A red text on a white background

Description automatically generated

![ netflix\_white\_background](https://github.com/k1bray/stock-price-analysis/blob/main/Visuals/netflix\_white\_background.jpg)

**# Introduction**

Netflix began as an idea in 1997 by Reed Hastings and Marc Randolph that would give consumers the ability to rent DVDs through the mail via a website instead of having to go to a store. Their website and business officially launched in 1998 with their subscription service coming soon after in 1999 that offered unlimited DVD rentals without due dates, late fees, or monthly rental limits. The company was brought public on May 23, 2002, with an initial public offering (IPO) on NASDAQ for the ticker symbol: NFLX. Innovative features to the user experience over the years, such as a personalized movie recommendation system based on customer’s movie ratings, and successfully transitioning the company’s focus to streaming services has helped to bolster revenue as well as the stock price to its current level.

**### Disclaimer**

Under no circumstances should this report, or any information contained therein, be viewed as financial advice. Any opinions expressed within are in no way representative of any person or business other than the original creator and any entities under their direct ownership and/or control.

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**# Summary of Project Intention**

The intended purpose of this project is to take a closer look at the traded price performance of Netflix (NFLX) since its IPO in May of 2002 through April of 2024, as well as an analysis of the company’s most recent financial statements. This was done by calculating various metrics that utilize the available objective data. A comparison was made to the performance of the overall market during the same period by using the Select Sector SPDRs ETF that tracks the S&P500 (ticker symbol: SPY).

**### Tools Used for Analysis**

There were multiple tools used in the process of this analysis. A server was created on a local device that was facilitated through Microsoft SQL Server and manipulated through VSCode. Microsoft Excel was used to view financial statements from NFLX. Microsoft Word was used as the main platform for writing the report of the analysis. Tableau Public Desktop and Microsoft Excel were used to create the visuals. GitHub Desktop and GutHub was used as a hosting source for the version control and final rendering of the project report for publication.

**# Dataset Examination and Profiling**

**### Data Availability and License**

The NFLX data can be accessed [[here]](https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/mayankanand2701/netflix-stock-price-dataset) and the dataset license can be viewed [[here]](https://www.mit.edu/~amini/LICENSE.md)

The SPY data can be accessed [[here]](https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/gkitchen/s-and-p-500-spy) and the dataset license can be viewed [[here]](https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0)

The tables used during the initial part of this analysis had a similar format and consisted of quantitative, structed data with columns showing daily trading data for Date, Open, High, Low, Close, and Volume. The SPY table contained additional columns parsing out the date components but were not used for the purposes of this project.

The SQL code that was used during all phases of this project can be seen [here]

The schemas were checked for both tables and it was found that during the import process the datatypes for all columns in the NFLX table were set by default to varchar (50) and were adjusted accordingly. The columns in the SPY table were imported using the proper datatypes and did not require any adjustment.

While calculating descriptive statistics of both tables it was verified that they were properly limited to the same start and end dates, as well as the same number of rows. Thereby ensuring the accuracy of the data being used for the sake of performance comparison.

Both tables were checked for any NULL values, and none were found.

Both tables were checked for duplicate rows based on the ‘Date’ column, and none were found.

**# Cleaning and Manipulation of Data**

The name of the NFLX table was changed from ‘nflx\_stock\_price’ to simply ‘nflx’ to match the naming convention of the ‘spy’ table as well as to ease query writing.

The columns in the NFLX table schema were adjusted to their proper datatypes.

The ‘Adj Close’ column in the NFLX table was found to be identical with the ‘Close’ column and was removed from the table.

The extra date-related columns in the SPY table were removed.

**# Analysis and Discussion**

The dates included in the comparison analysis were standardized to ensure that the same period was being considered for each table. Specifically, between May 23, 2002 (the IPO for NFLX), and April 30, 2024 (the limit of the dataset available for SPY).

Some general exploratory data analysis was done by calculating summary statistics. Both tables were examined while finding values for the averages of opening and closing prices over the trading life of NFLX, as well as the minimum and maximum values of highs and lows. However, given the range of values that NFLX has held since its IPO as well as the amount of time that has passed since, the application of those calculations is limited to an exercise for the analytical theory that frames this report.

**### The 30-, 50-, and 200-day simple moving averages were calculated.**

A graph of stock market prices

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![nflx\_vs\_spy\_sma]( https://github.com/k1bray/stock-price-analysis/blob/main/Visuals/nflx\_vs\_spy\_sma.png)

A trader/investor can utilize a simple moving average (SMA) to make various decisions or determinations about an individual tradeable product, or even the overall market. Moving averages of various time periods can be used to determine or verify trends, or potential changes in trends. In very general terms, the trend is bullish if the values of the moving average are increasing while the traded values of the stock are higher than the moving average values, and bearish if the opposite is true. However, as will be explained below, the length of the moving average period can be adjusted and needs to be considered within the appropriate context of the trading/investing goals and outlook held by the individual.

Simple moving averages can be used to determine levels of support and resistance for technical analysis of stock charts. Stock trading values tend to “bounce” off SMA lines and act as either lower support in a bullish trend or upper resistance in a bearish trend.

When multiple moving averages of different time frames are utilized, they can act as potential indicators for buy or sell signals in relation to changes in trend or price change momentum. When a shorter-term SMA crosses above a longer-term SMA, this could be interpreted as a buy signal, or what is called a “Golden Cross”. Conversely, a shorter-term SMA crossing below a longer-term SMA could be a sell signal, or what is referred to as a “Death Cross”. This concept could also be applied to a situation where a trader wants to incorporate a stop-loss strategy. This can be done on many modern trading platforms where a sell order could be triggered by a set of conditions being met, such as a short-term SMA crossing below a longer-term SMA.

Moving averages of different time periods can be useful in different types of trading. For example, using a 20- and 30-day SMA together can be useful for short-term swing trading, while a 50- and 200-day SMA can be used together for more longer-term trading.

Since no single indicator should be used in technical analysis as the sole basis for either a buy or sell signal, moving averages can often act as confirmation signals when used in conjunction with other technical indicators.

**### The running historical volatility was calculated using a 30-day timeframe.**

A graph of different colored lines

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![nflx\_vs\_spy\_hv]( https://github.com/k1bray/stock-price-analysis/blob/main/Visuals/nflx\_vs\_spy\_hv.png)

Historical volatility (HV) is a measure of the extent to which the price of an asset has fluctuated over a given time period ([Investopedia.com](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/h/historicalvolatility.asp#:~:text=Historical%20volatility%20%28HV%29%20is%20a%20statistical%20measure%20of,a%20financial%20instrument%20in%20the%20given%20time%20period.)).

The HV value is significant to trading and investing for several different reasons. One way that it can be used is to assess the potential risk of an individual asset. An asset with a higher HV value would be one that has historically shown a potential for higher price swings, which some traders/investors might view as having higher risk. Conversely, an asset that has historically experienced smaller price swings would have a lower HV value and could be interpreted as having a lower risk level. However, it should also be noted that some tradeable products will show swings in volatility as well as price. Some stocks enter periods of lower HV that can precede a significant price move in reaction to a major news event, such as leading up to a corporate announcement before releasing an earnings report, announcement of an anticipated product launch, anticipated macroeconomic policy events, or FDA drug approval. It should also be noted that the qualification of the concept of a security being considered either high or low risk is perspective-dependent and tied closely to the intentions and viewpoints of the individual investor/trader. Different levels of perceived risk are appropriate for different types of trading/investing. Stocks with higher HV can be attractive to short-term swing and day traders, while stocks with lower HV can be attractive to more conservative traders with a longer-term investment horizon. In this way, HV values for a particular stock, or the overall market, can help traders/investors make informed decisions regarding strategy and outlook.

HV, as a backward-looking metric of volatility, is different from Implied Volatility (IV) which is a forward-looking metric of volatility. IV is used in the pricing of option contracts on equities and indices ([Investopedia.com](https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/032515/what-options-implied-volatility-and-how-it-calculated.asp)). However, the two can be compared to try and find instances of potential mispricing of options, which may be considered undervalued when HV is higher than IV and overvalued when the opposite is true.

**### How often in a given timeframe does NFLX trade within 1 STD?**

Since IPO = 81.4% of trading days

6 months = 76.9% of trading days

12 months = 77.9% of trading days

24 months = 79.6% of trading days

36 months = 83.2% of trading days

48 months = 81.9% of trading days

The data shows that NFLX has historically traded within 1 standard deviation of its average price for a significant portion of the timeframes studied. This suggests some level of consistency, but it's important to remember that past performance isn't a guarantee of future results. High volatility can still occur within 1 STD. However, the fact that the daily mean returns were positive across all time periods considered does point towards a possible upward trend in NFLX's price, which can be appealing for a buy-and-hold strategy.

**### How often in a given timeframe does SPY trade within 1 STD?**

Since NFLX IPO = 80.1% of trading days

6 months = 66.7% of trading days

12 months = 68.6% of trading days

24 months = 71.9% of trading days

36 months = 71.9% of trading days

48 months = 72.7% of trading days

The data shows that SPY has historically traded within 1 standard deviation of its average price for a similar or slightly smaller portion of the timeframes considered compared to NFLX. While this suggests NFLX may have been statistically more consistent in terms of staying within 1 STD, it's important to remember that both stocks can still experience significant price movements within that range.

**### Calculating Annual Returns**

The yearly percentage return was calculated for each year since the NFLX IPO. A point to note is that both the years 2002 and 2024 returns were based on incomplete periods.

A graph of different colored lines

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

![ nflx\_vs\_spy\_annual\_pct\_return]( https://github.com/k1bray/stock-price-analysis/blob/main/Visuals/nflx\_vs\_spy\_annual\_pct\_return.png)

The chart above highlights a trend towards greater stability in NFLX's annual percentage returns over the past decade compared to its earlier years. However, it's important to remember that past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

While NFLX has historically delivered higher annual returns than SPY (as shown over their publicly traded lifetimes), SPY's returns appear to be more consistent, potentially reflecting the lower volatility that was discussed earlier in the report. The stock market itself, even a broad index like SPY, carries inherent risk.

**### Hypothetical Investment**

To assess the historical long-term performance of NFLX stock, we analyzed the potential return using a hypothetical $100 investment made on the IPO date, May 23, 2002 (split-adjusted). The results show that a $100 investment in NFLX on that date would be worth approximately $54,056.70 as of April 30, 2024, representing a significant gain of over 53,957%. This demonstrates the substantial long-term growth of NFLX stock over the past 22 years.

For comparison, the same calculations were made using data from SPY with the same starting date and a hypothetical $100 investment. This investment would be worth approximately $690.30 as of April 30, 2024, representing a 590% appreciation in value. While NFLX shows impressive growth, it's important to remember the context of this analysis. SPY's performance reflects the overall market's growth during this period, showcasing a more typical investment experience.

**## Analysis of NFLX Financials**

NFLX Q1 2024 financial statements can be seen [here](https://ir.netflix.net/financials/financial-statements/default.aspx).

**### Overall Performance**

**Top-line Revenue**

When compared to the most recent quarterly earnings report (three months ended 03/31/2024), the same period from two- and one-year previous has seen top-line revenue increases of 16% and 12.9%, respectively. However, the year-over-year (YOY) increase between Q1 ‘22 and Q1 ‘23 was only 3.6%.

The consistency of revenue growth demonstrates the strength of the NFLX business model, as well as their placement among their competitors with respect to capturing market share. The chart above shows the percent change quarter-over-quarter for top-line revenue exhibiting an obvious upward trend over the past 2 years.

**Profitability Analysis**

**Net Income & Operating income**

In the chart above, the difference between the net and operating income represents the non-operating expenses in that quarter. Where they get wider apart from each other shows areas where NFLX was potentially less efficient at controlling those non-operating expenses.

They have maintained an overall positive trend in their operating Income, and in fact saw a 53% year-over-year increase in Q1 ’24 to $2.63 billion. This is up from Q1 ’23 with $1.71 billion. Overall, it appears that NFLX has been gaining ground on its ability to control operating costs, even if there have been a few unexpected variables along the way.

Q4 ’22 and Q4 ’23 saw one-time expenses that had a great effect on the net income.

NFLX historical performance has not been without its struggles. They maintained solid growth in subscribers until the early part of 2022 when they experienced their first net subscriber draw-down. This came off the heels of a viewer surge during the COVID-19 pandemic. Q4 ’22 was when they launched their lower-priced ad-supported subscription service, which has since helped to bolster their overall subscriber base as well as revenues. This also trickled down to their net income with a positive effect.

NFLX implemented price increases in certain regions during Q4 ’23 which led to some subscriber churn. However, any short-term slowdown in subscriber growth due to the new higher prices has contributed to their current ability to increase profits and revenues as they continue to expand their customer base.

**Profitability Margins**

**Net Profit Margin & Gross Margin**

Since Net Profit Margin is a metric that shows what percentage of each revenue dollar is being converted into profit, the chart above shows that NFLX has been a bit of a mixed bag in that ability. Although the long-term trend may indicate improvement, it shows that NFLX has been rather inconsistent in its efficiency of managing the conversion of revenue to profit with consideration of total costs. However, the dips in both margins for Q4 ’22 and Q4 ’23 can be explained in the context of one-time charges.

Over the past two years NFLX has seen some variability in their gross margins. However, the prevailing trend is positive with the lowest period (Q4 ’22) showing 31% of revenue retained as gross profit. After incurring the costs for content creation, streaming services such as NFLX could greatly benefit from overall low marginal costs. This gives them the ability to maintain lower gross margins, relatively speaking, and still remain quite competitive in their market.

The lowest net profit margin was 1% in Q4 '22, and the highest was 25% in Q1 '24, while the operating margin ranged from 7% in Q4 '22 to 28% in Q1 '24. In most quarters, the net profit margin is only 1-2 percentage points higher than the operating margin.

The operating margin is very similar to the net profit margin, suggesting that Netflix might have relatively low non-operating expenses (expenses not directly related to core operations). This can be a positive sign for its financial efficiency.

**Earnings Per Share (EPS)**

Looking at the EPS trend for NFLX is somewhat inconclusive due to some variability in quarterly results. Although the prevailing trend is positive, eliminating Q4 ’22, Q4 ’23, as well as Q1 ’24 as potential outliers leave a set of points that are much more consistent. NFLX has been showing mild, if somewhat erratic, improvement in their ability to effectively convert revenue into profit. Some of these fluctuations can be explained by one-time events or idiosyncrasies in an evolving market.

However, when viewed in context alongside the chart for profit margin, but especially for the strong trend in revenue growth, any anomalies should be excused as being just that.

**Efficiency Analysis**

**Asset Turnover Ratio**

The increasing values of the Asset Turnover Ratio shows that NFLX may be improving in their ability to use their assets to generate revenue.

**Efficiency Ratios**

As can been seen in the chart above, there is some variation in the 2-year values for both return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE). In both cases there were abnormally higher amounts in the section for “Interest and Other Income (Expense)” on the income statement for Q4 ’22 and Q4 ‘23. Since both ROA and ROE use the Net Income value in their calculations, which was greatly impacted by these charges, these events had a significant effect on the results. However, with continued top-line revenue growth accompanied by a reduction of expenses, there has been a substantial rebound in net income values, which in turn has bolstered the figures for ROA and ROE.

**Liquidity and Solvency Analysis**

A “healthy” current ratio value range for most companies is generally accepted to be within 1.5 to 3. NFLX current ratio over the past 2-years has been below that range with a low of 1.05 and a high of 1.33. However, these figures need to be viewed within the proper context. The very nature of the business of NFLX being a growth company in the tech and entertainment sector means that they have the latitude to maintain a lower current ratio when compared to other businesses with different business models and capital structure. They can do this in part because of the structure of their subscription model revenues which provide consistent cash flow to meet short-term obligations. They have much less variability in their cash flows than a company that operates in manufacturing that must maintain a level of current inventory, as an example. Also, being a company in a growth phase, they invest heavily in creative content, which is a long-term asset, along with investments in growth opportunities in an evolving on-demand digital streaming market.

**Debt-to-Equity Ratio**

NFLX is showing a declining trend in their debt-to-equity ratio. The general explanation is that they are using less debt in relation to their shareholders’ equity. This indicates improving financial stability with reduced financial risk. This increases their flexibility to manage their finances, especially during times of an economic downturn or when facing an unexpected financial challenge.

The continued reduction of debt would allow NFLX to invest in creative content with less dependence to take on additional debt. This could favorably position NFLX with an edge in relation to their competition. However, the reduction of their debt load in relation to their equity also provides an enhanced credit rating. This gives NFLX more flexible and available options for funding future investments for growth if they should decide to utilize debt for that purpose.

Although NFLX has historically not offered a dividend and has instead chosen to focus on reinvestment, the downward continuation of this debt trend could open the door to the future possibility of dividend payments to shareholders.

**Liabilities**

While reducing assets as of late, NFLX has also been taking on additional liabilities that can be seen in both their current and total liabilities. However, they have been reducing long-term debt as can be seen below.

While Total Liabilities have stayed fairly constant, Total Stockholders’ Equity has been increasing, which could be an indication of retained earnings and reinvestment back into the company.

**Cash Flow Analysis**

**Operating Cash Flow**

Positive and growing operating cash flow indicates that the company’s core business operations are generating cash.

**Investing Cash Flow**

Analyze cash used for capital expenditures, acquisitions, and other investments. High capital expenditures could indicate growth but also requires scrutiny to ensure they are generating a good return.

**Financing Cash Flow**

Look at cash flows from financing activities, including debt issuance and repayment, and stock issuance and buybacks. Frequent issuance of debt or equity might indicate a need for external financing to sustain operations.

**Industry Comparison**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Company** | **Subscribers (Millions)** | **Market Share** |
| Total Subscribers (Estimated) | 1800.0 | 100.0% |
| NFLX | 269.6 | 15.0% |
| AMZN Prime Video | 180.0 | 10.0% |
| DIS | 153.6 | 8.5% |
| HBO MAX | 99.6 | 5.5% |
| Paramount+ | 71.0 | 3.9% |
| HULU | 50.2 | 2.8% |
| APPL | 44.1 | 2.5% |
| Peacock | 34.0 | 1.9% |
| ESPN+ | 24.8 | 1.4% |
| YouTube TV | 8.0 | 0.4% |

With 269.6 million worldwide subscribers, NFLX currently controls roughly 15% of the current global streaming subscription services, which number roughly 1.8 billion.

**Qualitative Factors**

**Innovation and Content** - The ability to produce and acquire compelling content.

**Management Quality** - Track record and strategic vision of the management team.

**# Recommendations and Possible Further Actions Based on Analysis**

Is NFLX a “buy”?

It's important to note that past performance is not indicative of future results. NFLX has seen a historic rise in value that most likely will not be repeated any time soon to an identical degree barring a drastic shift in market conditions and a massive show of business flexibility on behalf of the company’s management to efficiently and effectively leverage new and existing revenue streams.