

## Intel Corporation (INTC)

**\$57.00** (As of 06/08/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$60.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

**Zacks Recommendation:**

**Neutral**

(Since: 03/24/21)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)

**3-Hold**

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: A

Growth: B

Momentum: F

## Summary

Intel's Q1 results gained from strength in client computing group (CCG) business. However, data center group (DCG) segment performance was negatively impacted due to sluggish data center demand across cloud service providers, enterprise and government end-markets. Nonetheless, Intel is likely to benefit from higher demand for its 10 nanometer (nm) SuperFin process-based 11th Gen core processors, due to continuation of remote working and online learning wave amid robust growth in PC market. Mobileye growth is projected to be driven by design win momentum amid recovering automotive industry through 2021. However, declining average selling price (ASPs), weakness in Internet of Things (IoT) end-markets and production delays pertaining to 7 nm ramp up remain headwinds. Notably, shares have underperformed the industry in the year-to-date period.

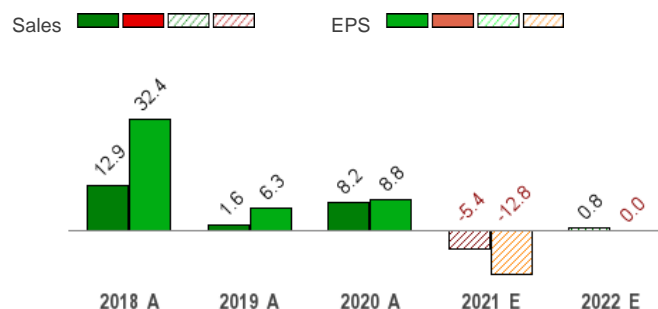
## Price, Consensus & Surprise



## Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	<b>\$68.49 - \$43.61</b>
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	<b>21,651,676</b>
Market Cap	<b>\$230.2 B</b>
Year-To-Date Price Change	<b>14.4%</b>
Beta	<b>0.61</b>
Dividend / Dividend Yield	<b>\$1.39 / 2.4%</b>
Industry	<b>Semiconductor - General</b>
Zacks Industry Rank	<b>Top 45% (113 out of 251)</b>

## Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	<b>20.9%</b>
Last Sales Surprise	<b>9.3%</b>
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	<b>-0.1%</b>
Expected Report Date	<b>07/22/2021</b>
Earnings ESP	<b>-2.2%</b>

## Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	17,548 E	17,927 E	19,166 E	19,564 E	74,291 E
2021	19,673 A	17,971 E	18,556 E	18,536 E	73,668 E
2020	19,828 A	19,728 A	18,333 A	19,978 A	77,867 A

## EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$1.05 E	\$1.07 E	\$1.20 E	\$1.27 E	\$4.62 E
2021	\$1.39 A	\$1.06 E	\$1.09 E	\$1.08 E	\$4.62 E
2020	\$1.45 A	\$1.23 A	\$1.11 A	\$1.52 A	\$5.30 A

\*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

P/E TTM	<b>10.9</b>
P/E F1	<b>12.3</b>
PEG F1	<b>1.7</b>
P/S TTM	<b>3.0</b>

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and sales estimates, is as of 06/08/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 06/09/2021.

## Overview

Intel Corporation, the world's largest semiconductor company and primary supplier of microprocessors and chipsets, is gradually reducing its dependence on the PC-centric business by moving into data-centric businesses — such as AI and autonomous driving.

In fact, its data-centric businesses accounted for 48.6% of revenues in 2020. This underscores the fact that the company's data-centric businesses are helping it generate revenues close to what it generates from the PC business. The contribution of data-centric businesses to the total revenues has grown gradually over the past five years and should become significant in the near future.

Nevertheless, the company continues to maintain its dominant market share for microprocessors in both consumer and enterprise markets.

Intel generated \$77.87 billion in revenues in 2020.

Data Center Group (DCG), Internet of Things Group (IOTG), Mobileye, Non-Volatile memory solutions group (NSG) and Programmable solutions Group (PSG) and All Other business units form the crux of Intel's data-centric business model.

DCG accounted for 33.5% of revenues in 2020. The segment deals with servers, workstations and other products for cloud, enterprise, and communication infrastructure market.

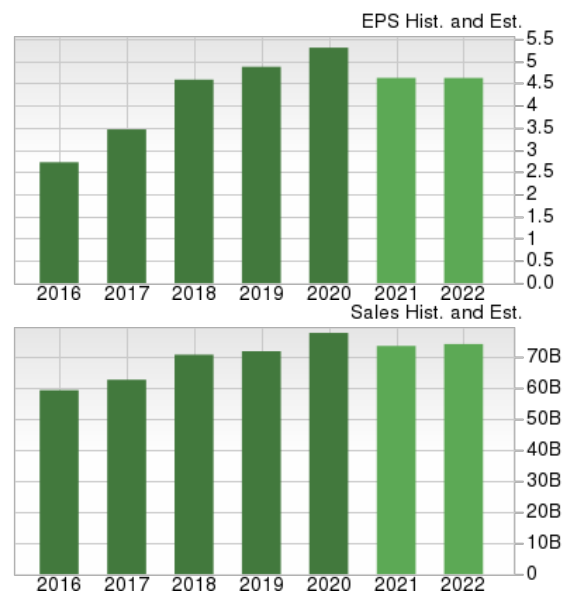
IOTG offers high-performance compute (HPC) solutions and embedded applications. The segment accounted for 3.9% of 2020 revenues.

NSG contributed 6.9% to revenues in 2020. The segment primarily offers memory and storage products like Optane technology, primarily utilizing SSDs.

PSG segment that accounted for 2.4% of revenues offers programmable semiconductors, primarily FPGAs and structured ASICs.

Mobileye contributed 1.2% to revenues in 2020. The segment is engaged in developing computer vision and machine learning-based sensing, data analysis, localization, mapping, and driving policy technology for ADAS and autonomous driving. Intel acquired Mobileye in 2018.

Client Computing Group (CCG), which accounted for 51.4% of 2020 revenues, is the company's largest segment. The company is the dominant provider of computer CPUs. It began shipping 10 nanometer (nm) SuperFin process- based 11th generation processors (previously referred to as Tiger Lake) in 2020.



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## Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ Management strategy has evolved with the changing times. The primary focus area is the data center and cloud, where Intel is doing everything possible to maintain its market share and profitability. Supporting this is continued investment in the Internet of Things (IoT) and non-volatile memory/storage (memory is associated with processing speeds and it also helps increase penetration at customers). Also, while the focus was earlier on making the best computing chips and generating industry-leading margins from them, Intel now prefers to focus on a product range targeting different segments of the market. Management says that the higher-end business in more developed economies continues to look up, but the new strategy should help it get into many more device categories, where Intel products will continue to enjoy a premium based on performance and cost of ownership.
- ▲ We are particularly optimistic about the data center business. The drive to lower-cost computing devices is increasing the pressure on servers that are taking the load off these devices. As more information in various structures and formats are increasingly stored in the cloud, there is demand for a new breed of chips that are more efficient in terms of cost and energy but may not pack in quite as much compute power as in the past. This is the area where many expected lost opportunities for Intel because of its focus on compute power that often proved more expensive and also power guzzling. But Intel has made advancements in this area as well and it is now offering more integrated solutions that will likely be competitive on a cost per watt basis. The company's investments in field programmable gate array (FPGA) for acceleration (dramatically increases performances at low power) and memory to reduce latency and increase speeds are helping it develop custom solutions for big players. Adding Altera and eASIC is also aiding it in strengthening position in the networking segment. Therefore, cloud computing, virtualization, enterprise upgrades and new products (Xeon Scalable) should all drive sales in 2021.
- ▲ Intel may have been late to the mobile market, but it wasted no time getting into the Internet of Things. Market research from Gartner, IDC and other independent firms say that this market will see strong growth over the next few years. Intel's renewed focus on supplying not just chips but associated hardware puts it in a position of strength here. The Altera acquisition should also help. The biggest positive in this respect is the nascent stage of the market, which indicates potential for expanding exponentially. The company generated \$3.01 billion from IoT in 2020 (it mainly focuses on retail, transport, industrial and domestic segments). The products it has showcased thus far look good and Intel continues to introduce new products. It is also making strategic acquisitions (like Recon) to build out the portfolio and further strengthen its position in this emerging market. The company is well positioned to tap the tremendous scope for growth because it is at the forefront of leading-edge processing technology, which will increasingly be required to generate sufficient volumes at low cost.
- ▲ An improving trend in PC shipments is anticipated to favor business prospects of Intel, which continues to depend substantially on PC sales. Per Gartner's preliminary data, PC shipments in first-quarter 2021 increased 32% year over year to 69.9 million units. Going by the IDC report, shipments were up 55.2% on a year-over-year basis to 84 million in the quarter. Moreover, an increasing trend in PC shipments driven by work-from-home and online learning wave is likely to positively impact PC-makers, which bodes well for Intel's growth prospects.
- ▲ Intel's acquisition of Israel-based Mobileye, an autonomous vehicle technology provider is significantly positive in our view. The acquisition will help the company rapidly penetrate the autonomous car technology market, currently dominated by the likes of NVIDIA and Qualcomm. With the buyout, Intel will now have access to Mobileye's technologies related to cameras, in-car networking, sensor-chips, roadway mapping, cloud software, machine learning and data management. This will boost its customer base going forward. In 2020, Mobileye contributed \$967 million to total revenues, up 10% year over year. In the first quarter of 2021, Mobileye revenues soared 48% year over year.

Intel's leading position in PC market, strength in servers, growing clout in software, IoT & ADAS domains and headway in process technology are positive indicators of future growth prospects.

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## Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ Intel is witnessing intensifying competition in the server, storage and networking markets. The server segment has always generated strong margins and Intel's powerful architecture has always been considered supreme. However, ARM is posing a challenge in the fast-growing micro server segment and its designs have seen adoption at several Intel competitors. Also, NVIDIA's acquisition of ARM Holdings, might aid the acquirer to provide full stack CPU-GPU offering, which poses a headwind for Intel. The NVIDIA alliance with IBM is likely to increase competition in the HPC accelerator segment and is another indication of competitors teaming up against Intel. The company has been also facing stiff competition from AMD in the commercial PC market.
- ▼ Delay in 7 nm process-based chips is a major concern. The company detected a defect mode in 7 nm process, which caused yield degradation. Notably, Intel's chips utilize process technologies that are designed in-house. Intel anticipates the release of data center GPU design, Ponte Vecchio, in late 2021 or early 2022. The chipmaker now expects initial production shipments of first Intel-based 7 nm client CPU in late 2022 or early 2023. Moreover, initial production shipments of Intel's first in-house-based 7-nm data center CPU design is now scheduled in the first half of 2023. Meanwhile, AMD is currently leveraging Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company's 7 nm process technology, which is enabling it to deliver its advanced 7 nm chips faster to market. Further, AMD aims to deliver "Zen 4" core architecture, which is "currently in design" utilizing advanced 5 nm process technology. This is a major headwind for Intel. Intense competition is likely to lead to pricing pressure and limit margin expansion at least in the near term.
- ▼ Intel derives a significant proportion of revenues from outside the United States (79% of total revenues in 2020), subjecting the company to exchange rate volatility. Unfavorable movement in exchange rates of foreign currencies like renminbi, euro, pound sterling, Costa Rican colon, and yen related to the U.S. dollar can adversely impact results and undermine growth potential to some extent.
- ▼ Further, imposition of tariffs owing to trade war between the United States and China, and the coronavirus outbreak, is anticipated to negatively impact growth prospects. Notably, in 2020, revenues from billings to China, including Hong Kong, contributed 26% to total revenues. The uncertainty over the economic impact of coronavirus crisis has affected investors' confidence and is likely to remain an overhang on the company's performance. Impending global recession is anticipated to weigh on IOTG end markets, especially retail and industrial. Moreover, lower automotive production due to lockdowns, is a concern for Mobileye. Additionally, sluggish data center demand across enterprise and government end-markets remains a woe.
- ▼ Moreover, Intel has a leveraged balance sheet. As of Mar 27, 2021, the company's net debt was \$13.48 billion compared with \$12.51 billion as of Dec 26, 2020. Further, total debt to total capital of 31%, indicates higher liability in repaying debt. Accumulating high debt levels might limit sufficient cash flow generation, which is required to meet future debt obligations. This may keep the company away from accessing the debt market and refinancing at suitable rates. Consequently, the company must constantly generate adequate amount of operating cash flow to service its debt.

Intel's delay in launching chips based on 7 nm process, stiff competition from ARM-based devices, and impact of new product costs are major concerns amid significant foreign currency exposure.

## Last Earnings Report

### Intel Q1 Earnings & Revenues Top Estimates

Intel reported first-quarter 2021 non-GAAP earnings of \$1.39 per share, which beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 20.9%. However, the bottom line declined 1% on a year-over-year basis.

Revenues totaled \$19.673 billion, which surpassed the consensus mark by 9.3%. However, the top line fell nearly 1% on a year-over-year basis.

Markedly, Intel under new CEO Pat Gelsinger remains optimistic regarding its integrated device manufacturing (IDM) 2.0 strategy. The chipmaker recently outlined an extensive strategy bolster its IDM model.

Intel's ambitious turnaround plan includes the formation of a new separate business division, Intel Foundry Services ("IFS"). With IFS, Intel is aiming to become a key provider of foundry capacity in the United States and Europe to capitalize on the increasing worldwide demand for semiconductor manufacturing. In the first quarter conference call, the company added that it is in talks with more than 50 potential customers for its IFS business.

Intel also had announced a \$20-billion investment to set up two factories (fabs) at its Ocotillo campus in Chandler, AZ. The company is planning to expand to other locations as well.

### Segment Revenue Details

**Client Computing Group or CCG** (53.9% of total revenues) represents Intel's PC-centric business. The company bundles PCs, notebooks, 2-in-1s, tablets and other computing devices under the Client segment, which aids comparison with the PC market numbers provided by IDC and Gartner.

Revenues were up 8% on a year-over-year basis to \$10.605 billion. Solid notebook demand driven by remote working and online learning trends triggered by COVID-19 contributed to the top line. Higher demand for WiFi and Thunderbolt connectivity solutions also contributed to the top line.

Notably, Intel is adding wafer capacity to boost PC unit volumes in a bid to meet market demand for 10 nm products.

Platform revenues increased 10% year over year to \$9.617 billion. Adjacencies revenues fell 7% from the year-ago quarter to \$988 billion due to modem production ramp down and divestiture of home gateway business to MaxLinear. Notably, CCG adjacencies include modem, connected home products, wireless communications and wired connectivity.

While notebook platform volumes increased 19% year over year, desktop platform volumes declined 7%.

PC volumes grew 38% on a year-over-year basis. Further, Notebook's average selling price (ASP) declined 23% year over year on account of increase in volumes across consumer entry and education segments. Desktop ASP also declined 5%.

The company shipped Tiger Lake-H and Rocket Lake processors for desktops and notebooks in the first quarter.

**Data Center Group or DCG** (28.3%) revenues declined 20% year over year to \$5.564 billion due to negative impact of the pandemic on enterprise and government spending as well as cloud inventory digestion.

Platform revenues were down 25% year over year to \$4.811 billion. Adjacencies rose 33% from the year-ago quarter's levels to \$753 million.

DCG Platform unit volumes were down 13% year over year and ASP declined 14%.

Cloud service providers or CSP revenues declined 29% year over year. Revenues from Enterprise & Government slumped 20%. However, revenues from Communication service provider rose 5%.

Recently, Intel also launched third-generation Intel Xeon Scalable processors (dubbed as Ice Lake), which are based on 10 nanometer (nm) process technology. These processors are optimized for workloads across high performance computing (HPC), hybrid cloud, 5G and intelligent edge. Intel noted that it was shipping Ice Lake processors to more than 30 customers that included major cloud providers, enterprise and HPC customers.

Management is optimistic on growing popularity of latest Alder Lake processors for mobile and desktop PCs, and Sapphire Rapids for the data center. Both the products, currently sampling to customers, leverage enhanced SuperFin process technology and various architectural improvements.

The chipmaker also stated that it was on track to ship Alder lake processors in the second half of 2021. Also, Sapphire Rapids is expected to "reach production around the end of this year, and ramp in the first half of 2022", stated Intel at the first quarter earnings conference call.

Intel also teamed up with Alphabet's Google Cloud to work on newer solutions to aid communication service providers speed up 5G deployment across various network and edge locations.

The chipmaker's Habana AI accelerators and Intel Xeon Scalable processors are also being leveraged by University of California for the new Voyager supercomputer.

Quarter Ending	03/2021
Report Date	Apr 22, 2021
Sales Surprise	9.25%
EPS Surprise	20.87%
Quarterly EPS	1.39
Annual EPS (TTM)	5.25

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Markedly, Intel also added that it achieved Amazon Web Services ("AWS") "High Performance Computing Competency" status.

**Internet of Things Group or IOTG** revenues increased 4% from the year-ago quarter to \$914 million due to higher demand in retail and industrial segments.

**Mobileye** revenues improved 48% on a year-over-year basis to \$377 million, courtesy of increasing proliferation of ADAS and improvement in automotive production volumes. The company clinched eight new design wins in the first quarter.

Mobileye recently announced that its self-driving system known as Mobileye Drive will power Udelv's next-generation of electric autonomous delivery vehicles (ADV), dubbed — Transporters.

Mobileye further added that the commercial operations are expected to begin from 2023 and the companies are targeting to produce overall 35,000 Transporters by 2028

Total Internet of Things revenues (6.6% of total revenues), comprising IOTG and Mobileye, were up 13.5% year over year to \$1.29 billion.

**Non-Volatile Memory Solutions Group or NSG** (5.6%) revenues dipped 17.3% year over year to \$1.107 billion on lower ASPs.

**Programmable Solutions Group or PSG** (2.5%) revenues slumped 6% from the year-ago quarter's levels to \$486 million, due to enterprise and cloud inventory digestion.

Intel also has a residual segment, **All Other** (3.1%), which includes results of operations from other adjustments. The segment reported revenues of \$620 million compared with \$66 million in revenues reported in the year-ago quarter.

Notably, DCG, IOTG, NSG, PSG, Mobileye and All Other business units form the crux of Intel's data-centric business model. Revenues from the data-centric businesses were \$9.068 billion (46.1% of total revenues), down 9.8% collectively on a year-over-year basis.

### Margins

Non-GAAP gross margin in the reported quarter was 58.4%, down 610 basis points (bps) on a year-over-year basis.

Non-GAAP Research & development (R&D) expenses, and Marketing, General & Administrative (MG&A) expenses increased 2% year over year to \$4.8 billion.

Non-GAAP operating margin contracted 670 bps on a year-over-year basis to 32.8%. This can be attributed to contraction in gross margin and increasing expenses.

### Segment Operating Margin Details

For the first quarter of 2021, CCG operating income came in at \$4.12 billion, down 2% from the year-ago quarter. The contraction was caused by higher unit costs pertaining to the production ramp up of 10 nm products and higher R&D expenses.

DCG operating income stood at \$1.273 billion down 64% from the prior year quarter owing to transition to 10 nm products and higher R&D expenses (especially toward Xeon ramp up).

IOTG operating income came in at \$212 million, down 13% year over year.

Mobileye's operating income of \$147 million increased 67% year over year, owing to recovery witnessed in the automotive space.

NSG group reported operating income of \$171 million against operating loss of \$66 million in the year-ago quarter.

PSG operating income of \$88 million slumped 9.3% from the year-ago quarter.

All Other segment reported a loss of \$2.317 billion compared with a loss of \$1.041 billion reported in the year-ago quarter.

### Balance Sheet

As of Mar 27, 2021, cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and fixed-income trading asset balance were \$22.4 billion compared with \$23.89 billion as of Dec 26, 2020.

Total debt as of Mar 27, 2021, was \$35.88 billion compared with \$36.4 billion as of Dec 26, 2020.

In the first quarter, the company paid out dividends worth \$1.4 billion. Markedly, the chipmaker repurchased shares worth \$2.4 billion balance in first-quarter 2021, thereby completing the planned \$20.0-billion share repurchases announced in October 2019.

Management added that going forward the company will undertake smaller share repurchases programs as it focuses on investments across board to support growth.

In the first quarter, the company generated \$5.5 billion in cash from operations, up from \$9.9 billion in the fourth quarter.

### Guidance

Management noted that 2021 outlook excludes the NAND business. For second-quarter 2021, Intel expects non-GAAP revenues of \$17.8 billion.

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In the second quarter, management expects strong demand for PCs to continue, while data-centric business is projected to improve owing to momentum in the enterprise and government portion of the DCG business.

Non-GAAP gross margin is anticipated to be around 57% for the second quarter.

Non-GAAP earnings are expected to be \$1.05 per share. For 2021, Intel now expects revenues to be around \$72.5 billion compared with \$72 billion projected earlier in March 2021.

Non-GAAP earnings are expected to be \$4.60 per share compared with \$4.55 per share projected earlier in March 2021.

Non-GAAP gross margin is anticipated to be around 56.5% for the 2021. Management expects gross margin to be negatively impacted in the second half of 2021 owing to increased R&D costs as well as higher 7-nm start-up costs and supply constraints across industry.

Capital spending for the year is expected in the range of \$19-\$20 billion, while non-GAAP free cash flow is now projected to be \$10.5 billion for 2021.

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## Recent News

On May 11, Intel introduced new 11th Generation Core H-series mobile processors (code-named "Tiger Lake-H"), delivering leading performance in laptops for gaming enthusiasts, content creators and business professionals.

On May 4, Intel announced that it will invest \$3.5 billion to empower its New Mexico operations for the manufacturing of advanced semiconductor packaging technologies, including Foveros, the company's breakthrough 3D packaging technology.

On Apr 26, Intel's silicon-based threat detection technology was integrated with Microsoft Defender for Endpoint in a bid to advance endpoint detection and response against cryptojacking malware.

On Apr 12, Intel's Mobileye announced that its self-driving system known as Mobileye Drive will power Udelv's next-generation of electric autonomous delivery vehicles (ADV), dubbed — Transporters.

On Mar 24, Intel unveiled AI-driven and voice-activated backpack for visually challenged people. The backpack will assist visually impaired people to perceive and detect things like traffic signs, crosswalks, changes in elevations and moving objects.

On Mar 23, Intel announced its IDM 2.0 strategy to bolster its integrated device manufacturing (IDM) model. Intel underscored its focus to continue manufacturing most of its products in-house. The chipmaker also stated that it is looking to consolidate its existing partnership with third-party foundries.

Intel is also forming of a new separate business division, Intel Foundry Services ("IFS"), to help the company become a key provider of foundry capacity in the United States and Europe and capitalize on the increasing worldwide demand for semiconductor manufacturing. Also, as a part of the strategy, Intel announced a \$20-billion investment to set up two factories (fabs) at its Ocotillo campus in Arizona.

On Mar 16, Intel announced the global launch of its 11th Gen Intel Core S-series desktop processors (dubbed Rocket Lake-S) to boost speed and performance for video gaming.

On Mar 11, Intel announced quarterly dividend of a quarterly dividend of \$0.3475 per share, payable on Jun 1, 2021 to shareholders of record on May 7.

On Mar 8, Intel teamed up with Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Intel will participate in the DARPA's Data Protection in Virtual Environments (DPRIVE) program that is focused on creating an accelerator for fully homomorphic encryption (FHE).

## Valuation

Intel shares are up 14.4% in the year-to-date period but down 10.7% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Computer & Technology sector are up 22.9% and 13.4% in the year-to-date period, respectively. In the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are up 38.7% and 43.6%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 13.2% in the year-to-date period, and 34.7% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 12.35X forward 12-month earnings compared with 24.75X for the Zacks sub-industry, 27.15X for the Zacks sector and 21.81X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 14.83X and as low as 8.93X, with a 5-year median of 12.24X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$60 price target reflects 12.97X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for INTC

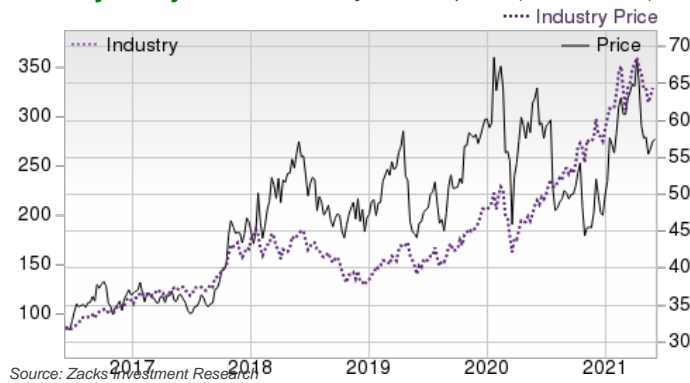
Valuation Multiples - INTC					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	12.35	24.75	27.15	21.81
	5-Year High	14.83	24.75	28.35	23.83
	5-Year Low	8.93	12.86	16.99	15.31
	5-Year Median	12.24	16.83	20.24	18.05
P/S F12M	Current	3.1	7.21	4.84	4.71
	5-Year High	4.06	7.21	4.86	4.74
	5-Year Low	2.43	2.85	2.81	3.21
	5-Year Median	3.03	4.56	3.53	3.72
EV/Sales TTM	Current	3.1	7.17	5.54	4.84
	5-Year High	4.3	7.19	5.8	4.85
	5-Year Low	2.54	2.87	3.09	2.65
	5-Year Median	3.24	4.69	3.99	3.64

As of 06/08/2021

Source: Zacks Investment Research



## Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 45% (113 out of 251)



## Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD)	Outperform	2
NVIDIA Corporation (NVDA)	Outperform	1
Texas Instruments Incorporated (TXN)	Outperform	2
Amtech Systems, Inc. (ASYS)	Neutral	4
Screen Holdings Co., Ltd (DINRF)	Neutral	2
STMicroelectronics N.V. (STM)	Neutral	3
SUMCO CORP ADR (SUOPY)	Neutral	3
Thk Co., Ltd. (THKLY)	Underperform	5

The positions listed should not be deemed a recommendation to buy, hold or sell.

Industry Comparison Industry: Semiconductor - General				Industry Peers		
	INTC	X Industry	S&P 500	AMD	NVDA	TXN
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Outperform	Outperform	Outperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	2	1	2
VGM Score	B	-	-	D	D	D
Market Cap	230.17 B	33.56 B	30.36 B	98.28 B	435.03 B	172.63 B
# of Analysts	13	2	12	13	13	11
Dividend Yield	2.44%	0.35%	1.3%	0.00%	0.09%	2.18%
Value Score	A	-	-	F	F	D
Cash/Price	0.10	0.12	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.04
EV/EBITDA	6.46	11.38	17.47	56.50	75.26	23.92
PEG F1	1.65	2.51	2.14	1.07	2.51	2.71
P/B	2.88	2.45	4.19	15.17	23.17	16.98
P/CF	6.68	15.85	17.97	58.71	69.03	26.11
P/E F1	12.34	22.98	21.45	37.42	44.09	25.29
P/S TTM	2.96	2.96	3.53	8.60	22.59	11.19
Earnings Yield	8.11%	4.38%	4.55%	2.67%	2.27%	3.95%
Debt/Equity	0.42	0.29	0.66	0.05	0.32	0.61
Cash Flow (\$/share)	8.53	4.04	6.83	1.38	10.11	7.16
Growth Score	B	-	-	A	B	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	19.36%	23.85%	9.44%	95.33%	28.34%	15.62%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-12.83%	59.25%	21.30%	67.56%	58.38%	23.80%
Current Cash Flow Growth	6.32%	3.78%	0.98%	97.05%	94.91%	8.57%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	11.49%	14.37%	7.28%	49.59%	49.49%	10.34%
Current Ratio	1.90	3.53	1.39	2.51	4.53	6.12
Debt/Capital	29.40%	22.41%	41.53%	4.61%	24.11%	38.07%
Net Margin	23.93%	9.93%	11.95%	25.24%	27.66%	40.04%
Return on Equity	27.59%	11.40%	16.36%	35.31%	37.98%	69.92%
Sales/Assets	0.52	0.67	0.51	1.40	0.69	0.83
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-4.89%	21.71%	9.23%	49.53%	48.66%	20.30%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	F	A	C
Daily Price Change	-0.16%	-0.51%	0.19%	-0.57%	-0.92%	-0.86%
1-Week Price Change	0.44%	0.07%	0.58%	1.87%	8.21%	0.13%
4-Week Price Change	3.56%	2.64%	1.24%	5.28%	22.02%	2.04%
12-Week Price Change	-12.01%	-0.15%	8.13%	-2.25%	31.34%	5.53%
52-Week Price Change	-9.58%	38.44%	33.89%	43.45%	92.98%	41.49%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	21,651,676	829,180	1,796,567	37,206,736	10,424,927	4,152,259
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-0.06%	0.22%	0.03%	0.00%	24.60%	0.44%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-6.79%	0.82%	3.39%	12.30%	25.95%	10.41%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	-0.42%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.07%	0.34%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

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## Zacks Stock Rating System

We offer two rating systems that take into account investors' holding horizons: Zacks Rank and Zacks Recommendation. Each provides valuable insights into the future profitability of the stock and can be used separately or in combination with each other depending on your investment style.

### Zacks Recommendation

The Zacks Recommendation aims to predict performance over the next 6 to 12 months. The foundation for the quantitatively determined Zacks Recommendation is trends in the company's estimate revisions and earnings outlook. The Zacks Recommendation is broken down into 3 Levels; Outperform, Neutral and Underperform. Unlike many Wall Street firms, we maintain a balance between the number of Outperform and Neutral recommendations. Our team of 70 analysts are fully versed in the benefits of earnings estimate revisions and how that is harnessed through the Zacks quantitative rating system. But we have given our analysts the ability to override the Zacks Recommendation for the 1200 stocks that they follow. The reason for the analyst over-rides is that there are often factors such as valuation, industry conditions and management effectiveness that a trained investment professional can spot better than a quantitative model.

### Zacks Rank

The Zacks Rank is our short-term rating system that is most effective over the one- to three-month holding horizon. The underlying driver for the quantitatively-determined Zacks Rank is the same as the Zacks Recommendation, and reflects trends in earnings estimate revisions.

### 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>A</b>
Growth Score	<b>B</b>
Momentum Score	<b>F</b>
VGM Score	<b>B</b>

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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## Disclosures

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## Additional Disclosure

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**Returns quoted represent past performance which is no guarantee of future results.** Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate so that when shares are redeemed, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown.

Investing involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee that companies that can issue dividends will declare, continue to pay or increase dividends.

## Glossary of Terms and Definitions

**52-Week High-Low:** The range of the highest and lowest prices at which a stock has traded during the past year. This range is determined based on the stock's daily closing price which may differ from the intra-day high or low. Many investors use it as a technical indicator to determine a stock's current value and future price movement. The idea here is that if price breaks out from the 52-week range, in either direction, the momentum may continue in the same direction.

**20-Day Average Volume (Shares):** The average number of shares of a company traded in a day over the last 20 days. It is a direct indication of a security's overall liquidity. The higher the average daily trading volume, the easier it is to enter or exit the stock at a desired price with more buyers and sellers being available.

**Daily Price Change:** This is the percentage difference between a trading day's closing price and the prior trading day's closing price. This item is updated at 9 p.m. EST each day.

**1-Week Price Change:** This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 5 trading days. This change reflects the collective buying and selling sentiment over the 1-week period.

A strong weekly price increase for the stock, especially when accompanied by increased volume, is an indication of it gaining momentum.

**4-Week Price Change:** This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 20 trading days or past 4 weeks. This is a medium-term price change metric and an indication of the stock gaining momentum.

**12-Week Price Change:** This is the percentage change of a stock's closing price over the last 60 trading days or past 12 weeks. Similar to 4-week price change, this is a medium-term price change metric. It shows whether a stock has been enjoying strong investor demand, or if it has been in consolidation, or distress over this period.

**52-Week Price Change:** This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 260 trading days or past 52 weeks. This long-term price change metric is a good reference point for investors. Some investors seek stocks with the best percentage price change over the last 52 weeks, expecting the momentum to continue.

**Market Cap:** The number of outstanding common shares of a company times its latest price per share. This figure represents a company's size, which indicates various characteristics, including price stability and risk, in which investors could be interested.

**Year-To-Date Price Change:** Change in a stock's daily closing price in the period of time beginning the first day of the current calendar year through to the previous trading day.

**# of Analysts:** Number of EPS estimates used in calculating the current-quarter consensus. These estimates come from the brokerage analysts tracking this stock. However, the number of such analysts tracking this stock may not match the number of estimates, as all brokerage analysts may not come up with an estimate or provide it to us.

**Beta:** A measure of risk commonly used to compare the volatility of a stock to the overall market. The S&P 500 Index is the base for calculating beta and carries a value of 1. A stock with beta below 1 is less risky than the market as a whole. And a stock with beta above 1 is riskier.

**Dividend:** The portion of earnings a company is expected to distribute to its common shareholders in the next 12 months for each share they own. Dividends are usually paid quarterly. Dividend payments reflect positively on a company and help maintain investors' trust. Investors typically find dividend-paying stocks appealing because the dividend adds to any market price appreciation to result in higher return on investment (ROI). Moreover, a steady or increasing dividend payment provides investors a cushion in a down market.

**Dividend Yield:** The ratio of a company's annual dividend to its share price. The annual dividend used in the ratio is calculated based on the most recent dividend paid by the company. Dividend yield is an estimate of the dividend-only return from a stock in the next 12 months. Since dividend itself doesn't change frequently, dividend yield usually changes with a stock's price movement. As a result, often an unusually high dividend yield is a result of weak stock price.

**S&P 500 Index:** The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) Index is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. It is a market-capitalization-weighted index of stocks of the 500 largest U.S. companies. Each stock's weight in the index is proportionate to its market value.

**Industry:** One of the 250+ groups that Zacks classifies all stocks into based on the nature of business. These groups are termed as expanded (aka "X") industries and map to their respective (economic) sectors; Zacks has 16 sectors.

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**Zacks Industry Rank:** The Zacks Industry Rank is determined by calculating the average Zacks Rank for all stocks in the industry and then assigning an ordinal rank to it. For example, an industry with an average Zacks Rank of 1.6 is better than an industry with an average Zacks Rank of 2.3. So, the industry with the better average Zacks Rank would get a better Zacks Industry Rank. If an industry has the best average Zacks Rank, it would be considered the top industry (1 out of 250+), which would place it at the top 1% of Zacks-ranked industries. Studies have shown that roughly half of a stock's price movement can be attributed to the industry group it belongs to. In fact, the top 50% of Zacks-ranked industries outperforms the bottom 50% by a factor of more than 2 to 1.

**Last EPS Surprise:** The percentage deviation of a company's last reported earnings per share from the Zacks Consensus Estimate. Companies with a positive earnings surprise are more likely to surprise again in the future (or miss again if they recently missed).

**Last Sales Surprise:** The percentage deviation of a company's last reported sales from the Zacks Consensus Estimate.

**Expected Report Date:** This is an estimated date of a company's next earnings release. The information originated or gathered by Zacks Investment Research from its information providers or publicly available sources is the basis of this estimate.

**Earnings ESP:** The Zacks Earnings ESP compares the Most Accurate Estimate to the Zacks Consensus Estimate for the yet-to-be reported quarter. The Most Accurate Estimate is the most recent version of the Zacks Consensus EPS Estimate. The idea here is that analysts revising their estimates closer to an earnings release have the latest information, which could potentially be more accurate than what they and others contributing to the consensus had predicted earlier. Thus, a positive or negative Earnings ESP reading theoretically indicates the likely deviation of the actual earnings from the consensus estimate. However, the model's predictive power is significant for positive ESP readings only. A positive Earnings ESP is a strong predictor of an earnings beat, particularly when combined with a Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy), #2 (Buy) or #3 (Hold). Our research shows that stocks with this combination produce a positive surprise nearly 70% of the time.

**Periods:**

**TTM:** Trailing 12 months. Using TTM figures is an effective way of analyzing the most-recent financial data in an annualized format that helps neutralize the effects of seasonality and other quarter-to-quarter variation.

**F1:** Current fiscal year. This period is used to analyze the estimates for the ongoing full fiscal year.

**F2:** Next fiscal year. This period is used to analyze the estimates for the next full fiscal year.

**F12M:** Forward 12 months. Using F12M figures is an effective way of analyzing the near-term (the following four unreported quarters) estimates in an annualized manner. Instead of typically representing estimates for the full fiscal year, which may not represent the nitty-gritty of each quarter, F12M figures suggest an all-inclusive annualized estimate for the following four quarters. The annualization helps neutralize the potential effects of seasonality and other quarter-to-quarter variations.

**P/E Ratio:** The price-to-earnings ratio measures a company's current market price per share relative to its earnings per share (EPS). Usually, the trailing-12-month (TTM) EPS, current-fiscal-year (F1) EPS estimate, or forward-12-month (F12M) EPS estimate is used as the denominator. In essence, this ratio shows what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of EPS. In other words, this ratio gives a sense of what the relative value of the company is at the already reported level of earnings or at a future level of earnings.

It is one of the most widely-used multiples for determining the value of a company and helps comparing its valuation with that of a competitor, the industry group or a benchmark.

**PEG Ratio:** The price/earnings to growth ratio is a stock's P/E ratio using current fiscal year (F1) EPS estimate divided by its expected EPS growth rate over the coming 3 to 5 years. This ratio essentially determines a stock's value by factoring in the company's expected earnings growth and is thus believed to provide a more complete picture than just the P/E ratio, particularly for faster-growing companies.

**P/S Ratio:** The price-to-sales ratio is calculated as a company's current price per share divided by trailing 12 months (TTM) sales or revenues per share. This ratio shows what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of TTM sales per share. The P/S ratio is at times the only valuation metric when the company has yet to become profitable.

**Cash/Price Ratio:** The cash-to-price ratio or Cash Yield is calculated as cash and marketable securities per share divided by the company's current share price. Like the earnings yield, which shows the anticipated yield (or return) on a stock from earnings for each dollar invested, the cash yield does the same, with cash being the source of return instead of earnings. For example, a cash/price ratio of 0.08 suggests a return of 8% or 8 cents for every \$1 investment.

**EV/EBITDA Ratio:** The EV/EBITDA ratio, also known as Enterprise Multiple, is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization). Usually, trailing-12-month (TTM) or forward-12-month (F12M) EBITDA is used as the denominator.

**EV/Sales Ratio:** The enterprise value-to-sales ratio is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by annual sales. It is an expansion of the P/S valuation, which uses market value instead of enterprise value. The EV/Sales ratio is perceived as more accurate than P/S, in part, because the market capitalization does not take a company's debt into account when valuing it.

**EV/CF Ratio:** The enterprise value-to-cash flow ratio is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by the trailing-12-month (TTM) operating cash flow. It's a measure of how long it would take to buy the entire business if you were able to use all the company's operating cash flow.

The EV/CF ratio is perceived as more accurate than the P/CF ratio, in part, because the market price does not take a company's debt into account when valuing it.

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**EV/FCF Ratio:** The enterprise value-to-free cash flow metric compares a company's enterprise value to its trailing-12-month (TTM) free cash flow (FCF). This metric is very similar to the EV/CF ratio, but is considered a more exact measure owing to the fact that it uses free cash flow, which subtracts capital expenditures (CAPEX) from a company's total operating cash flow, thereby reflecting the actual cash flow available for funding growth activities and payments to shareholders.

**P/EBITDA Ratio:** The P/EBITDA ratio is calculated as a company's per share market value divided by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization). This metric is very similar to the EV/EBITDA ratio, but is considered a little less exact measure as it uses market price, which does not take a company's debt into account. However, since EBITDA is often considered a proxy for cash income, the metric is used as a measure of what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of the company's cash profitability in the trailing 12 months (TTM) or forward 12 months (F12M).

**P/B Ratio:** The price-to-book ratio is calculated as a company's current price per share divided by its book value (total assets – liabilities – preferred stocks) per share. In short, the book value is how much a company is worth. In other words, it reflects the total value of a company's assets that its common shareholders would receive if it were to be liquidated. So, the P/B ratio indicates whether you're paying higher or lower than what would remain if the company went bankrupt immediately. Investors typically use this metric to determine how a company's stock price stacks up to its intrinsic value.

**P/TB Ratio:** The price-to-tangible-book value ratio is calculated as a the per share market value of a company divided by the value of its tangible assets (total assets – liabilities – preferred stocks – intangible assets) per share. Tangible book value is the same thing as book value except it excludes the value of intangible assets to get a step closer to the baseline value of the company.

**P/CF Ratio:** The price-to-cash flow ratio measures a company's per share market price relative to its trailing-12-month (TTM) operating cash flow per share. This metric is used to determine whether a company is undervalued or overvalued relative to another stock, industry or sector. And like the P/E ratio, a lower number is typically considered better from the value perspective.

One of the reasons why P/CF ratio is often preferred over P/E ratio is the fact that operating cash flow adds back non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortization to net income. This feature helps valuing stocks that have positive cash flow but are not profitable because of large noncash charges.

**P/FCF Ratio:** The price-to-free cash flow ratio is an extension of P/CF ratio, which uses trailing-12-month (TTM) free cash flow per share instead of operating cash flow per share. This metric is considered a more exact measure than P/CF ratio, as free cash flow subtracts capital expenditures (CAPEX) from a company's total operating cash flow, thereby reflecting the actual cash flow available for funding activities that generate additional revenues.

**Earnings Yield:** The earnings yield is calculated as current fiscal year (F1) EPS estimate divided by the company's current share price. The ratio, which is the inverse of the P/E ratio, measures the anticipated yield (or return) from earnings for each dollar invested in a stock today.

For example, earnings yield for a stock, which is trading at \$35 and expected to earn \$3 per share in the current fiscal year (F1), would be 0.0857 ( $3/35 = 0.0857$ ) or 8.57%. In other words, for \$1 invested in the stock today, the yield from earnings is anticipated to be 8.57 cents.

Investors most commonly compare the earnings yield of a stock to that of a broad market index (such as the S&P 500) and prevailing interest rates, such as the current 10-year Treasury yield. Since bonds and stocks compete for investors' dollars, stock investors typically demand a higher yield for the extra risk they assume compared to investors of U.S. Treasury-backed securities that offer virtually risk-free returns. This additional return is referred to as the risk premium.

**Debt/Equity Ratio:** The debt-to-equity ratio is calculated as a company's total liabilities divided by its shareholder equity. This metric is used to gauge a company's financial leverage. In other words, it is a measure of the degree to which a company is financing its operations through debt versus its own funds. The higher the ratio, the higher the risk for shareholders.

However, this ratio is difficult to compare across industry groups where ideal amounts of debt vary. Some businesses are more capital intensive than others and typically require higher debt to finance their operations. So, a company's debt-to-equity ratio should be compared with other companies in the same industry.

**Cash Flow (\$/share):** Cash flow per share is calculated as operating cash flow (after-tax earnings + depreciation + other non-cash charges) divided by common shares outstanding. It is used by many investors as a measure of a company's financial strength. Since cash flow per share takes into consideration a company's ability to generate cash by adding back non-cash expenses, it is regarded by some as a more accurate measure of a company's financial situation than earnings per share, which could be artificially deflated.

**Current Ratio:** The current ratio or liquidity ratio is a company's current assets divided by its current liabilities. It measures a company's ability to pay short-term obligations. A current ratio that is in line with the industry average or slightly higher is generally considered acceptable. A current ratio that is lower than the industry average would indicate a higher risk of distress or default. A higher number is usually better. However, a very high current ratio compared to the industry average could be an indication of inefficient use of assets by management.

**Debt/Capital Ratio:** Debt-to-capital ratio is a company's total debt (interest-bearing debt + both short- and long-term liabilities) divided its total capital (interest-bearing debt + shareholders' equity). It is a measure of a company's financial leverage. All else being equal, the higher the debt-to-capital ratio, the riskier the stock.

However, this ratio can vary widely from industry to industry, the ideal amount of required debt being different. Some businesses are more capital intensive than others and typically require higher debt to finance their operations. So, a company's debt-to-capital ratio should be compared with the same for its industry.

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**Net Margin:** Net margin is calculated as net income divided by sales. It shows how much of each dollar in sales generated by a company translates into profit. For example, if a company's net margin is 15%, its net income is 15 cents for every \$1 of sales it makes.

A change in margin can reflect either a change in business conditions, or a company's cost controls, or both. If a company's expenses are growing faster than sales, its net margin will decline. However, different net margin rates are considered good for different industries, so it's better to compare net margin rates of companies in the same industry group.

**Return on Equity:** Return on equity (ROE) is calculated as trailing-12-month net income divided by trailing-12-month average shareholder equity (including reinvested earnings). This metric is considered a measure of how effectively management is using a company's assets to generate profits. For example, if a company's ROE is 10%, it creates 10 cents profits for every \$1 shareholder equity, which is basically the company's assets minus debt. A company's ROE deemed good or bad depends on what's normal for its peers or industry group.

**Sales/Assets Ratio:** The sales-to-assets ratio or asset utilization ratio or asset turnover ratio is calculated as a company's annual sales divided by average assets (average of assets at the beginning of the year and at the year's end). This metric helps investors understand how effectively a company is using its assets to generate sales. For example, a sales-to-assets ratio of 2.5 indicates that the company generated \$2.50 in sales for every \$1 of assets on its books.

The higher the sales-to-assets ratio, the better the company is performing. However, similar to many other ratios, the asset turnover ratio tends to be higher for companies in certain industries/sectors than in others. So, a company's sales-to-assets ratio should be compared with the same for its industry/sector.

**Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years):** This is the average annual (trailing-12-month) EPS growth rate over the last 3-5 years. This metric helps investors see how a company's EPS has grown from a long-term perspective.

Note: There are many factors that can influence short-term numbers — a recession will reduce this number, while a recovery will inflate it. The longterm perspective helps smooth out short-term events.

**Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0):** This is the estimated EPS growth rate for the current financial year. It is calculated as the consensus estimate for the current fiscal year (F1) divided by the reported EPS for the last completed fiscal year (F0).

**Current Cash Flow Growth:** It measures the latest year-over-year change in operating cash flow. Cash flow growth tells an investor how quickly a company is generating inflows of cash from operations. A positive change in the cash flow is desired and shows that more 'cash' is coming in than going out.

**Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years):** This is the annualized change in cash flow over the last 3-5 years. The change in a longer period helps put the current reading into proper perspective. By looking at the rate, rather than the actual dollar value, the comparison across the industry and peers becomes easier.

**Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0):** This metric looks at the estimated sales growth for the current year. It is calculated as sales estimate for the current fiscal year (F1) divided by the reported sales for the last completed fiscal year (F0).

Like EPS growth, a higher rate is better for sales growth. A look at a company's projected sales growth instantly tells you what the outlook is for their products and services. However, different sales growth rates are considered good for different industries, so it's better to compare sales growth rates of companies in the same industry group.

**EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change:** The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past week. The change in a company's consensus EPS estimate (or earnings estimate revision) has proven to be strongly correlated with the near-term price movement of its shares. It is an integral part of the Zacks Rank.

If a stock's consensus EPS estimate is \$1.10 now versus \$1.00 a week ago, that will be reflected as a 10% upward revision. If, on the other hand, it went from \$1.00 to 90 cents, that would be a 10% downward revision.

**EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change:** The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past four weeks.

A stock's earnings estimate revision in a 1-week period is important. But it's more meaningful to look at the longer-term revision. And, of course, the 4-week change helps put the 1-week change into proper perspective.

**EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change:** The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past 12 weeks.

This metric essentially shows how the consensus EPS estimate has changed over a period longer than 1 week or 4 weeks.

**EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change:** The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal quarter over the past four weeks.

While the revision in consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year is strongly correlated with the near-term price movement of its shares, the estimate revision for the current fiscal quarter is an important metric as well, especially over the short term, and particularly as a stock approaches its earnings date. If a stock's Q1 EPS estimate decreases ahead of its earnings release, it's usually a negative sign, whereas an increase is a positive sign.