587	90,958	89,399
<b>Gross Margin</b>	23.2%	23.1%	23.0%	23.3%	23.2%	25.6%	23.6%	24.1%	24.5%	22.3%
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	1,693	2,055	2,245	2,428	2,720	2,891	3,103	3,400	3,972	4,099
<b>Operating Profit</b>	10,311	12,102	14,186	15,968	17,799	20,903	21,646	28,435	32,358	32,287
<b>Op. Margin</b>	6.6%	6.6%	7.1%	7.1%	7.4%	8.2%	7.6%	8.2%	8.7%	8.1%
<b>Net Profit</b>	5,813	7,017	10,558	11,986	13,839	15,403	17,285	20,120	22,381	14,405
<b>Net Margin</b>	3.7%	3.8%	5.3%	5.3%	5.8%	6.0%	6.1%	6.2%	6.0%	3.6%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	8,184	8,090	11,573	13,650	16,392	20,123	19,889	23,404	25,682	20,705
<b>Income Tax</b>	4,363	4,790	3,200	3,562	3,742	4,973	4,578	5,704	5,968	4,829

### Balance Sheet Metrics

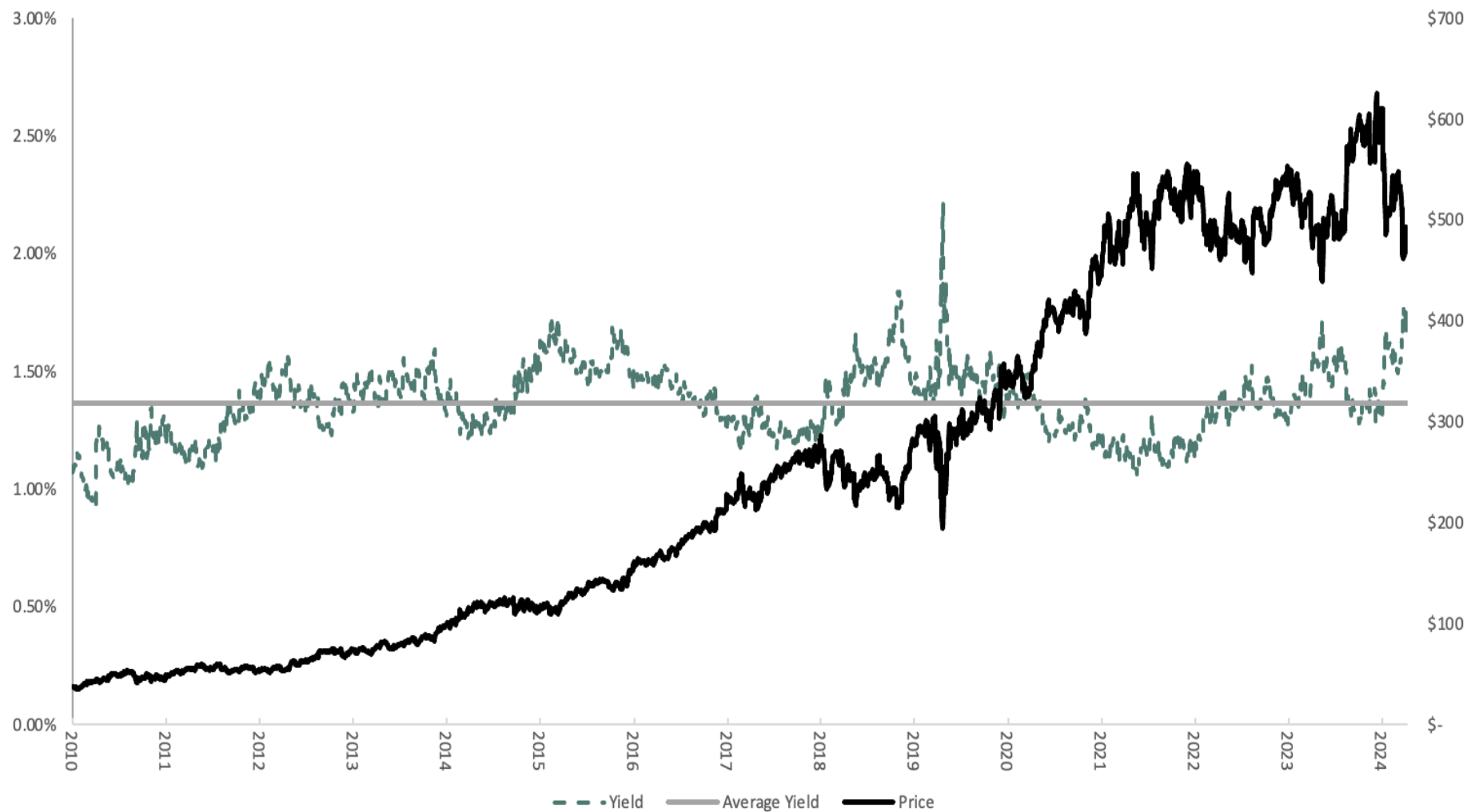
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets (\$B)</b>	111.25	122.81	139.06	152.22	173.89	197.3	212.2	245.7	273.7	298.3
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	10,923	10,430	11,981	10,866	10,985	16,921	21,375	23,365	25,427	---
<b>Acc. Receivable</b>	6,523	8,152	9,568	11,388	11,822	12,870	14,216	17,681	21,276	22,365
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int.</b>	52,844	56,125	63,045	68,235	76,008	82,193	85,839	107,753	118,926	---
<b>Total Liabilities (\$B)</b>	77.53	84.63	89.22	97.90	113.45	128.96	135.73	159.36	174.80	195.69
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	26,324	29,752	33,051	36,596	40,695	44,367	49,126	29,056	32,395	34,224
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	31,965	32,970	31,692	36,554	40,678	43,467	46,003	57,623	62,537	76,904
<b>Total Equity</b>	33,830	38,274	47,776	51,696	57,616	65,491	71,760	81,450	94,421	98,268
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.94	0.86	0.66	0.71	0.71	0.66	0.64	0.71	0.66	0.78

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

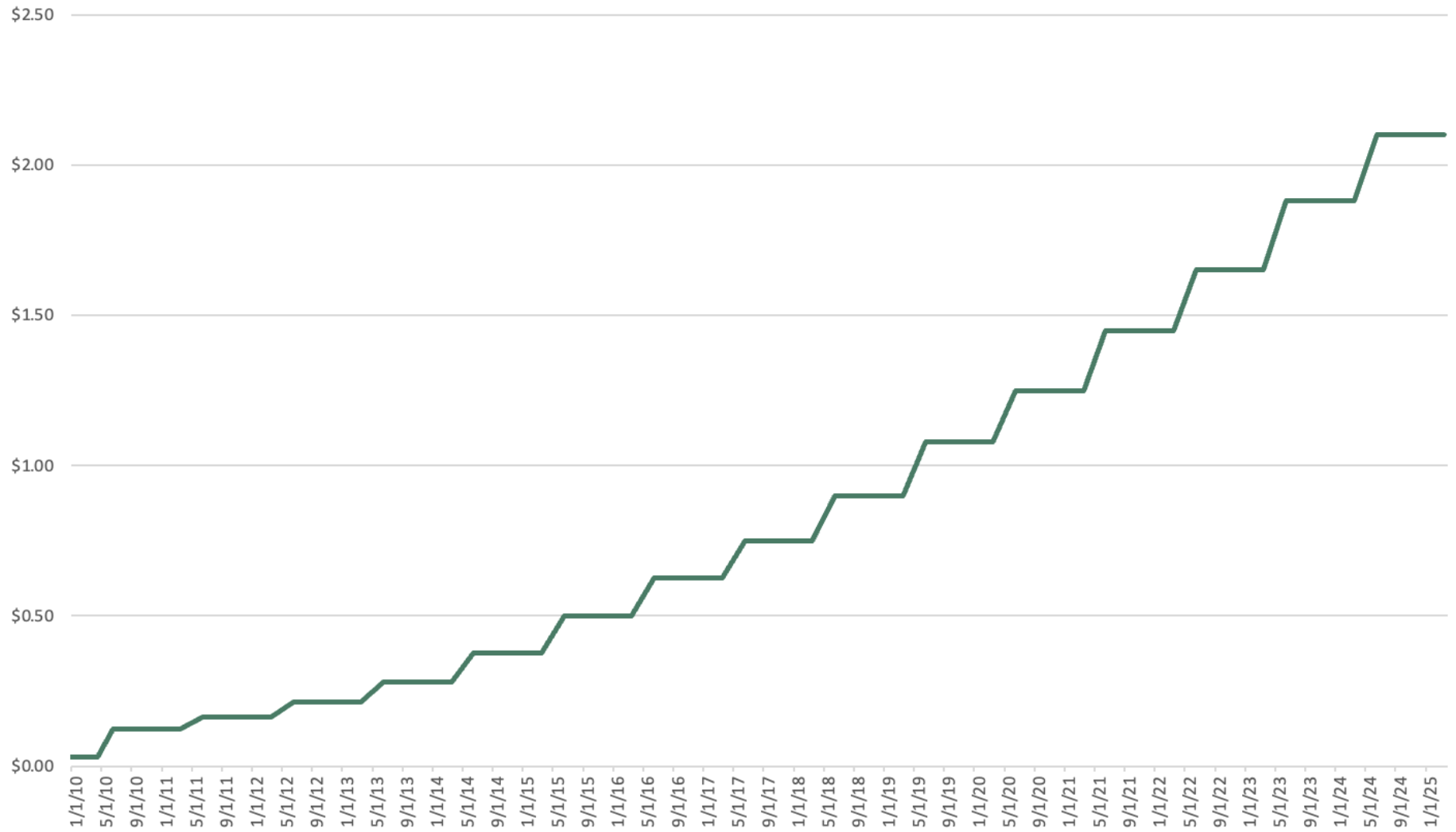
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	5.9%	6.0%	8.1%	8.2%	8.5%	8.3%	8.4%	8.8%	8.6%	5.0%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	17.5%	19.5%	24.5%	24.1%	24.7%	25.0%	25.2%	26.3%	26.0%	14.3%
<b>ROIC</b>	10.1%	10.3%	13.8%	13.9%	14.4%	14.5%	14.6%	15.1%	14.7%	8.4%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	953	952	969	968	962	961	956	950	938	929
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	161.73	190.10	203.18	228.76	248.73	266.01	298.4	339.1	396.2	430.9
<b>FCF/Share</b>	8.46	8.36	11.75	13.89	16.97	20.94	20.80	24.64	27.38	22.29

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise. Some 2024 data is not yet in from our table data provider, YCharts.

### UnitedHealth Group Inc (UNH) Dividend Yield History



## UnitedHealth Group Inc (UNH) Dividend Per Share History





# Yum! Brands Inc. (YUM)

## Overview & Current Events

Yum! Brands owns the KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, and Habit Burger Grill chains. It is present in more than 156 countries and has over 61,000 restaurants, 70% of which are located abroad. KFC generates over half of the total system sales and is the primary driver of the company's revenue and operating profit. Last year, Yum! Brands generated \$7.55 billion in total revenues. Today, it has a market cap of \$42.8 billion.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Yum! Brands reported its Q4 2024 results for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The company registered strong revenue growth driven by both same-store sales increases and continued store expansion. Specifically, total sales grew 8% year-over-year, with same-store sales up 5% at Taco Bell, flat at KFC, and down 1% at Pizza Hut. In addition to strong same-store performance at Taco Bell, the company benefited from 5% overall store growth, adding over 1,800 new locations in the quarter and more than 4,500 for the full year.

Earnings-per-share rose 28% from \$1.26 to \$1.61, beating analyst estimates by \$0.01. Core operating profit grew 12%, led by Taco Bell's strong U.S. performance and KFC International's expansion. The company also introduced "Byte by Yum!," its proprietary AI-driven software platform designed to streamline restaurant operations and boost digital ordering, which is already being employed in 25,000 restaurants.

Looking ahead, management provided guidance for 8% core operating profit growth in 2025 and projected EPS of \$5.92.

## Safety

Yum! Brands' dividend appears secure, supported by its resilient business model, global brand strength, and consistent cash flow generation. The company operates in the quick-service restaurant (QSR) industry, which has historically been recession-resistant, as consumers tend to trade down to more affordable dining options during economic downturns. This characteristic provides Yum! with relative earnings stability compared to more discretionary industries.

During the Great Recession, Yum!'s earnings remained solid, with only modest declines, and the company quickly resumed growth. The COVID-19 pandemic created a more significant challenge due to temporary restaurant closures and disruptions in supply chains, but Yum! still demonstrated adaptability through digital expansion and delivery growth.

## Growth Prospects

Yum! Brands has sustained a robust growth trajectory, driven primarily by its expanding store footprint and steady gains in same-store sales. Management expects to increase the total number of restaurants by about 4% to 5% per year going forward. Historically, before spinning off its China segment, Yum! grew earnings-per-share at an annual average of 7.6%. However, over the last five years, earnings-per-share have climbed at an even faster 9.1% average rate, even outpacing its 10-year growth rate of 6.2%. This acceleration partly reflects the company's swift strategic response during the pandemic, including a stronger focus on digital ordering and delivery options. Given the company's strong brand portfolio, along with continued unit expansion and improving economies of scale prospects, we expect earnings-per-share to grow by approximately 9.0% annually over the next five years.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	8	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	9.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	1.9%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	8.1%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$153

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	6,418	6,356	5,878	5,688	5,597	5,652	6,584	6,842	7,076	7,549
<b>Gross Profit</b>	2,551	2,666	2,687	2,658	2,814	2,687	3,166	3,307	3,496	3,584
<b>Gross Margin</b>	39.7%	41.9%	45.7%	46.7%	50.3%	47.5%	48.1%	48.3%	49.4%	47.5%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	1,058	1,129	999	895	917	1,064	1,060	1,140	1,187	1,181
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	319	310	253	137	112	146	164	146	153	175
<b>Operating Profit</b>	1,493	1,537	1,688	1,763	1,897	1,623	2,106	2,167	2,309	2,403
<b>Op. Margin</b>	23.3%	24.2%	28.7%	31.0%	33.9%	28.7%	32.0%	31.7%	32.6%	31.8%
<b>Net Profit</b>	1,283	1,643	1,340	1,542	1,294	904	1,575	1,325	1,597	1,486
<b>Net Margin</b>	20.0%	25.8%	22.8%	27.1%	23.1%	16.0%	23.9%	19.4%	22.6%	19.7%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	818	821	712	942	1,119	1,145	1,476	1,148	1,318	1,432
<b>Income Tax</b>	327	327	934	297	79	116	99	337	221	414

### Balance Sheet Metrics

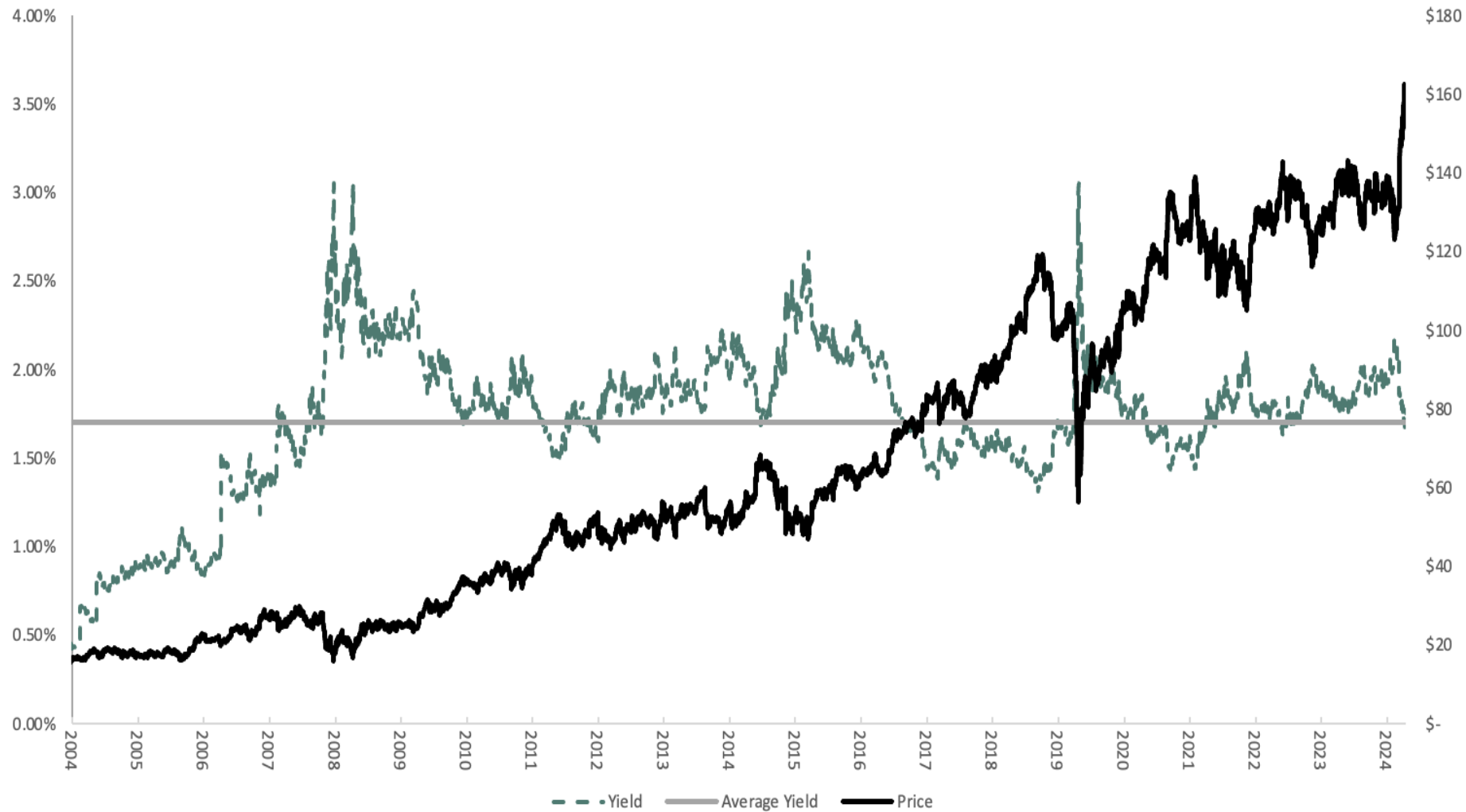
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	8,061	5,453	5,311	4,130	5,231	5,852	5,966	5,846	6,231	6,727
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	313	725	1,522	292	605	730	486	367	512	616
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	324	370	400	561	584	534	596	648	737	775
<b>Inventories</b>	40	37	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	735	687	726	767	774	940	1,016	992	1,019	1,152
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	7,092	11,07	11,645	12,056	13,247	13,743	14,339	14,722	14,089	14,375
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	181	142	119	202	173	1,189	227	1,251	1,169	1,211
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	3,928	9,125	9,804	10,072	10,485	10,725	11,246	11,851	11,195	11,333
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	911	-5,615	-6,334	-7,926	-8,016	-7,891	-8,373	-8,876	-7,858	-7,648
<b>D/E Ratio</b>	4.31	(1.63)	(1.55)	(1.27)	(1.31)	(1.36)	(1.34)	(1.34)	(1.42)	(1.48)

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

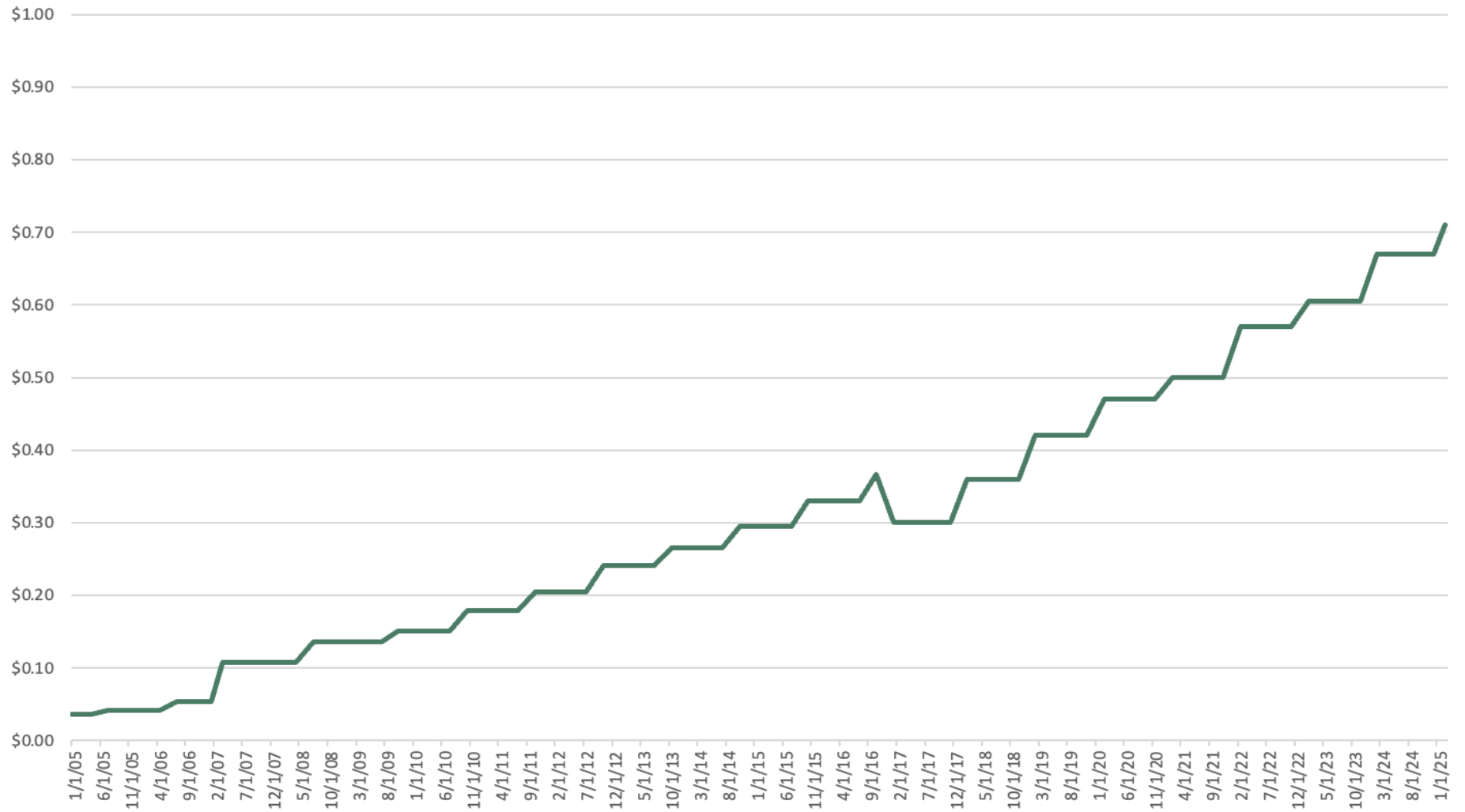
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	15.7%	24.3%	24.9%	32.7%	27.6%	16.3%	26.7%	22.4%	26.4%	22.9%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	104%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>ROIC</b>	26.1%	39.1%	38.4%	54.9%	56.1%	34.1%	55.2%	46.2%	51.0%	42.6%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	420.0	355.0	332.0	313.0	309.0	307.0	298.0	290.0	285.0	285.0
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	14.49	15.89	16.56	17.29	17.88	18.41	21.80	23.59	24.83	26.49
<b>FCF/Share</b>	1.85	2.05	2.01	2.86	3.58	3.73	4.89	3.96	4.62	5.02

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

### Yum! Brands Inc. Dividend Yield History



### Yum! Brands Inc. (YUM) Dividend Per Share History



**Note:** The 2016 dip is due to the spinoff of Yum Brands China (YUMC).

# The Home Depot Inc. (HD)

## Overview & Current Events

“Home Depot,” founded in 1978 by Bernie Marcus and Arthur Blank, has grown into the largest home improvement retailer in the world. The company operates over 2,300 stores across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, catering to both DIY enthusiasts and professional contractors. The company’s wide product range includes building materials, appliances, tools, hardware, and home improvement services, making it a one-stop shop for construction, renovation, and maintenance projects. Home Depot generated \$159.5 billion last year and currently trades at a market cap of \$345 billion.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Home Depot reported its Q4 results for the period ending February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The company posted sales of \$39.7 billion, up 14% year-over-year. Comparable sales increased 0.8% in the quarter. Net earnings totaled \$3.0 billion, or \$3.02 per share, compared to \$2.8 billion, or \$2.82 per share, in Q4 2023. Adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) came in at \$3.13.

More specifically, the average ticket improved 0.3% year-over-year, growing from \$88.87 to \$89.11. Sales per retail square foot increased 1.2%, from \$550.50 to \$556.90.

The company allocated \$649 million to common stock repurchases in 2024, significantly lower than \$8.0 billion in the prior year. As of the end of Q4, Home Depot held \$1.7 billion in cash and cash equivalents.

Management initiated its 2025 guidance, projecting total sales growth of 2.8%, the addition of 13 new stores, and a 3% decline in diluted EPS compared to 2024.

On the same day, Home Depot raised its dividend by 2.2% to a quarterly rate of \$2.30.

## Safety

Home Depot’s dividend remains safe with a payout ratio of 62%, slightly above half of its earnings, leaving room for growth as profits expand. The company’s strong competitive advantages—its large footprint, brand recognition, and diverse inventory—should provide stability even during economic downturns.

Specifically, while Home Depot may face some challenges in a recession, its overall resilience makes any temporary weakness a potential buying opportunity for long-term investors. Note that the surge in home renovations during the pandemic drove significant growth in the company’s financials and stock returns in 2020 and 2021. While the company was lucky to benefit from this trend, its ability to thrive under those conditions also showcased its underlying strength and adaptability. Home Depot’s balance sheet is quite healthy as well, though, with a net debt-to-EBITDA of 2.2, some caution is required.

## Growth Prospects

Home Depot has experienced strong earnings growth over the past decade, fueled by the housing and construction boom, and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, which served as a tailwind. With its solid market position and strategic investments, we expect this momentum to continue, projecting an 8% EPS compound annual growth rate (CAGR) through 2030.

This is to be fueled by low single-digit growth in comparable sales, buybacks, and operating margin improvements. Acquisitions, such as the acquisition of SRS back in June 2024, and rising average ticket sales should also contribute to top- and bottom-line growth.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	16	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	8.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.6%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	2.2%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$349

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue (\$B)</b>	83.18	88.52	94.60	100.90	108.20	110.23	132.11	151.16	152.67	159.51
<b>Gross Profit</b>	28,389	30,265	32,313	34,356	37,160	37,572	44,853	50,832	50,960	53,310
<b>Gross Margin</b>	34.1%	34.2%	34.2%	34.0%	34.3%	34.1%	34.0%	33.6%	33.4%	33.4%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	16,280	16,801	17,132	17,864	19,513	19,740	24,447	25,406	26,600	28,750
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	1,786	1,863	1,973	2,062	2,152	2,296	2,519	2,862	3,247	3,761
<b>Operating Profit</b>	10,469	11,774	13,427	14,681	15,777	15,843	18,278	23,040	21,690	21,530
<b>Op. Margin</b>	12.6%	13.3%	14.2%	14.5%	14.6%	14.4%	13.8%	15.2%	14.2%	13.5%
<b>Net Profit</b>	6,345	7,009	7,957	8,630	11,121	11,242	12,866	16,433	15,140	14,810
<b>Net Margin</b>	7.6%	7.9%	8.4%	8.6%	10.3%	10.2%	9.7%	10.9%	9.9%	9.3%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	6,800	7,870	8,162	10,134	10,723	11,009	16,376	14,005	17,950	16,320
<b>Income Tax</b>	3,631	4,012	4,534	5,068	3,435	3,473	4,112	5,304	4,781	4,600

### Balance Sheet Metrics

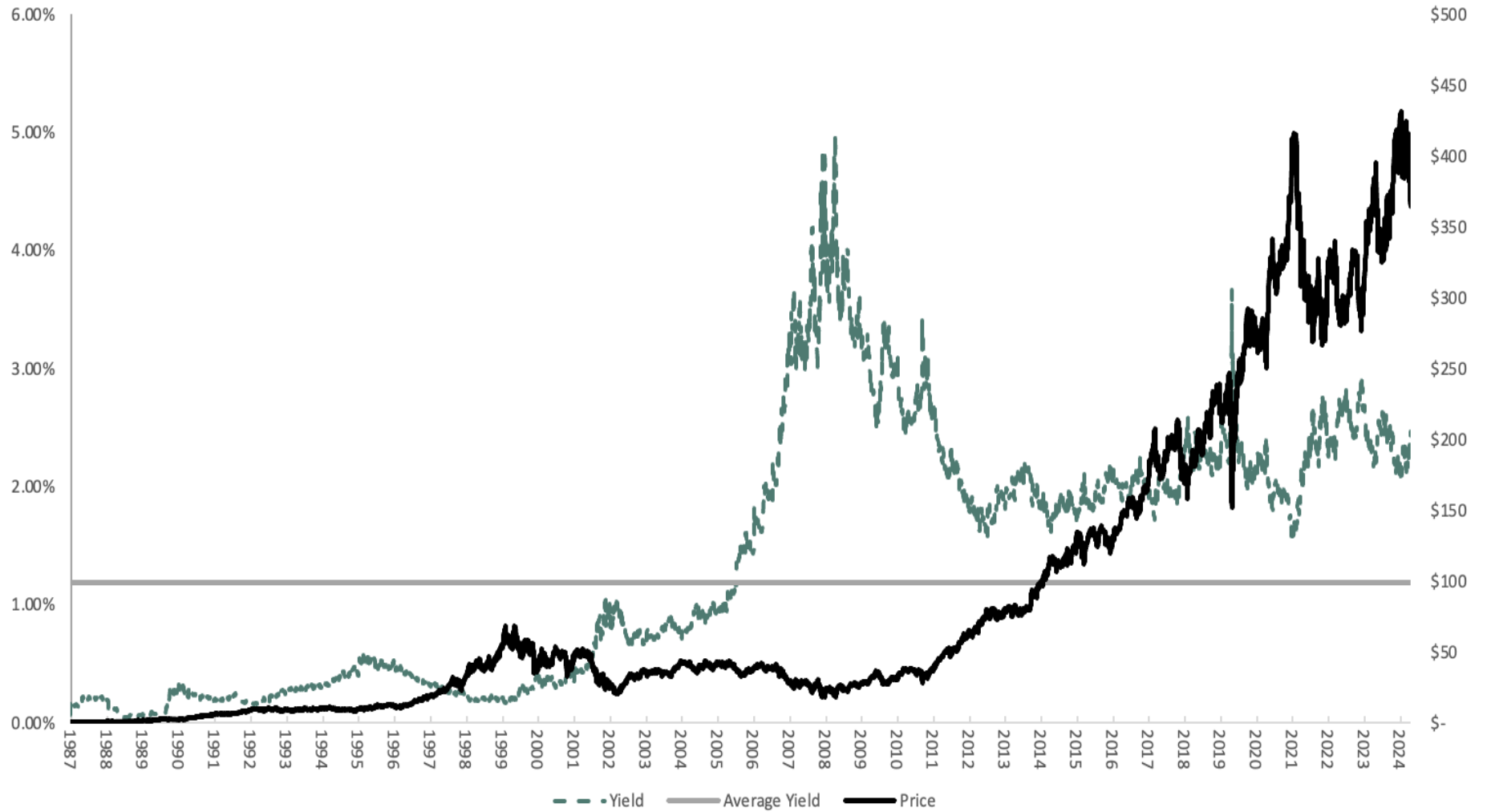
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	39,946	41,973	42,966	44,529	44,003	51,236	70,581	71,876	76,530	96,120
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	1,723	2,216	2,538	3,595	1,778	2,133	7,895	2,343	3,760	1,659
<b>Acc. Receivable</b>	1,484	1,890	1,570	1,604	1,640	1,738	2,550	2,901	3,328	4,903
<b>Inventories</b>	11,079	11,809	12,549	12,748	13,925	14,531	16,627	22,068	20,980	23,450
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int.</b>	1,353	2,102	2,093	2,275	2,252	2,254	7,126	7,449	8,455	28,460
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	30,624	35,657	38,633	43,075	45,881	54,352	67,282	73,572	75,490	89,480
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	5,807	6,565	7,000	7,244	7,755	7,787	11,606	13,462	10,040	11,940
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	17,197	21,216	23,601	27,028	29,202	31,483	37,238	40,086	44,110	53,380
<b>Total Equity</b>	9,322	6,316	4,333	1,454	-1,878	-3,116	3,299	-1,696	1,044	6,640
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	1.84	3.36	5.45	18.59	-15.55	-10.10	11.29	-23.64	42.25	8.04

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

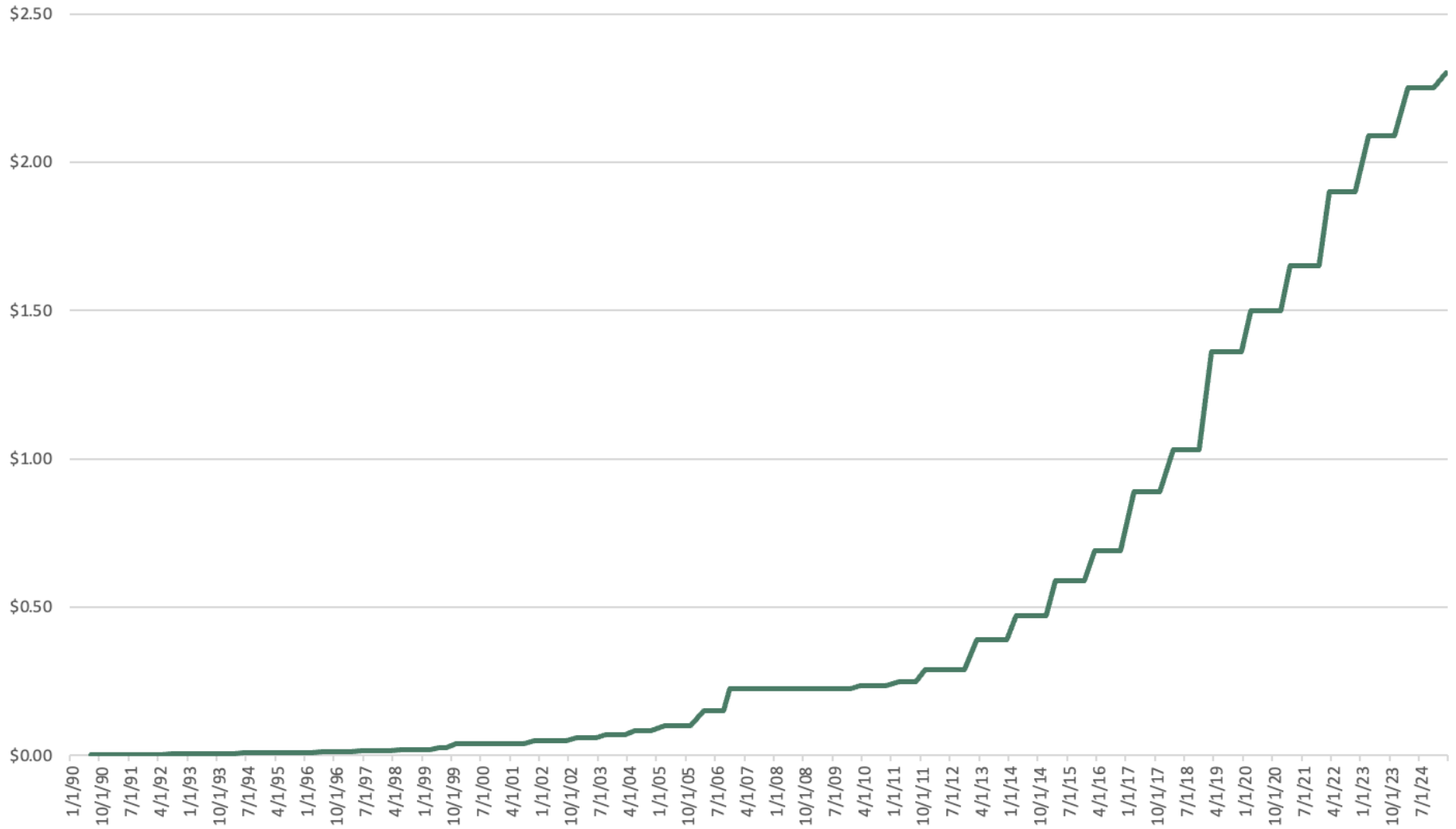
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	15.8%	17.1%	18.7%	19.7%	25.1%	23.6%	21.1%	23.1%	19.8%	17.2%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	58.1%	89.6%	149.4%	298.3%	---	---	---	---	---	385.4%
<b>ROIC</b>	23.6%	25.9%	28.7%	30.6%	39.9%	40.4%	37.3%	41.6%	33.7%	28.15%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	1,346	1,283	1,234	1,184	1,143	1,097	1,078	1,058	1,002	993
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	61.79	68.99	76.66	85.22	94.67	100.48	122.55	142.87	152.36	160.64
<b>FCF/Share</b>	5.05	6.13	6.61	8.56	9.38	10.04	15.19	13.24	17.91	16.44

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

### The Home Depot Inc (HD) Dividend Yield History



### The Home Depot Inc (HD) Dividend Per Share History





# American Water Works Co. Inc. (AWK)

## Overview & Current Events

American Water Works is the largest publicly traded water utility in the U.S. based on its \$28 billion market cap. The company provides drinking water, wastewater, and other related services in the United States. The company's regulated business includes 54,500 miles of pipe, 600 water treatment plants, 190 wastewater facilities, 1,200 wells, and 75 dams.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, American Water Works posted its Q4 and full-year results for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. For the quarter, revenues rose by 16.4% year-over-year to \$1.20 billion. The increase in revenues was primarily a result rate case increases and infrastructure proceedings for the recovery of incremental capital and acquisition investments.

Earnings-per-share came in at \$1.22 compared to \$0.88 last year. For the year, earnings-per-share were \$5.39. American Water Works now has general rate cases in progress in four jurisdictions, reflecting a total annualized revenue request of approximately \$161 million. For fiscal 2025, management affirmed their forecast, projecting earnings-per-share to range between \$5.65 and \$5.75. Management also restated their long-term earnings-per-share growth target of 7% to 9% annually. American Water Works recent quarter shows continued momentum for the largest U.S. water utility.

## Safety

American Water Works benefits from the sheer size of its business, since it is the largest company in its industry. In addition, the company operates in an industry that tends to geographic monopoly, which is very capital intensive, and makes it virtually impossible for new market entrants. Its contracts with the government are long dated and provide additional sources of revenue.

American Water Works performed well during the 2007 through 2009 period. The company did post an EPS loss during each year, but this was largely due to impairment charges related to acquisitions. Excluding these charges, EPS grew for the period. Moreover, despite the difficulty of the environment during this period, American Water Works also initiated its dividend in 2008 and then raised it in 2009. More recently, EPS grew more than 14% in 2020 despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Growth Prospects

We forecast that American Water Works' EPS will grow at 8.0% annually, in line with the midpoint of management's long-term outlook of 7% to 9% through 2030. This is also very close to the company's compound EPS growth rate from 2015 through 2024 of 8.2%.

Growth will be driven largely by 8% to 9% expected rate base growth. Acquisitions are expected to add another 2 percentage points to growth. Growth from the above two sources will likely be partially offset by share issuances, as American Water Works partially funds itself by issuing shares.

With a payout ratio of 54%, the company's dividend is well-positioned to keep growing alongside its strong EPS growth. We believe the company's dividend will grow at a rate of about 8% through 2029, about the same as the most recent dividend increase of 8.1%.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	16	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	8.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.1%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	8.1%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$144

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	3,159	3,302	3,357	3,440	3,610	3,777	3,930	3,792	4,234	4,684
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,755	1,803	1,988	1,961	2,066	2,155	2,153	2,203	2,514	2,826
<b>Gross Margin</b>	55.6%	54.6%	59.2%	57.0%	57.2%	57.1%	54.8%	58.1%	59.4%	60.3%
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	440	470	492	545	582	604	636	649	704	788
<b>Operating Profit</b>	1,072	1,075	1,237	1,139	1,204	1,248	1,196	1,273	1,504	1,718
<b>Operating Margin</b>	33.9%	32.6%	36.8%	33.1%	33.4%	33.0%	30.4%	33.6%	35.5%	36.7%
<b>Net Profit</b>	476	468	426	567	621	709	1,263	820	944	1,051
<b>Net Margin</b>	15.1%	14.2%	12.7%	16.5%	17.2%	18.8%	32.1%	21.6%	22.3%	22.4%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	(72)	(106)	(61)	(287)	(375)	(502)	(432)	(1,312)	(860)	(963)
<b>Income Tax</b>	306	302	486	222	212	215	377	188	252	308

### Balance Sheet Metrics

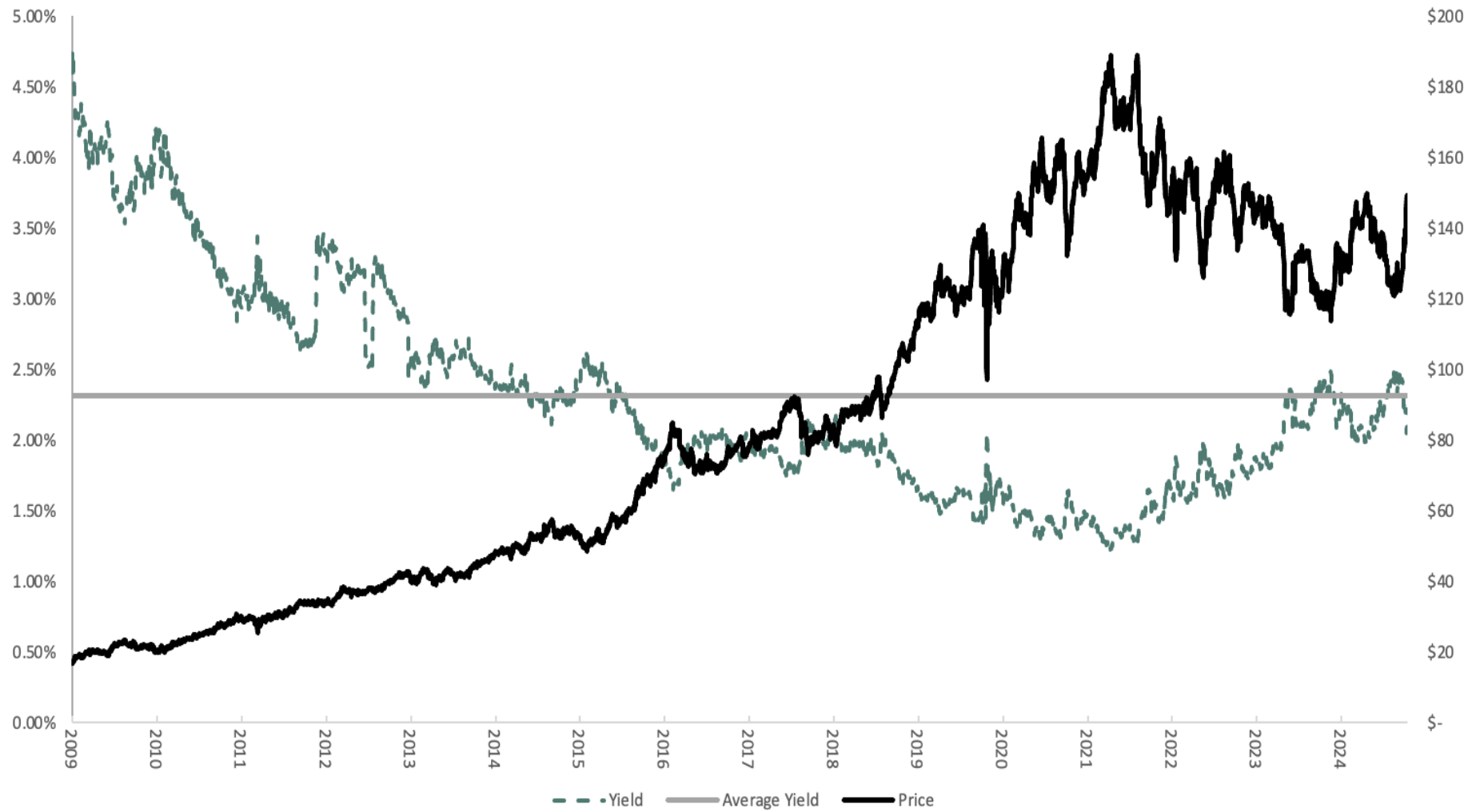
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	17,241	18,482	19,482	21,223	22,682	24,766	26,080	27,787	30,298	32,830
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	45	75	55	130	60	547	116	85	330	96
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	255	269	272	301	294	321	271	334	339	416
<b>Inventories</b>	38	39	41	41	44	47	57	98	112	103
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	1,302	1,345	1,388	1,659	1,568	1,559	1,139	1,143	1,143	1,144
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	12,192	13,264	14,097	15,359	16,561	18,312	18,780	20,094	20,501	22,498
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	126	154	195	175	203	189	235	254	294	346
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	6,544	7,172	7,717	8,604	9,453	10,940	10,980	12,382	12,369	14,034
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	5,049	5,218	5,385	5,864	6,121	6,454	7,298	7,693	9,797	10,332
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	1.30	1.37	1.43	1.47	1.54	1.70	1.51	1.61	1.26	1.36

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

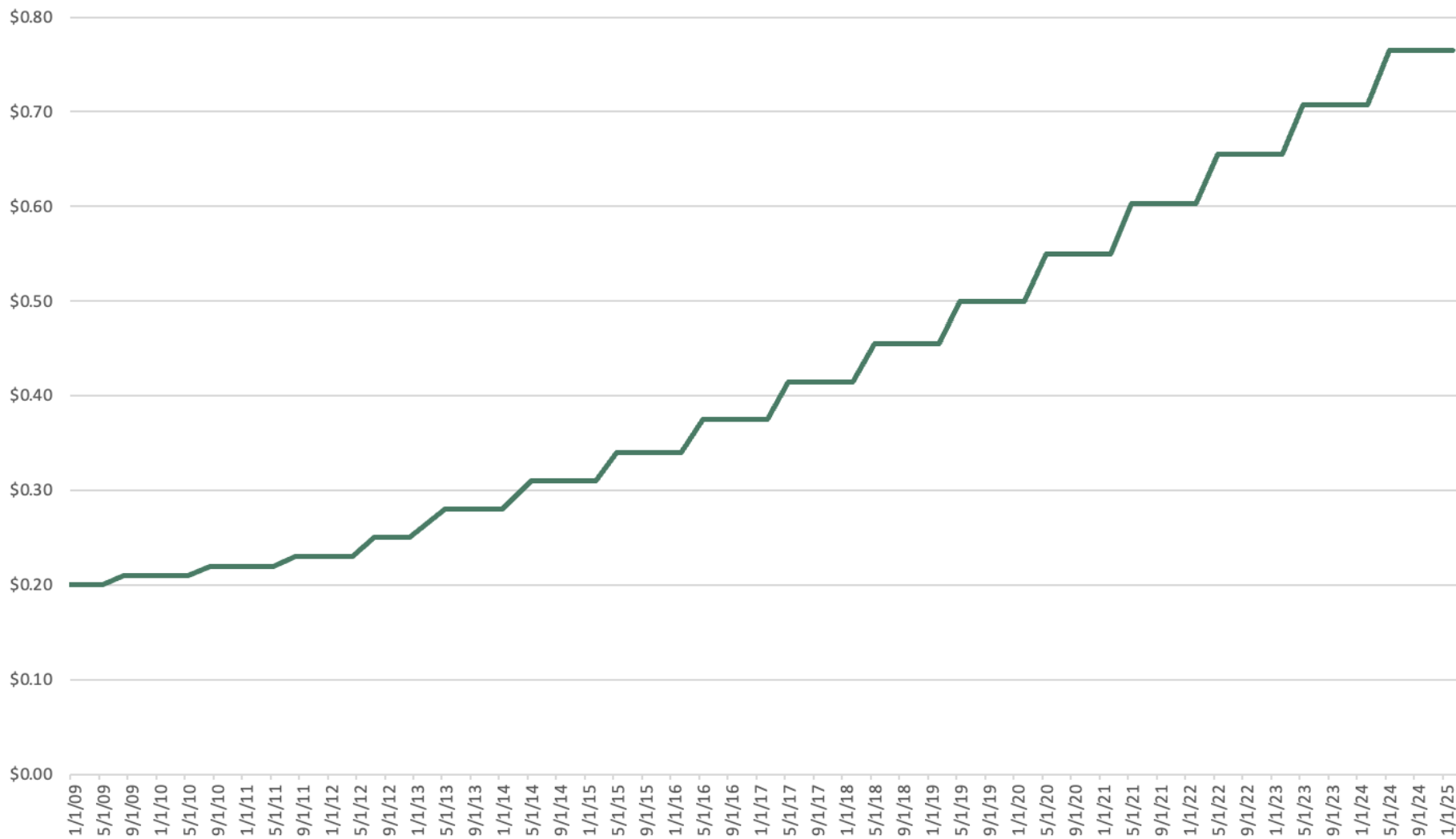
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	2.9%	2.6%	2.2%	2.8%	2.8%	3.0%	5.0%	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	9.6%	9.1%	8.0%	10.1%	10.4%	11.3%	18.4%	10.9%	10.8%	10.4%
<b>ROIC</b>	4.2%	3.9%	3.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%	7.1%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	180	179	179	180	181	182	182	182	193	195
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	17.55	18.45	18.75	19.11	19.94	20.75	21.59	20.84	21.94	24.02
<b>FCF/Share</b>	(0.40)	(0.59)	(0.34)	(1.59)	(2.07)	(2.76)	(2.37)	(7.21)	(4.46)	(4.94)

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

### American Water Works Co Inc (AWK) Dividend Yield History



### American Water Works Co Inc (AWK) Dividend Per Share History



# WEC Energy Group Inc. (WEC)

## Overview & Current Events

WEC Energy Group serves ~1.6 million electric customers and ~3.0 million natural gas customers across Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan. Over the past two years, WEC Energy has advanced its renewable energy investments, with significant stakes in projects in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Illinois. Looking ahead, WEC Energy's five-year capital plan remains focused on deploying about 1,800 MW of wind, solar, and battery storage to its regulated asset base in Wisconsin. The utility's market cap is \$33 billion.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, WEC Energy Group released its Q4 and full-year results for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. For the quarter, revenue grew 2.7% to \$2.3 billion, but this was \$220 million below estimates. Net income of \$435.5 million, or \$1.43 per share, compared favorably to net income of \$218.5 million, or \$0.69 per share, in the prior year and was in line with expectations.

For the year, revenue declined 3.4% to \$8.6 billion while earnings-per-share came in at \$4.83 up from \$4.22 in 2023. For the year, retail deliveries of electricity were up 0.7% on a weather normalized basis. Residential electricity usage rose 0.5%. Electricity usage by small commercial and industrial customers was higher by 0.7% while large commercial and industrial customer usage was up 0.1% from last year. Natural gas deliveries in Wisconsin fell 2.9% during the period. On a weather normalized basis, natural gas deliveries were down just 0.1%.

WEC Energy Group reaffirmed its prior earnings guidance for 2025 as well, with the company still expecting earnings-per-share (EPS) in a range of \$5.17 to \$5.27 for the year. At the midpoint, this would represent 8.1% growth from 2024.

## Safety

WEC Energy Group's dividend safety is supported by strong fundamentals. The company's expected payout ratio for 2025 is 68%, well within its targeted range of 65% to 70%, which is appropriate for a utility. During the last recession, WEC Energy increased earnings-per-share by nearly 13% from 2007 to 2009, highlighting its resilience. Earnings-per-share also increased consistently each year from 2019 to 2022, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, also demonstrated the company's strength.

As a utility, its services are essential, ensuring steady profitability even in tough economic times. Factors such as low unemployment and colder weather in its service areas could actually boost its financials, further reinforcing the safety of its dividend.

## Growth Prospects

WEC Energy Group has compounded earnings-per-share at a rate of 8.4% annually since 2015 and 6.6% annually since 2020, showcasing consistent performance over both the medium and long term. Given this stability, we expect the company to achieve 6.0% annual EPS growth through 2030. This growth is likely to be driven by increases in revenue supported by regulated utility operations and ongoing infrastructure investments, particularly in grid modernization and renewable energy.

Additionally, nonutility investments, including renewable energy projects, are positioned to deliver attractive returns, complementing core operations. These factors, combined with disciplined cost management and operational efficiency, should support our projected EPS growth rate.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	22	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	6.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	3.4%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	6.9%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$105

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	5,926	7,472	7,649	7,680	7,523	7,242	8,316	9,597	8,893	8,600
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,977	2,654	2,770	2,511	2,660	2,890	3,000	3,301	3,601	3,786
<b>Gross Margin</b>	33.4%	35.5%	36.2%	32.7%	35.4%	39.9%	36.1%	34.4%	40.5%	44.0%
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	584	763	799	846	926	976	1,074	1,123	1,264	1,355
<b>Operating Profit</b>	1,251	1,696	1,776	1,468	1,531	1,706	1,715	1,924	2,087	2,165
<b>Operating Margin</b>	21.1%	22.7%	23.2%	19.1%	20.4%	23.6%	20.6%	20.0%	23.5%	25.2%
<b>Net Profit</b>	640	940	1,205	1,061	1,135	1,201	1,302	1,409	1,333	1,528
<b>Net Margin</b>	10.8%	12.6%	15.8%	13.8%	15.1%	16.6%	15.7%	14.7%	15.0%	17.8%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	27	680	119	330	85	(43)	(220)	(254)	526	431
<b>Income Tax</b>	434	567	384	170	125	228	200	323	205	222

### Balance Sheet Metrics

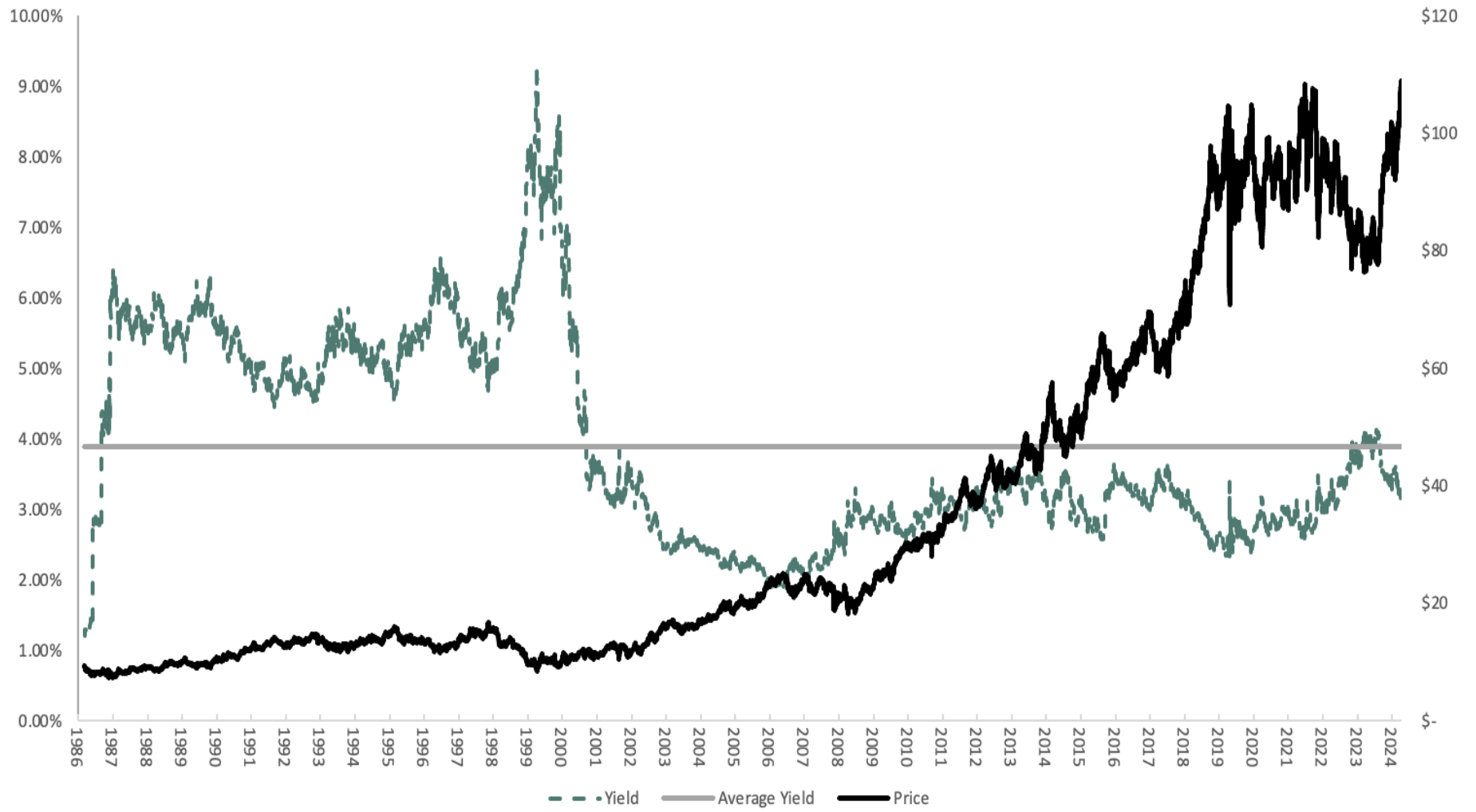
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	29,355	30,123	31,591	33,476	34,952	37,028	38,989	41,872	43,940	47,363
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	50	38	39	85	38	25	16	29	43	10
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	1,029	1,242	1,351	1,281	1,177	1,203	1,506	1,818	1,503	1,669
<b>Inventories</b>	687	588	539	548	550	529	636	807	775	813
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	3,024	3,046	3,054	3,053	3,053	3,053	3,053	3,053	3,053	3,053
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	20,670	21,163	22,099	23,633	24,697	26,366	27,875	30,256	31,868	34,561
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	815	862	860	876	908	881	1,006	1,198	897	1,137
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	10,377	10,176	11,033	11,799	12,689	14,227	15,460	17,111	18,652	20,024
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	8,655	8,930	9,461	9,789	10,113	10,470	10,913	11,377	11,724	12,395
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	1.19	1.14	1.16	1.20	1.25	1.36	1.41	1.50	1.59	1.61

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

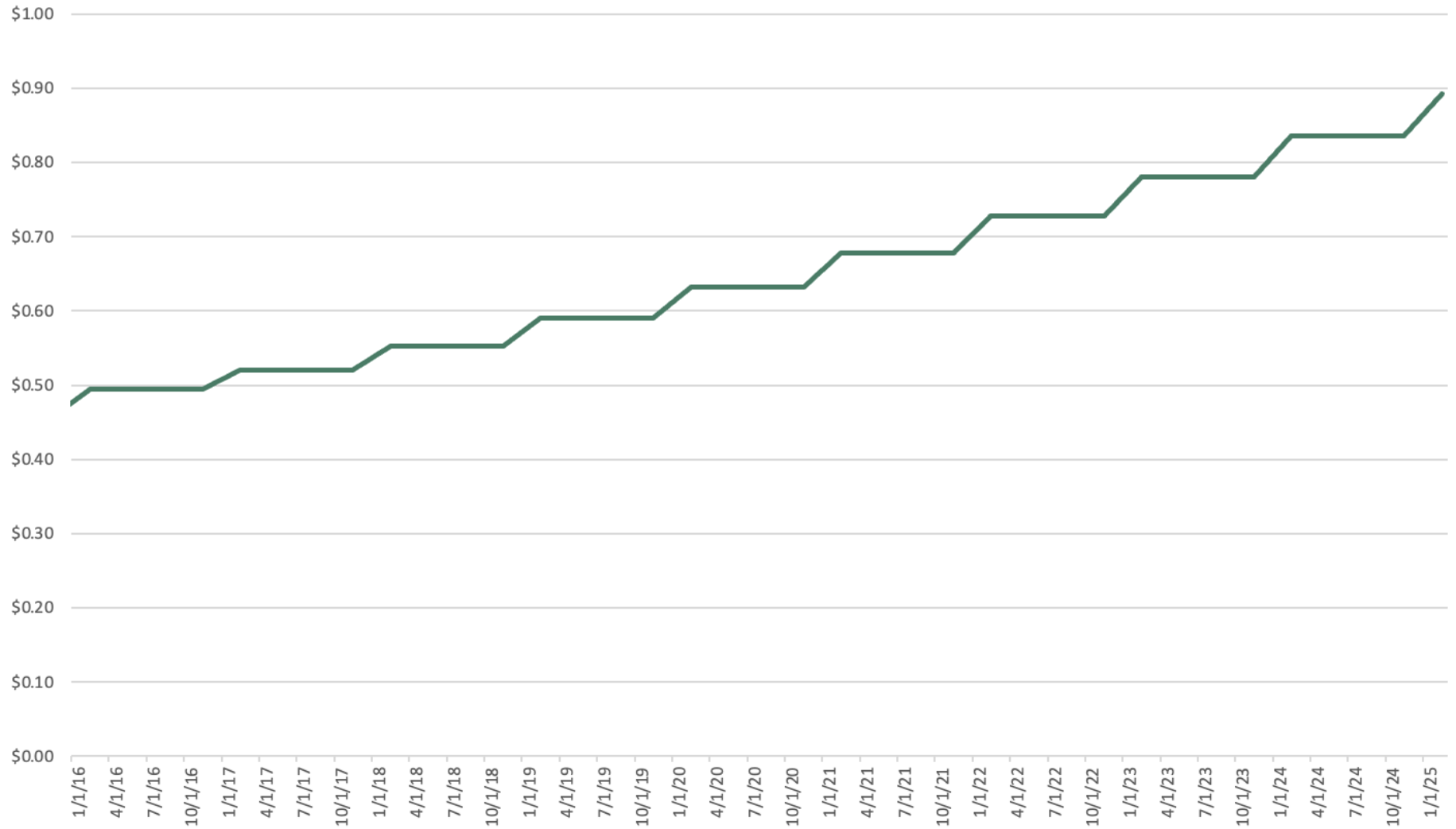
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	2.9%	3.2%	3.9%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	9.7%	10.7%	13.1%	11.0%	11.3%	11.5%	12.0%	12.4%	11.3%	12.3%
<b>ROIC</b>	4.5%	4.9%	6.1%	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%	4.5%	4.8%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	316	316	316	316	317	317	315	316	316	317
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	21.73	23.58	24.11	24.23	23.75	22.88	26.29	30.36	28.15	27.17
<b>FCF/Share</b>	0.10	2.15	0.38	1.04	0.27	(0.14)	(0.70)	(0.80)	1.66	1.36

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

### WEC Energy Group Inc (WEC) Dividend Yield History



## WEC Energy Group Inc (WEC) Dividend Per Share History





# McCormick & Co. Inc. (MKC)

## Overview & Current Events

McCormick & Co. produces, markets, and distributes seasoning mixes, spices, condiments, and other products to retail customers and to those in the food industry. McCormick has developed from a small regional business into a multinational powerhouse. With operations in over 150 countries, McCormick controls about 20% of the global seasoning and spice market. Its portfolio includes iconic brands such as McCormick, Lawry's, Old Bay, and French's, catering to various culinary tastes worldwide. The company currently has a \$22 billion market cap.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, McCormick posted its Q4 and full-year results for the period ending November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For the quarter, revenue grew 2.7% to \$1.8 billion, which was \$28 million more than expected. Adjusted earnings-per-share (EPS) of \$0.80 compared unfavorably to \$0.85 in the prior year, but this topped estimates by \$0.03.

The Consumer segment grew 2.4%, with volume and mix gains (+3.7%) partially offset by lower pricing (-1.3%). The Americas saw 3.7% organic growth, while EMEA sales rose 2.9% on higher volume. Asia/Pacific declined 10.3% due to weakness in China. Flavor Solutions grew 0.8%, as pricing gains (+1.0%) offset lower volumes (-0.2%). The Americas rose 1.4% on better pricing, EMEA fell 4.0% due to weaker restaurant demand, and Asia/Pacific grew 6.5% on promotions and new products. McCormick's gross margin expanded 20 basis points to 40.2% for the quarter and improved 90 basis points to 38.5% for the year. McCormick provided guidance for 2025, expecting revenue to be in a range of flat to up 2% compared to 2024. Adjusted EPS is expected to be in a range of \$2.99 to \$3.04.

## Safety

McCormick controls about 20% of the global seasoning and spice market, which places it in a strong negotiating position with retailers for prime shelf space and favorable pricing. The spice industry's sluggish pace of change also works in McCormick's favor, lending stability to its long-term prospects. In fact, while many companies faltered during the Great Recession, McCormick actually grew its earnings-per-share in both 2008 and 2009, a pattern it repeated in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic. This resilience is further stressed by 39 consecutive years of dividend raises, and a projected 2025 payout ratio of 60%. McCormick's track record and sturdy balance sheet suggest there's ample room for continued dividend hikes ahead.

## Growth Prospects

McCormick's EPS has grown at an annual rate of 5.9% from fiscal 2015 through fiscal 2024. Its acquisition of RB Foods, along with additional strategic M&A, has been beneficial, especially in the hot sauce market, where McCormick now holds the top two brands – Frank's RedHot and Cholula. To fund the RB Foods acquisition, McCormick took on substantial debt but is deleveraging ahead of schedule.

Moving forward, we expect EPS growth of 7.0% through 2030, driven by resurgence in consumer demand for home cooking due to persistent inflation, which has led to increased sales of spices and seasonings. Moreover, McCormick's cost-saving initiatives and prior price adjustments have boosted its gross profit margin, also supporting earnings growth.

## Key Statistics, Ratios & Metrics

<b>Years of Dividend Increases:</b>	39	<b>5-Year Growth Estimate:</b>	7.0%
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.2%	<b>Most Recent Dividend Increase:</b>	7.1%
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Stock Price:</b>	\$81

### Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	4,296	4,412	4,730	5,303	5,347	5,601	6,318	6,351	6,662	6,724
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,737	1,832	1,794	2,093	2,145	2,300	2,495	2,275	2,503	2,591
<b>Gross Margin</b>	40.4%	41.5%	37.9%	39.5%	40.1%	41.1%	39.5%	35.8%	37.6%	38.5%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	1,127	1,175	1,031	1,163	1,167	1,282	1,404	1,357	1,478	1,521
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	106	109	125	151	159	165	186	201	199	209
<b>Operating Profit</b>	610	657	763	930	979	1,019	1,091	917	1,024	1,070
<b>Operating Margin</b>	14.2%	14.9%	16.1%	17.5%	18.3%	18.2%	17.3%	14.4%	15.4%	15.9%
<b>Net Profit</b>	402	472	477	933	703	747	755	682	681	789
<b>Net Margin</b>	9.3%	10.7%	10.1%	17.6%	13.1%	13.3%	12.0%	10.7%	10.2%	11.7%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	462	504	633	652	773	816	550	390	973	647
<b>Income Tax</b>	131	153	151	(157)	157	175	193	169	175	184

### Balance Sheet Metrics

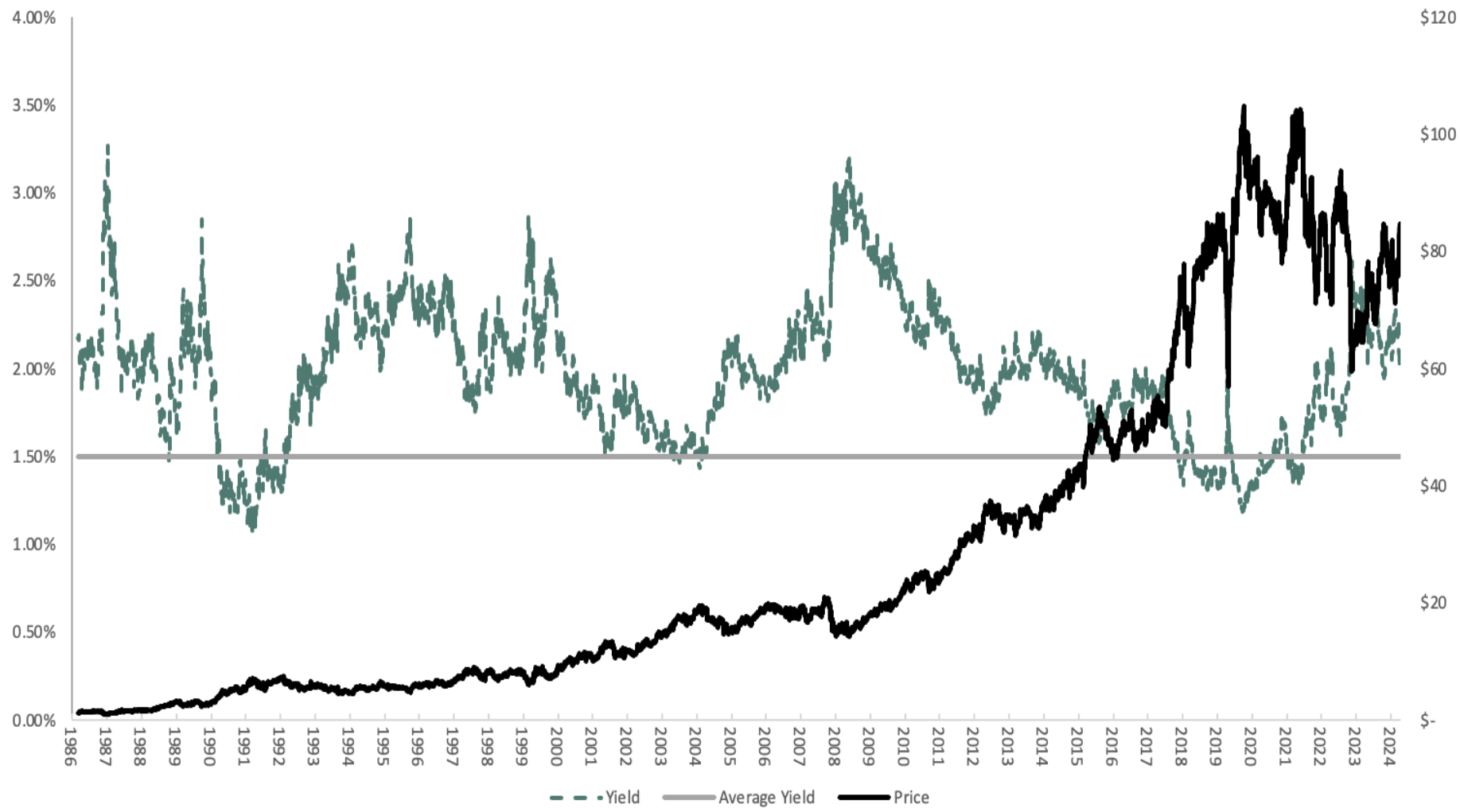
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	4,473	4,636	10,386	10,256	10,362	12,090	12,906	13,125	12,862	13,070
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	113	118	187	97	155	424	352	334	167	186
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	455	465	555	518	503	529	550	574	588	587
<b>Inventories</b>	711	756	793	786	801	1,033	1,182	1,340	1,127	1,240
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	2,131	2,196	7,561	7,445	7,429	8,342	8,929	8,761	8,777	8,726
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	2,786	2,998	7,815	7,074	6,905	8,150	8,480	8,426	7,779	7,754
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	412	451	640	710	847	1,032	1,064	1,171	1,119	1,238
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	1,394	1,447	5,027	4,696	4,324	4,904	5,283	5,150	4,411	4,342
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	1,670	1,627	2,560	3,171	3,444	3,926	4,411	4,681	5,061	5,291
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.83	0.89	1.96	1.48	1.26	1.25	1.20	1.10	0.87	0.82

### Profitability & Per Share Metrics

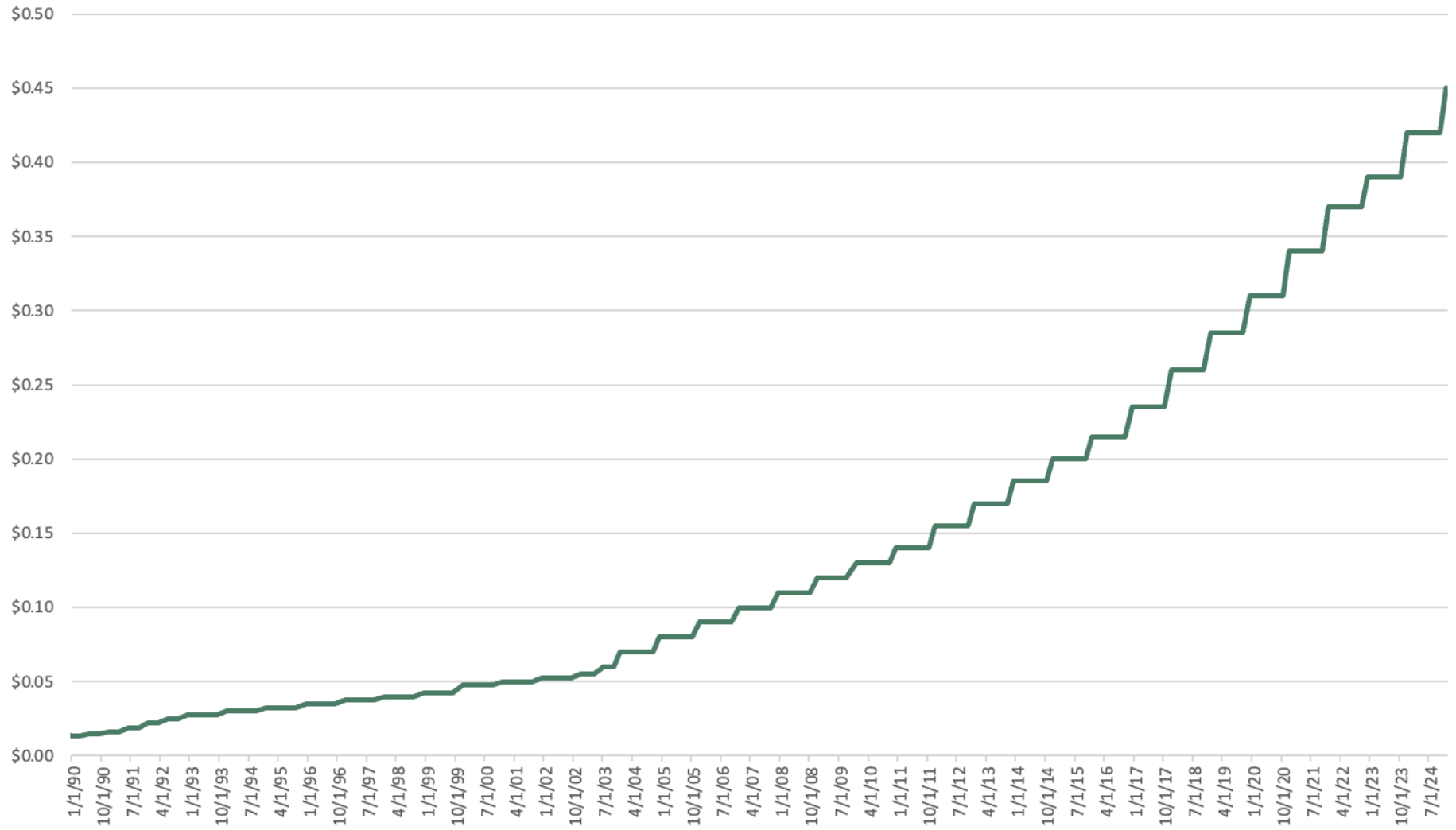
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Return on Assets</b>	9.0%	10.4%	6.4%	9.0%	6.8%	6.7%	6.0%	5.2%	5.2%	6.1%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	23.0%	28.4%	22.7%	32.4%	21.2%	20.2%	18.1%	14.9%	13.9%	15.2%
<b>ROIC</b>	13.0%	15.3%	8.9%	12.1%	9.0%	9.0%	8.1%	7.0%	7.0%	8.2%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	255	251	262	264	266	267	267	270	270	270
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	16.63	17.23	18.42	19.90	19.95	20.81	23.41	23.50	24.69	24.94
<b>FCF/Share</b>	1.79	1.97	2.46	2.45	2.88	3.03	2.04	1.44	3.61	2.40

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

### McCormick & Co Inc (MKC) Dividend Yield History



### McCormick & Co Inc (MKC) Dividend Per Share History



## Buying & Ranking Criteria

Initial security selection data is from the most recent Sure Analysis report on the Wednesday morning preceding the publication of the newsletter.

The method we use to find the Top 10 list for the *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* is below:

1. Filter our [Sure Analysis Research Database](#) universe of securities for:
  - Dividend yield greater than or equal to the S&P 500's
  - A & B Dividend Risk Scores
  - Dividend yield greater than or equal to the security's 10-year historical dividend yield
  - Expected total returns greater than or equal to the greater of 4.0% or our expected total return for the S&P 500
  - U.S. securities only (no international securities)
  - 5+ years of consecutive dividend increases
2. Rank securities by 5-year forward dividend growth rate and 5-year historical price standard deviation
3. Sort securities by their average ranking between standard deviation and expected growth rate
4. No more than three companies per sector
5. Qualitatively select our favorite Top 10 from the highest ranked 20 securities
6. "A" Dividend Risk Score securities rank ahead of "B" Dividend Risk Score securities within the Top 10. Within each Dividend Risk Score category, the Top 10 order will be sorted by dividend yield plus expected 5-year growth rate (the higher the better).

To receive an A Dividend Risk Score, a security must be in the top 20% for dividend safety. To receive a B Dividend Risk Score, a security must be in the top 40% for dividend safety. The formula for the Dividend Risk Score is below:

**Dividend Risk Score (Raw) = Payout Ratio x 100 – # Years of Rising Dividends + 50 if deemed risky during a recession**

We view securities with A and B Dividend Risk Scores as generally having secure dividends that are very unlikely to be reduced in the near future. Note that the Dividend Risk Score factors in dividend history also.

The combination of quality (low price standard deviation and our Dividend Risk Score), with "fair or better price," dividend yield (yield greater than the S&P 500 and the security's 10-year historical average), and growth (5-year expected growth rate) creates a compelling system to find *buy and hold forever securities for rising passive income*.

## Portfolio Building Guide

The process of building a buy and hold rising passive income portfolio is outlined on this page.

**Each month invest in the top-ranked security in which you own the smallest dollar amount out of the Top 10.** If you already have 25% or more of your equity portfolio in a specific sector, avoid purchasing additional securities from that sector until a purchase would not push your allocation in the sector above 25%.

Over time, you will build a diversified portfolio of high-quality securities likely to pay you rising income over time.

Alternatively, the Top 10 list is also useful as an idea generation tool for those with a different portfolio allocation plan.

### Examples

Portfolio 1		
Ticker	Name	Amount
ADP	Automatic Data	\$ 1,002
ELV	Elevance Health	\$ -
ATO	Atmos Energy	\$ -
JNJ	Johnson & Johnson	\$ -
UNH	UnitedHealth Group	\$ -
YUM	Yum! Brands	\$ -
HD	Home Depot	\$ -
AWK	American Water Works	\$ -
WEC	WEC Energy Group	\$ -
MKC	McCormick	\$ -

Portfolio 2		
Ticker	Name	Amount
ADP	Automatic Data	\$ 4,374
ELV	Elevance Health	\$ 4,878
ATO	Atmos Energy	\$ 4,353
JNJ	Johnson & Johnson	\$ 7,428
UNH	UnitedHealth Group	\$ 3,309
YUM	Yum! Brands	\$ 8,099
HD	Home Depot	\$ 5,629
AWK	American Water Works	\$ 2,176
WEC	WEC Energy Group	\$ 1,079
MKC	McCormick	\$ 4,864

- If you had portfolio 1, you would buy ELV, the top-ranked security you own the least of.
- If you had portfolio 2, you would buy WEC, the top-ranked security you own the least of.

If you have an existing portfolio or a large lump sum to invest, you may wish to switch over to the Sure Passive Income strategy over a 30-month period. Each month take 1/30 of your initial portfolio value and buy the top-ranked security you own the least of out of the Top 10, subject to the 25% sector allocation rule discussed earlier. A portfolio with 30 securities purchased with equal dollar amounts will have a high level of firm-specific diversification.

There's no upper limit to the number of securities that can be held in a buy and hold portfolio because securities need not be monitored as closely after purchasing. As a result, investors still in the accumulation phase can further diversify by adding a greater number of securities over time.

If we issue a sell recommendation due to a dividend reduction, proceeds from the sale should be reinvested into the highest ranked security or securities in the Top 10 which you own the least of.

If you are not ready to use the dividend income from your portfolio, set your securities to reinvest dividends so that your portfolio automatically reinvests its dividend proceeds. This will have the effect of compounding your portfolio's dividend income stream faster, as you benefit from having more shares in the companies and will likely be getting rising dividends from each share as well.

This simple investing process will build a diversified portfolio highly likely to generate rising passive income over time.

## Past Recommendation Performance & Sells

The *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* provides long-term buy and hold recommendations. As a result, our aim is to never sell.

With that said, **our only sell rule in the *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* is to sell when a stock breaks its streak of consecutive annual dividend increases**, by failing to increase its dividend (flat year-over-year-dividends), by reducing its dividend (declining year-over-year dividends), or by eliminating its dividend. We will write up sell recommendations in the *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* as they occur.

Every past recommendation in the *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* is shown below, along with the date it would've been first purchased<sup>3</sup>, and total returns since the initial recommendation.

**Note:** Performance data is through the morning of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### Past Recommendations (Unsold)

Name	Ticker	First Buy Date	Total Ret.
Republic Services	RSG	10/19/2020	165.4%
Atmos Energy	ATO	10/19/2020	76.3%
Coca-Cola	KO	10/19/2020	58.2%
Lockheed Martin	LMT	10/19/2020	37.9%
Honeywell	HON	10/19/2020	33.7%
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	10/19/2020	27.5%
Colgate-Palmolive	CL	10/19/2020	26.1%
Mondelez	MDLZ	10/19/2020	25.2%
NextEra Energy	NEE	10/19/2020	9.3%
Medtronic	MDT	10/19/2020	-3.1%
Travelers	TRV	11/16/2020	108.3%
National Fuel Gas	NFG	11/16/2020	106.9%
General Dynamics	GD	11/16/2020	88.4%
Amgen	AMGN	11/16/2020	50.9%
Home Depot	HD	11/16/2020	38.0%
J.M. Smucker	SJM	11/16/2020	7.0%
American Tower	AMT	11/16/2020	-1.4%
Comcast	CMCSA	11/16/2020	-20.5%
Hormel Foods	HRL	11/16/2020	-36.9%
A. O. Smith	AOS	12/21/2020	26.9%
Archer-Daniels-Midland	ADM	12/21/2020	6.8%
Oracle	ORCL	2/22/2021	145.6%
UnitedHealth Group	UNH	2/22/2021	57.1%
L3Harris Technologies	LHX	2/22/2021	23.3%
Cisco Systems	CSCO	3/22/2021	34.8%
Lincoln Electric Holdings	LECO	4/19/2021	58.6%
Booz Allen Hamilton	BAH	4/19/2021	40.4%
Gilead Sciences	GILD	5/17/2021	90.3%
Kimberly-Clark	KMB	5/17/2021	20.6%
Tyson Foods	TSN	5/17/2021	-15.9%
Lowe's	LOW	6/21/2021	25.7%

<sup>3</sup> This is the closing price from the first trading day after the *Sure Passive Income Newsletter* publishes.

Sempra Energy	SRE	7/19/2021	18.9%
Silgan Holdings	SLGN	8/16/2021	21.2%
Verizon Communications	VZ	8/16/2021	-3.8%
Donaldson Company	DCI	10/18/2021	21.2%
Cigna	CI	11/22/2021	57.4%
Spire	SR	11/22/2021	39.8%
Cummins	CMI	12/20/2021	66.4%
Merck	MRK	12/20/2021	34.2%
Starbucks	SBUX	1/18/2022	6.4%
C.H. Robinson Worldwide	CHRW	2/22/2022	13.4%
PPG Industries	PPG	3/21/2022	-7.7%
Flowers Foods	FLO	3/21/2022	-17.8%
BlackRock	BLK	4/18/2022	45.3%
Lancaster Colony	LANC	5/16/2022	41.5%
Texas Instruments	TXN	5/16/2022	13.0%
UGI	UGI	5/16/2022	-4.9%
Sonoco Products	SON	5/16/2022	-14.3%
Cboe Global Markets	CBOE	8/22/2022	81.0%
Broadridge Financial	BR	10/17/2022	65.6%
Target	TGT	10/17/2022	-25.1%
Parker-Hannifin	PH	11/21/2022	100.0%
Assurant	AIZ	11/21/2022	70.5%
Chesapeake Financial	CPKF	11/21/2022	-7.3%
Eversource Energy	ES	11/21/2022	-15.7%
Eagle Financial Services	EFSI	12/19/2022	-3.2%
Automatic Data Processing	ADP	2/21/2023	35.2%
Illinois Tool Works	ITW	5/22/2023	15.5%
Alliant Energy	LNT	6/20/2023	26.2%
American Water Works	AWK	9/18/2023	7.6%
PepsiCo	PEP	11/20/2023	-6.5%
McCormick	MKC	1/22/2024	27.2%
Becton, Dickinson	BDX	1/22/2024	-2.6%
Keurig Dr Pepper	KDP	2/20/2024	10.4%
Clorox	CLX	4/22/2024	4.5%
McDonald's	MCD	6/17/2024	19.7%
Yum! Brands	YUM	7/22/2024	22.2%
Jack Henry	JKHY	7/22/2024	5.0%
Abbott Laboratories	ABT	8/19/2024	13.7%
Xcel Energy	XEL	9/16/2024	7.7%
SEI Investments	SEIC	10/21/2024	1.3%
Equinix	EQIX	10/21/2024	-4.5%
WEC Energy	WEC	11/18/2024	8.3%
Domino's Pizza	DPZ	11/18/2024	-4.4%
Graco	GGG	2/18/2025	-4.7%
Nordson	NDSN	2/18/2025	-6.8%
Elevance Health	ELV	3/17/2025	N/A



## Past Recommendations (Sold)

Name	Ticker	First Buy Date	Sell Date	Total Ret.
AT&T	T	5/17/2021	4/22/2024	-14.3%
Warner Bros. Discovery	WBD	4/5/2022	4/22/2024	-65.3%
Solventum	SOLV	3/26/2024	4/22/2024	-22.4%
3M	MMM	12/21/2020	5/20/2024	-14.8%
Baxter International	BAX	1/16/2023	11/18/2024	-22.4%

**Notes:** WBD and SOLV were not Buy recommendations; they were obtained due to spinoffs from T and MMM. We did not sell immediately, so performance is included in the above table.

## Performance Summary

- Average sold position total return (5 total): -27.8%
- Average unsold position total return (77 total): 27.4%
- **Average sold and unsold position total return (82 total): 24.0%**

## List of Securities by Dividend Risk Score

All [Sure Analysis Research Database](#) securities are grouped by Dividend Risk Score and sorted (from highest to lowest) by expected 5-year growth rate. Dividend or Distribution Yield is included next to each security's ticker symbol. The Dividend Risk Score uses payout ratio, dividend history, and recession resiliency to measure a company's dividend safety. Learn more about how the score is calculated in the [Sure Analysis Glossary](#).

Click on the name of any security below to go to that security's Sure Analysis page (if you are a member of the [Sure Analysis Research Database](#)).

### A-Rated Dividend Risk Securities

1. Nucor Corp. (NUE): 1.7%
2. Morningstar Inc (MORN): 0.6%
3. Alphabet Inc (GOOGL): 0.5%
4. Meta Platforms Inc (META): 0.3%
5. Stepan Co. (SCL): 2.6%
6. Badger Meter Inc. (BMI): 0.7%
7. Quanta Services, Inc. (PWR): 0.2%
8. Intuit Inc (INTU): 0.7%
9. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (AJG): 0.8%
10. Visa Inc (V): 0.7%
11. Microsoft Corporation (MSFT): 0.9%
12. Mckesson Corporation (MCK): 0.4%
13. Waste Connections Inc (WCN): 0.7%
14. Applied Industrial Technologies Inc. (AIT): 0.8%
15. Moody`s Corp. (MCO): 0.8%
16. W.R. Berkley Corp. (WRB): 0.5%
17. S&P Global Inc (SPGI): 0.8%
18. Stryker Corp. (SYK): 0.9%
19. Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. (ODFL): 0.7%
20. Heico Corp. (HEI): 0.1%
21. Casey`s General Stores, Inc. (CASY): 0.5%
22. Gorman-Rupp Co. (GRC): 2%
23. Resmed Inc. (RMD): 0.9%
24. Walmart Inc (WMT): 1.1%
25. FirstService Corp (FSV): 0.7%
26. Hyster Yale Inc (HY): 3.1%
27. Griffon Corp. (GFF): 1%
28. SEI Investments Co. (SEIC): 1.3%
29. Nordson Corp. (NDSN): 1.5%
30. Travelers Companies Inc. (TRV): 1.7%
31. Primerica Inc (PRI): 1.5%
32. Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (TMO): 0.3%
33. Ameriprise Financial Inc (AMP): 1.2%
34. Raymond James Financial, Inc. (RJF): 1.4%
35. W.W. Grainger Inc. (GWW): 0.8%
36. CSW Industrials Inc. (CSWI): 0.3%
37. Owens Corning (OC): 2%
38. RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd (RNR): 0.7%
39. Roper Technologies Inc (ROP): 0.6%
40. Cencora Inc. (COR): 0.8%
41. Costco Wholesale Corp (COST): 0.5%
42. Murphy USA Inc. (MUSA): 0.4%
43. Ecolab, Inc. (ECL): 1%
44. Elevance Health Inc (ELV): 1.6%
45. Agilent Technologies Inc. (A): 0.8%
46. Applied Materials Inc. (AMAT): 1.1%
47. CSX Corp. (CSX): 1.8%
48. Emerson Electric Co. (EMR): 1.9%
49. Lowe`s Cos., Inc. (LOW): 2%
50. Genuine Parts Co. (GPC): 3.3%
51. Automatic Data Processing Inc. (ADP): 2.1%
52. Illinois Tool Works, Inc. (ITW): 2.4%
53. ITT Inc (ITT): 1%
54. Brown & Brown, Inc. (BRO): 0.5%
55. Cintas Corporation (CTAS): 0.8%
56. Parker-Hannifin Corp. (PH): 1.1%
57. West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. (WST): 0.4%
58. Apple Inc (AAPL): 0.5%
59. FactSet Research Systems Inc. (FDS): 1%
60. SJW Group (SJW): 3.1%
61. Globe Life Inc (GL): 0.9%
62. Qualcomm, Inc. (QCOM): 2.2%
63. Becton Dickinson & Co. (BDX): 1.9%
64. Humana Inc. (HUM): 1.4%
65. Donaldson Co. Inc. (DCI): 1.6%
66. Tompkins Financial Corp (TMP): 4%
67. Stanley Black & Decker Inc (SWK): 4%
68. Ensign Group Inc (ENSG): 0.2%
69. Hubbell Inc. (HUBB): 1.6%
70. Balchem Corp. (BCPC): 0.5%
71. Colgate-Palmolive Co. (CL): 2.1%
72. Dover Corp. (DOV): 1.1%
73. RB Global Inc (RBA): 1.2%
74. Jack Henry & Associates, Inc. (JKHY): 1.3%
75. Turning Point Brands Inc (TPB): 0.5%
76. Hawkins Inc (HWKN): 0.7%
77. Church & Dwight Co., Inc. (CHD): 1.1%
78. PPG Industries, Inc. (PPG): 2.4%
79. Hormel Foods Corp. (HRL): 3.9%
80. Target Corp (TGT): 4%
81. Sysco Corp. (SYY): 2.8%
82. First Citizens BancShares, Inc. (FCNCA): 0.5%
83. Tennant Co. (TNC): 1.4%
84. Brady Corp. (BRC): 1.4%
85. MSA Safety Inc (MSA): 1.3%

86. Lindsay Corporation (LNN): 1.1%
87. Medtronic Plc (MDT): 3%
88. RPM International, Inc. (RPM): 1.7%
89. Coca-Cola Co (KO): 2.9%
90. Chemed Corp. (CHE): 0.3%
91. Atmos Energy Corp. (ATO): 2.3%
92. Graco Inc. (GGG): 1.3%
93. Pentair plc (PNR): 1.2%
94. Abbott Laboratories (ABT): 1.8%
95. Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc. (LECO): 1.5%
96. RTX Corp (RTX): 2%
97. American States Water Co. (AWR): 2.3%
98. Ametek Inc (AME): 0.7%
99. Franklin Electric Co., Inc. (FELE): 1.1%
100. Sherwin-Williams Co. (SHW): 0.9%
101. Aflac Inc. (AFL): 2.2%
102. AptarGroup Inc. (ATR): 1.2%
103. Andersons Inc. (ANDE): 1.8%
104. Eastern Bankshares Inc. (EBC): 3.1%
105. Benchmark Bankshares, Inc. (BMBN): 3.5%
106. Carlisle Companies Inc. (CSL): 1.2%
107. Johnson & Johnson (JNJ): 3%
108. Silgan Holdings Inc. (SLGN): 1.6%
109. Brown-Forman Corp. (BF.B): 2.5%
110. ABM Industries Inc. (ABM): 2.1%
111. H.B. Fuller Company (FUL): 1.6%
112. A.O. Smith Corp. (AOS): 2%
113. Lancaster Colony Corp. (LANC): 2.1%
114. Consolidated Edison, Inc. (ED): 3.3%
115. John Wiley & Sons Inc. (WLY): 3%
116. Northrop Grumman Corp. (NOC): 1.7%
117. Cincinnati Financial Corp. (CINF): 2.5%
118. General Dynamics Corp. (GD): 2.3%
119. McDonald's Corp (MCD): 2.3%
120. Air Products & Chemicals Inc. (APD): 2.4%
121. Unifirst Corp. (UNF): 0.6%
122. Linde Plc. (LIN): 1.3%
123. Erie Indemnity Co. (ERIE): 1.2%
124. J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. (JBHT): 1.1%
125. MGE Energy, Inc. (MGEE): 1.9%
126. Quaker Houghton (KWR): 1.5%
127. Sonoco Products Co. (SON): 4.5%
128. Farmers & Merchants Bancorp (FMCB): 1.8%
129. BOK Financial Corp. (BOKF): 2.3%
130. First Farmers Financial Corp (FFMR): 2.9%
131. Boise Cascade Company (BCC): 0.9%
132. California Water Service Group (CWT): 2.5%
133. Fox Corporation (FOXA): 1%
134. Caterpillar Inc. (CAT): 1.7%
135. McGrath RentCorp (MGRC): 1.7%
136. Steris Plc (STE): 1%
137. GATX Corp. (GATX): 1.6%
138. Procter & Gamble Co. (PG): 2.3%
139. AbbVie Inc (ABBV): 3.1%
140. Commerce Bancshares, Inc. (CBSH): 1.8%
141. Cardinal Health, Inc. (CAH): 1.6%
142. Evercore Inc (EVR): 1.6%
143. Middlesex Water Co. (MSEX): 2.2%
144. Northwest Natural Holding Co (NWN): 4.7%
145. Black Hills Corporation (BKH): 4.5%
146. Community Trust Bancorp, Inc. (CTBI): 3.7%
147. Royal Gold, Inc. (RGLD): 1.2%
148. Chesapeake Financial Shares Inc (CPKF): 3.5%
149. Eagle Financial Services, Inc. (EFSI): 3.9%
150. Assurant Inc (AIZ): 1.6%
151. Enterprise Bancorp, Inc. (EBTC): 2.6%
152. Federal Realty Investment Trust. (FRT): 4.5%
153. Unum Group (UNM): 2.1%
154. Bancfirst Corp. (BANF): 1.7%
155. Kroger Co. (KR): 1.9%
156. Chubb Limited (CB): 1.3%
157. Williams-Sonoma, Inc. (WSM): 1.3%
158. Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM): 4.2%
159. Fresenius Medical Care AG (FMS): 2.6%
160. National Fuel Gas Co. (NFG): 2.8%
161. Tootsie Roll Industries, Inc. (TR): 1.1%
162. Northeast Indiana Bancorp Inc. (NIDB): 4.2%
163. United Bankshares, Inc. (UBSI): 4.3%
164. Utah Medical Products, Inc. (UTMD): 2.1%
165. Kenvue Inc (KVUE): 3.5%
166. RLI Corp. (RLI): 0.8%
167. Bank OZK (OZK): 3.9%
168. Westamerica Bancorporation (WABC): 3.5%
169. MetLife Inc (MET): 2.8%
170. PSB Holdings Inc (WI) (PSBQ): 2.4%
171. Expeditors International (EXPD): 1.2%
172. Universal Corp. (UVV): 6%
173. Everest Group Ltd (EG): 2.3%
174. Republic Bancorp, Inc. (KY) (RBCAA): 2.8%
175. Horace Mann Educators Corp. (HMN): 3.4%
176. 1st Source Corp. (SRCE): 2.4%
177. Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM): 3.6%
178. Imperial Oil Ltd. (IMO): 3%

## **B-Rated Dividend Risk Securities**

1. Lilly (Eli) & Co (LLY): 0.7%
2. Lithia Motors, Inc. (LAD): 0.7%
3. Analog Devices Inc. (ADI): 1.9%
4. Comfort Systems USA, Inc. (FIX): 0.5%
5. Kinsale Capital Group, Inc. (KNSL): 0.1%
6. Nike, Inc. (NKE): 2.2%
7. MSCI Inc (MSCI): 1.3%
8. Zoetis Inc (ZTS): 1.2%
9. Thomson-Reuters Corp (TRI): 1.4%
10. Amphenol Corp. (APH): 1.1%
11. Churchill Downs, Inc. (CHDN): 0.4%
12. UnitedHealth Group Inc (UNH): 1.7%
13. Cigna Group (The) (CI): 1.9%
14. Novo Nordisk (NVO): 2.3%

15. Blackrock Inc. (BLK): 2.3%
16. Matthews International Corp. (MATW): 4.3%
17. Trane Technologies plc (TT): 1%
18. L'Oreal (LRLCF): 1.8%
19. Waste Management, Inc. (WM): 1.5%
20. Republic Services, Inc. (RSG): 1%
21. Constellation Energy Corporation (CEG): 0.7%
22. Hillenbrand Inc (HI): 3.4%
23. Equinix Inc (EQIX): 2.2%
24. Community Financial System Inc. (CBU): 3.3%
25. Domino's Pizza Inc (DPZ): 1.6%
26. Jackson Financial Inc (JXN): 3.9%
27. Yum! Brands Inc. (YUM): 1.8%
28. Honeywell International Inc (HON): 2.2%
29. Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (BR): 1.6%
30. Franco-Nevada Corporation (FNV): 1%
31. Verisk Analytics Inc (VRSK): 0.6%
32. Tractor Supply Co. (TSCO): 1.7%
33. American Financial Group Inc (AFG): 4.2%
34. Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corp (BAH): 2%
35. Regal Rexnord Corp (RRX): 1.2%
36. SBA Communications Corp (SBAC): 2%
37. Cummins Inc. (CMI): 2.2%
38. American Water Works Co. Inc. (AWK): 2.1%
39. Home Depot, Inc. (HD): 2.5%
40. Intercontinental Exchange Inc (ICE): 1.1%
41. Xylem Inc (XYL): 1.3%
42. Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS): 1.5%
43. Oracle Corp. (ORCL): 1.1%
44. Ball Corp. (BALL): 1.5%
45. Sap SE (SAP): 0.9%
46. Comcast Corp (CMCSA): 3.7%
47. Albemarle Corp. (ALB): 2.2%
48. RELX Plc (RELX): 1.7%
49. Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P (BIP): 6.1%
50. Keurig Dr Pepper Inc (KDP): 2.8%
51. Interpublic Group of Cos., Inc. (IPG): 4.8%
52. Oil-Dri Corp. Of America (ODC): 1.4%
53. Canadian National Railway Co. (CNI): 2.6%
54. NextEra Energy Inc (NEE): 3.1%
55. Cboe Global Markets Inc. (CBOE): 1.2%
56. Bank of Montreal (BMO): 4.7%
57. NiSource Inc (NI): 2.9%
58. Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. (CTSH): 1.5%
59. AMGEN Inc. (AMGN): 3%
60. Union Pacific Corp. (UNP): 2.3%
61. McCormick & Co., Inc. (MKC): 2.2%
62. American Express Co. (AXP): 1.3%
63. Carrier Global Corp (CARR): 1.4%
64. Rockwell Automation Inc (ROK): 2%
65. Deere & Co. (DE): 1.4%
66. Edison International (EIX): 5.9%
67. National Bank of Canada (NTIOF): 4%
68. Eversource Energy (ES): 5%
69. PepsiCo Inc (PEP): 3.7%
70. Lamb Weston Holdings Inc (LW): 2.9%
71. RGC Resources, Inc. (RGCO): 4.1%
72. New Jersey Resources Corporation (NJR): 3.7%
73. FedEx Corp (FDX): 2.3%
74. Eastman Chemical Co (EMN): 3.5%
75. Unitil Corp. (UTL): 3.2%
76. Royal Bank of Canada (RY): 3.7%
77. Prosperity Bancshares Inc. (PB): 3.3%
78. Alliant Energy Corp. (LNT): 3.2%
79. Old Republic International Corp. (ORI): 3.2%
80. Xcel Energy, Inc. (XEL): 3.3%
81. DTE Energy Co. (DTE): 3.3%
82. Norfolk Southern Corp. (NSC): 2.3%
83. Landmark Bancorp Inc (LARK): 3.5%
84. Essential Utilities Inc (WTRG): 3.3%
85. CVS Health Corp (CVS): 4.1%
86. M & T Bank Corp (MTB): 3.2%
87. WEC Energy Group Inc (WEC): 3.4%
88. eBay Inc. (EBAY): 1.8%
89. Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT): 2.8%
90. Nasdaq Inc (NDAQ): 1.3%
91. Cisco Systems, Inc. (CSCO): 2.7%
92. Southern Company (SO): 3.2%
93. L3Harris Technologies Inc (LHX): 2.3%
94. CMS Energy Corporation (CMS): 3%
95. Siemens AG (SIEGY): 2.2%
96. Chesapeake Utilities Corp (CPK): 2%
97. ABB Ltd. (ABBNY): 1.8%
98. HNI Corp. (HNI): 3%
99. Fortis Inc. (FTS): 3.9%
100. American Electric Power Company Inc. (AEP): 3.6%
101. Artesian Resources Corp. (ARTNA): 3.7%
102. Canandaigua National Corporation (CNND): 5.1%
103. Maximus Inc. (MMS): 1.8%
104. Donegal Group Inc. (DGICA): 3.9%
105. Bar Harbor Bankshares Inc (BHB): 4.1%
106. Avient Corp (AVNT): 2.7%
107. Merck & Co Inc (MRK): 3.4%
108. Sempra (SRE): 3.8%
109. Evergy Inc (EVRG): 4.1%
110. Toronto Dominion Bank (TD): 5.1%
111. Somerset Trust Holding Company (SOME): 3.4%
112. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CM): 4.9%
113. Norwood Financial Corp. (NWFL): 5%
114. UMB Financial Corp. (UMBF): 1.6%
115. Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc (HII): 2.8%
116. Skyworks Solutions, Inc. (SWKS): 4.1%
117. Tyson Foods, Inc. (TSN): 3.3%
118. Münchener Ruckversicherungs (MURGF): 3.3%
119. Nestle SA (NSRGY): 3.1%
120. Service Corp. International (SCI): 1.5%
121. Snap-on, Inc. (SNA): 2.5%
122. TXNM Energy Inc. (TXNM): 3.2%
123. Westlake Corporation (WLK): 1.9%
124. York Water Co. (YORW): 2.5%

125. Entergy Corp. (ETR): 2.9%
126. NRG Energy Inc. (NRG): 2%
127. Kellanova Co (K): 2.8%
128. Mueller Water Products Inc (MWA): 1%
129. Enterprise Products Partners L P (EPD): 6.5%
130. Kimberly-Clark Corp. (KMB): 3.5%
131. NNN REIT Inc (NNN): 5.4%
132. H&R Block Inc. (HRB): 2.8%
133. Portland General Electric Co (POR): 4.5%
134. America Movil S.A.B.DE C.V. (AMX): 3.5%
135. Dollar General Corp. (DG): 3%
136. Omnicom Group, Inc. (OMC): 3.4%
137. Polaris Inc (PII): 6%
138. Novartis AG (NVS): 3.4%
139. J.M. Smucker Co. (SJM): 3.8%
140. Toro Co. (TTC): 2%
141. Ping AN Insurance (Group) Co (PNGAY): 5.6%
142. First Financial Corp. - Indiana (THFF): 4.2%
143. Greif Inc (GEF): 3.9%
144. Clorox Co. (CLX): 3.3%
145. Canadian Utilities Ltd. (CDUAF): 5.3%
146. SpartanNash Co (SPTN): 4.4%
147. Best Buy Co. Inc. (BBY): 5.1%
148. Unilever plc (UL): 3.2%
149. Idacorp, Inc. (IDA): 3%
150. 3M Co. (MMM): 1.9%
151. C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. (CHRW): 2.6%
152. International Business Machines Corp. (IBM): 2.7%
153. Gilead Sciences, Inc. (GILD): 2.8%
154. Essex Property Trust, Inc. (ESS): 3.5%
155. UGI Corp. (UGI): 4.6%
156. Perrigo Company plc (PRGO): 4.2%
157. T. Rowe Price Group Inc. (TROW): 5.3%
158. Cass Information Systems Inc (CASS): 2.9%
159. Southside Bancshares Inc (SBSI): 5%
160. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (BMY): 4%
161. Ingredion Inc (INGR): 2.4%
162. Enbridge Inc (ENB): 6.2%
163. Great-West Lifeco Inc. (GWLIF): 4.8%
164. Roche Holding AG (RHHBY): 3.2%
165. Phillips 66 (PSX): 3.7%
166. Realty Income Corp. (O): 5.7%
167. Verizon Communications Inc (VZ): 6.2%
168. Universal Health Realty Income Trust (UHT): 7.1%
169. Sunoco LP (SUN): 6.1%
170. Alerus Financial Corp (ALRS): 4.3%
171. Altria Group Inc. (MO): 7%
172. Cullen Frost Bankers Inc. (CFR): 3.1%
173. Dillard's Inc. (DDS): 0.3%
174. Mueller Industries, Inc. (MLI): 1.2%
175. Nacco Industries Inc. (NC): 2.8%
176. TotalEnergies SE (TTE): 5.7%
177. Chevron Corp. (CVX): 4.4%
178. Otter Tail Corporation (OTTR): 2.6%

## C-Rated Dividend Risk Securities

1. ASML Holding NV (ASML): 1%
2. Howmet Aerospace Inc. (HWM): 0.3%
3. Mastercard Incorporated (MA): 0.6%
4. Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH): 2.1%
5. Apollo Global Management Inc (APO): 1.4%
6. Selective Insurance Group, Inc. (SIGI): 1.8%
7. Tetra Tech, Inc. (TTEK): 0.8%
8. The Brink's Company (BCO): 1.1%
9. Rush Enterprises, Inc. (RUSHA): 1.3%
10. D.R. Horton Inc. (DHI): 1.2%
11. Alamo Group (ALG) (ALG): 0.6%
12. Aon plc. (AON): 0.7%
13. Nelnet, Inc. (NNI): 1%
14. Standex International Corp. (SXI): 0.7%
15. Bank Of America Corp. (BAC): 2.6%
16. Stantec Inc (STN): 0.8%
17. Bank Of New York Mellon Corp (BK): 2.3%
18. Starbucks Corp. (SBUX): 2.4%
19. KBR, Inc. (KBR): 1.3%
20. Wintrust Financial Corporation (WTFC): 1.8%
21. Stifel Financial Corp. (SF): 2%
22. Simpson Manufacturing Co., Inc. (SSD): 0.7%
23. ServisFirst Bancshares, Inc. (SFBS): 1.7%
24. Air Lease Corp (AL): 2%
25. Harley-Davidson, Inc. (HOG): 2.8%
26. CDW Corporation (CDW): 1.5%
27. Jacobs Solutions Inc. (J): 1%
28. MGIC Investment Corporation (MTG): 2.3%
29. Allstate Corp (The) (ALL): 2%
30. Northrim Bancorp, Inc. (NRIM): 3.6%
31. Logitech International S.A. (LOGI): 1.5%
32. Littelfuse, Inc. (LFUS): 1.3%
33. Eaton Corporation plc (ETN): 1.3%
34. CRA International, Inc. (CRAI) (CRAI): 1.1%
35. Kadant Inc. (KAI): 0.4%
36. Moog Inc. (MOG.B): 0.7%
37. Oshkosh Corp (OSK): 2.1%
38. Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. (WMS): 0.6%
39. Materion Corporation (MTRN): 0.6%
40. Genpact Limited (G): 1.4%
41. Amdocs Ltd (DOX): 2.4%
42. Unity Bancorp, Inc. (UNTY): 1.3%
43. Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (GS): 2.2%
44. TD SYNEX Corporation (SNX): 1.4%
45. Toll Brothers, Inc. (TOL): 0.9%
46. Vistra Corp (VST): 0.8%
47. HA Sustainable Infrastructure Capital (HASI): 5.9%
48. Watts Water Technologies, Inc. (WTS): 0.8%
49. Willis Towers Watson Public Limited (WTW): 1.1%
50. Philip Morris International Inc (PM): 3.5%
51. Lennox International Inc (LII): 0.8%
52. Landstar System, Inc. (LSTR): 0.9%

53. Shoe Carnival, Inc. (SCVL): 2.4%
54. Voya Financial, Inc. (VOYA): 2.7%
55. Cabot Corp. (CBT): 2%
56. Hanover Insurance Group Inc (THG): 2.2%
57. Oak Valley Bancorp (OVLY): 2.4%
58. International Bancshares Corp. (IBOC): 2.3%
59. Timberland Bancorp, Inc. (TSBK): 3.4%
60. John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc. (JBSS): 1.2%
61. Diageo plc (DEO): 3.8%
62. United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS): 5.6%
63. Trinity Industries, Inc. (TRN): 4.1%
64. Arrow Financial Corp. (AROW): 4.4%
65. Leidos Holdings, Inc. (LDOS): 1.2%
66. Masco Corporation (MAS): 1.7%
67. UFP Industries Inc (UFPI): 1.3%
68. Armstrong World Industries, Inc. (AWI): 0.9%
69. Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. (HIG): 1.8%
70. TE Connectivity Ltd (TEL): 1.8%
71. ALLETE, Inc. (ALE): 4.5%
72. Southern Missouri Bancorp Inc (SMBC): 1.7%
73. Vulcan Materials Co (VMC): 0.9%
74. Greene County Bancorp, Inc. (GCBC): 1.4%
75. Bank First Corporation (BFC): 1.8%
76. Paychex Inc. (PAYX): 2.7%
77. Lam Research Corp. (LRCX): 1.3%
78. KLA Corp. (KLAC): 1%
79. Curtiss-Wright Corporation (CW): 0.3%
80. KKR & Co. Inc (KKR): 0.7%
81. Mondelez International Inc. (MDLZ): 2.8%
82. First Business Financial Services (FBIZ): 2.5%
83. East West Bancorp, Inc. (EWBC): 2.8%
84. Merchants Bancorp (MBIN): 1.1%
85. CSG Systems International, Inc. (CSGS): 2.1%
86. Royalty Pharma plc (RPRX): 2.7%
87. CNO Financial Group (CNO): 1.6%
88. PulteGroup Inc (PHM): 0.8%
89. Matson, Inc. (MATX): 1%
90. Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LPX): 1.3%
91. Infosys Ltd (INFY): 3.1%
92. Fastenal Co. (FAST): 2.2%
93. EMCOR Group, Inc. (EME): 0.3%
94. Orrstown Financial Services, Inc. (ORRF): 3.4%
95. Reinsurance Group of America, Inc. (RGA): 1.9%
96. Business First Bancshares, Inc. (BFST): 2.3%
97. Investar Holding Corporation (ISTR): 2.5%
98. Western Alliance Bancorporation (WAL): 2.1%
99. Consumers Bancorp, Inc. (CBKM): 4%
100. Campbell Soup Co. (CPB): 3.9%
101. NorthWestern Energy Group Inc (NWE): 4.8%
102. First National Corporation (FXNC): 2.8%
103. Allison Transmission Holdings, Inc. (ALSN): 1.1%
104. IDEX Corporation (IEX): 1.5%
105. HomeTrust Bancshares, Inc. (HTBI): 1.5%
106. CubeSmart (CUBE): 4.9%
107. Century Financial Corporation (CYFL): 2.1%
108. CITBA Financial Corporation (CBAF): 2.9%
109. FB Financial Corporation (FBK): 1.7%
110. Stock Yards Bancorp Inc (SYBT): 1.8%
111. SouthState Corporation (SSB): 2.4%
112. Bank of Botetourt (BORT): 2.6%
113. Enterprise Financial Services Corp (EFSC): 2.1%
114. Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. (MLM): 0.7%
115. Duke Energy Corp. (DUK): 3.6%
116. Mercantile Bank Corp. (MBWM): 3.4%
117. Spire Inc. (SR): 4.2%
118. Open Text Corp (OTEX): 4.1%
119. Bank Of Nova Scotia (BNS): 6.4%
120. FS Bancorp, Inc. (FSBW): 3.1%
121. General Mills, Inc. (GIS): 3.9%
122. First Savings Financial Group, Inc. (FSFG): 2.6%
123. Principal Financial Group Inc (PFG): 3.6%
124. Boyle Bancorp, Inc. (BYLB): 3.6%
125. First Mid Bancshares Inc. (FMBH): 2.7%
126. Bank7 Corp. (BSVN): 2.4%
127. Franklin Resources, Inc. (BEN): 6.3%
128. American Tower Corp. (AMT): 3.2%
129. Lazard Inc. (LAZ): 4.3%
130. Oge Energy Corp. (OGE): 3.8%
131. Graham Holdings Company (GHC): 0.8%
132. ONE Gas Inc (OGS): 3.6%
133. Pinnacle West Capital Corp. (PNW): 4%
134. Acushnet Holdings Corp. (GOLF): 1.4%
135. AT&T, Inc. (T): 4.3%
136. AGCO Corp. (AGCO): 1.2%
137. Targa Resources Corp (TRGP): 1.7%
138. Enpro Inc. (NPO): 0.7%
139. ChoiceOne Financial Services, Inc. (COFS): 3.9%
140. Citizens Bancorp of Virginia, Inc. (CZBT): 4%
141. Apogee Enterprises Inc. (APOG): 2.2%
142. RCI Hospitality Holdings, Inc. (RICK): 0.6%
143. Sanofi (SNY): 3.5%
144. Home Bancorp, Inc. (HBCP): 2.5%
145. Innospec Inc. (IOSP): 1.6%
146. Essent Group Ltd. (ESNT): 2.3%
147. Calvin b. Taylor Bankshares, Inc. (TYCB): 2.8%
148. Timken Co. (TKR): 1.8%
149. Cactus, Inc. (WHD): 1.1%
150. PPL Corp (PPL): 3.2%
151. Discover Financial Services (DFS): 1.8%
152. BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT): 1%
153. Healthpeak Properties Inc. (DOC): 6%
154. State Street Corp. (STT): 3.5%
155. West Fraser Timber Co., Ltd. (WFG): 1.7%
156. Flowers Foods, Inc. (FLO): 5.1%
157. HP Inc (HPQ): 4%
158. Avista Corp. (AVA): 5%
159. MPLX LP (MPLX): 7.3%
160. Hawthorn Bancshares Inc (HWBK): 2.9%
161. Quest Diagnostics, Inc. (DGX): 1.9%
162. Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. (PEG): 3.2%

163. Muncy Columbia Financial Corporation (CCFN): 4.1%
164. General Motors Company (GM): 1%
165. Civista Bancshares Inc (CIVB): 3.6%
166. Ryder System, Inc. (R): 2.2%
167. Synchrony Financial (SYF): 1.9%
168. Reliance Inc. (RS): 1.7%
169. Sony Group Corporation (SONY): 0.5%
170. Western Union Company (WU): 8.6%
171. Ovintiv Inc. (OVV): 3.1%
172. British American Tobacco Plc (BTI): 7.3%
173. NewMarket Corp. (NEU): 2%
174. Andover Bancorp, Inc. (ANDC): 3.8%
175. JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM): 2.2%
176. Steel Dynamics Inc. (STLD): 1.7%
177. Assured Guaranty Ltd (AGO): 1.6%
178. Diamondback Energy Inc (FANG): 2.8%
37. The New York Times Company (NYT): 1.5%
38. Garmin Ltd (GRMN): 1.6%
39. Broadcom Inc (AVGO): 1.2%
40. The Mosaic Company (MOS): 3.5%
41. Constellation Brands Inc (STZ): 2.2%
42. First United Corporation (FUNC): 3%
43. U.S. Bancorp. (USB): 4.8%
44. German American Bancorp, Inc. (GABC): 3.1%
45. Levi Strauss & Co. (LEVI): 3.5%
46. Winnebago Industries, Inc. (WGO): 3.8%
47. Morgan Stanley (MS): 3.3%
48. Avery Dennison Corp. (AVY): 2%
49. Farmers & Merchants Bancorp Inc. (FMAO): 3.9%
50. Marsh & McLennan Cos., Inc. (MMC): 1.4%
51. Patrick Industries, Inc. (PATK): 1.9%
52. Texas Instruments Inc. (TXN): 3.1%
53. Cognex Corporation (CGNX): 1%
54. Motorola Solutions Inc (MSI): 1.1%
55. Accenture plc (ACN): 1.8%
56. Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. (VRTS): 5.1%
57. Estee Lauder Cos., Inc. (EL): 2%
58. Magna International Inc. (MGA): 5.3%
59. ConnectOne Bancorp, Inc. (CNOB): 3.2%
60. J&J Snack Foods Corp. (JJSF): 2.3%
61. Cadence Bank (CADE): 3.7%
62. First Commonwealth Financial (FCF): 3.4%
63. Ashland Inc. (ASH): 2.8%
64. First Merchants Corp. (FRME): 3.6%
65. National Bank Holdings Corporation (NBHC): 3%
66. Fulton Financial Corp. (FULT): 4.2%
67. Sun Life Financial, Inc. (SLF): 4.5%
68. WaFd Inc (WAFD): 3.9%
69. The First Bancshares, Inc. (FBMS): 3%
70. Wells Fargo & Co. (WFC): 2.4%
71. Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corp. (AGM): 3.2%
72. First Financial Bankshares, Inc. (FFIN): 2.1%
73. NXP Semiconductors NV (NXPI): 2%
74. Schneider National, Inc. (SNDR): 1.6%
75. Shutterstock, Inc. (SSTK): 6.5%
76. AES Corp. (AES): 5.8%
77. BankUnited, Inc. (BKU): 3.6%
78. First BanCorp. (FBP): 4.1%
79. Popular, Inc. (BPOP): 3.2%
80. WesBanco, Inc. (WSBC): 4.8%
81. Zions Bancorporation N.A (ZION): 3.6%
82. Associated Banc-Corp. (ASB): 4.4%
83. United Bancorp, Inc. (UBCP): 5.6%
84. Trico Bancshares (TCBK): 3.3%
85. CSB Bancorp, Inc. (CSBB): 4%
86. Eagle Bancorp Montana Inc (EBMT): 3.4%
87. PNC Financial Services Group Inc (PNC): 3.8%
88. Public Storage. (PSA): 3.9%
89. Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc. (CZWI): 2.6%
90. Nexstar Media Group Inc (NXST): 4.4%
91. Lakeland Financial Corporation (LKFN): 3.3%

## D-Rated Dividend Risk Securities

1. Thor Industries, Inc. (THO): 2.5%
2. Wingstop Inc. (WING): 0.5%
3. Monolithic Power System Inc (MPWR): 1.1%
4. Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings (KNX): 1.6%
5. Power Integrations Inc. (POWI): 1.5%
6. Brookfield Asset Management Ltd (BAM): 3.7%
7. Brunswick Corp. (BC): 3%
8. Ferrari N.V. (RACE): 0.6%
9. Autoliv Inc. (ALV): 3%
10. Citizens Financial Group Inc (CFG): 4.2%
11. First American Financial Corp (FAF): 3.4%
12. SS&C Technologies Holdings, Inc. (SSNC): 1.2%
13. Hamilton Lane Inc. (HLNE): 1.4%
14. TFI International Inc. (TFII): 2.2%
15. Johnson Controls International plc (JCI): 1.9%
16. Whirlpool Corp. (WHR): 7.6%
17. TJX Companies, Inc. (TJX): 1.5%
18. Citigroup Inc (C): 3.3%
19. Victory Capital Holdings, Inc. (VCTR): 3.3%
20. Universal Display Corporation (OLED): 1.2%
21. OFG Bancorp (OFG): 3.1%
22. MarketAxess Holdings Inc. (MKTX): 1.4%
23. Simmons First National (SFNC): 4.3%
24. Yum China Holdings Inc (YUMC): 2%
25. Fidelity National Financial Inc (FNF): 3.2%
26. DuPont de Nemours Inc (DD): 2.1%
27. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSM): 1.6%
28. Ross Stores, Inc. (ROST): 1.3%
29. Lemaitre Vascular Inc (LMAT): 1%
30. Pool Corporation (POOL): 1.4%
31. Hershey Company (HSY): 3.1%
32. City Holding Co. (CHCO): 2.8%
33. Marriott International, Inc. (MAR): 1%
34. Lincoln National Corp. (LNC): 5.2%
35. PCB Bancorp (PCB): 4.3%
36. Home Bancshares Inc (HOMB): 2.8%

92. Heritage Financial Corp. (HFWA): 4.1%
93. Capital City Bank Group, Inc. (CCBG): 2.7%
94. Robert Half Inc (RHI): 4.4%
95. Baker Hughes Co (BKR): 2.2%
96. SB Financial Group, Inc. (SBFG): 3%
97. Dicks Sporting Goods, Inc. (DKS): 2.2%
98. Albany International Corp. (AIN): 1.4%
99. Ralph Lauren Corp (RL): 1.5%
100. Equitable Holdings Inc (EQH): 1.9%
101. Walker & Dunlop, Inc. (WD): 3.1%
102. Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc. (ARE): 5.3%
103. Equinor ASA (EQNR): 6.2%
104. Schlumberger Ltd. (SLB): 2.8%
105. World Kinect Corporation (WKC): 2.4%
106. Dolby Laboratories Inc (DLB): 1.6%
107. NBT Bancorp (NBTB): 3.2%
108. Manulife Financial Corp. (MFC): 3.9%
109. Gap, Inc. (GAP): 3%
110. Peoples Bancorp of North Carolina, Inc. (PEBK): 3%
111. Independent Bank Corp. (INDB): 3.7%
112. TowneBank Portsmouth VA (TOWN): 3%
113. Tapestry Inc (TPR): 1.9%
114. Williams Cos Inc (WMB): 3.6%
115. Avnet Inc. (AVT): 2.8%
116. Halliburton Co. (HAL): 2.8%
117. Preferred Bank (PFBC): 3.7%
118. National Grid Plc (NGG): 6.4%
119. Atlantic Union Bankshares Corp (AUB): 4.3%
120. Independent Bank Corporation (IBCP): 3.4%
121. Fidelity D & D Bancorp, Inc. (FDDB): 3.6%
122. Colony Bankcorp (CBAN): 2.9%
123. First Community Bankshares, Inc. (FCBC): 3.3%
124. United Community Banks, Inc. (UCB): 3.4%
125. Radian Group Inc. (RDN): 3.3%
126. Seagate Technology Holdings plc (STX): 3.3%
127. Kinder Morgan Inc (KMI): 4.4%
128. CME Group Inc (CME): 1.9%
129. WK Kellogg Co (KLG): 3.1%
130. EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG): 3.1%
131. NewtekOne Inc (NEWT): 6.3%
132. Molson Coors Beverage Company (TAP): 2.9%
133. Postal Realty Trust Inc (PSTL): 6.9%
134. Toyota Motor Corporation (TM): 3.1%
135. Albertsons Companies Inc (ACI): 2.8%
136. Regions Financial Corp. (RF): 4.8%
137. Prudential Financial Inc. (PRU): 5.1%
138. Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co (HPE): 3.4%
139. W. P. Carey Inc (WPC): 5.6%
140. ACNB Corporation (ACNB): 3.2%
141. Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV (BUD): 1.4%
142. Kontoor Brands Inc (KTB): 3.5%
143. Home Federal Bancorp, Inc. of Louisiana (HFBL): 4%
144. Fifth Third Bancorp (FITB): 3.9%
145. CNA Financial Corp. (CNA): 3.8%
146. Oneok Inc. (OKE): 4.4%
147. Park National Corporation (PRK): 2.8%
148. Hilltop Holdings Inc. (HTH): 2.4%
149. Guaranty Bancshares, Inc. (GNTY): 2.5%
150. Rayonier Inc. (RYN): 4.2%
151. Peoples Financial Services Corp. (PFIS): 5.5%
152. Midland States Bancorp, Inc. (MSBI): 6.8%
153. Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc (FDP): 4%
154. Weyco Group, Inc (WEYS): 3.4%
155. Invesco Ltd (IVZ): 5.4%
156. DENTSPLY Sirona Inc (XRAY): 4%
157. Apollo Bancorp, Inc. (APLO): 5.7%
158. S & T Bancorp, Inc. (STBA): 3.7%
159. Coterra Energy Inc (CTRA): 3.3%
160. Sirius XM Holdings Inc. (SIRI): 4.8%
161. CF Industries Holdings Inc (CF): 2.6%
162. Paccar Inc. (PCAR): 4.1%
163. Ford Motor Co. (F): 6.2%
164. Hamilton Beach Brands Holding (HBB): 2.4%
165. Marathon Petroleum Corp (MPC): 2.7%
166. Johnson Outdoors Inc. (JOUT): 5.1%
167. Tenaris S.A. (TS): 4.5%
168. Occidental Petroleum Corp. (OXY): 2.1%
169. Amerisafe Inc (AMSF): 3.1%
170. Banco Santander S.A. (SAN): 3.3%
171. Bunge Global SA (BG): 3.7%
172. Geopark Limited (GPRK): 7.8%
173. Cable One, Inc. (CABO): 4.2%
174. Macy's Inc (M): 5.3%
175. TC Energy Corporation (TRP): 5.2%
176. Conoco Phillips (COP): 3.3%
177. APA Corporation (APA): 5.2%
178. Shell Plc (SHEL): 4.3%

## F-Rated Dividend Risk Securities

1. Microchip Technology, Inc. (MCHP): 3.5%
2. Werner Enterprises Inc. (WERN): 1.8%
3. Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (BSET): 5%
4. Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc. (KLIC): 2.3%
5. MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. (MSM): 4.3%
6. Blue Owl Capital Inc (OWL): 3.8%
7. Permianville Royalty Trust (PVL): 6.5%
8. Blackstone Inc (BX): 4.2%
9. Silvercrest Asset Management Group (SAMG): 4.5%
10. Weyerhaeuser Co. (WY): 2.8%
11. TELUS Corp. (TU): 7.4%
12. Keycorp (KEY): 5.4%
13. Insperty Inc (NSP): 2.7%
14. Watsco Inc. (WSO): 2.4%
15. Safety Insurance Group, Inc. (SAFT): 4.7%
16. Chimera Investment Corp (CIM): 11.1%
17. HF Sinclair Corp. (DINO): 6.4%
18. Rollins, Inc. (ROL): 1.3%
19. Blackstone Mortgage Trust Inc (BXMT): 9.3%
20. Omega Flex, Inc. (OFLX): 3.4%



21. Rexford Industrial Realty Inc (REXR): 4.3%
22. PennyMac Mortgage Investment Trust (PMT): 11.2%
23. Artisan Partners Asset Management Inc (APAM): 8.4%
24. Restaurant Brands International Inc (QSR): 3.7%
25. Haverty Furniture Companies, Inc. (HVT): 5.8%
26. Prologis Inc (PLD): 3.4%
27. National Healthcare Corp. (NHC): 2.6%
28. EastGroup Properties, Inc. (EGP): 3.1%
29. Terreno Realty Corp (TRNO): 2.9%
30. Deutsche Telekom AG (DEG): 2.6%
31. Cogent Communications Holdings Inc (CCOI): 5.7%
32. Telefonaktiebolaget L M Ericsson (ERIC): 3.2%
33. CareTrust REIT Inc (CTRE): 4.4%
34. Columbia Banking System, Inc. (COLB): 6%
35. LXP Industrial Trust (LXP): 5.9%
36. Ameren Corp. (AEE): 2.9%
37. Essential Properties Realty Trust Inc (EPRT): 3.8%
38. Exponent Inc. (EXPO): 1.4%
39. CenterPoint Energy Inc. (CNP): 2.5%
40. FirstEnergy Corp. (FE): 4.3%
41. Brookfield Renewable Partners LP (BEP): 6.5%
42. Hess Midstream LP (HESM): 6.9%
43. Dominion Energy Inc (D): 4.8%
44. Southern Copper Corporation (SCCO): 3.1%
45. LyondellBasell Industries NV (LYB): 7.2%
46. First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc. (FR): 3.2%
47. Whitestone REIT (WSR): 3.8%
48. Equity Lifestyle Properties Inc. (ELS): 3%
49. Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI): 3%
50. Smurfit Westrock plc (SW): 3.9%
51. Global Water Resources Inc (GWRS): 2.6%
52. AllianceBernstein Holding LP (AB): 11.4%
53. Itaú Unibanco Holding S.A. (ITUB): 9%
54. Innovative Industrial Properties Inc (IIPR): 10.6%
55. Pfizer Inc. (PFE): 6.6%
56. Plymouth Industrial Reit Inc (PLYM): 5.7%
57. Plains All American Pipeline LP (PAA): 7.9%
58. LCI Industries (LCII): 4.8%
59. LCNB Corp. (LCNB): 6.1%
60. Kearny Financial Corp. (KRNY): 7.1%
61. Inter Parfums, Inc. (IPAR): 2.5%
62. Global Industrial Company (GIC): 4.5%
63. VICI Properties Inc (VICI): 5.3%
64. Huntsman Corp (HUN): 5.7%
65. PermRock Royalty Trust (PRT): 10.3%
66. STAG Industrial Inc (STAG): 4.1%
67. American Homes 4 Rent (AMH): 3.4%
68. National Storage Affiliates Trust (NSA): 6%
69. Cohen & Steers Inc. (CNS): 3.1%
70. ManpowerGroup (MAN): 5.1%
71. Sun Communities, Inc. (SUI): 2.9%
72. Plains GP Holdings LP (PAGP): 7.4%
73. Energy Transfer LP (ET): 7.3%
74. Iron Mountain Inc. (IRM): 3.7%
75. Invitation Homes Inc (INVH): 3.4%
76. WD-40 Co. (WDFC): 1.5%
77. Urban Edge Properties (UE): 4%
78. Independence Realty Trust Inc (IRT): 3.1%
79. Equity Residential Properties Trust (EQR): 3.9%
80. Delek Logistics Partners, LP (DKL): 10.8%
81. Carters Inc (CRI): 7.7%
82. American Assets Trust Inc (AAT): 6.7%
83. First Bancorp Inc (ME) (FNLC): 5.9%
84. NexPoint Residential Trust Inc (NXRT): 5.1%
85. Centerspace (CSR): 4.8%
86. Amcor Plc (AMCR): 5.1%
87. UDR Inc (UDR): 3.9%
88. Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc. (ETD): 5.7%
89. Kite Realty Group Trust (KRG): 4.9%
90. Brixmor Property Group Inc (BRX): 4.5%
91. Four Corners Property Trust Inc (FCPT): 5%
92. Peoples Bancorp Inc. (PEBO): 5.5%
93. Agree Realty Corp. (ADC): 4.1%
94. AvalonBay Communities Inc. (AVB): 3.3%
95. Mid-America Apartment Communities (MAA): 3.7%
96. Regency Centers Corporation (REG): 3.8%
97. Exelon Corp. (EXC): 3.7%
98. Star Group L.P. (SGU): 5.3%
99. Camden Property Trust (CPT): 3.5%
100. Tanger Inc. (SKT): 3.3%
101. UBS Group AG (UBS): 2.9%
102. Orange. (ORAN): 0%
103. Kimco Realty Corporation (KIM): 4.8%
104. Alpine Income Property Trust Inc (PINE): 7.1%
105. Conagra Brands Inc (CAG): 5.2%
106. Community Healthcare Trust Inc (CHCT): 10.2%
107. SFL Corporation Ltd (SFL): 12.6%
108. HSBC Holdings plc (HSBC): 7.7%
109. Clearway Energy Inc (CWEN): 6%
110. Exchange Income Corp (EIFZF): 5.4%
111. BRT Apartments Corp (BRT): 5.6%
112. Janus Henderson Group plc (JHG): 4.1%
113. Highwoods Properties, Inc. (HIW): 6.9%
114. Cross Timbers Royalty Trust (CRT): 9.1%
115. Simon Property Group, Inc. (SPG): 5.1%
116. Comerica, Inc. (CMA): 5%
117. One Liberty Properties, Inc. (OLP): 6.7%
118. Gladstone Investment Corporation (GAIN): 7.3%
119. Value Line, Inc. (VALU): 2.7%
120. Acadia Realty Trust (AKR): 3.7%
121. Phillips Edison & Company Inc (PECO): 3.5%
122. Imperial Brands Plc (IMBBY): 5.3%
123. Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc (GLPI): 6%
124. Sabra Healthcare REIT Inc (SBRA): 7.2%
125. COPT Defense Properties (CDP): 4.6%
126. Lamar Advertising Co (LAMR): 5.3%
127. Choice Properties Real Estate (PPRF): 5.5%
128. Easterly Government Properties Inc (DEA): 10.2%
129. Ellington Credit Co. (EARN): 15.7%
130. Hooker Furnishings Corporation (HOFT): 7.2%

131. Kilroy Realty Corp. (KRC): 6.7%
132. Netstreet Corp (NTST): 5.6%
133. Northwest Bancshares Inc (NWBI): 6.8%
134. Getty Realty Corp. (GTY): 6.1%
135. EPR Properties (EPR): 6.8%
136. LTC Properties, Inc. (LTC): 6.4%
137. Kraft Heinz Co (KHC): 5.1%
138. Gladstone Commercial Corp (GOOD): 8%
139. Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNQ): 5.7%
140. Gladstone Land Corp (LAND): 5%
141. Aegon Ltd. (AEG): 6.9%
142. Genesis Energy L.P. (GEL): 5%
143. Nutrien Ltd (NTR): 4.2%
144. Danone (DANOY): 3%
145. Valero Energy Corp. (VLO): 3.7%
146. UMH Properties Inc (UMH): 4.7%
147. Clipper Realty Inc (CLPR): 8.3%
148. Arbor Realty Trust Inc. (ABR): 14.3%
149. BCE Inc (BCE): 11.4%
150. WPP Plc. (WPP): 6.2%
151. Capital Southwest Corp. (CSWC): 10.4%
152. BP plc (BP): 6%
153. Barings BDC Inc (BBDC): 11%
154. Ennis Inc. (EBF): 4.7%
155. Suncor Energy, Inc. (SU): 4.5%
156. Main Street Capital Corporation (MAIN): 5.4%
157. OneMain Holdings Inc (OMF): 9.1%
158. Gladstone Capital Corp. (GLAD): 7.4%
159. PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd (PFLT): 11.2%
160. Horizon Technology Finance Corp (HRZN): 14.2%
161. New Mountain Finance Corp (NMFC): 11.5%
162. Blue Owl Capital Corp (OBDC): 10.2%
163. Golub Capital BDC Inc (GBDC): 10.7%
164. Fidus Investment Corp (FDUS): 8%
165. Sixth Street Specialty Lending Inc (TSLX): 8.3%
166. Modiv Industrial Inc (MDV): 7.7%
167. Mercedes-Benz Group AG (MBGAF): 6.8%
168. USA Compression Partners LP (USAC): 8.3%
169. Cheniere Energy Partners LP (CQP): 5.3%
170. Permian Basin Royalty Trust (PBT): 5.8%
171. Prospect Capital Corp (PSEC): 12.5%
172. Stellus Capital Investment Corp (SCM): 11.6%
173. AGNC Investment Corp (AGNC): 14.4%
174. Houlihan Lokey Inc (HLI): 1.5%
175. Eni Spa (E): 7%
176. Dynex Capital, Inc. (DX): 14.7%
177. Orchid Island Capital Inc (ORC): 17.7%
178. ARMOUR Residential REIT Inc (ARR): 15.5%

---

### Disclaimer

Nothing presented herein is, or is intended to constitute, specific investment advice. Nothing in this newsletter should be construed as a recommendation to follow any investment strategy or allocation. Any forward-looking statements or forecasts are based on assumptions and actual results are expected to vary from any such statements or forecasts. No reliance should be placed on any such statements or forecasts when making any investment decision. While Sure Dividend has used reasonable efforts to obtain information from reliable sources, we make no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of third-party information presented herein. No guarantee of investment performance is being provided and no inference to the contrary should be made. There is a risk of loss from an investment in securities. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance.