MaxDividends

By BeatMarket team

Rapid Growth Dividend Stocks The U.S. Market

□ September 2025



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Dividend Macro View	4
Dividend Macro View	9
Stock Picking Methodology	
Top 5 Dividend Stocks of the Month	10
Deep Dive into Top 5: Statement, Consensus, Updates	11

Introduction

"

"The true investor will do better if he forgets about the stock market and focuses on his dividend returns and the operational results of his companies."

Benjamin Graham

Why do dividend investors tend to outperform other strategies in the market?

In today's financial world, we're constantly told that the most important thing about an asset is its price movement. News outlets are always hyping stock market swings, with daily updates on index changes, top gainers, and biggest losers. But not much attention is given to dividend changes, which are crucial for long-term investing.

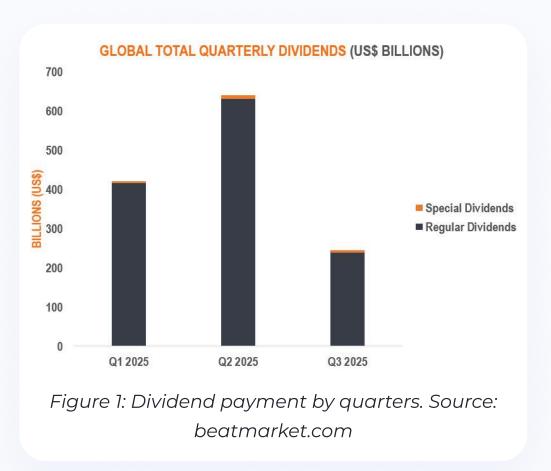
Most investors never achieve true wealth, and a big reason for this is their tendency to panic every time prices dip. Many get excited when an asset jumps in price, but struggle to handle a simple 5% drop—they often sell in a panic. Price swings happen every day in a market full of speculators, but companies that pay dividends to shareholders offer more stability. There are over 211 U.S. companies that have maintained or even raised their dividends over the past 10 years!

When you focus on dividends, you're getting consistent, reliable returns on your capital, which brings peace of mind and confidence in your investments.

MaxDividends Team

Global: Latest Dividend Data

The global cumulative dividend payout for Q2 2025 continued the upward trend seen in Q2 2020. This indicates that most dividend-paying companies have weathered the impact of the 2020 crisis and successfully adapted their businesses to the new reality. As a result, they've been able to keep increasing their dividend payouts.



Companies paid out \$640.5 billion in dividends in the second quarter of 2025. As of now, companies have already paid out \$245.4 billion in the third quarter. This figure is expected to increase by the end of the quarter (Figure 1).

In 2024, companies paid a record amount in dividends. In the **Dividend Eagles** category, Microsoft led the way with \$23 billion in payouts. In the **Dividend Aristocrats** category, ExxonMobil was the leader, distributing \$16.5 billion to its shareholders. The top 10 companies in each category are listed in the table (Figure 2).

Dividend Eagle	S	Dividends Aristocrats		
Company (Ticker)	Amount (Billion US\$)	Company (Ticker)	Amount (Billion US\$)	
Microsoft Corporation (MSFT)	23,00	Exxon Mobil Corporation (XOM)	16,50	
Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)	11,82	Chevron Corporation (CVX)	11,85	
The Procter & Gamble Company (PG)	9,79	International Business Mac. Corp. (IBM)	6,25	
The Home Depot, Inc. (HD)	9,02	McDonald's Corporation (MCD)	4,89	
The Coca-Cola Company (KO)	8,38	Enterprise Products Partners L.P. (EPD)	4,56	
PepsiCo, Inc. (PEP)	7,34	NextEra Energy, Inc. (NEE)	4,24	
Visa Inc. (V)	4,36	Medtronic plc (MDT)	3,71	
Medtronic plc (MDT)	3,71	RTX Corporation(RTX)	3,33	
Union Pacific Corporation (UNP)	3,21	Linde plc (LIN)	2,68	
BlackRock, Inc. (BLK)	3,09	Caterpillar Inc. (CAT)	2,65	

Figure 2: Top-10 companies by dividend payment amount, 2024. Source: beatmarket.com

The US Dividend Data

Dividend	Current	Average 5-Year	Dividend	Dividend	Div. Growth (10
	Dividend Yield -	Dividend Yield -	Growth (TTM) -	Growth (5 Years)	Years) - ETF
	ETF VOO	ETF VOO	ETF VOO	- ETF VOO	VOO
Yield	1,18%	1,40%	4,74%	5,36%	6,23%

Table 1: Overall Performance. Source: seekingalpha.com

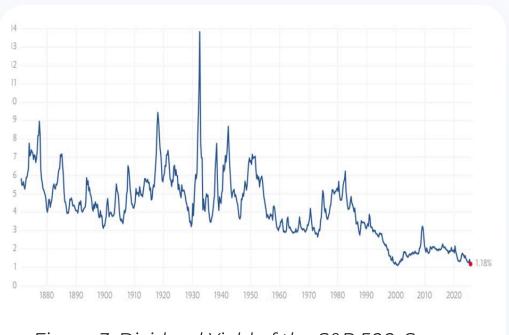


Figure 3: Dividend Yield of the S&P 500. Source: multpl.com

The S&P 500 dividend yield has been cut in half over the past decade. It now stands at 1.18%, which means stock prices relative to dividends are higher than usual. As a result, the dividend yield is at record lows.

Inflation has been rising faster than dividends have been increasing, leading to a correction in the S&P 500 dividend chart. Since mid-2022, inflation has been gradually declining, allowing the S&P 500 dividend chart to reflect growth. Since mid-2023, the pace of inflation's decline has slowed significantly. However, the ongoing downward trend in inflation continues to positively impact the growth of the S&P 500 dividend chart.

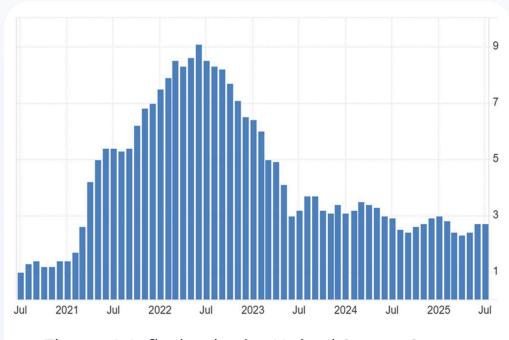
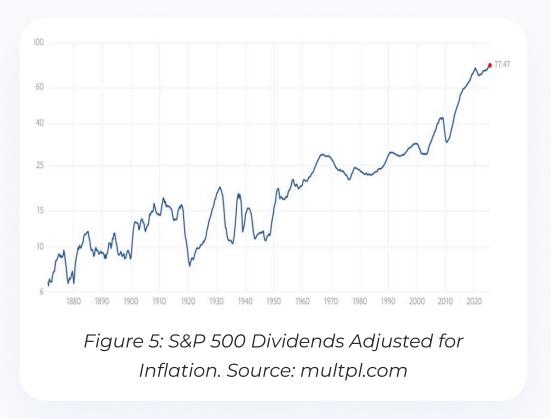


Figure 4: Inflation in the United States. Source: tradingeconomics.com

The US Dividend Data

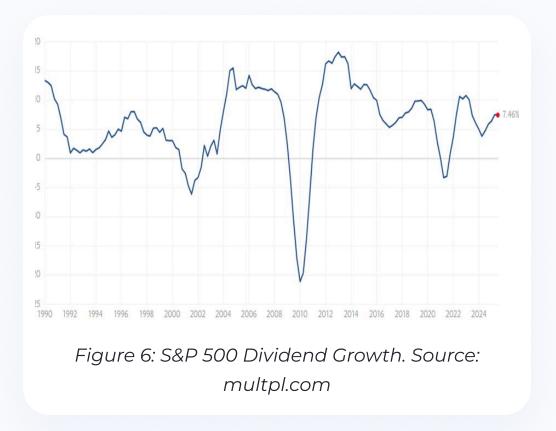


Historical dividends from stocks that are part of the S&P 500 Index are shown in Figure 5. The data is adjusted for inflation. With the current inflation rate (Figure 4), there is a gradual acceleration in the growth of dividends on the S&P 500 Index. The previous peak was in May 2020, when the dividend was 73.09. Currently, this figure stands at 77.47.

Month	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25
Yield	74.41	74.84	75.20	75.61	76.14	76.60	76.54	76.65	76.92	77.08	77.33	77.47

Table 2: S&P 500 Dividends Adjusted for Inflation. Source: multpl.com

The S&P 500 dividend growth is shown in Figure 6. Over the past 32 years, the chart has been negative only three times, and all of those periods were linked to crises. Over the past month, dividend growth has outpaced inflation, reaching 7.46%. The upward trend has continued over the past 12 months.



The US Dividend Stocks List Changes

Here is a table showing the U.S. stock market companies that increased their dividends last month. However, some companies have reduced or suspended their dividend payments. The table includes only companies that have consistently paid dividends for five years or more. The data reflects only decisions made in the past month.

List of Dividend Increases in August '25:

- Arrow Financial Corporation (AROW) 3.57%
- · American States Water (AWR) 8.27%
- · Bank of America (BAC) 7.69%
- · Bank of New York Mellon (BK) 12.77%
- · Community Bank System (CBU) 2.17%
- Community Healthcare (CHCT) 0.53%
- The Clorox Company (CLX) 1.64%
- · Cummins Inc. (CMI) 9.89%
- · Cintas Corporation (CTAS) 15.38%
- Community Trust (CTBI) 12.77%
- · Corteva, Inc. (CTVA) 5.88%
- Delek Logistics Partners (DKL) 0.45%
- Duke Energy (DUK) 1.91%
- Eagle Bancorp Montana (EBMT) 1.75%
- Enterprise Financial (EFSC) 3.33%
- Enterprise Products (EPD) 1.87%
- FirstCash, Inc. (FCFS) 10.53%
- Comfort Systems USA (FIX) 11.11%
- First Mid Bancshares (FMBH) 4.17%
- Greene County Bancorp (GCBC) 11.11%
- · Goldman Sachs Group (GS) 33.33%

- · Home Bancorp, Inc. (HBCP) 7.41%
- Hess Midstream LP (HESM) 3.83%
- · Home Federal Bancorp, Inc. (HFBL) 3.85%
- · Hawkins, Inc. (HWKN) 5.56%
- · John B. Sanfilippo & Son (JBSS) 5.88%
- Kellanova (K) 1.75%
- · Quaker Chemical (KWR) 4.74%
- · Littelfuse, Inc. (LFUS) 7.14%
- Mercantile Bank (MBWM) 2.70%
- McKesson Corporation (MCK) 15.49%
- Mondelez International (MDLZ) 6.38%
- Marsh & McLennan (MMC) 10.43%
- Morgan Stanley (MS) 8.11%
- · MGIC Investment (MTG) 15.38%
- NBT Bancorp Inc. (NBTB) 8.82%
- NNN REIT, Inc. (NNN) 3.45%
- Orrstown Financial (ORRF) 3.85%
- Bank OZK (OZK) 2.33%
- · Penske Automotive Group (PAG) 4.76%
- Principal Financial Group (PFG) 2.63%
- PNC Financial Services (PNC) 6.25%

The US Dividend Stocks List Changes

- PPG Industries (PPG) 4.41%
- · Ryder System, Inc. (R) 12.35%
- Regions Financial (RF) 6.00%
- · Republic Services, Inc. (RSG) 7.76%
- Rush Enterprises, Inc. (RUSHA) 5.56%
- · Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH) 8.57%
- The J. M. Smucker (SJM) 1.85%
- · Southern Missouri (SMBC) 8.70%
- · South Plains Financial (SPFI) 6.67%
- SouthState Corporation (SSB) 11.11%

- STERIS plc (STE) 10.53%
- State Street Corporation (STT) 10.53%
- · Stanley Black & Decker (SWK) 1.22%
- · Unum Group (UNM) 9.52%
- · Union Pacific (UNP) 2.99%
- · Vistra Corp. (VST) 0.44%
- · Cactus, Inc. (WHD) 7.69%
- · Wingstop Inc. (WING) 11.11%
- · West Pharmaceutical (WST) 4.76%
- · Essential Utilities, Inc. (WTRG) 5.25%

No dividend increases in over a year:

AptarGroup, Inc. (ATR), Gladstone Land Corporation (LAND), Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc. (SWBI).

Stock Picking Methodology

- · We analyze dividend history over the past 14 years.
- · A company that consistently raises its dividend yield earns more points from us.
- Next, we track the number of years the company has been paying dividends.
 Consistency is key: more years of steady dividend payments typically indicate better reliability.
- We calculate the average rate of dividend increases. The higher the rate compared to the market average, the more points the company earns.
- We understand that dividends can sometimes come at the expense of price appreciation, so to avoid companies that might sacrifice future growth, we also include an estimate of price movement.
- · As a result, the Financial Score helps us identify stocks that are likely to consistently raise and pay dividends while also experiencing price growth.

Discover MaxDividends' stock picking method for a balanced dividend portfolio.



Top 5 Dividend Stocks | MaxDividends | September'25

Company	Stock Ticker	Financial Score	Dividend Growth Y/Y
Target	(TGT)	91	+1.82%
Bank OZK	(OZK)	92	+10.67%
Lockheed Martin	(LMT)	98	+4.82%
W.W. Grainger	(GWW)	99	+10.22%
Nucor	(NUE)	98	+2.82%

Each month, we select five dividend stocks that deserve your attention. These companies are chosen based on five criteria:

- 1. The selected companies have a financial score above 80.
- 2. The selected companies have increased their dividend payouts over the past calendar year.
- 3. The selected companies represent various sectors of the economy.
- 4. The selected companies have been increasing their dividends for at least 15 years annually.
- 5. The selected companies are undervalued compared to their industry peers based on the price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio.

Target (TGT)

Consumer Defensive | Discount Stores



Company Profile

Target Corporation is a U.S. general merchandise retailer offering a wide range of products, including clothing, beauty items, groceries, electronics, toys, home goods, furniture, and household essentials. It also features special collections through designer partnerships and shop-in-shop experiences. Target sells products both in-store and online through Target.com.

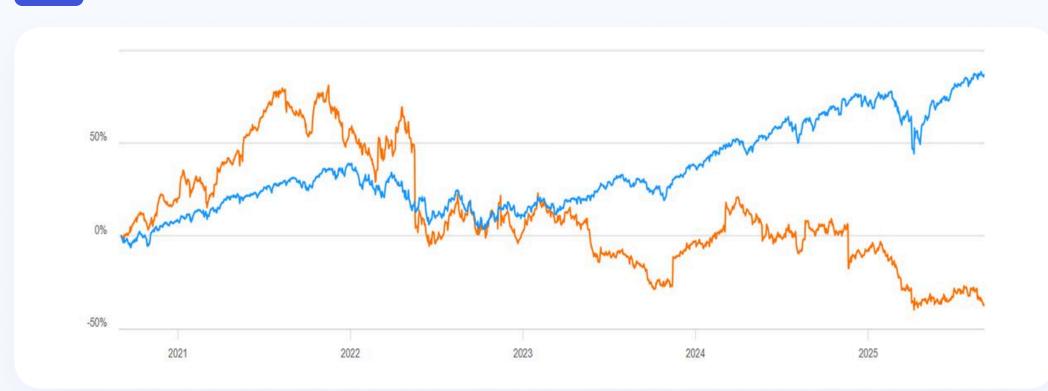
Number of Employees: 440,000 Website corporate.target.com Headquartered in Minneapolis, MN

Financial Score Total Score 91/100 Dividend Score 10/10

Profitability 5Y -36,95%

SP500 +86,63%

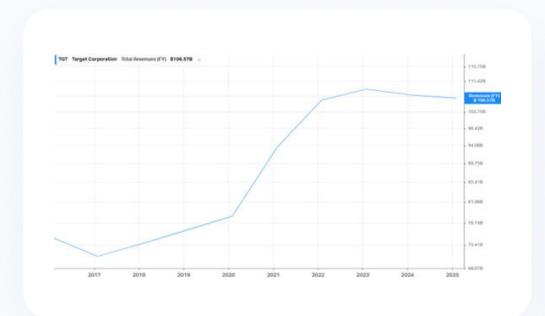
TGT



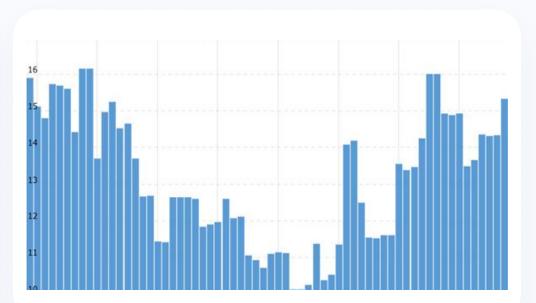
Target (TGT)

Consumer Defensive | Discount Stores

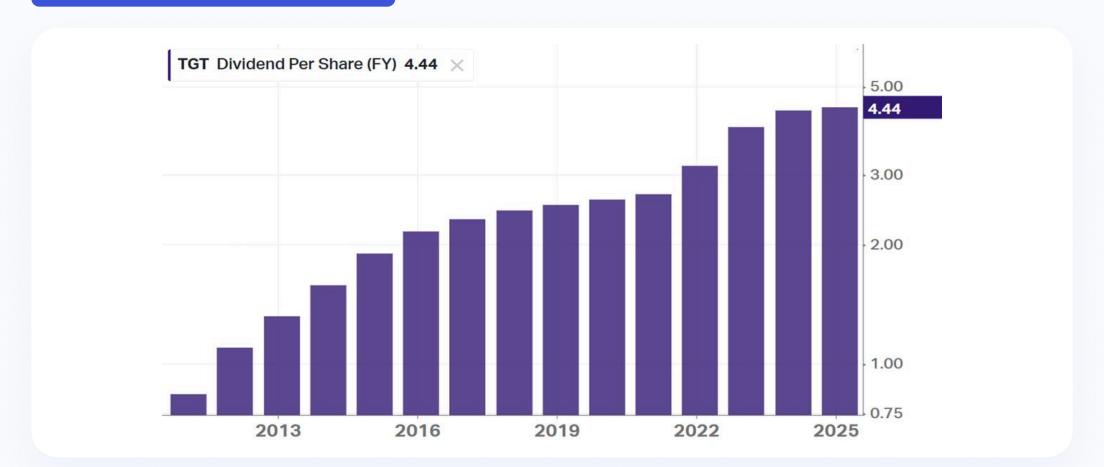
Total Revenue

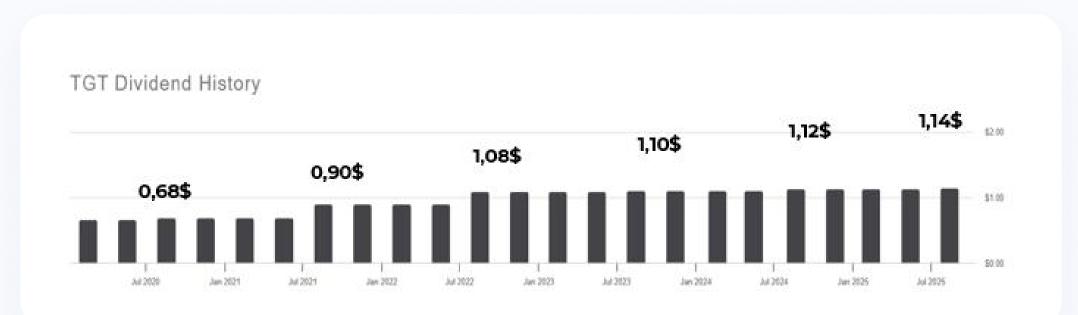


Long-Term Debt



Dividend Growth History (Annual)





Target (TGT)

Consumer Defensive | Discount Stores

Dividend Yield History



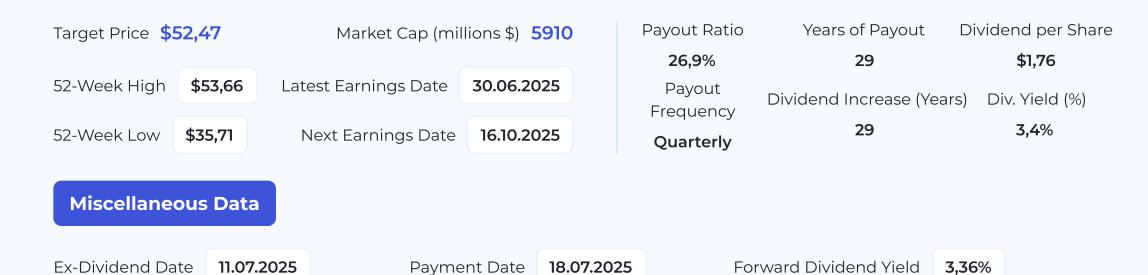
Dividend Growth Rate vs. Sector Performance

Growth Rate	TGT	Sector Average	% Difference to Sector		
1-Year Dividend Growth Rate (TTM)	1.82%	4.40%	-58.70%	11.72%	-84.49%
Dividend per Share Growth (FWD)	2.31%	5.00%	-53.87%	7.84%	-70.57%
Dividend per Share Growth FY1-FY3 (CAGR)	2.22%	3.30%	-32.89%	4.30%	-48.43%
Dividend Growth Rate (3Y) (CAGR)	5.98%	5.95%	0.55%	11.37%	-47.37%
Dividend Growth Rate (5Y) (CAGR)	11.09%	4.63%	139.65%	9.11%	21.75%
Dividend Growth Rate (10Y) (CAGR)	7.82%	5.76%	35.66%	10.84%	-27.85%

Company	Market Cap, mln \$	Dividend Yield %	Price	P/E	Dividend Growth 1 year	Total Score	Dividend Score
Target	\$43,613	4.70%	95.98	11.2	1,82%	91	10
Kroger	\$44,852	2.10%	68.64	18.5	10.34%	85	8.5
Sysco	\$38,481	2.70%	80.55	21.6	2.98%	97	8.5
Dollar General	\$23,938	2.20%	110.46	20.1	0.00%	95	6

Bank OZK (OZK)

Financial Services | Banks - Regional



Company Profile

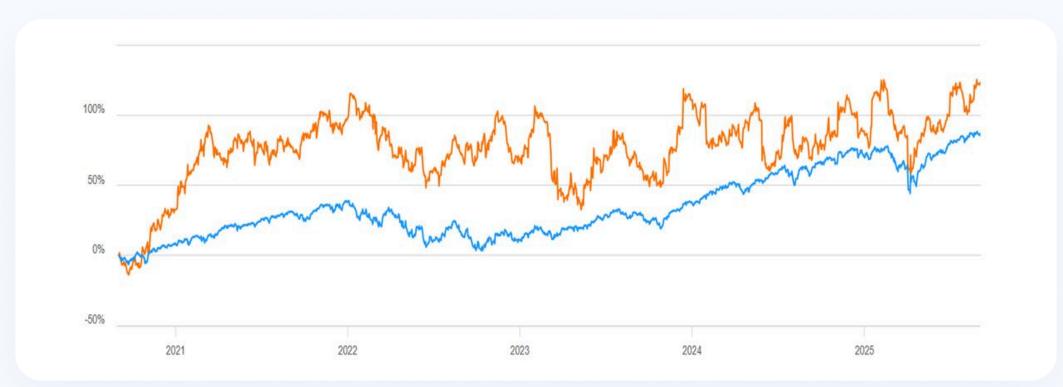
Bank OZK is a full-service, Arkansas state-chartered bank offering retail and commercial banking across the U.S. It provides a range of deposit accounts, trust and wealth management services, and treasury management solutions. The bank also offers various loans, including real estate, consumer, small business, equipment, and government-backed loans, as well as specialty financing like business aviation and subscription financing. Formerly known as Bank of the Ozarks, it rebranded to Bank OZK in July 2018.



Profitability 5Y +122,90%

SP500 +86,63%

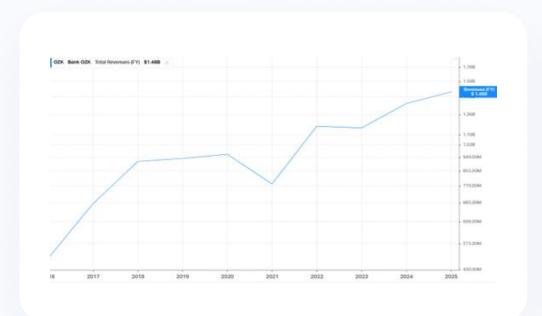
OZK



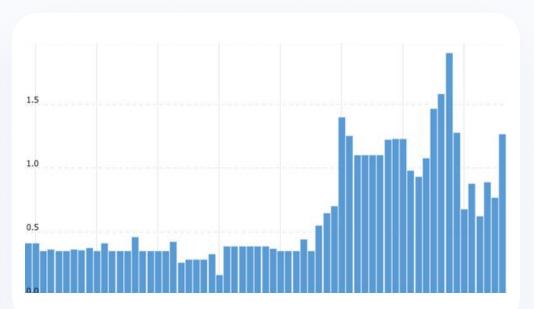
Bank OZK (OZK)

Financial Services | Banks - Regional

Total Revenue

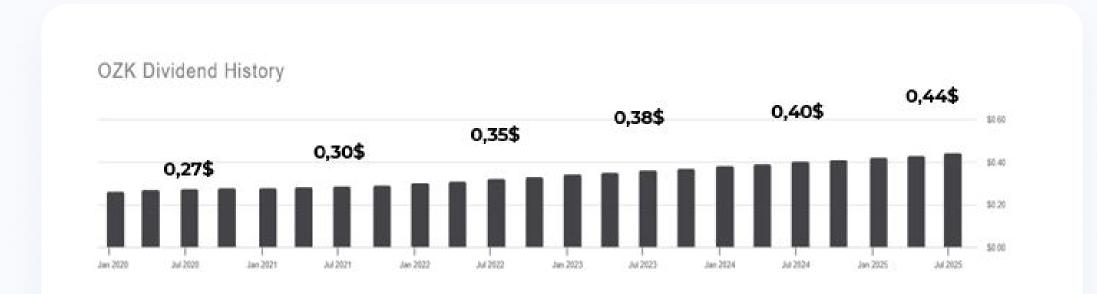


Long-Term Debt



Dividend Growth History (Annual)

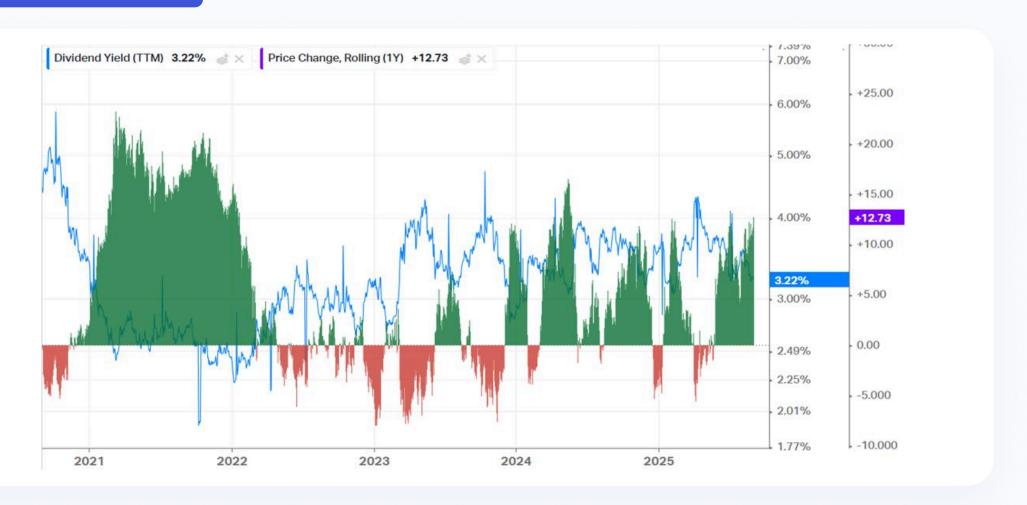




Bank OZK (OZK)

Financial Services | Banks - Regional

Dividend Yield History



Dividend Growth Rate vs. Sector Performance

Growth Rate	OZK	Sector Average	% Difference to 5 Years Average	OZK Last 5 Years Average	% Difference to 5 Years Average
1-Year Dividend Growth Rate (TTM)	10.67%	3.57%	198.86%	10.94%	-2.49%
Dividend per Share Growth (FWD)	9.81%	3.95%	148.24%	9.27%	5.76%
Dividend per Share Growth FY1-FY3 (CAGR)	4.40%	2.88%	52.46%	3.81%	15.31%
Dividend Growth Rate (3Y) (CAGR)	11.69%	5.64%	107.42%	11.57%	1.04%
Dividend Growth Rate (5Y) (CAGR)	10.06%	6.16%	63.36%	12.22%	-17.65%
Dividend Growth Rate (10Y) (CAGR)	12.36%	6.98%	77.06%	16.82%	-26.52%

Company	Market Cap, mln \$	Dividend Yield %	Price	P/E	Dividend Growth, 1 year	Total Score	Dividend Score
Bank OZK	\$5,910	3.40%	52,47	8.5	10.67%	92	10
Prosperity Bancsh	\$6,567	3.40%	69.06	12.6	3.14%	90	10
FNB	\$5,951	2.90%	16,39	12.9	0.00%	81	5.5
Home BancShares	\$5,865	2.70%	29,50	13.6	9.03%	92	10

Lockheed Martin (LMT)

Industrials | Aerospace & Defense



Payout Ratio	Years of Payout	Dividend per Share
73,0%	29	\$13,20
Payout Frequency	Dividend Increase (Year	s) Div. Yield (%)
Quarterly	22	2,9%

Miscellaneous Data

Ex-Dividend Date 02.09.2025

Payment Date **26.09.2025**

Forward Dividend Yield

2,92%

Company profile

Lockheed Martin Corporation, an aerospace and defense company, focuses on the research, design, development, manufacturing, integration, and maintenance of technology systems, products, and services worldwide. The company operates through four segments: Aeronautics; Missiles and Fire Control (MFC); Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS); and Space.

Number of Employees:

121,000

Website

www.lockheedmartin.com

Headquartered in Bethesda, MD

Financial Score

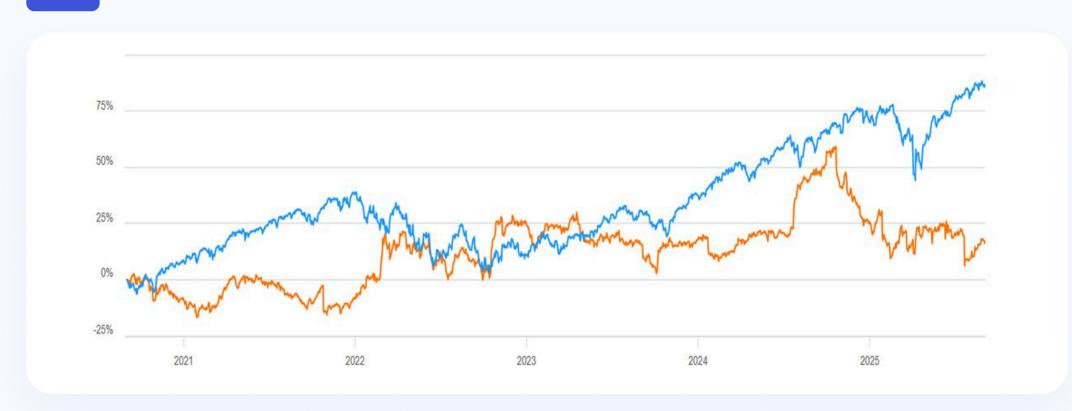
Total Score 98/100

Dividend Score 10/10

Profitability 5Y +16,25%

SP500 +86,63%

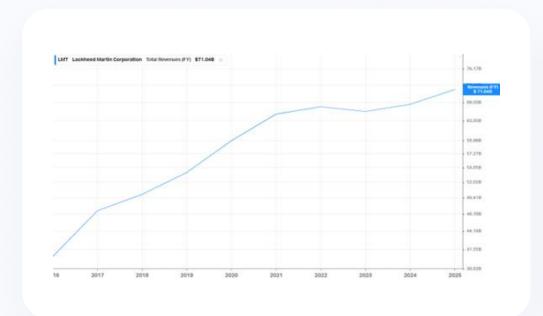
LMT



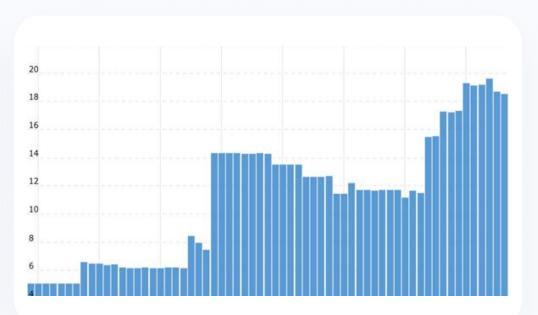
Lockheed Martin (LMT)

Industrials | Aerospace & Defense

Total Revenue

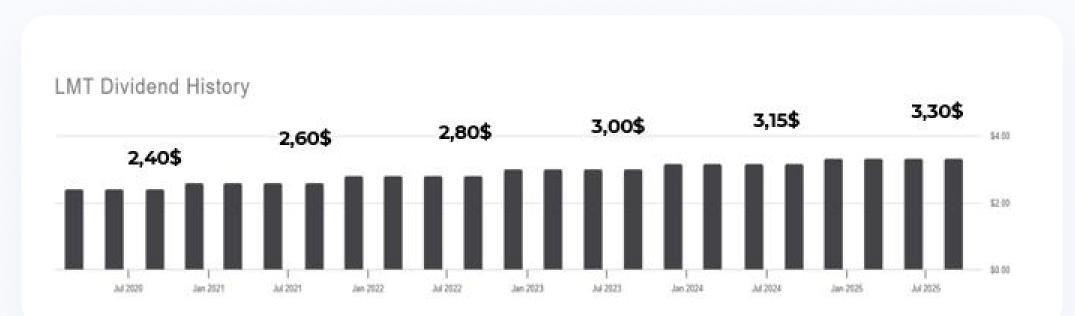


Long-Term Debt



Dividend Growth History (Annual)





Lockheed Martin (LMT)

Industrials | Aerospace & Defense

Dividend Yield History



Dividend Growth Rate vs. Sector Performance

Growth Rate	LMT	Sector Average	% Difference to LMT Last 5 Years Sector Average		% Difference to 5 Years Average
1-Year Dividend Growth Rate (TTM)	4.82%	6.27%	-23.14%	7.05%	-31.61%
Dividend per Share Growth (FWD)	4.79%	6.67%	-28.07%	7.07%	-32.22%
Dividend per Share Growth FY1-FY3 (CAGR)	3.55%	3.88%	-8.52%	4.44%	-20.03%
Dividend Growth Rate (3Y) (CAGR)	5.86%	7.25%	-19.09%	8.09%	-27.54%
Dividend Growth Rate (5Y) (CAGR)	6.78%	8.21%	-17.42%	8.63%	-21.43%
Dividend Growth Rate (10Y) (CAGR)	8.39%	7.45%	12.69%	11.01%	-23.77%

Company	Market Cap, mln \$	Dividend Yield %	Price	P/E	Dividend Growth 1 year	Total Score	Dividend Score
Lockheed Martin	\$106,373	2.90%	452.33	25.6	4.82%	98	10
RTX	\$212,292	1.70%	158.01	34.8	7.08%	81	8.5
Boeing	\$177,455	Do not pay	237.38	-	-	29	-
General Dynamics	\$87,307	1.90%	324,39	21.8	6.57%	88	7.5

W.W. Grainger (GWW)

Industrials | Industrial Distribution



Company Profile

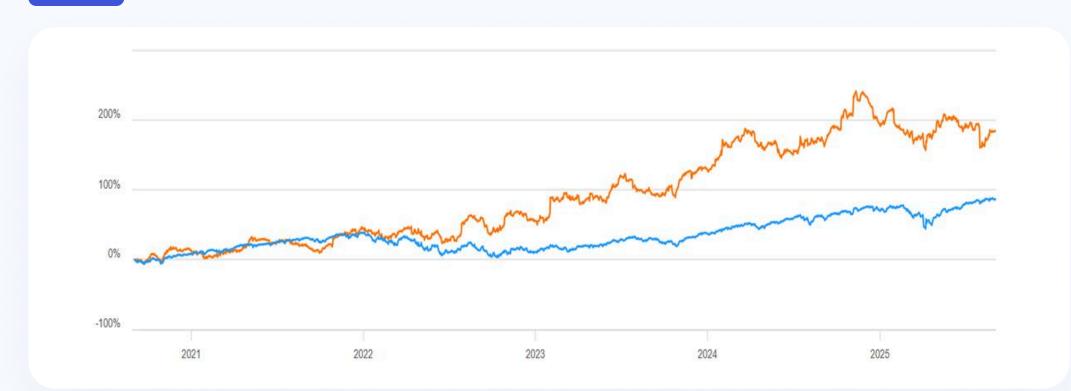
W.W. Grainger, Inc. and its subsidiaries distribute maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) products and services, mainly in North America, Japan, and the UK. Operating through its High-Touch Solutions and Endless Assortment segments, the company offers safety, material handling, plumbing, cleaning, metalworking tools, along with technical support and inventory management. Grainger serves businesses of all sizes, government, and various industries through reps and e-commerce.

Number of Employees: **26,500** Website: **www.grainger.com** Headquartered in Lake Forest, IL

Financial Score Total Score 99/100 Dividend Score 10/10

Profitability 5Y +184,18% SP500 +86,63%

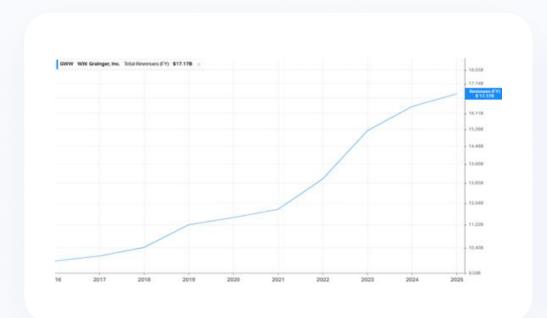
GWW



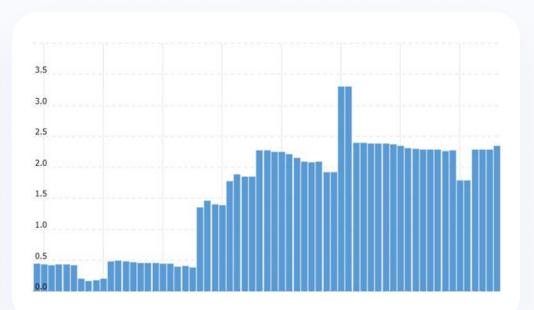
W.W. Grainger (GWW)

Industrials | Industrial Distribution

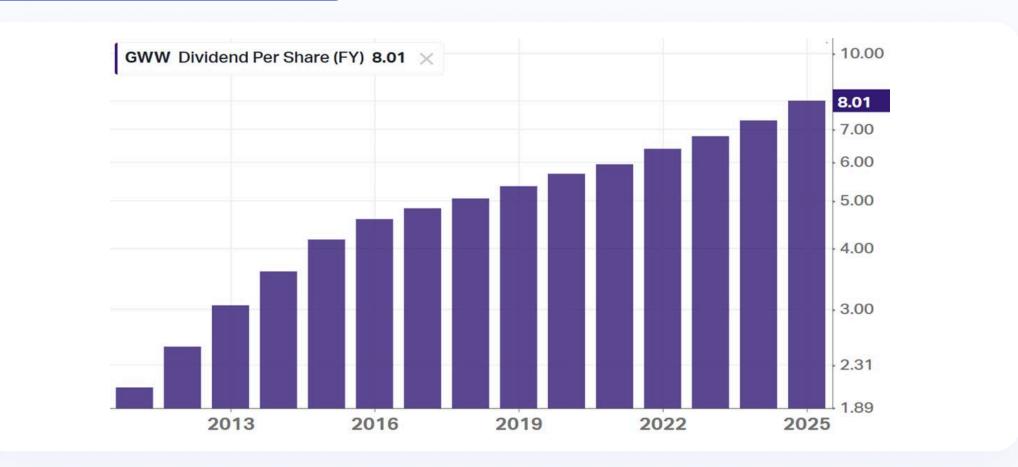
Total Revenue

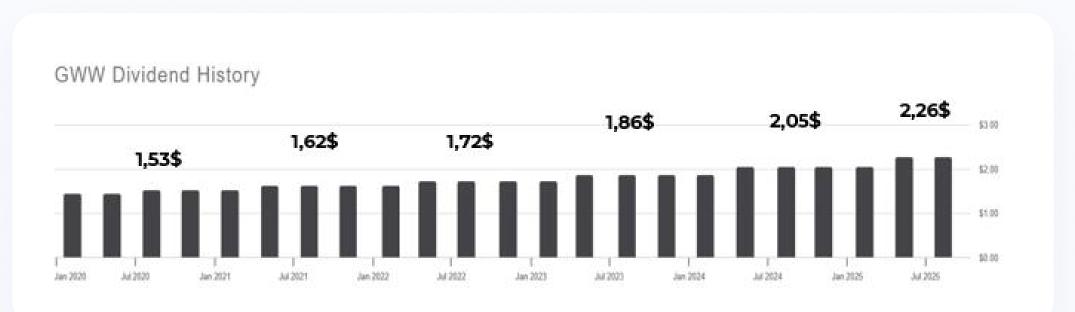


Long-Term Debt



Dividend Growth History (Annual)

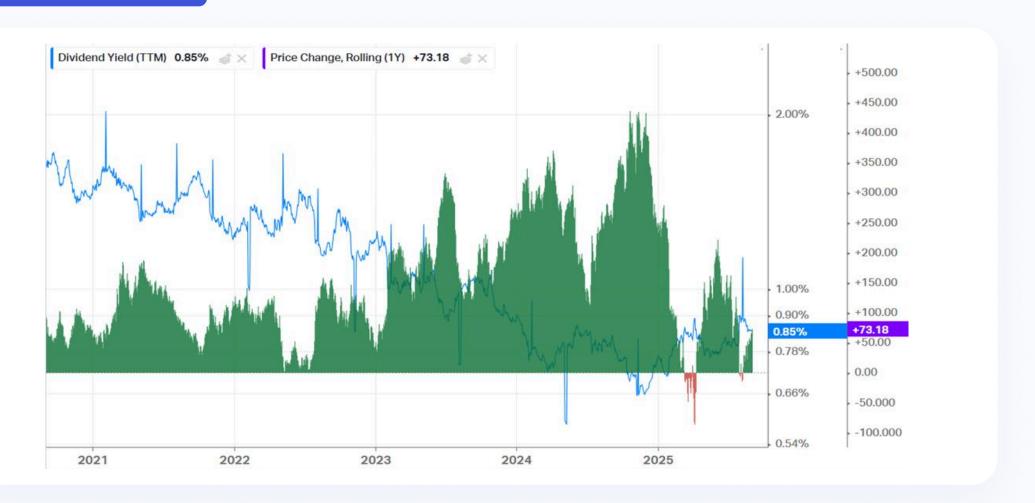




W.W. Grainger (GWW)

Industrials | Industrial Distribution

Dividend Yield History



Dividend Growth Rate vs. Sector Performance

Growth Rate	GWW	Sector Average	% Difference to Sector			
1-Year Dividend Growth Rate (TTM)	10.22%	6.27%	63.04% 6.98%		46.38%	
Dividend per Share Growth (FWD)	8.89%	6.67%	33.43%	6.92%	28.48%	
Dividend per Share Growth FY1-FY3 (CAGR)	5.74%	3.88%	47.83%	5.11%	12.37%	
Dividend Growth Rate (3Y) (CAGR)	8.87%	7.25%	22.43%	6.66%	33.17%	
Dividend Growth Rate (5Y) (CAGR)	8.06%	8.21%	-1.84%	6.30%	28.01%	
Dividend Growth Rate (10Y) (CAGR)	6.72%	7.45%	-9.81%	-9.81% 8.54%		

Company	Market Cap, mln \$	Dividend Yield %	Price	P/E	Dividend Growth 1 year	Total Score	Dividend Score
W.W. Grainger	\$48,477	0.90%	1013.50	25.7	10.22%	99	10
Fastenal	\$56,991	1.80%	49.52	48.1	11.49%	98	10
Watsco	\$16,420	3.00%	393.44	30.7	10.45%	98	10
Core & Main	\$12,274	Do not pay	64.57	29.9	-	61	-

Nucor (NUE)

Basic Materials | Steel



Miscellaneous Data

Ex-Dividend Date 30.06.2025 Payment Date 11.08.2025 Forward Dividend Yield 1,52%

Company profile

Nucor Corporation manufactures steel and steel products, and it also produces direct reduced iron for use in its steel mills. The company's operations include international trading and sales companies that buy and sell steel and steel products produced by Nucor and other manufacturers. Nucor operates through three business segments: Steel Mills, Steel Products, and Raw Materials, with the Steel Mills segment generating the most revenue. The Steel Mills segment produces carbon and alloy steel in sheet, bar, structural, and plate forms. It also includes steel trading businesses, rebar distribution businesses, and Nucor's equity method investments in NuMit and NJSM.

Number of Employees: **32,700** Website: **www.nucor.com** Headquartered in Charlotte, NC

Financial Score

Total Score 98/100

Dividend Score 10/10

Profitability 5Y +207,48%

SP500 +86,63%

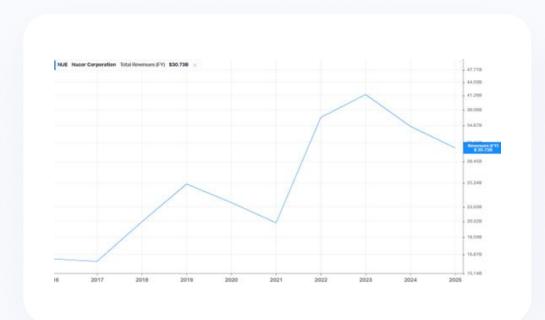
NUE



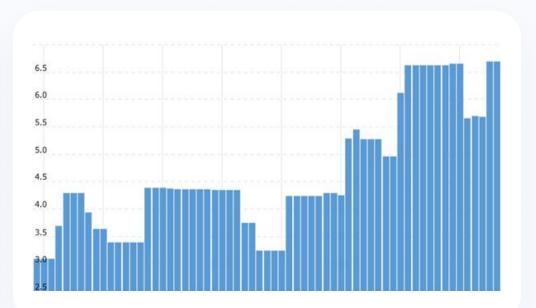
Nucor (NUE)

Basic Materials | Steel

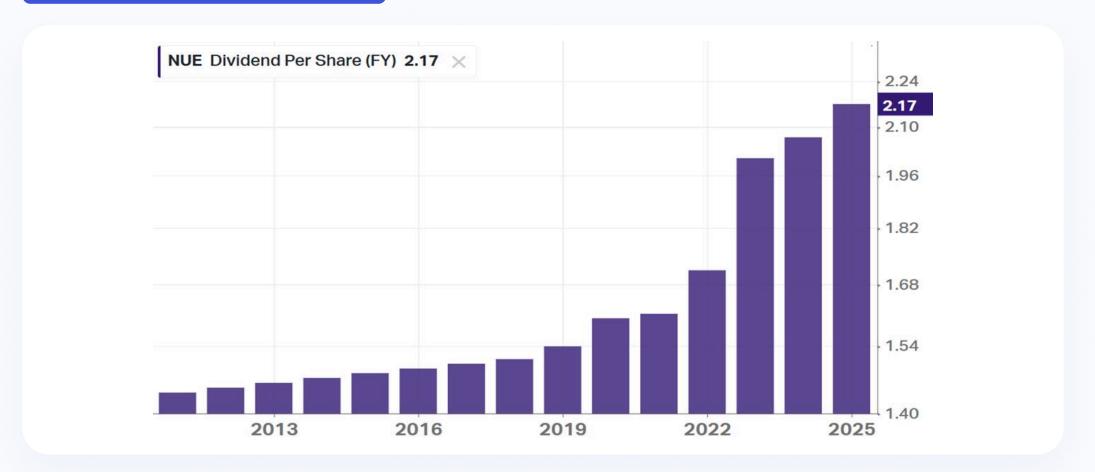
Total Revenue

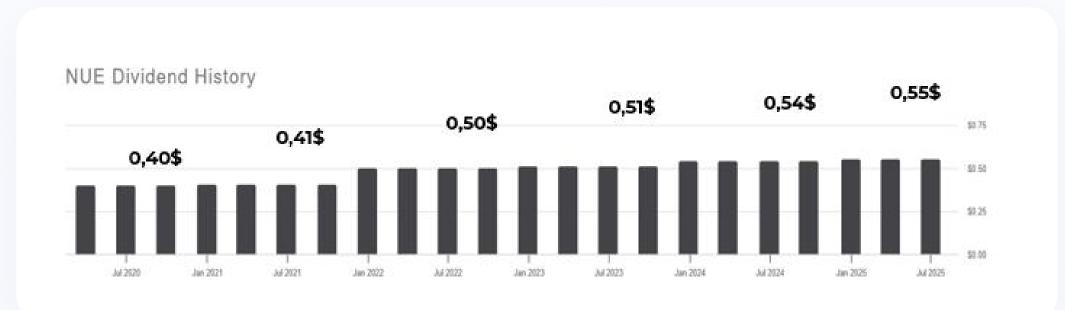


Long-Term Debt



Dividend Growth History (Annual)





Nucor (NUE)

Basic Materials | Steel

Dividend Yield History



Dividend Growth Rate vs. Sector Performance

Growth Rate	NUE	Sector Average	% Difference to Sector			
1-Year Dividend Growth Rate (TTM)	2.82%	1.03%	173.23%	173.23% 6.30%		
Dividend per Share Growth (FWD)	2.44%	2.85%	-14.28%	4.11%	-40.58%	
Dividend per Share Growth FY1-FY3 (CAGR)	0.64%	2.18%	-70.79%	0.38%	67.20%	
Dividend Growth Rate (3Y) (CAGR)	4.76%	3.93%	20.93%	6.10%	-22.00%	
Dividend Growth Rate (5Y) (CAGR)	6.38%	6.39%	-0.20%	4.54%	40.59%	
Dividend Growth Rate (10Y) (CAGR)	3.94%	5.53%	-28.69% 2.71%		45.26%	

Company	Market Cap, mln \$	Dividend Yield %	Price	P/E	Dividend Growth 1 year	Total Score	Dividend Score
Nucor	\$34,138	1.50%	148.73	26.7	2.82%	98	10
ArcelorMittal	\$25,122	1.70%	32.71	10.1	10.00%	80	4.5
Nippon Steel	\$22,121	3.80%	21.90	9.5	-	84	3
Tata Steel	\$21,811	1.50%	9.25	41.5	-	7 9	7.5