Featured Stock in June's Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio

Six new stocks make our Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio this month, which was made available to members on June 23, 2021.

Recap from May's Picks

On a price return basis, our Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio (-2.0%) underperformed the S&P 500 (+1.3%) by 3.3% from May 20, 2021, through June 21, 2021. On a total return basis, the Model Portfolio (-1.6%) underperformed the S&P 500 (+1.3%) by 2.9% over the same time. The best performing large cap stock was up 4% and the best performing small cap stock was up 2%. Overall, one out of the 19 Safest Dividend Yield stocks outperformed its benchmark (S&P 500) from May 20, 2021, through June 21, 2021.

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 stocks[2] to produce an unrivaled database of fundamental data.

This Model Portfolio only includes stocks that earn an Attractive or Very Attractive rating, have positive free cash flow and economic earnings, and offer a dividend yield greater than 3%. Companies with strong free cash flow provide higher quality and safer dividend yields because we know they have the cash to support the dividend. We think this portfolio provides a uniquely well-screened group of stocks that can help clients outperform.

Featured Stock for June: Interpublic Group of Companies Inc. (IPG: $32/share)

Interpublic Group of Companies Inc. (IPG) is the featured stock in June's Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio.

Interpublic Group has grown revenue by 4% compounded annually and net operating profit after-tax (NOPAT) by 8% compounded annually over the past five years. Interpublic Group's NOPAT margin increased from 8% in 2015 to 11% over the trailing-twelve-months (TTM) while its return on invested capital (ROIC) rose from 6% to 8% over the same time.

The firm's economic earnings, or the true cash flows of the business, increased from $10 million in 2015 to $424 million over the TTM.

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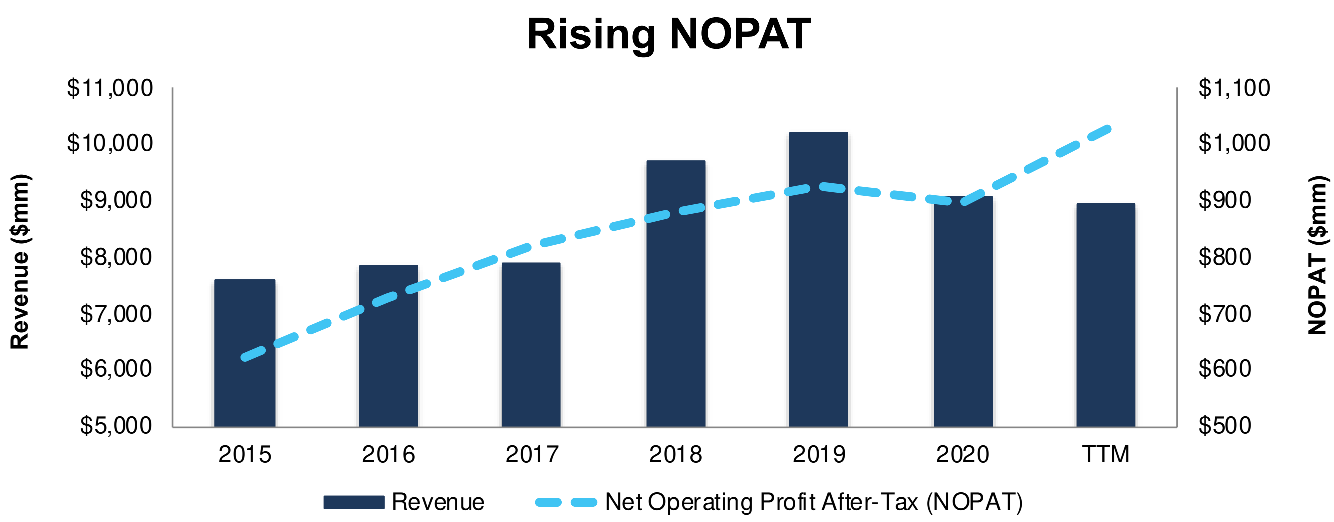
[1] Harvard Business School features our research automation technology in the case Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts.
[2] See how our models overcome flaws in Bloomberg and Capital IQ's (SPGI) analytics in the detailed appendix of this paper.

Figure 1: Interpublic Group of Companies' Revenue & NOPAT Since 2015



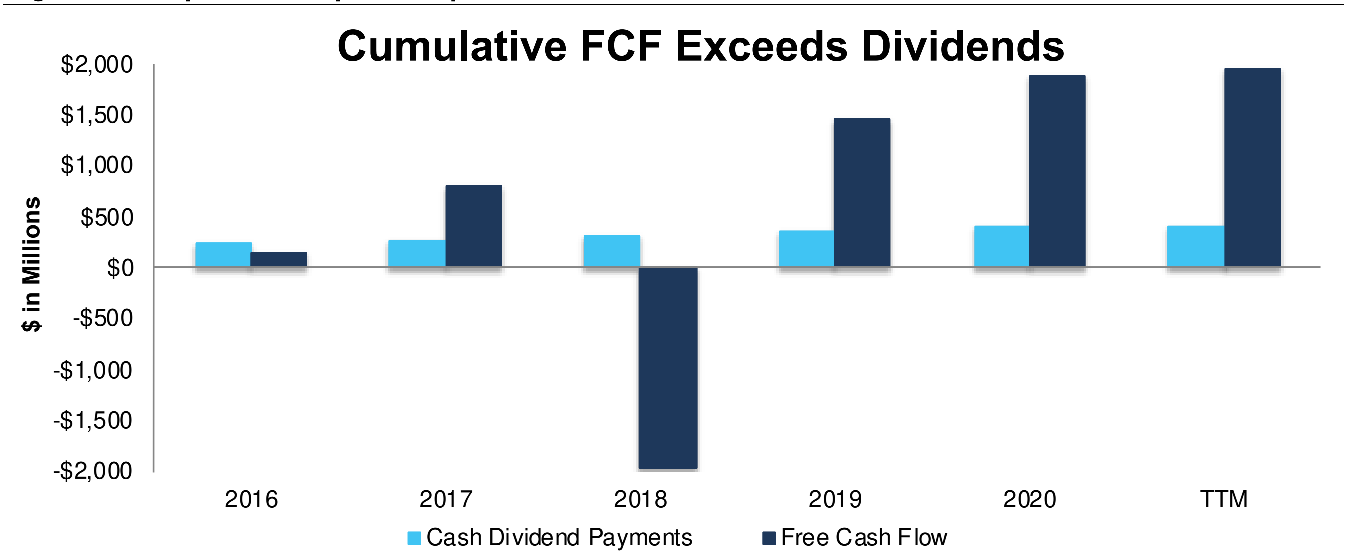
Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Free Cash Flow Supports Dividend Payments

Interpublic Group has paid a dividend each year since 2011, and its dividend in 2020 was $1.02/share. The current quarterly dividend, when annualized provides a 3.3% dividend yield.

Since 2016, Interpublic Group's cumulative Free Cash Flow (FCF) easily covers its annual dividend payments. Over the past five years, Interpublic Group generated $2.3 billion (18% of current market cap) in FCF while paying $1.6 billion in dividends, per Figure 2. The firm's $2.3 billion acquisition of Acxiom Marketing Solutions drove the firm's negative FCF in 2018.

Figure 2: Interpublic Group of Companies' FCF vs. Dividends Since 2016



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Companies with strong FCF provide higher quality dividend yields because we know the firm has the cash to support its dividend. On the other hand, dividends from companies with low or negative FCF cannot be trusted as much because the company may not be able to sustain paying dividends.

IPG Is Undervalued

At its current price of $32/share, IPG has a price-to-economic book value (PEBV) ratio of 0.8. This ratio means the market expects Interpublic Group's NOPAT to permanently decline by 20%. This expectation seems overly pessimistic given that Interpublic Group has grown NOPAT by 8% compounded annually over the past decade and 3% compounded annually over the past two decades.

Even if Interpublic Group's NOPAT margin falls to 9% (10-year average vs 11% TTM) and the firm grows NOPAT by just 2% compounded annually over the next decade, the stock is worth $39/share today – a 22% upside. See the math behind this reverse DCF scenario. Should the firm grow NOPAT more in line with historical growth rates, the stock has even more upside.

Critical Details Found in Financial Filings by Our Robo-Analyst Technology

Fact: we provide superior 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 Interpublic Group's 10-K and 10-Q:

Income Statement: we made $1.0 billion in adjustments with a net effect of removing $544 million in non-operating expenses (6% of revenue). See all adjustments made to Interpublic Group's income statement here.

Balance Sheet: we made $8.7 billion in adjustments to calculate invested capital with a net increase of $3.6 billion. The most notable adjustment was $2.5 billion (30% of reported net assets) related to goodwill. See all adjustments to Interpublic Group's balance sheet here.

Valuation: we made $8.1 billion in adjustments with a net effect of decreasing shareholder value by $4.9 billion. Apart from total debt, one of the most notable adjustments to shareholder value was $1.6 billion in excess cash. This adjustment represents 13% of Interpublic Group's market value. See all adjustments to Interpublic Group's valuation here.

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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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