

SVB Financial Group (SIVB)

\$265.10 (As of 02/12/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$280.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 01/23/19)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:D

Value: B

Growth: D

Momentum: F

Summary

Shares of SVB Financial have outperformed the industry over the past year. The company's earnings surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate in each of the trailing four quarters. Its fourth-quarter 2019 results benefited from growth in revenues, partly offset by higher costs and provisions. The company is well-poised to capitalize on opportunities, driven by strong balance sheet position, growth in loans and deposits, and efforts to improve non-interest income. Its global expansion strategy and the SVB Leerink buyout will likely support profits. However, the presence of high debt levels might limit the company's flexibility in terms of procuring additional finance. Elevated expenses due to rise in compensation costs will likely hurt the bottom line. Pressure on margins due to lower rates will likely hamper top-line growth to some extent.

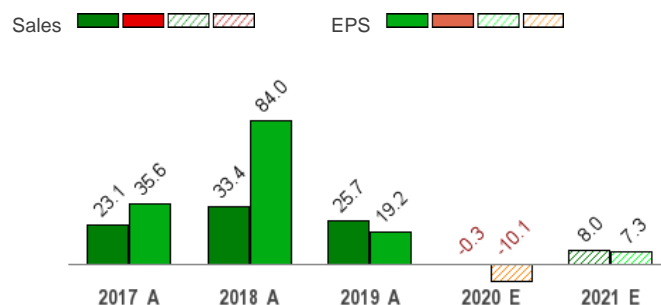
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$270.40 - \$183.04
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	480,511
Market Cap	\$13.7 B
YTD Price Change	5.6%
Beta	2.24
Dividend / Div Yld	\$0.00 / 0.0%
Industry	Banks - West
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 39% (98 out of 254)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	10.2%
Last Sales Surprise	7.7%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	-0.1%
Expected Report Date	04/23/2020
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	12.2
P/E F1	13.6
PEG F1	1.8
P/S TTM	3.9

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	866 E	888 E	914 E	929 E	3,573 E
2020	804 E	818 E	839 E	854 E	3,309 E
2019	793 A	863 A	815 A	847 A	3,318 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	\$5.04 E	\$5.21 E	\$5.34 E	\$5.47 E	\$20.96 E
2020	\$4.60 E	\$4.82 E	\$5.00 E	\$5.14 E	\$19.54 E
2019	\$5.44 A	\$6.08 A	\$5.15 A	\$5.06 A	\$21.73 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 02/12/2020. The reports text is as of 02/13/2020.

Overview

Headquartered in Santa Clara, CA, SVB Financial Group is a diversified financial services company. Incorporated in 1999, the company operates through, among others, the Silicon Valley Bank, its primary subsidiary, providing a wide range of banking and financial products and services.

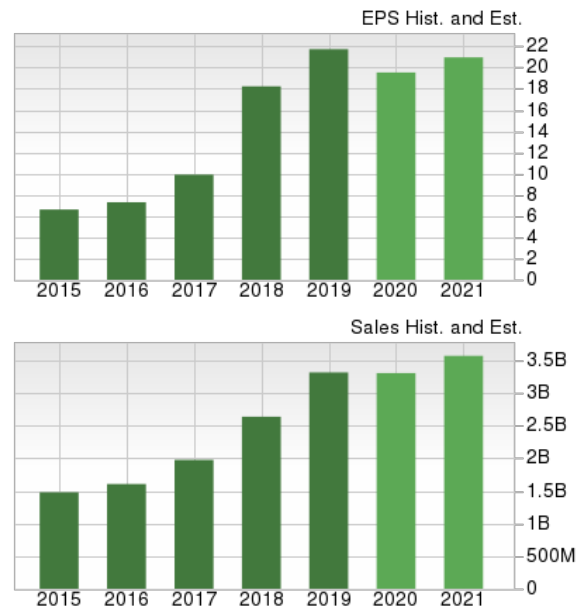
SVB Financial has three operating segments:

- Global Commercial Bank** (96% of total average assets in 2018): This segment primarily consists of Commercial Bank, which offers lending, deposit products, cash management services, global banking, and trade products and services, in addition to investment services – serving commercial clients in the technology, venture capital/private equity, and life science and clean tech industries. Other divisions include Private Equity Division, SVB Wine, SVB Analytics and Debt Fund Investments.
- SVB Private Bank** (3.4%): This being the private banking division of Silicon Valley Bank, it offers a customized suite of private banking services, including mortgages, home equity lines of credit, restricted stock purchase loans, capital call lines of credit, and other secured and unsecured lending to venture capital/private equity professionals. It also fulfills private banking clients' cash management needs through deposit account products and services.
- SVB Capital** (0.6%): This being the venture capital investment division of SVB Financial, it focuses on funds management, comprising funding of funds and direct venture funds (or co-investment funds). The segment manages venture capital funds, primarily on the behalf of third-party limited partner investors and the company.

Notably, the company reports for these segments their non-controlling interest under the heading 'Other items', which reflects adjustments required for the reconciliation of results in conformity with U.S. GAAP.

In 2019, SVB Financial acquired Boston-based Leerink Holdings LLC.

As of Dec 31, 2019, the company had total assets worth \$71 billion, total deposits of \$61.76 billion, net loans of \$32.86 billion and shareholders' equity of \$6.47 billion.



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ SVB Financial remains focused on its organic growth strategy, as evident from consistent rise in loans, deposits and net interest income (NII) over the past several years. The company recorded an increase in net loans at a CAGR of 18.2% over the last six years (2014-2019). Moreover, its NII has witnessed a CAGR of 19.6%, while deposits witnessed a CAGR of 12.5% over the same time frame. Further, improving non-interest income (constituting 36.8% of total revenues in 2019) will continue supporting top-line growth. Notably, the company is also undertaking efforts to expand globally. While its U.K. and Asia operations seem to be growing, its business in Canada and Germany is expected to further boost revenues.
- ▲ SVB Financial is deploying capital efficiently. In January 2019, it acquired Boston-based Leerink Holdings LLC. The deal is expected to be accretive to the company's earnings in 2020. Further, in October 2019, the company announced a new stock-repurchase program worth up to \$350 million, expiring on Oct 29, 2020. As of Dec 31, 2019, no shares were purchased under this program. These efforts reflect strong balance sheet position and are expected to enhance shareholder value.
- ▲ SVB Financial's trailing 12-month return on equity (ROE) reflects its superiority in terms of utilizing shareholders' funds. The company's ROE of 19.33% compares favorably with 11.17% for the industry.

SVB Financial is well poised to benefit from its organic and inorganic growth strategy, focus on improving non-interest income and rise in loan balances. Its capital deployment actions are impressive.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ SVB Financial has been witnessing a continued rise in operating expenses over the past few years. Over the last six years (2014-2019), non-interest expenses rose at a CAGR of 18%. The increase was mainly due to rise in compensation and benefit costs. Further, management anticipates adjusted expenses to rise in the high-single-digit range in 2020.
- ▼ Moreover, while SVB Financial had been witnessing an increase in net interest margin (NIM) over the past several years, the trend has reversed off late. The company's NIM declined to 3.51% in 2019 from 3.57% in 2018, mainly due to lower interest rates. Despite steady improvement in loan demand, NIM is expected to be hurt to some extent in the near term due to the Federal Reserve's accommodative policy stance. Notably, management expects NIM in 2020 to be 3.10-3.20%.
- ▼ High debt level of the company could restrict it from procuring additional finance for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, debt service requirements or other purposes. As of Dec 31, 2019, SVB Financial's long-term debt amounted to \$348 million. High-debt obligation, if combined with unfavorable economic and industry conditions, can drag the company to a relatively disadvantageous position.
- ▼ SVB Financial's loan portfolio has significant concentration of commercial loans (85.8% of the total loan portfolio as of Dec 31, 2019). Such high concentration can be risky for the company as lack of diversifying efforts might hamper its top and bottom-line growth.
- ▼ Shares of SVB Financial have outperformed the industry over the past year. However, the company's current-year earnings estimates have been revised marginally lower over the past 30 days. Further, the stock seems overvalued compared with the broader industry. Its current price/earnings (P/E) (F1) and price/book (P/B) ratios are above the respective industry averages. Therefore, given the concerns and downward estimate revisions, the stock has limited upside potential.

Elevated expenses will likely hurt SVB Financial's bottom line. Pressure on margins due to lower rates is also a concern. Also, high debt obligation might limit the company's flexibility.

Last Earnings Report

SVB Financial Q4 Earnings & Revenues Beat Estimates

SVB Financial's fourth-quarter 2019 earnings of \$5.06 per share outpaced the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$4.59. Also, the bottom line was 2% higher than the year-ago quarter's reported figure.

Results were driven by higher revenues as well as growth in loan and deposit balances. Further, the SVB Leerink acquisition offered support. However, higher non-interest expenses and provisions along with contracting NIM were major headwinds.

Net income available to common shareholders was \$262.9 million, down 1.3% from the prior-year quarter.

For 2019, earnings per share of \$21.73 surpassed the consensus estimate of \$21.23 and jumped 20% year over year. Net income available to common shareholders was \$1.14 billion, up 16.7%.

Revenues & Expenses Rise

Net revenues were \$847 million, increasing 20.8% year over year. Further, the top line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$786.8 million.

For 2019, net revenues jumped 25.7% to \$3.32 billion. Also, it beat the consensus estimate of \$3.24 billion.

Net interest income was \$533.7 million, increasing 3.7% year over year. However, NIM on a fully-taxable equivalent basis contracted 43 basis points (bps) to 3.26%.

Non-interest income was \$313.3 million, surging 67.8% year over year. The upswing resulted from rise in all the components of fee income.

Non-interest expenses rose 49.8% to \$460.8 million. Increase in all expenses resulted in the upside.

Non-GAAP core operating efficiency ratio was 54.40%, up from the prior-year quarter's 45.42%. A rise in efficiency ratio indicates lower profitability.

Loans and Deposit Balances Increase

As of Sep 30, 2019, SVB Financial's loans, net of unearned income amounted to \$33.2 billion, increasing 6.8% from the prior quarter, while total deposits grew 3.7% to \$61.8 billion.

Credit Quality: Mixed Bag

The ratio of net charge-offs to average gross loans was 0.18%, down 2 bps. Also, ratio of allowance for loan losses to total gross loans was 0.91%, down 8 bps year over year.

However, provision for credit losses was \$13.2 million, up 29.6% from the prior-year quarter.

Capital & Profitability Ratios Decline

As of fourth-quarter end, CET 1 risk-based capital ratio was 12.64% compared with 13.41% at the end of the prior-year quarter. Total risk-based capital ratio was 14.30% as of Dec 31, 2019, down from 14.45% on Dec 31, 2018.

Return on average assets on an annualized basis was 1.51%, down from the 1.83% recorded in the year-ago quarter. Also, return on average equity was 17.03%, decreasing from 20.61%.

2020 Outlook

Management provided 2020 guidance based on expectations of no further changes in the Federal Funds rates.

The company projects average loan balance growth in the low-teens, while average deposit balance growth is expected to be in the mid-teens.

Additionally, NII is anticipated to rise in low-single digits and NIM is projected to be 3.10-3.20%.

Further, core fee income is expected to grow in low-double digits. Including the SVB Leerink acquisition, it is likely to increase in high-single digits.

Non-GAAP non-interest expenses (excluding expenses related to non-controlling interests and including SVB Leerink) are projected to rise in the high-single-digit range.

Notably, net loan charge-offs are projected to be between 0.20% and 0.40% of average total gross loans. Non-performing loans as a percentage of total gross loans are likely to be 0.30-0.50%.

The effective tax rate is expected in the range of 26-28%.

Quarter Ending **12/2019**

Report Date	Jan 23, 2020
Sales Surprise	7.65%
EPS Surprise	10.24%
Quarterly EPS	5.06
Annual EPS (TTM)	21.73

Valuation

SVB Financial's shares are up 10.2% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Finance sector are up 4.7% and 10.9%, over the past year, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 22.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 13.46X forward 12 months earnings, which compares to 13.36X for the Zacks sub-industry, 15.04X for the Zacks sector and 19.41X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 24.90X and as low as 8.73X, with a 5-year median of 16.43X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$280 price target reflects 14.21X forward earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for SIVB

Valuation Multiples - SIVB					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	13.46	13.36	15.04	19.41
	5-Year High	24.9	18.23	16.21	19.41
	5-Year Low	8.73	10.42	12.01	15.18
	5-Year Median	16.43	14.52	14.15	17.47
P/TB TTM	Current	2.26	1.96	3.33	12.63
	5-Year High	3.84	2.65	3.98	12.63
	5-Year Low	1.24	1.44	2.44	6.03
	5-Year Median	2.23	1.98	3.46	9.11
P/S F12M	Current	4.09	4.16	6.55	3.58
	5-Year High	6.7	4.75	6.65	3.58
	5-Year Low	2.54	3.05	5.39	2.54
	5-Year Median	4.28	3.98	6.04	3

As of 02/12/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 39% (98 out of 254)



Top Peers

Cathay General Bancorp (CATY)	Neutral
East West Bancorp, Inc. (EWBC)	Neutral
First Hawaiian, Inc. (FHB)	Neutral
First Republic Bank (FRC)	Neutral
PacWest Bancorp (PACW)	Neutral
Umpqua Holdings Corporation (UMPQ)	Neutral
Western Alliance Bancorporation (WAL)	Neutral
Zions Bancorporation, N.A. (ZION)	Neutral

Industry Comparison Industry: Banks - West				Industry Peers		
	SIVB Neutral	X Industry	S&P 500	EWBC Neutral	FRC Neutral	ZION Neutral
VGM Score	D	-	-	D	C	D
Market Cap	13.67 B	351.47 M	24.53 B	7.03 B	19.87 B	7.86 B
# of Analysts	11	4	13	6	10	13
Dividend Yield	0.00%	1.91%	1.75%	2.28%	0.64%	2.95%
Value Score	B	-	-	A	C	A
Cash/Price	0.51	0.31	0.04	0.59	0.09	0.27
EV/EBITDA	5.66	7.03	13.98	3.94	23.31	5.53
PEG Ratio	1.80	1.52	2.09	1.02	2.95	1.36
Price/Book (P/B)	2.18	1.31	3.29	1.40	2.28	1.16
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	15.51	11.15	13.69	8.86	20.09	8.23
P/E (F1)	13.48	12.49	19.19	10.18	21.94	10.48
Price/Sales (P/S)	3.87	3.24	2.68	3.36	4.78	2.42
Earnings Yield	7.37%	8.00%	5.21%	9.81%	4.55%	9.54%
Debt/Equity	0.06	0.13	0.71	0.18	1.55	0.25
Cash Flow (\$/share)	17.09	2.53	6.92	5.45	5.87	5.60
Growth Score	D	-	-	F	C	F
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	38.74%	15.67%	10.85%	17.10%	13.27%	30.32%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-10.10%	-3.64%	7.30%	2.89%	3.35%	1.56%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	91.61%	24.84%	8.56%	-0.88%	13.96%	30.46%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	34.23%	12.69%	8.36%	23.55%	22.33%	12.61%
Current Ratio	0.67	0.91	1.23	1.01	1.01	0.85
Debt/Capital	4.99%	11.49%	42.91%	15.18%	57.77%	18.98%
Net Margin	32.20%	26.02%	11.81%	32.22%	22.38%	25.15%
Return on Equity	19.33%	11.17%	16.92%	14.73%	11.08%	12.19%
Sales/Assets	0.05	0.05	0.54	0.05	0.04	0.05
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-0.28%	0.00%	3.96%	0.47%	10.56%	-1.20%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	D	B	F
Daily Price Chg	0.55%	0.18%	0.64%	0.81%	0.65%	-0.37%
1 Week Price Chg	7.00%	1.47%	2.47%	3.99%	3.72%	1.63%
4 Week Price Chg	5.79%	-0.37%	1.87%	3.12%	0.47%	-8.46%
12 Week Price Chg	16.08%	0.49%	6.69%	9.35%	8.57%	-5.68%
52 Week Price Chg	8.59%	1.99%	16.42%	-9.67%	17.46%	-6.94%
20 Day Average Volume	480,511	17,128	2,019,212	1,137,634	1,025,729	2,293,422
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.21%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	-0.08%	-0.49%	-0.06%	0.62%	1.14%	-0.73%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-0.24%	-0.49%	-0.19%	1.11%	1.30%	-0.41%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	-3.19%	-2.16%	-0.16%	-0.22%	0.67%	-2.16%

Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

Value Score	B
Growth Score	D
Momentum Score	F
VGM Score	D

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

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