

Tesla, Inc.(TSLA)

\$799.91 (As of 02/25/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$848.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:
Neutral

(Since: 06/17/19)

Prior Recommendation: Underperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:D

Value: F

Growth: A

Momentum: F

Summary

Over the past year, shares of Tesla have massively outperformed the industry. This streak of the EV pioneer continued, following stellar fourth-quarter 2019 results, wherein it topped earnings and revenue estimates. With Model 3 sedan being its flagship vehicle, Tesla has established itself as a leader in the EV segment. Rising Model 3 delivery, which forms bulk of the automaker's overall deliveries, is aiding the company's top-line growth. Tesla's upcoming product launches, including Model Y and Semi Truck, are expected to further boost prospects. However, with China being an important market for Tesla, economic slowdown in the country is weighing on the firm. Tesla's massive debt and high capex also play spoilsports. Waning demand for Model S/X is another concern. Thus, investors are advised to wait for a better entry point.

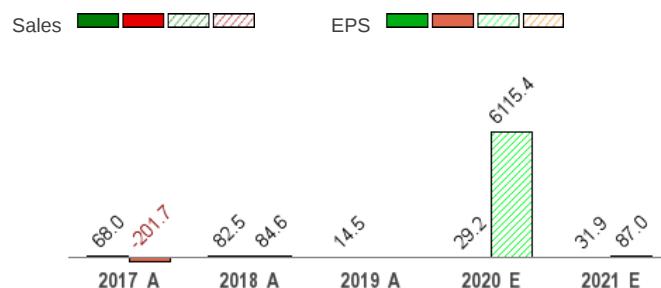
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$968.99 - \$176.99
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	23,668,568
Market Cap	\$145.1 B
YTD Price Change	91.2%
Beta	0.51
Dividend / Div Yld	\$0.00 / 0.0%
Industry	Automotive - Domestic
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 31% (177 out of 255)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	32.1%
Last Sales Surprise	4.8%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	-25.9%
Expected Report Date	04/22/2020
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	NA
P/E F1	99.0
PEG F1	2.8
P/S TTM	5.9

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	10,866 E	12,413 E	13,202 E	14,170 E	41,872 E
2020	6,417 E	7,493 E	8,386 E	9,268 E	31,757 E
2019	4,541 A	6,350 A	6,303 A	7,384 A	24,578 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	\$4.54 E	\$5.93 E	\$6.83 E	\$7.45 E	\$15.11 E
2020	\$0.82 E	\$1.54 E	\$2.76 E	\$3.39 E	\$8.08 E
2019	-\$2.90 A	-\$1.12 A	\$1.86 A	\$2.14 A	\$0.13 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 02/25/2020. The reports text is as of 02/26/2020.

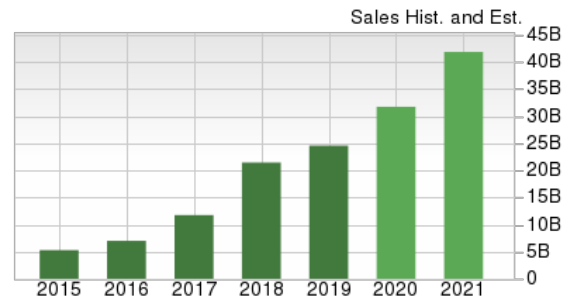
Overview

Over the years, electric vehicle ('EV') maker Tesla has evolved into a dynamic technology innovator. It has transformed the EV market much the same way as Amazon changed the retail landscape and Netflix revolutionized entertainment. Tesla is the market leader in battery-powered electric car sales in the United States, owning around 60% of market share. In fact, the company's flagship Model 3 accounts for about half of the U.S. EV market. Tesla, which has managed to garner the reputation of a gold standard over the years, is now a far bigger entity than what it started off since its IPO in 2010, with a market capitalization almost double the combined value of top two U.S. auto giants General Motors and Ford.

Over the years, Tesla has shifted from developing niche products for affluent buyers to making more affordable EVs for the masses. The firm's three-pronged business model approach of direct sales, servicing, and charging its EVs sets it apart from other carmakers. Tesla, which is touted as the clean energy revolutionary automaker, is much more than just a car manufacturer. The firm also makes different kinds of technology like self-driving software, charging stations and battery development, et al. The technology titan has also made inroads into solar and energy storage business.

Tesla operates under two segments: Automotive and Energy Generation & Storage. While automotive revenues accounted for 93.7% of 2019 revenues, energy generation and storage revenues constituted 6.3% of the total sales.

Presently, the company produces and sells three fully electric vehicles: The Model S sedan, the Model X sport utility vehicle ("SUV") and the Model 3 sedan. Tesla's equally impressive future product lineup includes Model Y, Cybertruck, Semi truck and Roadster. The firm manufactures its vehicles primarily at facilities located in Fremont, California, Lathrop, California, Tilburg, Netherlands. Tesla's first and second Gigafactory are located in Nevada and New York (Gigafactory 2). While the firm's Gigafactory 3 in Shanghai started deliveries this year, Tesla aims fourth Gigafactory in Berlin to further boost output. Car production in the Berlin Gigafactory is expected to begin in late 2021.



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ Although electric cars occupy a small portion of the global automobile market, Tesla has acquired a substantial market share within this niche segment. With Model 3 sedan being its flagship vehicle, Tesla has established itself as a leader in the EV segment. Rising Model 3 delivery, which forms a major chunk of the automaker's overall deliveries, is aiding the company's top-line. Revenues are likely to rise further as it expects to make good progress on Model 3 going forward. Strong performance and impressive design of the firm's products are ramping up sales volumes.
- ▲ Tesla is making continued efforts to increase vehicle deliveries. In full-year 2019, Tesla delivered 367,500 vehicles, reflecting an increase of 50%, year over year. For full-year 2020, the company expects vehicle deliveries to exceed 500,000 units. Higher volumes should enable Tesla to achieve cost and production efficiencies, thereby strengthening margins. Along with increasing automotive revenues, the firm's energy generation and storage revenues are also boosting Tesla's prospects. Notably, both solar and storage deployments will be up at least 50% in 2020.
- ▲ With China being the biggest electric vehicle (EV) market, Tesla's ambitious plans to start production in the country bode well. The company has already begun deliveries from Gigafactory 3 plants in Shanghai. Markedly, Tesla is aiming to open Gigafactory in Europe to boost output. It recently announced plans to buy a 300-hectare property, wherein it aims at making electric vehicles starting 2021.
- ▲ Notably, the company's focus on expansion of product portfolio, introduction of car-sharing services and development of self-driving capability is commendable. Markedly, the production of Model Y is slated for 2020. The company recently stated that it is ahead of schedule on its long-awaited Model Y crossover, which it now expects to launch soon. At the same time, Tesla revealed that it is planning to make a limited run of the Tesla Semi truck in the second half of 2020.

Rising Model 3 delivery, which forms a major chunk of the automaker's overall deliveries, is aiding the company's prospects.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ While Model 3 is aiding the company's growth, production and margins for Models S and X are on the decline. Ebbing demand for Model S/X are denting the profits of the firm. Moreover, Tesla's elevated leverage of more than 63.7% also plays a spoilsport.
- ▼ The company's high R&D and SG&A costs, may clip the margins, going forward. Both R&D and SG&A expenses had increased in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Though the company displayed operational efficiency this year, it is yet to be seen if it can continue the trend amid high spending plans and new launches. As we know, the firm is investing heavily to increase production capacity, boost Model 3 sales, launch Model Y, construct Gigafactories and enhance Supercharger infrastructure. These initiatives may prove beneficial in the long term, but are likely to strain near-term financial prospects of the firm. Notably, the company had generated negative FCF in 2018. While it posted positive FCF this year, high spending plans may threaten Tesla's aim of generating positive cash flow in 2019.
- ▼ With China being the biggest EV market, the country's economic slowdown is likely to weigh on the company's prospects. Moreover, rising competition in the electric market and slowing global car sales remain headwinds. Further, Tesla Model 3 production is likely to get delayed in Shanghai as the company has temporarily suspended operations because of the deadly coronavirus outbreak.
- ▼ With Panasonic being the major battery supplier for Tesla cars, supply constraints of battery cells from the former — which has been struggling financially — remain a major headwind. The supply chain problems are restricting Tesla's ability to increase production. As it depends on Panasonic for many components, the inability of the supplier to increase volume to meet Tesla's rising demand may limit the automaker's ability to expand production capacity.

Tesla is bearing the brunt of high leverage along with high R&D costs and capex.

Last Earnings Report

Tesla Puts Up a Stellar Q4 Show

Tesla reported earnings per share of \$2.14 in fourth-quarter 2019, beating the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.62. This outperformance stemmed from higher-than-expected automotive revenues, which came in at \$6.37 billion, beating the consensus mark of \$5.96 billion. The earnings figure also came in higher than the prior-year quarter's \$1.93 per share.

During the reported quarter, net income attributable to common shareholders amounted to \$105 million compared with the net income of \$140 million recorded in the year-ago quarter.

Revenues increased to \$7.38 billion from the \$7.22 billion registered in fourth-quarter 2018. Also, the revenue figure surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$7.05 billion.

During the fourth quarter, Tesla reported record delivery of 112,095 vehicles.

Total automotive revenues, including that from automotive sales and leasing, inched up 1% year over year to \$6.37 billion in the quarter.

Energy generation and storage revenues increased from \$372 million in fourth-quarter 2018 to \$436 million in the reported quarter. Services and other revenues were up 9.23% year over year to \$580 million.

Tesla's fourth-quarter 2019 automotive gross margin was 22.5%, shrinking 179 basis points (bps) from fourth-quarter 2018.

Financial Position

Tesla had cash and cash equivalents of \$6.3 billion as of Dec 31, 2019, compared with \$3.69 billion as of Dec 31, 2018, driven by positive quarterly free cash flow of \$1 billion.

Net cash provided by operating activities amounted to \$1.43 million in fourth-quarter 2019 compared with \$1.24 billion of net cash used in fourth-quarter 2018. Capital expenditure increased to \$412 million from the year-ago quarter's \$325 million, mainly due to investments in Gigafactory Shanghai and Model Y preparations in Fremont.

Model 3 & S/X Update

In fourth-quarter 2019, Tesla reported Model 3 production and deliveries of 86,958 and 92,620 units, reflecting year-over-year increase from 61,394 and 63,359 units, respectively. During the quarter, the production rate of Model 3 continued to improve.

Model S/X production and deliveries totaled 17,933 and 19,475 vehicles, down 29% year over year.

Outlook

Tesla is making efforts to improve vehicle deliveries, sequentially and annually, with some expected fluctuations from seasonality. For full-year 2020, the company expects vehicle deliveries to exceed 500,000 units. Due to ramp-up of Model 3 in Shanghai and Model Y in Fremont, production will likely outpace deliveries this year. Both solar and storage deployments will be up at least 50% in 2020.

Quarter Ending **12/2019**

Report Date	Jan 29, 2020
Sales Surprise	4.79%
EPS Surprise	32.10%
Quarterly EPS	2.14
Annual EPS (TTM)	-0.02

Recent News

Tesla Recalls Model X SUVs Over Power Steering Issue

On **Feb 13**, Tesla announced that it is recalling most of the Model X SUVs, built by the company before mid-October 2016, over power steering issue. The company observed excessive corrosion on the aluminum bolts that connect the power steering gear in the affected Model X models. Notably, if the bolts break from corrosion, the driver may lose power steering assist. The company said that if the bolts fracture from corrosion, the driver could continue to steer, but it would require more force. Tesla will replace the bolts and apply a corrosion-preventative sealer in all affected Model X vehicles. Reportedly, this recall affects 14,193 and 843 vehicles in the United States and Canada, respectively.

Valuation

Tesla shares are up 91.3% in the year-to-date period and 154.2% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Auto-Tires-Trucks sector are up 28.1% and 2.9% in the year-to-date period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are up 48.2% and 11.2%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 0.4% in the year-to-date period and 17.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 4.36X forward 12-month price to sales ratio, which compares to 0.98X for the Zacks sub-industry, 0.68X for the Zacks sector and 3.39X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 5.24X and as low as 1.1X, with a 5-year median of 3.12X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with than the market. Our \$848 price target reflects 4.62X forward 12-month sales.

The table below shows summary valuation data for TSLA:

Valuation Multiples - TSLA					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/S F12M	Current	4.36	0.98	0.68	3.39
	5-Year High	5.24	0.98	0.76	3.43
	5-Year Low	1.1	0.52	0.5	2.54
	5-Year Median	3.12	0.65	0.62	3
P/B TTM	Current	19.31	3.77	1.73	4.66
	5-Year High	49.84	4.06	2.16	4.9
	5-Year Low	5.69	2.09	1.38	2.85
	5-Year Median	10.67	2.71	1.74	3.62
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	77.47	16.54	9.14	12
	5-Year High	495.5	16.54	11.33	12.87
	5-Year Low	NA	6.48	7.05	8.48
	5-Year Median	77.47	11.78	9.27	10.77

As of 02/25/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 31% (177 out of 255)



Top Peers

Daimler AG (DDAIF)	Neutral
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. (FCAU)	Neutral
General Motors Company (GM)	Neutral
Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)	Neutral
NIO Inc. (NIO)	Neutral
Toyota Motor Corporation (TM)	Neutral
Volkswagen AG (VWAGY)	Neutral
Ford Motor Company (F)	Underperform

Industry Comparison Industry: Automotive - Domestic				Industry Peers		
	TSLA Neutral	X Industry	S&P 500	F Underperform	GM Neutral	TM Neutral
VGM Score	D	-	-	D	C	B
Market Cap	145.06 B	5.01 B	23.50 B	28.67 B	45.37 B	189.27 B
# of Analysts	10	4.5	13	7	7	2
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.83%	8.30%	4.79%	2.42%
Value Score	F	-	-	C	A	A
Cash/Price	0.04	0.04	0.04	1.11	0.47	0.28
EV/EBITDA	63.58	9.70	13.56	10.75	4.18	6.34
PEG Ratio	2.83	1.41	2.02	0.92	0.49	1.03
Price/Book (P/B)	19.31	2.65	3.20	0.89	0.99	0.98
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	97.42	6.99	13.05	2.23	2.14	5.93
P/E (F1)	99.00	11.49	18.56	6.71	5.27	8.84
Price/Sales (P/S)	5.90	0.76	2.60	0.18	0.33	0.67
Earnings Yield	1.01%	8.73%	5.38%	14.94%	18.96%	11.31%
Debt/Equity	1.56	0.73	0.70	3.05	1.43	0.52
Cash Flow (\$/share)	8.21	4.37	7.03	3.25	14.84	22.62
Growth Score	A	-	-	D	D	B
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	NA%	3.88%	10.85%	-3.44%	6.93%	3.46%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	6,113.85%	10.14%	6.90%	-9.49%	24.90%	29.35%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	36.54%	-1.51%	6.78%	-2.64%	-8.62%	-12.84%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	54.29%	5.42%	8.38%	1.90%	9.37%	1.76%
Current Ratio	1.13	1.22	1.22	1.16	0.88	1.06
Debt/Capital	62.18%	59.04%	42.37%	75.31%	58.92%	34.21%
Net Margin	-3.51%	4.78%	11.57%	0.03%	4.91%	8.09%
Return on Equity	-13.07%	14.52%	16.80%	13.84%	15.19%	12.12%
Sales/Assets	0.77	0.94	0.55	0.60	0.59	0.58
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	29.21%	3.84%	4.03%	-2.23%	6.57%	0.85%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	A	D	F
Daily Price Chg	-4.06%	-3.11%	-2.98%	-4.49%	-4.05%	-0.34%
1 Week Price Chg	12.62%	-2.59%	-0.94%	-2.59%	-0.32%	-0.79%
4 Week Price Chg	41.10%	-7.48%	-0.94%	-19.40%	-5.62%	-6.00%
12 Week Price Chg	137.93%	-8.77%	1.75%	-18.67%	-10.64%	-4.76%
52 Week Price Chg	168.55%	-7.66%	10.97%	-18.58%	-20.84%	8.76%
20 Day Average Volume	23,668,568	713,617	2,001,782	73,706,584	11,678,951	182,328
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.04%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	-25.88%	-0.73%	-0.05%	-14.49%	-1.45%	1.50%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-17.97%	-1.36%	-0.21%	-16.09%	-3.72%	-2.97%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	-105.58%	-5.31%	-0.49%	NA	NA	-12.03%

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	F
Growth Score	A
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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