



Featured Stock in March's Exec Comp & ROIC Model Portfolio

Nine new stocks make March's Exec Comp Aligned with ROIC Model Portfolio, available to members as of March 12, 2021.

Recap from February's Picks

Our Exec Comp Aligned with ROIC Model Portfolio (+1.8%) outperformed the S&P 500 (-0.8%) from February 12, 2021 through March 10, 2021. The best performing stock in the portfolio was up 14%. Overall, nine out of the 15 Exec Comp Aligned with ROIC Stocks outperformed the S&P from February 12, 2021 through March 10, 2021.

[Learn more about the best fundamental research](#)

More reliable & [proprietary](#) fundamental data, proven in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), drives our research. Our proprietary [Robo-Analyst technology](#)¹ scales our forensic accounting expertise ([featured in Barron's](#)) across thousands of stocks² to produce an unrivaled database of fundamental data.

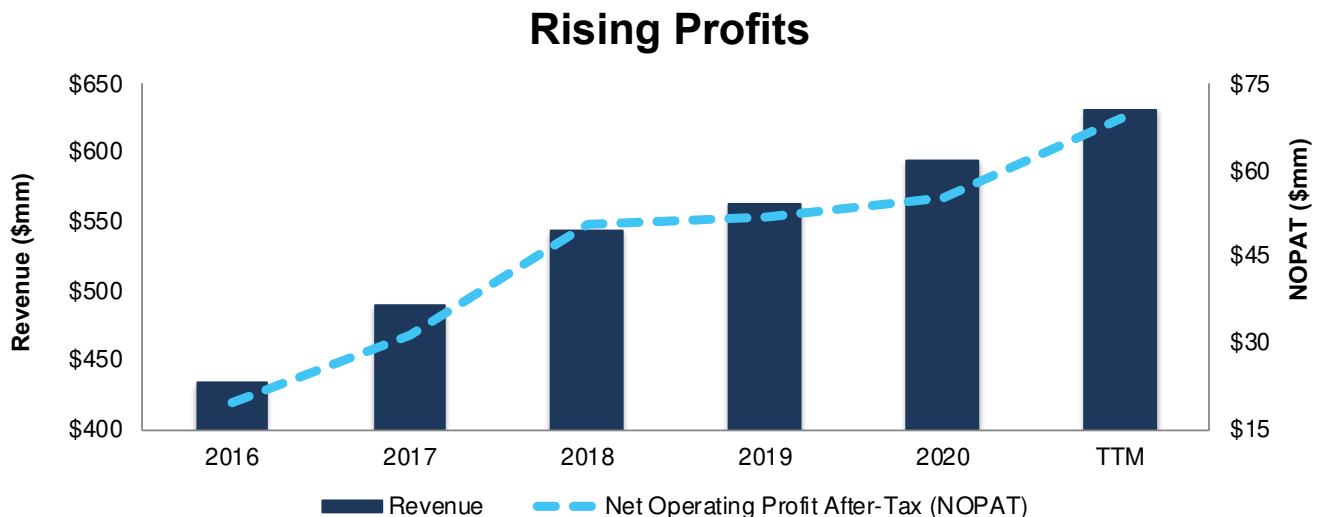
This Model Portfolio only includes stocks that earn an [Attractive or Very Attractive](#) rating and align executive compensation with improving ROIC. We think this combination provides a uniquely well-screened list of long ideas because return on invested capital (ROIC) is the [primary driver of shareholder value creation](#).

New Stock Feature for March: Johnson Outdoors Inc. (JOUT: \$149/share)

Johnson Outdoors (JOUT) is the featured stock in March's Exec Comp Aligned with ROIC Model Portfolio.

Johnson Outdoors has grown revenue by 8% compounded annually and net operating profit after tax (NOPAT) by 29% compounded annually since fiscal 2016, per Figure 1. NOPAT margin increased from 5% in fiscal 2016 to 11% over the trailing twelve-month period (TTM).

Figure 1: Johnson Outdoors' NOPAT Growth: 2016–TTM



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

¹ Harvard Business School features our research automation technology in the case [Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).

² See how our models overcome flaws in Bloomberg and Capital IQ's (SPGI) analytics in the [detailed appendix of this paper](#).

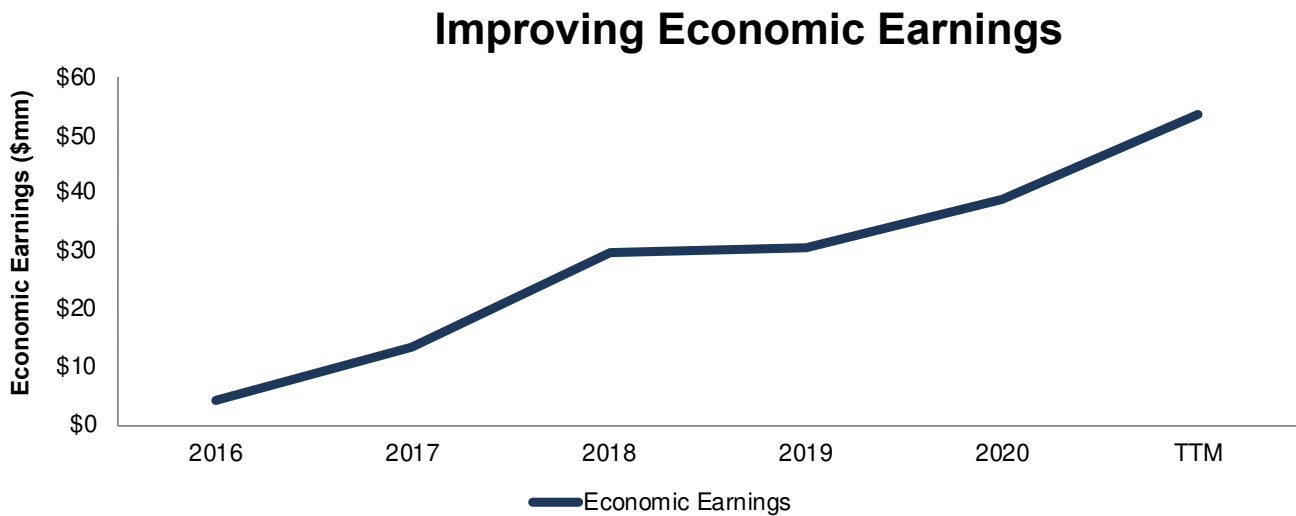


Performance-Based Pay Properly Incentivizes Executives

Johnson Outdoors' executive compensation plan aligns executives' interests with shareholder's interests by tying compensation to return on invested capital (ROIC). Apart from base salaries and annual cash incentives, Johnson Outdoors' executives receive long-term compensation in the form of performance-based restricted stock units which can be reduced if the business does not meet a minimum average ROIC target.

Johnson Outdoors' inclusion of ROIC as an executive compensation metric has helped drive shareholder value creation and [economic earnings](#), per Figure 2. Johnson Outdoors' ROIC has improved from 6% in fiscal 2016 to 19% TTM while its economic earnings grew significantly from \$4 million to \$54 million over the same time.

Figure 2: Johnson Outdoors' Economic Earnings: 2016–TTM



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

JOUT Is Undervalued

At its current price of \$149/share, JOUT has a price-to-economic book value (PEBV) ratio of 0.8. This ratio means that the market expects Johnson Outdoors' NOPAT to permanently decline by 20%. This expectation seems overly pessimistic for a firm that has grown NOPAT by 22% compounded annually over the past decade.

Even if Johnson Outdoors' NOPAT margin falls to 7% (six-year average, compared to 11% in TTM) and the firm grows revenue by 7% (equal to its five-year CAGR from fiscal 2015-2020) compounded annually over the next 10 years, the stock is worth \$191/share today – a 28% upside. [See the math behind this reverse DCF scenario.](#) In this scenario, Johnson Outdoors' NOPAT would grow just 4% compounded annually over the next decade, or well below the NOPAT growth achieved during the prior decade.

Critical Details Found in Financial Filings by Our [Robo-Analyst Technology](#)

Fact: we provide [more reliable fundamental data](#) and earnings models – unrivaled in the world.

Proof: [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#), forthcoming in The Journal of Financial Economics.

Below are specifics on the adjustments we make based on Robo-Analyst findings in Johnson Outdoors' 10-K and 10-Q:

Income Statement: we made \$6 million of adjustments, with a net effect of removing \$70 thousand in [non-operating expenses](#) (<1% of revenue). You can see all the adjustments made to Johnson Outdoors' 2020 income statement [here](#).

Balance Sheet: we made \$358 million of adjustments to calculate 2020 invested capital with a net decrease of \$104 million. One of the largest adjustments was \$183 million (41% of reported net assets) in [excess cash](#). You can see all the adjustments made to Johnson Outdoors' balance sheet [here](#).



Valuation: we made \$206 million of adjustments with a net effect of increasing shareholder value by \$124 million. Apart from [total debt](#), and excess cash noted above, the most notable adjustment to shareholder value was \$3 million in [deferred compensation](#). This adjustment represents <1% of Johnson Outdoors' market cap. See all adjustments to Johnson Outdoors' valuation [here](#).

This article originally published on [March 15, 2021](#).

Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, Alex Sword, and Matt Shuler receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.

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It's Official: We Offer the Best Fundamental Data in the World

Many firms claim their research is superior, but none of them can prove it with independent studies from highly-respected institutions as we can. Three different papers from both the public and private sectors show:

1. Legacy fundamental datasets suffer from significant inaccuracies, omissions and biases.
2. Only our “novel database” enables investors to overcome these flaws and apply [reliable](#) fundamental data in their research.
3. Our proprietary measures of [Core Earnings](#) and [Earnings Distortion](#) materially improve stock picking and forecasting of profits.

Best Fundamental Data in the World

Forthcoming in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), a top peer-reviewed journal, [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#) proves our Robo-Analyst technology overcomes material shortcomings in legacy firms' data collection processes to provide superior [fundamental data](#), [earnings](#) models, and [research](#). More [details](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “[New Constructs’] *Total Adjustments* differs significantly from the items identified and excluded from Compustat’s adjusted earnings measures. For example... 50% to 70% of the variation in *Total Adjustments* is not explained by S&P Global’s (SPGI) *Adjustments* individually.” – pp. 14, 1st para.
- “A final source of differences [between New Constructs’ and S&P Global’s data] is due to data collection oversights...we identified cases where Compustat did not collect information relating to firms’ income that is useful in assessing core earnings.” – pp. 16, 2nd para.

Superior Models

A top accounting firm features the superiority of our ROIC, NOPAT and Invested Capital research to Capital IQ & Bloomberg’s in [Getting ROIC Right](#). See the [Appendix](#) for direct comparison details.

Key quotes from the paper:

- “...an accurate calculation of ROIC requires more diligence than often occurs in some of the common, off-the-shelf ROIC calculations. Only by scouring the footnotes and the MD&A [as New Constructs does] can investors get an accurate calculation of ROIC.” – pp. 8, 5th para.
- “The majority of the difference...comes from New Constructs’ machine learning approach, which leverages technology to calculate ROIC by applying accounting adjustments that may be buried deeply in the footnotes across thousands of companies.” – pp. 4, 2nd para.

Superior Stock Ratings

Robo-Analysts’ stock ratings outperform those from human analysts as shown in this [paper](#) from Indiana’s Kelley School of Business. Bloomberg features the paper [here](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “the portfolios formed following the buy recommendations of Robo-Analysts earn abnormal returns that are statistically and economically significant.” – pp. 6, 3rd para.
- “Our results ultimately suggest that Robo-Analysts are a valuable, alternative information intermediary to traditional sell-side analysts.” – pp. 20, 3rd para.

Our mission is to provide the best fundamental analysis of public and private businesses in the world and make it affordable for all investors, not just Wall Street insiders.

We believe every investor deserves to know the whole truth about the profitability and valuation of any company they consider for investment. More details on our cutting-edge technology and how we use it are [here](#).



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