Corporate Finance Briefing: S&P 500 Buybacks & Dividends

Yardeni Research, Inc.

January 29, 2021

Dr. Edward Yardeni
516-972-7683
eyardeni@yardeni.com

Joe Abbott
732-497-5306
jabbott@yardeni.com

Mali Quintana
480-664-1333
aquintana@yardeni.com

Please visit our sites at
www.yardeni.com
blog.yardeni.com
Table Of Contents

Buybacks & Dividends 3-6
Buybacks 7
S&P 1500/500/400/600 Divisors 8
Buybacks & Dividends 9
Buybacks & Dividends as % of Operating Earnings 10
S&P 500 Sectors Buybacks 11
S&P 500 Sectors Cumulative Buybacks Since Q1-2009 12
S&P 500 Sectors Dividends 13
S&P 500 Sectors Buybacks 14
Figure 1.

S&P 500 BUYBACKS
(billion dollars, annualized)

- Actual x 4 (407.2)
- 4-Quarter Sum (570.8)

Source: Standard & Poor’s.

Figure 2.

S&P 500 DIVIDENDS
(billion dollars, annualized)

- Actual x 4 (493.6)
- 4-Quarter Sum (484.7)

Source: Standard & Poor’s.
Figure 3.

S&P 500 BUYBACKS
(billion dollars, quarterly, nsa)

Source: Standard & Poor’s.

Figure 4.

S&P 500 DIVIDENDS
(billion dollars, quarterly)

Source: Standard & Poor’s Corporation.
Figure 5.

S&P 500 DIVIDENDS & BUYBACKS
(trillion dollars, annualized)

- Buybacks
- Dividends
- S&P 500 Index

Source: Standard & Poor’s.

Figure 6.

S&P 500 BUYBACKS
(billion dollars, annualized)

S&P 500 FORWARD EARNINGS YIELD & CORPORATE BOND YIELD
(percent)

- BoFA Merrill Lynch AAA Corporate Bond Yield (2.3)
- S&P 500 Forward Earnings Yield* (4.5)

* Forward earnings (time-weighted average of consensus operating earnings estimates for current and next year) divided by S&P 500 stock price index.

Source: Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S, Standard & Poor’s and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.
Figure 7.

S&P 500 BUYBACKS & DIVIDENDS
(billion dollars, annualized)

Total* (1058.1)

Buybacks* (570.8)

Dividends* (484.7)

*4-quarter sum.
Source: Standard & Poor’s.


Yardeni Research, Inc.
www.yardeni.com
Figure 8.

TOTAL GROSS ISSUANCE OF STOCKS MINUS S&P 500 BUYBACKS
(billion dollars)

- Total Gross Issuance of Stocks Minus S&P 500 Buybacks (annualized)
- Corporate Equities: Net Issuance Nonfinancial Corporate Business (4-quarter sum)

Source: Federal Reserve Board and Standard & Poor’s Corporation.
* Divisor is used to ensure that changes in shares outstanding, capital actions, and the addition or deletion of stocks to the index do not change the level of the index.
Source: Standard & Poor’s Corporation.
Figure 10.

S&P 500 YIELD FROM BUYBACKS & DIVIDENDS

Buybacks + Dividends (billion dollars, trailing four-quarter)
(1058.06)

Yield (%)

Buybacks (2.05)
Dividends (1.53)
Buybacks + Dividends (3.80)

Source: Standard & Poor’s Corporation.

Figure 11.

S&P 500 BUYBACKS (billion dollars, quarterly)

Buybacks as a % of S&P 500 Market Cap (0.37)

Source: Standard & Poor’s Corporation.
### Figure 12.

**S&P 500 BUYBACKS, DIVIDENDS, & OPERATING EARNINGS**
(billion dollars, trailing four-quarter)

- Buybacks (570.8)
- Operating Earnings (1021.8)
- Dividends (484.7)
- Buybacks+Dividends (1058.1)

Buybacks+Dividends as percent of Operating Earnings (103.6)

Source: Standard & Poor’s.

### Figure 13.

**S&P 500 EX-ENERGY BUYBACKS, DIVIDENDS, & OPERATING EARNINGS**
(billion dollars, trailing four-quarter)

- Buybacks (561.7)
- Operating Earnings (1068.8)
- Dividends (442.7)
- Buybacks+Dividends (1005.9)

Buybacks+Dividends as percent of Operating Earnings (94.1)

Capped at 150% due to extreme values.

Source: Standard & Poor’s Corporation.
Note: Real Estate sector data start Q3-2016.
Source: Standard & Poor’s.
S&P 500 Sectors Cumulative Buybacks Since Q1-2009

Figure 15.

S&P 500 SECTORS CUMULATIVE BUYBACKS SINCE Q1-2009
(quarterly, billion dollars)

- **Total (5869.7)**
- **Health Care**
  - Q3: (779.5)
- **Communication Services**
  - Q3: (161.9)
- **Industrials**
  - Q3: (605.9)
- **Consumer Discretionary**
  - Q3: (790.4)
- **Information Technology**
  - Q3: (1603.6)
- **Consumer Staples**
  - Q3: (480.6)
- **Materials**
  - Q3: (145.1)
- **Energy**
  - Q3: (303.0)
- **Real Estate**
  - Q3: (12.5)
- **Financials**
  - Q3: (984.9)
- **Utilities**
  - Q3: (23.0)

Note: Real Estate sector data start Q3-2016.
Source: Standard & Poor’s.
Source: Standard & Poor’s.
Figure 17.

S&P 500 SECTORS BUYBACKS
(trailing four quarter sum, billion dollars)

Total (570.8)

HEALTH CARE
(59.1)

COMMUNICATION SERVICES
(78.6)

INDUSTRIALS
(36.2)

CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY
(37.3)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(198.2)

CONSUMER STAPLES
(20.5)

MATERIALS
(8.6)

ENERGY
(9.0)

REAL ESTATE
(2.5)

FINANCIALS
(117.3)

UTILITIES
(3.5)

Note: Real Estate sector data start Q2-2017.
Source: Standard & Poor’s.
Copyright (c) Yardeni Research, Inc. 2021. All rights reserved. The information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but is not necessarily complete and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the fairness, accuracy, completeness, or correctness of the information and opinions contained herein. The views and the other information provided are subject to change without notice. All reports and podcasts posted on www.yardeni.com, blog.yardeni.com, and YRI’s Apps are issued without regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation, or particular needs of any specific recipient and are not to be construed as a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any securities or related financial instruments. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future results. Company fundamentals and earnings may be mentioned occasionally, but should not be construed as a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold the company’s stock. Predictions, forecasts, and estimates for any and all markets should not be construed as recommendations to buy, sell, or hold any security—including mutual funds, futures contracts, and exchange traded funds, or any similar instruments.

The text, images, and other materials contained or displayed on any Yardeni Research, Inc. product, service, report, email or website are proprietary to Yardeni Research, Inc. and constitute valuable intellectual property. No material from any part of www.yardeni.com, blog.yardeni.com, and YRI’s Apps may be downloaded, transmitted, broadcast, transferred, assigned, reproduced or in any other way used or otherwise disseminated in any form to any person or entity, without the explicit written consent of Yardeni Research, Inc. All unauthorized reproduction or other use of material from Yardeni Research, Inc. shall be deemed willful infringement(s) of this copyright and other proprietary and intellectual property rights, including but not limited to, rights of privacy. Yardeni Research, Inc. expressly reserves all rights in connection with its intellectual property, including without limitation the right to block the transfer of its products and services and/or to track usage thereof, through electronic tracking technology, and all other lawful means, now known or hereafter devised. Yardeni Research, Inc. reserves the right, without further notice, to pursue to the fullest extent allowed by the law any and all criminal and civil remedies for the violation of its rights.

The recipient should check any email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. Yardeni Research, Inc. accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this company’s emails, website, blog and Apps. Additional information available on request.