Featured Stock in December's Dividend Growth Model Portfolio

Four stocks were added to our Dividend Growth Stocks Model Portfolio this month, which was made available to members on December 29, 2021.

Recap From November's Picks

Overall, 10 out of the 30 Dividend Growth Stocks outperformed the S&P 500 from November 23, 2021 through December 27, 2021. On a price return basis, our Dividend Growth Stocks Model Portfolio (+0.5%) underperformed the S&P 500 (+1.9%) by 1.4%, and on a total return basis the Model Portfolio (+0.7%) underperformed the S&P 500 (+2.3%) by 1.6% The best performing stock was up 12%.

The methodology for this model portfolio mimics an All Cap Blend style with a focus on dividend growth. Selected stocks earn an Attractive or Very Attractive rating, generate positive free cash flow (FCF) and economic earnings, offer a current dividend yield >1%, and have a 5+ year track record of consecutive dividend growth. This model portfolio is designed for investors who are more focused on long-term capital appreciation than current income, but still appreciate the power of dividends, especially growing dividends.

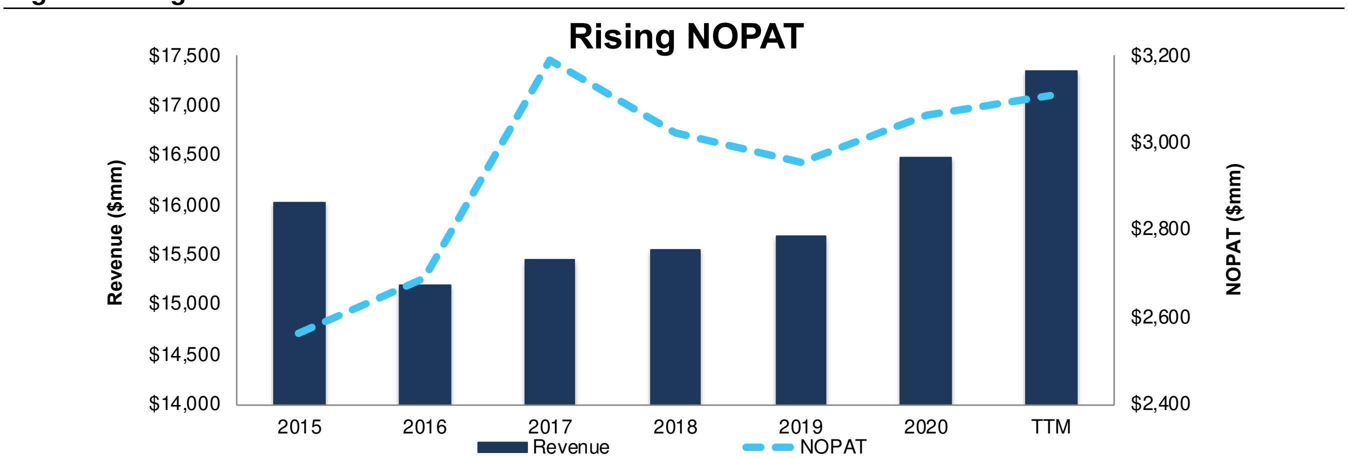
More reliable and proprietary fundamental data, proven in The Journal of Financial Economics, drives our research and provides investors with a new source of alpha. Our proprietary Robo-Analyst technology[1] scales our forensic accounting expertise (featured in Barron's)[2] to produce an unrivaled database of fundamental data.

Featured Stock From December: Colgate-Palmolive Company (CL: $85/share)

Colgate-Palmolive Company (CL) is the featured stock from December's Dividend Growth Stocks Model Portfolio. We made Colgate-Palmolive a Long Idea in May 2018. Since then, the stock is up 34% while the S&P 500 is up 78%. Despite its underperformance, the stock still offers attractive risk/reward. See our most recent report on Colgate-Palmolive here.

Colgate-Palmolive has grown revenue by 1% compounded annually and net operating profit after-tax (NOPAT) by 4% compounded annually over the past five years. The firm's NOPAT margin improved from 16% in 2015 to 18% over the trailing-twelve-month (TTM) period, while the firm's economic earnings rose from $2.0 billion to $2.5 billion over the same time.

Figure 1: Colgate-Palmolive's NOPAT & Revenue Since 2015



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

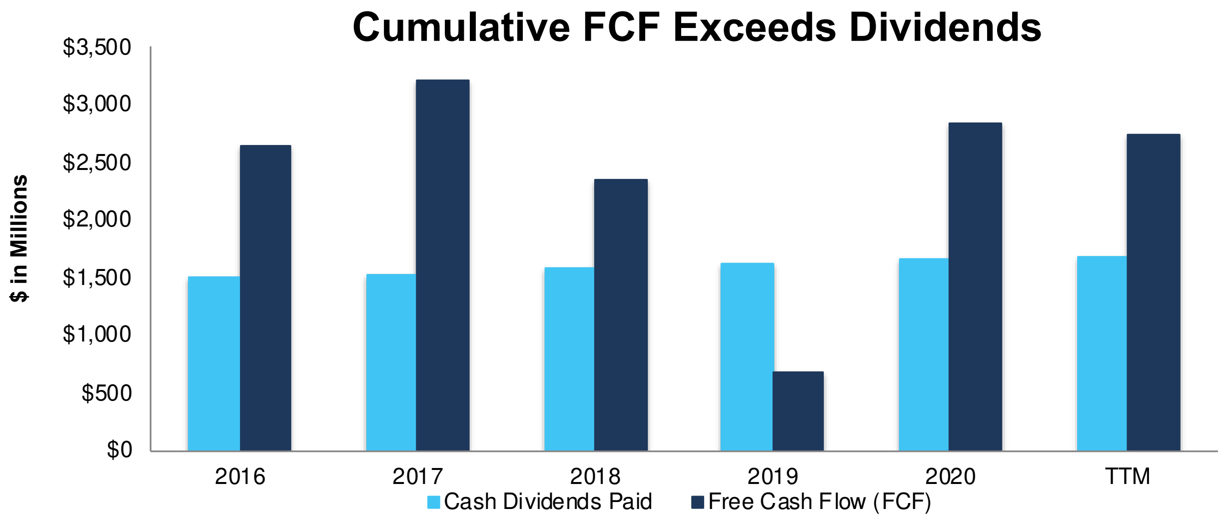
[1] Harvard Business School features our research automation technology in the case Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts.
[2] See how our models and financial ratios are superior to Bloomberg and Capital IQ's (SPGI) analytics in the detailed appendix of this paper.

FCF Exceeds Dividends By Wide Margin

Colgate-Palmolive has increased its dividend for 59 consecutive years. The firm increased its regular dividend from $1.55/share in 2016 to $1.75/share in 2020, 3% compounded annually. The current quarterly dividend, when annualized, equals $1.80/share and provides a 2.1% dividend yield.

More importantly, Colgate-Palmolive's strong free cash flow (FCF) exceeds the firm's growing dividend payments. Colgate-Palmolive's cumulative $11.7 billion (16% of current market cap) in FCF is nearly 1.5x the $7.9 billion in dividends paid out from 2016 to 2020, per Figure 2. Over the TTM, Colgate-Palmolive generated $2.7 billion in FCF and paid $1.7 billion in dividends. Figure 2 also shows that Colgate-Palmolive's FCF significantly exceeded its dividend payments in four out of the past five years.

Figure 2: Free Cash Flow vs. Regular Dividend Payments



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Companies with FCF well above dividend payments provide higher quality dividend growth opportunities because we know the firm generates the cash to support a higher dividend. On the other hand, the dividend of a company where FCF falls short of the dividend payment over time cannot be trusted to grow or even maintain its dividend because of inadequate free cash flow.

Colgate-Palmolive Has Upside Potential

At its current price of $85/share, CL has a price-to-economic book value (PEBV) ratio of 0.9. This ratio means the market expects Colgate-Palmolive's NOPAT to permanently decline by 10%. This expectation seems overly pessimistic for a firm that has grown NOPAT by 5% compounded annually over the past two decades.

Even if Colgate-Palmolive maintains TTM NOPAT margins of 18% (below five-year average of 19%) and grows NOPAT by just 2% compounded annually for the next decade, the stock is worth $105/share today – a 24% upside. See the math behind the reverse DCF scenario.

Should the firm grow NOPAT more in line with historical growth rates, the stock has even more upside. Add in Colgate-Palmolive's 2.1% dividend yield and history of dividend growth, and it's clear why this stock is in December's Dividend Growth Stocks Model Portfolio.

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

Below are specifics on the adjustments we make based on Robo-Analyst findings in Colgate-Palmolive's 10-Qs and 10-K:

Income Statement: we made $601 million in adjustments with a net effect of removing $370 million in non-operating expenses (2% of revenue). See all adjustments made to Colgate-Palmolive's income statement here.

Balance Sheet: we made $7.2 billion of adjustments to calculate invested capital with a net increase of $5.4 billion. The most notable adjustment was $4.3 billion (38% of reported net assets) in other comprehensive income. See all adjustments to Colgate-Palmolive's balance sheet here.

Valuation: we made $12.2 billion in adjustments with a net effect of decreasing shareholder value by $11.6 billion. Other than total debt, the most notable adjustment to shareholder value was $1.9 billion in underfunded pensions. This adjustment represents 3% of Colgate-Palmolive's market value. See all adjustments to Colgate-Palmolive's valuation here.

This article originally published on January 7, 2022.

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

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and StockTwits for real-time alerts on all our research.

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" can overcome these flaws and provides materially superior fundamental data.
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.

DISCLOSURES

New Constructs®, LLC (together with any subsidiaries and/or affiliates, "New Constructs") is an independent organization with no management ties to the companies it covers. None of the members of New Constructs' management team or the management team of any New Constructs' affiliate holds a seat on the Board of Directors of any of the companies New Constructs covers. New Constructs does not perform any investment or merchant banking functions and does not operate a trading desk.

New Constructs' Stock Ownership Policy prevents any of its employees or managers from engaging in Insider Trading and restricts any trading whereby an employee may exploit inside information regarding our stock research. In addition, employees and managers of the company are bound by a code of ethics that restricts them from purchasing or selling a security that they know or should have known was under consideration for inclusion in a New Constructs report nor may they purchase or sell a security for the first two days after New Constructs issues a report on that security.

DISCLAIMERS

The information and opinions presented in this report are provided to you for information purposes only and are not to be used or considered as an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell securities or other financial instruments. New Constructs has not taken any steps to ensure that the securities referred to in this report are suitable for any particular investor and nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice. This report includes general information that does not take into account your individual circumstance, financial situation or needs, nor does it represent a personal recommendation to you. The investments or services contained or referred to in this report may not be suitable for you and it is recommended that you consult an independent investment advisor if you are in doubt about any such investments or investment services.

Information and opinions presented in this report have been obtained or derived from sources believed by New Constructs to be reliable, but New Constructs makes no representation as to their accuracy, authority, usefulness, reliability, timeliness or completeness. New Constructs accepts no liability for loss arising from the use of the information presented in this report, and New Constructs makes no warranty as to results that may be obtained from the information presented in this report. Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. Information and opinions contained in this report reflect a judgment at its original date of publication by New Constructs and are subject to change without notice. New Constructs may have issued, and may in the future issue, other reports that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented in this report. Those reports reflect the different assumptions, views and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared them and New Constructs is under no obligation to insure that such other reports are brought to the attention of any recipient of this report.

New Constructs' reports are intended for distribution to its professional and institutional investor customers. Recipients who are not professionals or institutional investor customers of New Constructs should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to making any investment decision or for any necessary explanation of its contents.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would be subject New Constructs to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

This report may provide the addresses of websites. Except to the extent to which the report refers to New Constructs own website material, New Constructs has not reviewed the linked site and takes no responsibility for the content therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to New Constructs own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and the information and content of the linked site do not in any way form part of this report. Accessing such websites or following such hyperlink through this report shall be at your own risk.