Featured Stock in June's Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio

Four new stocks made June's Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio, which was made available to members on June 22, 2023.

Recap from May's Picks

On a price return basis, our Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio (+7.1%) outperformed the S&P 500 (+4.4%) by 2.7% from May 19, 2023 through June 20, 2023. On a total return basis, the Model Portfolio (+7.8%) outperformed the S&P 500 (+4.8%) by 3.0% over the same time. The best performing large-cap stock was up 15%, and the best performing small-cap stock was up 27%. Overall, ten out of the 20 Safest Dividend Yield stocks outperformed their respective benchmarks (S&P 500 and Russell 2000) from May 19, 2023 through June 20, 2023.

This report leverages our cutting-edge Robo-Analyst technology to deliver proven-superior[1] fundamental research and support more cost-effective fulfillment of the fiduciary duty of care.

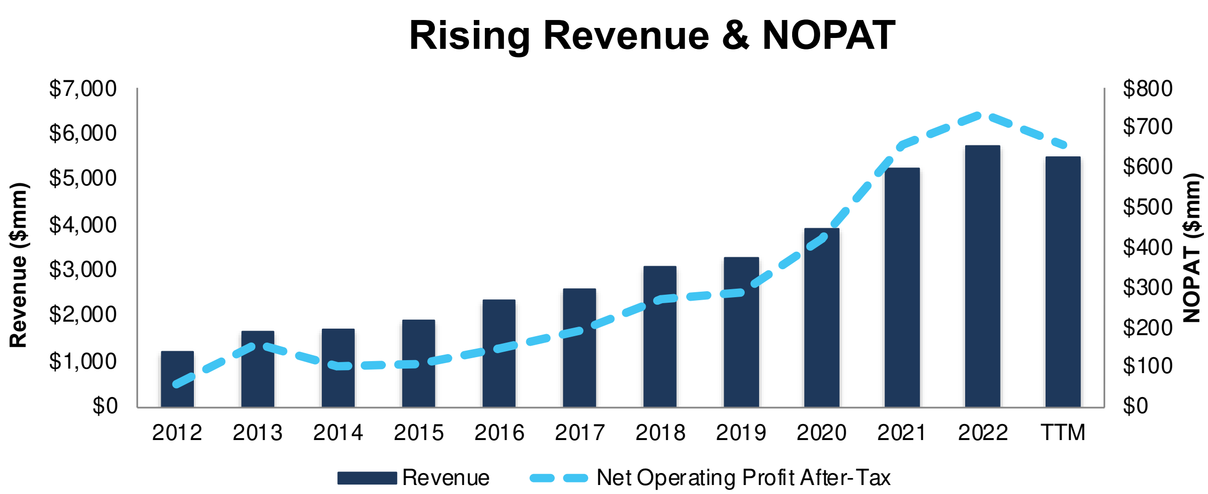
This Model Portfolio only includes stocks that earn an Attractive or Very Attractive rating, have positive free cash flow (FCF) and economic earnings, and offer a dividend yield greater than 3%. Companies with strong free cash flow provide higher quality and safer dividend yields because strong FCF supports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

Featured Stock for June: MDC Holdings Inc. (MDC: $45/share)

MDC Holdings (MDC) is the featured stock in June's Safest Dividend Yields Model Portfolio.

Since 2012, MDC Holdings has grown revenue by 16% compounded annually and net operating profit after tax (NOPAT) by 27% compounded annually. MDC Holdings' NOPAT margin improved from 5% in 2012 to 12% over the trailing-twelve-months (TTM), while invested capital turns increased from 0.6 to 1.1 over the same time. Rising NOPAT margins and invested capital turns drive the company's return on invested capital (ROIC) from 3% in 2012 to 13% over the TTM.

Figure 1: MDC Holdings' Revenue & NOPAT Since 2012



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

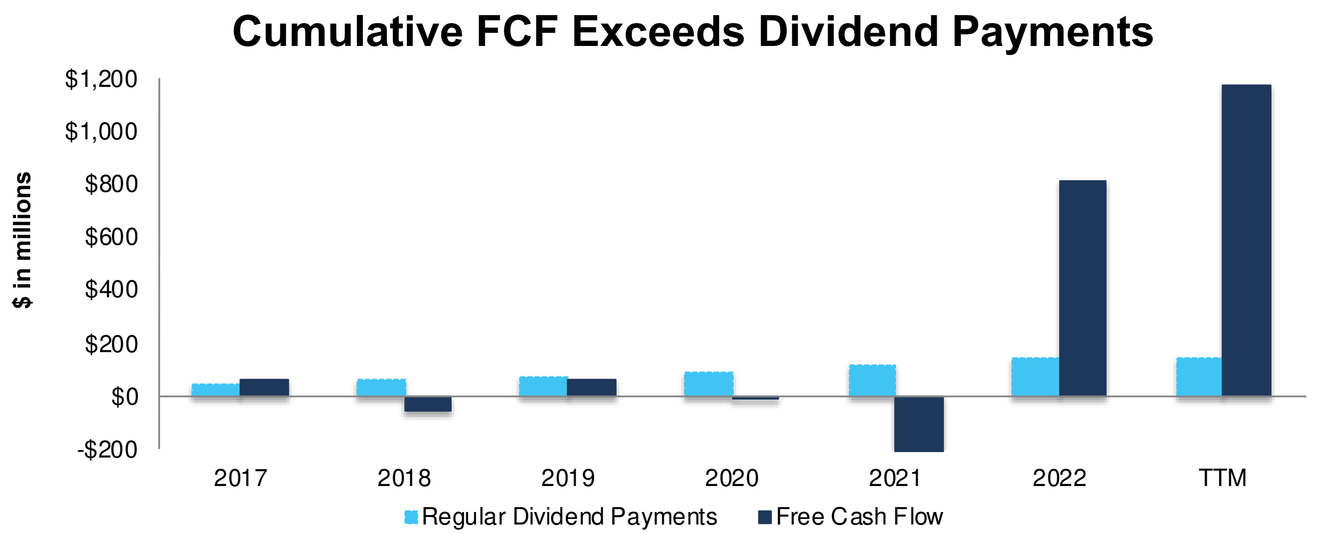
[1] Our research utilizes our Core Earnings, a more reliable measure of profits, as proven in Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence, written by professors at Harvard Business School (HBS) & MIT Sloan and published in The Journal of Financial Economics.

Cumulative Free Cash Flow Exceeds Regular Dividend Payments

MDC Holdings has increased its regular dividend from $0.23/share in 2017 to $0.50/share in 1Q23. The current quarterly dividend, when annualized, equals $2.00/share and provides a 4.5% dividend yield.

More importantly, MDC Holdings' cumulative free cash flow (FCF) exceeds its regular dividend payments. From 2017 to 1Q23, MDC Holdings generated $1.0 billion (31% of current enterprise value) in FCF while paying $579 million in dividends. See Figure 2.

Figure 2: MDC Holding' FCF Vs. Regular Dividends Since 2017



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

As Figure 2 shows, MDC Holding' regular dividends are backed by a large cumulative cash flow. Dividends from companies with consistent low or negative FCF are less dependable since the company may not be able to sustain paying dividends.

MDC Is Undervalued

At its current price of $45/share, MDC Holdings has a price-to-economic book value (PEBV) ratio of 0.4. This ratio means the market expects MDC Holdings' NOPAT to permanently fall 60% from TTM levels. This expectation seems overly pessimistic given that MDC Holdings has grown NOPAT by 27% compounded annually since 2012 and 7% compounded annually since 2002.

Even if MDC Holdings' NOPAT margin falls to 9% (10-year average vs 12% TTM) and the company's revenue declines at consensus rates for three years and grows by just 3% each year thereafter through 2032, the stock would be worth $58+/share today – a 29% upside. See the math behind this reverse DCF scenario. In this scenario, MDC Holdings' NOPAT would fall 6% compounded annually through 2032. Should the company's NOPAT grow more in line with historical growth rates, the stock has even more upside.

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 MDC. Holdings' 10-K and 10-Qs:

Income Statement: we made $275 million in adjustments with a net effect of removing $178 million in non-operating expense (3% of revenue). Clients can see all adjustments made to MDC Holdings' income statement on the GAAP Reconciliation tab on the Ratings page on our website.

Balance Sheet: we made $2.0 billion in adjustments to calculate invested capital with a net increase of $220 million. The most notable adjustment was $1.1 billion (23% of reported net assets) in asset write-downs. See all adjustments made to MDC Holdings' balance sheet on the GAAP Reconciliation tab on the Ratings page on our website.

Valuation: we made $2.5 billion in adjustments, with a net decrease of $64 million in shareholder value. The most notable adjustment to shareholder value was $1.2 billion in excess cash. This adjustment represents 37% of MDC Holdings' market value. See all adjustments to MDC Holdings' valuation on the GAAP Reconciliation tab on the Ratings page on our website.

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Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, Hakan Salt, and Italo Mendonça receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.

Questions on this report or others? Join our Society of Intelligent Investors and connect with us directly.

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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