SBA Communications Corporation (SBAC)

Updated February 28th, 2026, by Nikolaos Sismanis

Key Metrics

Current Price:	$201	**5 Year Annual Expected Total Return:**	9.5%	**Market Cap:**	$21.3 B
Fair Value Price:	$211	**5 Year Growth Estimate:**	6.0%	**Ex-Dividend Date:**	03/13/2026
% Fair Value:	95%	**5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:**	1.0%	**Dividend Payment Date:**	03/27/2026
Dividend Yield:	2.5%	**5 Year Price Target**	$283	**Years Of Dividend Growth:**	7
Dividend Risk Score:	C	**Sector:**	Communications	**Rating**	Hold

Overview & Current Events

SBA Communications is a leading independent owner and operator of wireless communications infrastructure, primarily including tower structures that support antennas used for wireless communications. The company owns over 46,000 tower sites which it leases to multiple wireless telecom providers. SBA also owns a site development business, through which it assists telecom providers in developing and maintaining their own wireless service networks. The company generates about $2.8 billion in annual revenues and is headquartered in Boca Raton, Florida.

On February 26th, 2026, SBA raised its dividend by 12.6% to a quarterly rate of $1.25.

On the same day, SBA reported Q4 results for the period ending December 31st, 2025. Site leasing revenues were $666.2 million, up 3.1% year-over-year, while site development revenues rose 12.7% to $53.4 million, bringing total revenues to $719.6 million. Adjusted EBITDA declined 0.7% to $486.0 million, and AFFO fell 9.2% to $340.4 million. On a per-share basis, AFFO decreased 8.1% to $3.19, primarily due to higher net cash interest expense, which increased 30.4% year-over-year.

During the quarter, SBA acquired 2,026 communication sites for $236.4 million, including 2,020 Millicom sites, and built 164 towers. Subsequent to quarter end, the company acquired land rights under about 3,900 sites in Guatemala for $109.0 million and is under contract to purchase 48 additional sites for $45.0 million. SBA repurchased roughly 1.1 million shares for $213.0 million during the quarter, with additional buybacks after quarter end.

Management introduced its initial FY2026 outlook, guiding to site leasing revenues of $2.625–$2.650 billion and AFFO per share of $11.84–$12.29. The outlook excludes approximately $56 million of contracted revenue from EchoStar, a domestic customer currently disputing and not paying under its lease agreements, which SBA has removed from guidance while pursuing its contractual rights. We have applied the midpoint of $12.07 in our estimates.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
AFFO/shr[1]	$5.95	$6.95	$7.60	$8.48	$9.43	$10.74	$12.25	$13.08	$13.37	$12.85	***$12.07***	***$16.15***
DPS	---	---	---	$0.74	$1.86	$2.32	$2.84	$3.40	$3.92	$4.44	***$5.00***	***$8.05***
Shares[2]	124.4	119.9	114.9	112.8	111.5	109.3	108.0	108.2	107.6	107.2	***107.2***	***100.0***

SBA Communications displays an excellent record of AFFO/share growth powered by continuous development and acquisitions of new towers, increased leasing activity, and rate hikes (typically in the range of 3 to 4% per year).

Further, the company maximizes its tower capacity by accommodating multiple tenants per tower structure without incurring additional costs just by placing additional antennas. SBA currently accommodates around two tenants per tower, with the capacity for more to be added going forward.

Thus, we see AFFO/share of 6% in the medium-term, driven by the aforementioned drivers, as well as stock buybacks, which are rare for REITs, and exhibit the company's ability to self-fund its future growth without diluting shareholders.

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[1] The metric is used due to real estate-related depreciation, amortization, and accretion as well as other meaningful adjustments.
[2] Share count is in millions.

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Despite its REIT status, due to SBA reporting losses amid reinvesting the majority of its gross profits over the past decade, the company was not required to pay dividends. Dividend payments were initiated in 2019 and are growing rapidly amid starting out from humble levels. The previous two quarterly hikes were 13.3% and 12.6%, respectively, with ample room for further growth. We forecast DPS growth of around 10% in the medium-term, expecting the company to gradually pay out a larger chunk of its bottom line to shareholders.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/AFFO	16.6	20.1	20.4	26.5	31.8	29.3	24.9	19.6	16.3	16.3	***16.7***	***17.5***
Avg. Yld.	---	---	---	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	1.3%	1.8%	2.1%	***2.5%***	***2.8%***

SBA Communications has historically traded at around 22X its underlying AFFO. Investors have historically attached a premium price tag to the stock due to improving growth prospects, the 5G expansion, and economies of scale expanding its profitability potential. Its P/AFFO now stands at 16.7 its projected AFFOs. We think that a modest discount is justified in the current macroeconomic environment. Still, we believe SBA is undervalued today, and retain our fair P/AFFO at 17.5. SBA's modest yield may not be overly attractive today, but the dividend can grow rapidly over time.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

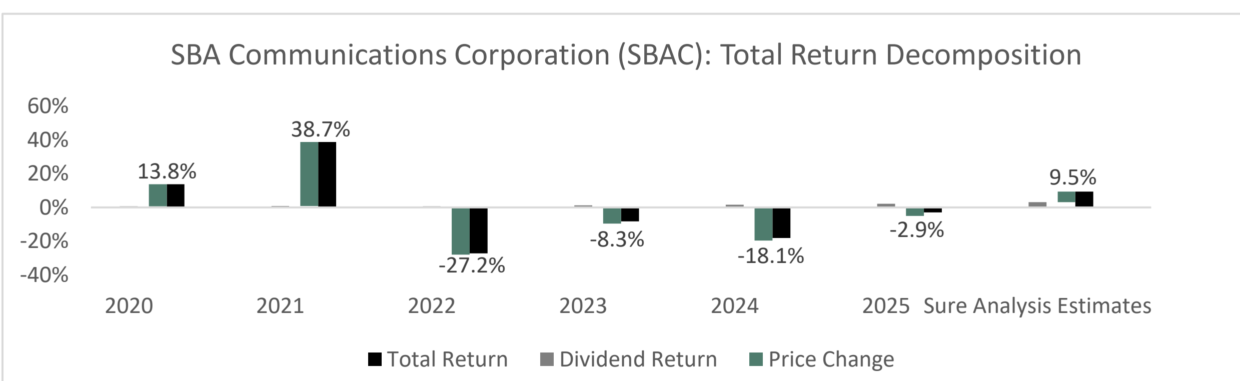
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	---	---	---	9%	20%	22%	23%	26%	29%	35%	***41%***	***50%***

We consider SBA's dividend quite safe and widely covered by the underlying AFFO. The company enjoys several qualities, including a highly scalable business model, a credit-worthy tenant base of telecom majors, contractually secured and predictable revenues, and a clear runaway for gradual growth ahead. The company also enjoys a distinct competitive advantage along with the handful of other tower REITs which have formed an oligopoly in the space, which has become quite expensive to penetrate into. Unlike traditional real estate properties, whose tenants may struggle to pay rent during a potential recession, telecom companies enjoy extremely resilient revenues, while the essential and mission-critical nature of telecommunication ensures no adverse impact on SBA's performance. This was proven both during the Great Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic when revenues continued to grow during both periods.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Shares of SBAC have had a rough time in recent years. Still, the company's results and overall growth prospects remain robust. The current dividend, while not substantial, should gradually contribute to total returns. Our growth estimates remain strong, and the company enjoys unique qualities. Along with a potential valuation tailwind, we see annualized returns of 9.5% in the medium-term. We now rate SBA Communications as a hold.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	1,638	1,633	1,728	1,866	2,015	2,083	2,309	2,633	2,712	2,680
Gross Profit	1,194	1,212	1,281	1,397	1,522	1,607	1,763	1,956	2,099	2,098
Gross Margin	72.9%	74.2%	74.2%	74.9%	75.5%	77.1%	76.4%	74.3%	77.4%	78.3%
SG&A Exp.	115	143	131	143	193	194	220	262	268	259
D&A Exp.	660	638	643	672	697	722	700	708	716	270
Operating Profit	419	431	508	580	629	689	841	995	1,115	1,570
Operating Margin	25.6%	26.4%	29.4%	31.1%	31.2%	33.1%	36.4%	37.8%	41.1%	58.6%
Net Profit	(176)	76	104	47	147	24	238	461	502	750
Net Margin	-10.7%	4.7%	6.0%	2.5%	7.3%	1.2%	10.3%	17.5%	18.5%	28.0%
Free Cash Flow	514	603	671	701	816	997	1,056	1,071	1,308	1,107
Income Tax	9	11	13	4	40	(42)	15	66	51	24

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Assets	7,313	7,361	7,320	7,214	9,760	9,158	9,802	10,590	10,180	11,420
Cash & Equivalents	118	146	69	143	108	309	367	144	209	190
Accounts Receivable	83	78	91	111	132	74	102	184	183	146
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	3,735	3,657	3,598	3,331	3,627	3,156	2,803	2,776	2,456	2,389
Total Liabilities	9,019	9,357	9,919	10,591	13,427	13,982	15,090	15,830	15,310	16,470
Accounts Payable	27	28	33	34	32	110	34	51	42	60
Long-Term Debt	8,452	8,776	9,311	9,939	10,334	11,096	12,300	12,870	12,320	13,590
Shareholder's Equity	(1,706)	(1,996)	(2,599)	(3,377)	(3,667)	(4,824)	(5,283)	(5,276)	(5,171)	(5,110)
LTD/E Ratio	(4.95)	(4.40)	(3.58)	(2.94)	(2.82)	(2.30)	(2.33)	(2.44)	(2.38)	(2.66)

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Return on Assets	-2.3%	1.0%	1.4%	0.7%	1.7%	0.3%	2.5%	4.5%	4.8%	6.9%
Return on Equity	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
ROIC	-2.5%	1.1%	1.5%	0.7%	2.2%	0.4%	3.6%	6.3%	6.9%	9.5%
Shares Out.	127.8	124.4	119.9	114.9	112.8	111.5	111	109.4	108.9	108.1
Revenue/Share	12.82	13.05	14.28	16.01	17.57	18.36	20.77	24.07	24.90	24.79
FCF/Share	4.02	4.81	5.55	6.01	7.11	8.79	9.50	9.79	12.01	10.24

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

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