



Eastern Bankshares, Inc. (EBC)

Updated January 24th, 2026, by Sure Dividend Analyst

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$20.05	5 Year Annual Expected Total Return:	11.3%	Market Cap:	\$4.4 B
Fair Value Price:	\$23.25	5 Year Growth Estimate:	6.0%	Ex-Dividend Date¹:	03/06/26
% Fair Value:	86%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	3.0%	Dividend Payment Date¹:	03/20/26
Dividend Yield:	2.6%	5 Year Price Target	\$31	Years Of Dividend Growth:	26
Dividend Risk Score:	B	Sector:	Financials	Rating:	Buy

Overview & Current Events

Eastern Bankshares Inc. provides commercial banking products and services primarily to retail, commercial and small business customers. It provides banking, trust, and investment services, as well as insurance services, through its full-service bank branches and insurance offices. Eastern Bankshares Inc. is based in Boston, Massachusetts. Eastern Bank made a major move to expand its private banking with a \$528 million acquisition of Cambridge Trust (CATC), which was completed in July 2024. Simultaneously, the bank sold its insurance business for \$510 million to brokerage giant Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. in 2023. As of December 31st, 2025, Eastern Bankshares had total consolidated assets of \$30.59 billion, total gross loans of \$23.57 billion, and total deposits of \$25.47 billion. The company was founded in 1818 and has 1,750 employees.

On January 22nd, 2026, Eastern Bankshares announced its fourth-quarter 2025 results for the period ending December 31st, 2025. For the quarter, the company reported a net income of \$99.5 million, compared to \$106.1 million in the third quarter and \$100.2 million in the second quarter, reflecting a sequential decline but sustained profitability. Reported earnings per diluted share for the same periods were \$0.46, \$0.53, and \$0.50, respectively. Despite the GAAP decline, operating net income totaled \$94.7 million, up from \$74.1 million in the third quarter and \$81.7 million in the second, driven by higher net interest income and merger benefits.

Net interest income increased by \$37.2 million, or 18.6%, to \$237.4 million for the fourth quarter, up from \$200.2 million in the third quarter, supported by stronger asset yields and the addition of HarborOne. The net interest margin (FTE) expanded 14 basis points to 3.61%, reversing prior contraction. Wealth Management assets under management reached a record \$10.1 billion, including \$9.6 billion of AUM, reflecting continued franchise growth. The integration of HarborOne and prior acquisitions like Cambridge Trust have strengthened Eastern Bankshares' platform and driven significant balance-sheet expansion. Total deposits rose by \$4.4 billion, or 20.6%, to \$25.5 billion, primarily due to the HarborOne merger, with modest organic growth. Asset quality moderated, with non-performing loans to total loans rising to 0.75%, while net charge-offs increased to 0.18% of average loans.

For the full year, diluted EPS was \$0.43, down 35% from \$0.66 in 2024, while operating EPS rose 44% to \$1.56 from \$1.08 a year ago, highlighting underlying earnings momentum. The decline in GAAP EPS was driven by non-recurring items, including a \$269.6 million first-quarter securities loss and \$35.7 million of HarborOne-related merger and integration expenses. The company reaffirmed its long-term goal of delivering top-quartile returns as it integrates HarborOne into a \$30 billion community bank across Greater Boston and New England.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	--	--	--	--	\$0.13	\$0.90	\$1.21	\$1.43	\$0.66	\$0.43	\$1.55	\$2.07
DPS	--	--	--	--	\$0.00	\$0.30	\$0.40	\$0.41	\$0.45	\$0.52	\$0.52	\$0.70
Shares²	--	--	--	--	172	172	166	162	162	162	216	215

¹ Estimated date

² In millions.

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We have elected to use CATC's historical information through 2023 for average earnings growth and valuation averages. Based on CATC's historical information, the company has grown earnings by 1.5% per year over the past decade and declined by 4.1% over the past five years. We expect earnings to increase by 6% per year for the next five years. Eastern Bankshares has been able to increase its dividend for 26 consecutive years, including its predecessor banks' streaks. Over the last years, the average annual dividend growth rate is 11.6%. In April 2025, the company increased its quarterly dividend by 8.3% from \$0.12 to \$0.13 per share.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	--	--	--	--	--	35.0	46.9	17.0	17.3	11.3	12.9	15.0
Avg. Yld.	--	--	--	--	--	1.5%	2.3%	2.9%	2.8%	3.0%	2.6%	2.2%

As a reference, during the past decade shares of Cambridge Bancorp have traded with an average price-to-earnings ratio of about 13 and today, the merger combination company PE-ratio stands at 12.9. We are using 15 times earnings as a fair value baseline, implying the potential for a valuation tailwind. The company's dividend yield is currently 2.6% which is below the historical average yield of Cambridge Bancorp over the past decade of 3.2% and above the five-year average of 2.5%.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	--	--	--	--	--	33%	33%	29%	68%	121%	34%	34%

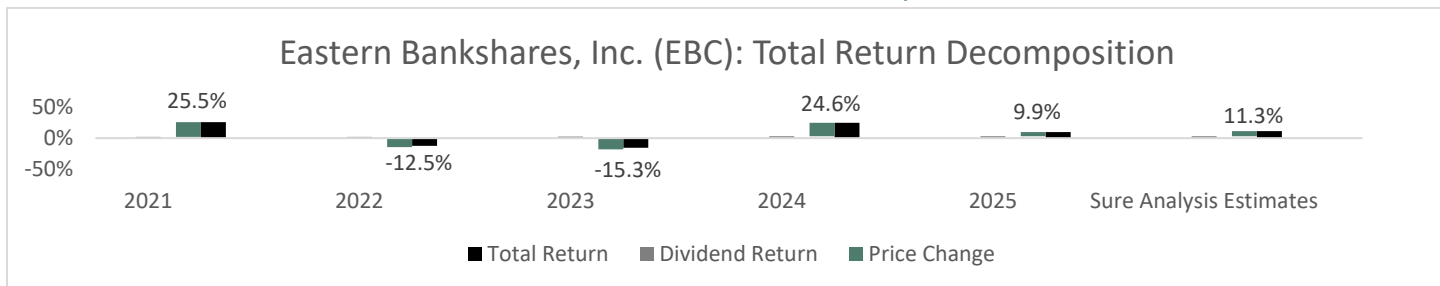
During the past five years, the company's dividend payout ratio has averaged around 55%. Eastern Bankshares dividend is comfortably covered by earnings. Given the expected earnings growth, there is room for the dividend to continue to grow at least at the same pace and keep the payout ratio below the 50% levels for the years to come.

Eastern Bankshares is strategically positioned as a dominant player in the New England banking market, particularly following its merger with Cambridge Bancorp. This combination has solidified EBC's status as the largest independent bank headquartered in Boston, with significant scale advantages. This positions EBC as the largest bank-owned independent investment advisor in Massachusetts, giving it a competitive edge in attracting both retail and commercial clients. The integration of Cambridge Bancorp introduces complexity and potential risks, particularly in managing the combined entity's commercial real estate portfolio, which includes office loans—a sector currently under pressure due to shifts in work patterns and higher interest rates. EBC's capital position remains strong, with a CET1 ratio of 13.22%. However, the ongoing economic uncertainties and competitive pressures in the deposit market could challenge its ability to maintain this advantage.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Eastern Bankshares is a well-established financial institution with deep roots in New England, particularly in Massachusetts. The bank has a reputation for prudent management, which has allowed it to maintain a solid dividend yield of 2.6%. We estimate total return potential of 11.3% per year for the next five years based on a 6% earnings-per-share growth, the dividend yield, and a valuation tailwind. Shares earn a buy rating.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	---	---	---	567	589	570	518	638	308	732
SG&A Exp.	---	---	---	255	264	274	240	249	283	324
D&A Exp.	---	---	---	20	19	28	23	23	24	38
Net Profit	---	---	---	123	135	23	155	200	232	120
Net Margin	---	---	---	21.7%	22.9%	4.0%	29.8%	31.3%	75.3%	16.4%
Free Cash Flow	---	---	---	196	189	65	169	221	254	270
Income Tax	---	---	---	35	39	13	30	52	(63)	36

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Assets	---	---	---	11,378	11,629	15,964	23,512	22,647	21,133	25,560
Cash & Equivalents	---	---	---	260	363	2,054	1,232	170	693	1,007
Goodwill & Int.	---	---	---	381	378	377	650	568	566	1,050
Total Liabilities	---	---	---	9,945	10,029	12,536	20,106	20,175	18,158	21,950
Long-Term Debt	---	---	---	166	34	28	34	741	48	45
Total Equity	---	---	---	1,433	1,600	3,428	3,406	2,472	2,975	3,612
LTD/E Ratio	---	---	---	0.12	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.30	0.02	0.01

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Return on Assets	---	---	---	---	1.2%	0.2%	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%	0.5%
Return on Equity	---	---	---	---	8.9%	0.9%	4.5%	6.8%	8.5%	3.6%
ROIC	---	---	---	---	8.4%	0.9%	4.5%	6.0%	7.4%	3.6%
Shares Out.	---	---	---	---	---	172	172	166	162	182
Revenue/Share	---	---	---	2.70	2.80	3.32	3.01	3.85	1.90	4.02
FCF/Share	---	---	---	0.93	0.90	0.38	0.98	1.34	1.56	1.48

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

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