

Autodesk Inc ADSK (NAS) | ★★

Last Price	Fair Value	Uncertainty	Economic Moat™	Moat Trend™	Stewardship	Industry Group
258.97 USD	198.00 USD	Medium	Wide	Stable	Standard	Software

Subscriptions Drive Stellar Q3 for Autodesk; Lagged Effects of Pandemic to Come; Shares Overvalued

Julie Bhusal Sharma
Equity Analyst
Morningstar

Analyst Note 24 Nov 2020

Autodesk reported yet another beat to its top line and bottom line in its third-quarter release. Results were driven by continued strength in Autodesk subscription revenue as conversion amongst its maintenance user base remains high. Additionally, Autodesk benefitted from its customers being in better financial health in the third quarter, as less payment extensions were made as a result of the coronavirus. Despite another great quarter for Autodesk, the company warned of the lagged effects they expect in fiscal 2022 as a result of the nature of subscription revenue recognition. While we previously had factored in such a lag, the effect is greater than we expected, moderating our fiscal 2022 expectations. Considering the rosy third-quarter results sobered by what could be an anomalous 2022 ahead, we are maintaining our fair value estimate of \$198 per share for wide-moat Autodesk. Share have remained flat upon news of the quarter, leaving shares trading at \$258 per share. As a result, we continue to believe Autodesk is overvalued. Nonetheless, we reiterate our continued belief that Autodesk has built an extremely moaty company which we think will be well protected in the future.

Autodesk third-quarter revenue grew by 13% year over year to \$952 million. Subscription revenue grew by 24% year over year—which is a result of strong conversion by its maintenance customers. Within the quarter, 40% of its maintenance customers who were up for renewal converted to a subscription. The company also benefitted from more normalization in payment terms in the quarter, as Autodesk had previously extended payment terms for customers most impacted by the pandemic. GAAP operating margin expanded by 500 basis points compared with the prior year quarter to 18% as the company continues to benefit from operating leverage.

With results, Autodesk guided for how it expects to finish

Vital Statistics

Market Cap (USD Mil)	56,787
52-Week High (USD)	276.68
52-Week Low (USD)	125.38
52-Week Total Return %	55.1
YTD Total Return %	41.2
Last Fiscal Year End	31 Jan 2020
5-Yr Forward Revenue CAGR %	15.4
5-Yr Forward EPS CAGR %	31.0
Price/Fair Value	1.31

Valuation Summary and Forecasts

Fiscal Year:	2019	2020	2021(E)	2022(E)
Price/Earnings	145.7	70.6	65.2	45.4
EV/EBITDA	292.6	93.9	73.5	44.1
EV/EBIT	NM	128.7	93.9	51.2
Free Cash Flow Yield %	1.0	3.2	2.1	3.0
Dividend Yield %	—	—	—	—

Financial Summary and Forecasts (USD Mil)

Fiscal Year:	2019	2020	2021(E)	2022(E)
Revenue	2,570	3,274	3,762	4,338
Revenue YoY %	25.0	27.4	14.9	15.3
EBIT	17	344	611	1,119
EBIT YoY %	-104.1	NM	77.8	83.3
Net Income, Adjusted	223	621	879	1,244
Net Income YoY %	-310.1	178.0	41.6	41.6
Diluted EPS	1.01	2.79	3.97	5.71
Diluted EPS YoY %	-307.7	177.4	42.3	43.8
Free Cash Flow	-552	1,003	780	1,271
Free Cash Flow YoY %	-291.7	-281.9	-22.2	62.9

Historical/forecast data sources are Morningstar Estimates and may reflect adjustments.

Profile

Founded in 1982, Autodesk is an application software company that serves industries in architecture, engineering, and construction; product design and manufacturing; and media and entertainment. Autodesk software enables design, modeling, and rendering needs of these industries. The company has over 4 million paid subscribers across 180 countries.

Important Disclosure

The conduct of Morningstar's analysts is governed by Code of Ethics/Code of Conduct Policy, Personal Security Trading Policy (or an equivalent of), and Investment Research Policy. For information regarding conflicts of interest, visit <http://global.morningstar.com/equitydisclosures>

The primary analyst covering this company does not own its stock.

Research as of 24 Nov 2020
Estimates as of 24 Nov 2020
Pricing data through 24 Nov 2020 00:00
Rating updated as of 24 Nov 2020 00:00

Currency amounts expressed with "\$" are in U.S. dollars (USD) unless otherwise denoted.

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the year. For the fourth quarter, Autodesk provided an outlook of a revenue midpoint of \$1,007 million and a GAAP and non-GAAP EPS midpoint of \$0.56 and \$1.07, respectively.

Like other software companies, Autodesk has made clear that the fiscal year ahead will be show lagging weakness from the 2020 COVID-19 market as a result of its subscription model. Consequently, the company expects to see 2022 revenue grow by low- to mid- single digits on a year-over-year basis. This guide is significantly lower than our previous 2022 expectations, for which we have now adjusted. However, we do not see this more dismal guide as affecting our forecast beyond fiscal 2022. We expect the company to continue to benefit from its shift to a SaaS model and monetizing a once untapped customer base in construction as building information modelling (BIM) increases in adoption.

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Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Financial Summary and Forecasts

Fiscal Year Ends in January

		Forecast					
	3-Year Hist. CAGR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year Proj. CAGR
Growth (% YoY)							
Revenue	17.3	1.3	25.0	27.4	14.9	15.3	15.4
EBIT	—	-1.0	-104.1	NM	77.8	83.3	48.4
EBITDA	—	9.5	-136.6	320.0	65.8	66.8	41.9
Net Income	—	-4.2	-310.1	178.0	41.6	41.6	30.1
Diluted EPS	—	-2.8	-307.7	177.4	42.3	43.8	31.0
Earnings Before Interest, after Tax	—	-4.9	-108.2	924.2	64.8	69.1	43.3
Free Cash Flow	58.0	13.1	-291.7	-281.9	-22.2	62.9	12.8

	3-Year Hist. Avg	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year Proj. Avg
Profitability							
Operating Margin %	-3.0	-20.2	0.7	10.5	16.2	25.8	29.1
EBITDA Margin %	1.3	-14.9	4.4	14.4	20.8	30.0	33.0
Net Margin %	7.5	-5.2	8.7	19.0	23.4	28.7	30.2
Free Cash Flow Margin %	7.7	14.0	-21.5	30.6	20.7	29.3	31.1
ROIC %	6.7	-3.9	4.8	19.0	33.9	54.6	112.1
Adjusted ROIC %	3.4	-2.6	2.9	9.9	16.0	23.8	36.2
Return on Assets %	-3.5	-12.7	-1.8	3.9	6.6	11.4	12.2
Return on Equity %	-108.0	-236.0	34.6	-122.6	-125.7	-379.5	-32.6

	3-Year Hist. Avg	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year Proj. Avg
Leverage							
Debt/Capital	1.13	1.19	1.11	1.09	1.47	0.95	0.70
Total Debt/EBITDA	5.64	-5.17	18.62	3.47	2.09	1.26	1.01
EBITDA/Interest Expense	3.25	-6.36	6.33	9.77	9.28	29.27	35.10

Valuation Summary and Forecasts

	2019	2020	2021(E)	2022(E)
Price/Fair Value	1.30	0.99	—	—
Price/Earnings	145.7	70.6	65.2	45.4
EV/EBITDA	292.6	93.9	73.5	44.1
EV/EBIT	NM	128.7	93.9	51.2
Free Cash Flow Yield %	1.0	3.2	2.1	3.0
Dividend Yield %	—	—	—	—

Key Valuation Drivers

Cost of Equity %	7.5
Pre-Tax Cost of Debt %	5.8
Weighted Average Cost of Capital %	7.4
Long-Run Tax Rate %	21.0
Stage II EBI Growth Rate %	5.7
Stage II Investment Rate %	14.3
Perpetuity Year	20

Additional estimates and scenarios available for download at <http://select.morningstar.com>.

Discounted Cash Flow Valuation

	USD Mil	Firm Value (%)	Per Share Value
Present Value Stage I	13,251	32.0	60.64
Present Value Stage II	11,034	26.7	50.49
Present Value Stage III	17,103	41.3	78.27
Total Firm Value	41,388	100.0	189.41
Cash and Equivalents	1,844	—	8.44
Debt	-1,635	—	-7.48
Preferred Stock	—	—	—
Other Adjustments	-800	—	-3.66
Equity Value	40,796	—	186.70
Projected Diluted Shares	219		
Fair Value per Share (USD)	198.00		

The data in the table above represent base-case forecasts in the company's reporting currency as of the beginning of the current year. Our fair value estimate may differ from the equity value per share shown above due to our time value of money adjustment and in cases where probability-weighted scenario analysis is performed.

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Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Income Statement (USD Mil)

Fiscal Year Ends in January

	2018	2019	2020	Forecast	
				2021	2022
Revenue	2,057	2,570	3,274	3,762	4,338
Cost of Goods Sold	303	286	325	345	421
Gross Profit	1,753	2,284	2,949	3,417	3,917
Selling, General & Administrative Expenses	305	340	406	398	424
Advertising & Marketing	1,087	1,184	1,310	1,445	1,384
Research & Development	756	725	851	925	937
Depreciation & Amortization (if reported separately)	20	18	39	39	53
Operating Income (ex charges)	-415	17	344	611	1,119
Restructuring & Other Cash Charges	94	42	0	0	42
Impairment Charges (if reported separately)	—	—	—	—	—
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Charges	—	—	—	—	—
Operating Income (incl charges)	-509	-25	343	611	1,077
Interest Expense	48	18	48	84	44
Interest Income	—	—	—	—	—
Pre-Tax Income	-557	-43	295	526	1,033
Income Tax Expense	10	38	80	110	217
Other After-Tax Cash Gains (Losses)	—	—	—	—	—
Other After-Tax Non-Cash Gains (Losses)	—	—	—	—	—
(Minority Interest)	—	—	—	—	—
(Preferred Dividends)	—	—	—	—	—
Net Income	-567	-81	215	416	816
Weighted Average Diluted Shares Outstanding	220	222	223	222	218
Diluted Earnings Per Share	-2.58	-0.36	0.96	1.88	3.74
Adjusted Net Income	-106	223	621	879	1,244
Diluted Earnings Per Share (Adjusted)	-0.48	1.01	2.79	3.97	5.71
Dividends Per Common Share	—	—	—	—	—
EBITDA	-401	70	470	781	1,260
Adjusted EBITDA	-307	112	471	781	1,302

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Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Balance Sheet (USD Mil)

Fiscal Year Ends in January

	2018	2019	2020	Forecast	
				2021	2022
Cash and Equivalents	1,323	954	1,844	1,757	2,793
Investments	—	—	—	—	—
Accounts Receivable	438	474	652	749	864
Inventory	—	—	—	—	—
Deferred Tax Assets (Current)	—	—	—	—	—
Other Short Term Assets	117	192	163	188	216
Current Assets	1,878	1,620	2,659	2,695	3,873
Net Property Plant, and Equipment	145	150	162	192	224
Goodwill	1,620	2,451	2,445	2,589	2,733
Other Intangibles	27	106	71	119	166
Deferred Tax Assets (Long-Term)	82	65	56	56	56
Other Long-Term Operating Assets	—	—	—	—	—
Long-Term Non-Operating Assets	362	338	786	786	786
Total Assets	4,114	4,729	6,179	6,436	7,839
Accounts Payable	95	102	84	89	108
Short-Term Debt	—	—	—	—	350
Deferred Tax Liabilities (Current)	—	—	—	—	—
Other Short-Term Liabilities	2,029	2,200	3,136	3,602	4,154
Current Liabilities	2,123	2,301	3,219	3,691	4,612
Long-Term Debt	1,586	2,088	1,635	1,635	1,285
Deferred Tax Liabilities (Long-Term)	42	22	19	3	0
Other Long-Term Operating Liabilities	404	328	1,243	1,428	1,646
Long-Term Non-Operating Liabilities	215	202	202	202	202
Total Liabilities	4,370	4,940	6,318	6,959	7,746
Preferred Stock	—	—	—	—	—
Common Stock	1,953	2,072	2,317	2,317	2,317
Additional Paid-in Capital	—	—	—	—	—
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	-2,085	-2,147	-2,296	-1,880	-1,064
(Treasury Stock)	—	—	—	-800	-1,000
Other Equity	-124	-135	-160	-160	-160
Shareholder's Equity	-256	-211	-139	-523	93
Minority Interest	—	—	—	—	—
Total Equity	-256	-211	-139	-523	93

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Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Cash Flow (USD Mil)

Fiscal Year Ends in January

	2018	2019	2020	Forecast	
				2021	2022
Net Income	-567	-81	215	416	816
Depreciation	45	40	40	83	95
Amortization	63	55	87	87	87
Stock-Based Compensation	269	252	362	355	379
Impairment of Goodwill	—	—	—	—	—
Impairment of Other Intangibles	—	—	—	—	—
Deferred Taxes	55	25	-1	-16	-2
Other Non-Cash Adjustments	—	—	—	—	—
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts Receivable	13	-25	-179	-97	-115
(Increase) Decrease in Inventory	—	—	—	—	—
Change in Other Short-Term Assets	-10	8	975	-18	-23
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	-14	-59	-91	5	20
Change in Other Short-Term Liabilities	146	163	6	467	551
Cash From Operations	1	377	1,415	1,282	1,809
(Capital Expenditures)	-51	-67	-53	-98	-113
Net (Acquisitions), Asset Sales, and Disposals	—	-1,040	—	-300	-300
Net Sales (Purchases) of Investments	—	—	27	—	—
Other Investing Cash Flows	557	397	-32	185	218
Cash From Investing	506	-710	-57	-213	-194
Common Stock Issuance (or Repurchase)	-605	-203	-349	-800	-200
Common Stock (Dividends)	—	—	—	—	—
Short-Term Debt Issuance (or Retirement)	—	—	-500	—	350
Long-Term Debt Issuance (or Retirement)	97	500	499	—	-350
Other Financing Cash Flows	-149	-146	-117	-355	-379
Cash From Financing	-657	152	-467	-1,155	-579
Exchange Rates, Discontinued Ops, etc. (net)	14	-11	-2	—	—
Net Change in Cash	-135	-192	889	-86	1,036

Research Methodology for Valuing Companies

Qualitative Equity Research Overview

At the heart of our valuation system is a detailed projection of a company's future cash flows, resulting from our analysts' research. Analysts create custom industry and company assumptions to feed income statement, balance sheet, and capital investment assumptions into our globally standardized, proprietary discounted cash flow, or DCF, modeling templates. We use scenario analysis, in-depth competitive advantage analysis, and a variety of other analytical tools to augment this process. We believe this bottom-up, long-term, fundamentally based approach allows our analysts to focus on long-term business drivers, which have the greatest valuation impact, rather than short-term market noise.

Morningstar's equity research group ("we," "our") believes that a company's intrinsic worth results from the future cash flows it can generate. The Morningstar Rating for stocks identifies stocks trading at an uncertainty-adjusted discount or premium to their intrinsic worth—or fair value estimate, in Morningstar terminology. Five-star stocks sell for the biggest risk-adjusted discount to their fair values whereas 1-star stocks trade at premiums to their intrinsic worth.

Four key components drive the Morningstar rating: (1) our assessment of the firm's economic moat, (2) our estimate of the stock's fair value, (3) our uncertainty around that fair value estimate and (4) the current market price. This process ultimately culminates in our single-point star rating.

1. Economic Moat

The concept of an economic moat plays a vital role not only in our qualitative assessment of a firm's long-term investment potential, but also in the actual calculation of our fair value estimates. An economic moat is a structural feature that allows a firm to sustain excess profits over a long period of time. We define excess economic profits as returns on invested capital (or ROIC) over and above our estimate of a firm's cost of capital, or weighted average cost of capital (or WACC). Without a moat, profits are more susceptible to competition. We have identified five sources of economic moats:

intangible assets, switching costs, network effect, cost advantage, and efficient scale.

Companies with a narrow moat are those we believe are more likely than not to achieve normalized excess returns for at least the next 10 years. Wide-moat companies are those in which we have very high confidence that excess returns will remain for 10 years, with excess returns more likely than not to remain for at least 20 years. The longer a firm generates economic profits, the higher its intrinsic value. We believe low-quality no-moat companies will see their normalized returns gravitate toward the firm's cost of capital more quickly than companies with moats.

To assess the direction of the underlying competitive advantages, analysts perform ongoing assessments of the moat trend. A firm's moat trend is positive in cases where we think its sources of competitive advantage are growing stronger; stable where we don't anticipate changes to competitive advantages over the next several years; or negative when we see signs of deterioration.

All the moat and moat trend ratings undergo periodic review and any changes must be approved by the Morningstar Economic Moat Committee, comprised of senior members of Morningstar's equity research department.

2. Estimated Fair Value

Combining our analysts' financial forecasts with the firm's economic moat helps us assess how long returns on invested capital are likely to exceed the firm's cost of capital. Returns of firms with a wide economic moat rating are assumed to fade to the perpetuity period over a longer period of time than the returns of narrow-moat firms, and both will fade slower than no-moat firms, increasing our estimate of their intrinsic value.

Our model is divided into three distinct stages:

Stage I: Explicit Forecast

In this stage, which can last five to 10 years, analysts make full financial statement forecasts, including items such as revenue, profit margins, tax rates, changes in working-capital accounts, and capital spending. Based on these projections, we calculate earnings before interest, after taxes, or EBI, and the net new investment, or NNI, to derive our annual free cash flow forecast.

Stage II: Fade

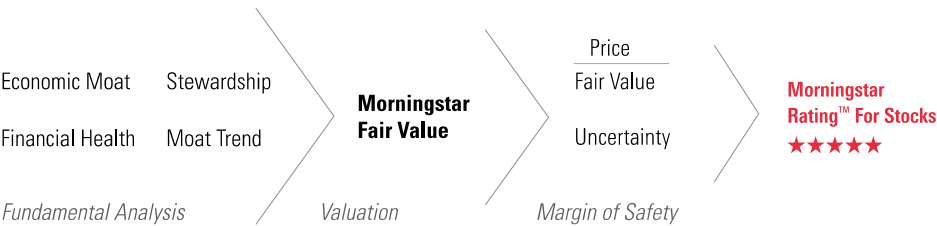
The second stage of our model is the period it will take the company's return on new invested capital—the return on capital of the next dollar invested ("RONIC")—to decline (or rise) to its cost of capital. During the Stage II period, we use a formula to approximate cash flows in lieu of explicitly modeling the income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement as we do in Stage I. The length of the second stage depends on the strength of the company's economic moat. We forecast this period to last anywhere from one year (for companies with no economic moat) to 10–15 years or more (for wide-moat companies). During this period, cash flows are forecast using four assumptions: an average growth rate for EBI over the period, a normalized investment rate, average return on new invested capital, or RONIC, and the number of years until perpetuity, when excess returns cease. The investment rate and return on new invested capital decline until the perpetuity stage is reached. In the case of firms that do not earn their cost of capital, we assume marginal ROICs rise to the firm's cost of capital (usually attributable to less reinvestment), and we may truncate the second stage.

Stage III: Perpetuity

Once a company's marginal ROIC hits its cost of capital, we calculate a continuing value, using a standard perpetuity formula. At perpetuity, we assume that any growth or decline or investment in the business neither creates nor destroys value and that any new investment provides a return in line with estimated WACC.

Because a dollar earned today is worth more than a dollar earned tomorrow, we discount our projections of cash flows in stages I, II, and III to arrive at a total present value of expected future cash flows. Because we are modeling free cash flow to the firm—representing cash available to provide a return to all capital providers—we discount future cash flows using the WACC, which is a weighted average of the costs of equity, debt, and preferred stock (and any other funding sources), using expected future proportionate long-term market-value weights.

Morningstar Research Methodology for Valuing Companies



Research Methodology for Valuing Companies

3. Uncertainty Around That Fair Value Estimate

Morningstar's Uncertainty Rating captures a range of likely potential intrinsic values for a company and uses it to assign the margin of safety required before investing, which in turn explicitly drives our stock star rating system. The Uncertainty Rating represents the analysts' ability to bound the estimated value of the shares in a company around the fair value estimate, based on the characteristics of the business underlying the stock, including operating and financial leverage, sales sensitivity to the overall economy, product concentration, pricing power, and other company-specific factors.

Analysts consider at least two scenarios in addition to their base case: a bull case and a bear case. Assumptions are chosen such that the analyst believes there is a 25% probability that the company will perform better than the bull case, and a 25% probability that the company will perform worse than the bear case. The distance between the bull and bear cases is an important indicator of the uncertainty underlying the fair value estimate.

Our recommended margin of safety widens as our uncertainty of the estimated value of the equity increases. The more uncertain we are about the estimated value of the equity, the greater the discount we require relative to our estimate of the value of the firm before we would recommend the purchase of the shares. In addition, the uncertainty rating provides guidance in portfolio construction based on risk tolerance.

Our uncertainty ratings for our qualitative analysis are low, medium, high, very high, and extreme.

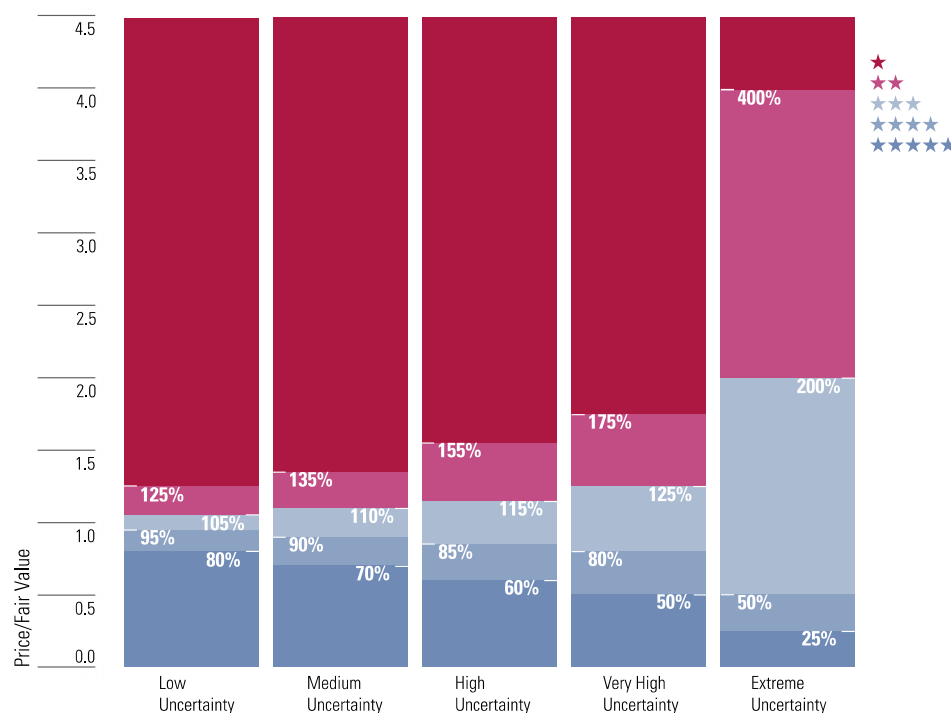
- Low—margin of safety for 5-star rating is a 20% discount and for 1-star rating is 25% premium.
- Medium—margin of safety for 5-star rating is a 30% discount and for 1-star rating is 35% premium.
- High—margin of safety for 5-star rating is a 40% discount and for 1-star rating is 55% premium.
- Very High—margin of safety for 5-star rating is a 50% discount and for 1-star rating is 75% premium.
- Extreme—margin of safety for 5-star rating is a 75% discount and for 1-star rating is 300% premium.

4. Market Price

The market prices used in this analysis and noted in the report come from exchange on which the stock is listed, which we believe is a reliable source.

For more details about our methodology, please go to <https://shareholders.morningstar.com>.

Morningstar Equity Research Star Rating Methodology



Morningstar Star Rating for Stocks

Once we determine the fair value estimate of a stock, we compare it with the stock's current market price on a daily basis, and the star rating is automatically re-calculated at the market close on every day the market on which the stock is listed is open.

Please note, there is no predefined distribution of stars. That is, the percentage of stocks that earn 5 stars can fluctuate daily, so the star ratings, in the aggregate, can serve as a gauge of the broader market's valuation. When there are many 5-star stocks, the stock market as a whole is more undervalued, in our opinion, than when very few companies garner our highest rating.

We expect that if our base-case assumptions are true the market price will converge on our fair value estimate over time, generally within three years (although it is impossible to predict the exact time frame in which market prices may adjust).

Our star ratings are guideposts to a broad audience and individuals must consider their own specific investment goals, risk tolerance, tax situation, time horizon, income needs, and complete investment portfolio, among other factors.

The Morningstar Star Ratings for stocks are defined below:

★★★★★ We believe appreciation beyond a fair risk-adjusted return is highly likely over a multiyear time frame. The current market price represents an excessively pessimistic outlook, limiting downside risk and maximizing upside potential.

★★★★ We believe appreciation beyond a fair risk-adjusted return is likely.

★★★ Indicates our belief that investors are likely to receive a fair risk-adjusted return (approximately cost of equity).

★★ We believe investors are likely to receive a less than fair risk-adjusted return.

★ Indicates a high probability of undesirable risk-adjusted returns from the current market price over a multiyear time frame, based on our analysis. The market is pricing in an excessively optimistic outlook, limiting upside potential and leaving the investor exposed to Capital loss.

Research Methodology for Valuing Companies

Other Definitions

Last Price: Price of the stock as of the close of the market of the last trading day before date of the report.

Stewardship Rating: Represents our assessment of management's stewardship of shareholder capital, with particular emphasis on capital allocation decisions. Analysts consider companies' investment strategy and valuation, financial leverage, dividend and share buyback policies, execution, compensation, related party transactions, and accounting practices. Corporate governance practices are only considered if they've had a demonstrated impact on shareholder value. Analysts assign one of three ratings: "Exemplary," "Standard," and "Poor." Analysts judge stewardship from an equity holder's perspective. Ratings are determined on an absolute basis. Most companies will receive a Standard rating, and this is the default rating in the absence of evidence that managers have made exceptionally strong or poor capital allocation decisions.

Quantitative Valuation: Using the below terms, intended to denote the relationship between the security's Last Price and Morningstar's quantitative fair value estimate for that security.

- ▶ Undervalued: Last Price is below Morningstar's quantitative fair value estimate.
- ▶ Fairly Valued: Last Price is in line with Morningstar's quantitative fair value estimate.
- ▶ Overvalued: Last Price is above Morningstar's quantitative fair value estimate.

Risk Warning

Please note that investments in securities are subject to market and other risks and there is no assurance or guarantee that the intended investment objectives will be achieved. Past performance of a security may or may not be sustained in future and is no indication of future performance. A security investment return and an investor's principal value will fluctuate so that, when redeemed, an investor's shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. A security's current investment performance may be lower or higher than the investment performance noted within the report. Morningstar's Uncertainty Rating serves as a useful data point with respect to sensitivity analysis of the assumptions used in our determining a fair value price.

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Price/Fair Value Morningstar data as of Nov 24, 2020



General Disclosure

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