

Semiconductors

2H19 Demand Stronger Than 1H; Supply-Side Remains Disciplined; Expect Continued Semi / Semicap Stock Outperformance

While acknowledging volatility related to US-China trade, we continue to remain positive and expect semi/semicap stocks to continue outperforming through year-end. After bottoming in late 2018 on trade tensions, slowdown in China and cloud datacenter digestion, semi stocks have outperformed YTD 2019 with the SOX index up 28% as investors are beginning to positively discount improving industry growth trends following four rounds of earnings cuts (stocks typically discount recovery after 2-3 rounds of earnings revisions). Recently, the group has been volatile on US-China trade, Huawei ban and concerns on global recession. Historically, we typically see a sustainable move higher in stocks after the 2nd / 3rd round of estimate cuts (this has been a consistent pattern over the past three downturns), but this cycle has been different than the prior three cycles with the tariffs pushing out potential recovery into 1Q20. **However, assuming no further major negative developments on the trade front post the tariff increases this weekend, we expect semiconductor stocks to continue to outperform for the remainder of the year on + Y/Y inflection in 1H20.** On the demand side, we remain confident in a 2H pickup in overall demand with near seasonal demand in PC computing, wireless/wired infrastructure (around 5G), aerospace / defense, smartphones (ex-Huawei), consumer/gaming and a resumption in cloud/hyperscale spending trends (top cloud/hyperscale titans are forecasting ~9% infrastructure spending growth this year – or 20%+ 2H spend versus 1H). Supply-side metrics such as distribution inventories and lead times are at or slightly below normal historical levels, suggesting that management teams are under-shipping consumption trends to keep inventories lean. In semiconductor equipment, our preliminary expectation is for a return to equipment spending growth in 2020 as memory supply/demand fundamentals are likely to come back into balance exiting this year. Valuations are in-line with the S&P 500 (at ~16x), however margins and FCF generation continues to grow, trough earnings power is 30%+ higher versus prior down cycles, and capital return continues to be a focus. Similar to our recommendation last quarter, we would use any pullbacks to accumulate shares of our top picks as we remain constructive on the aforementioned 2H and 2020 demand trends, sustainability of strong earnings power and continued consolidation (M&A). In large cap stocks, we focus on diversified market leaders with strong margin/FCF expansion potential and exposure to content growth opportunities in areas such as cloud datacenter, automotive and industrial sectors. Our large cap top pick is OW-rated AVGO and we also favor OW-rated MRVL, TXN, INTC, MCHP, NVDA and MU, while our small cap top pick is OW-rated IPHI. In semicaps, we favor OW-rated KLAC.

- **Recap of 1H19: Fundamentals dampened by macro / trade uncertainty with >50% of our universe missing consensus expectations on 1Q/2Q earnings and overall semi industry revenue growth trending down 6% Y/Y ex-memory.** YTD, fundamentals have remained dampened for the group driven by macro / trade uncertainty with >50% of our semi universe missing consensus estimates for 1Q and 2Q on forward guidance. Semi industry revenues (ex-memory) are tracking down 6% Y/Y – down from the industry 2018 exit rate of +8% Y/Y, however we expect industry fundamentals to improve as we move through the remainder of the year. Supply-side metrics such as distribution inventories have remained lean and in fact have been coming DOWN, suggesting that semi companies have been UNDERSHIPPING consumption over the past 2-3 quarters and management teams will continue keeping close tabs of channel sell-through / inventories.

See page 9 for analyst certification and important disclosures.

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Semiconductors, Semiconductor Cap Equipment & Tech Hardware

Harlan Sur ^{AC}

(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com
Bloomberg JPMA SUR <GO>

Bill Peterson

(1-415) 315-6766
bill.peterson@jpmchase.com

Andrew Nguyen

(1-415) 315-5611
andrew.nguyen@jpmchase.com

Alexander Kim

(1-415) 315-8828
alexander.kim@jpmchase.com
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC

- 2H19 outlook not as bad as the market had feared as the industry gears up for a seasonally strong part of the year for PCs, smartphones, gaming, wired / wireless infrastructure, reacceleration in cloud spending trends...offset by stabilizing trends in industrial and weakness in auto and enterprise.** According to IDC, PC shipments are expected to grow 14% in the 2H vs. 1H. In PC gaming segment, a strong line-up of blockbuster games (NBA2K20, FIFA 20, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, The Legend of Zelda) looks set to drive strong GPU/high-end desktop CPU sales and memory. In wireless infrastructure, despite the current ban on component shipments to Huawei, we continue to expect growth through the remainder of 2019 and into 2020 on 5G deployments. The Apple supply chain is ramping as seasonally as expected with companies such as Qorvo and Skyworks indicating a near seasonal ramp in this year's iPhone cycle in its recent earnings calls (though demand from China and Huawei is expected to remain weak over the next few quarters). Despite trade-related uncertainties impacting the near-term outlook, automotive and industrial continues to be driven more by increasing semiconductor dollar content gains. Cloud datacenter spending trends are improving here in the back half of this year, led by US-based hyperscale investments (see next bullet), while enterprise demand remains lackluster.
- U.S. hyperscale cloud service provider capex remains robust- new workloads and expanding compute/networking capacity driving strong demand for compute, networking and storage/memory chips.** Last year was a very strong year for capex, in which Alphabet, Facebook (GOOGL and FB, both covered by J.P. Morgan's Doug Anmuth), and Microsoft (MSFT, covered by J.P. Morgan's Mark Murphy) had capex, led by investments in data center (compute, storage and networking), grow 91%, 107%, 64% Y/Y for 2018. While 2019 won't be as strong as 2018, we still expect cloud spending to be up 9-10%. Moreover, when comparing YTD cloud spending to full year budgets, it implies that the top cloud service providers will need to spend 20-30% more in the 2H vs. 1H, and we expect spending to continue to grow at a double-digit pace in 2020 and likely beyond. New computing workloads (AI/ deep learning) and cloud data center spending trends should continue to drive strong CPU, GPU, networking (switch, routing, optical connectivity), ASIC, and storage/memory (DRAM and NAND) demand over the next few years.
- Memory fundamentals still tough, but NAND has likely bottomed and we expect DRAM to bottom exiting the year as improving cloud demand that should have a positive impact on pricing/bit shipment fundamentals.** Memory demand trends are set to improve in 2H19 as the inventory correction in data center, gaming and smartphones appears to be improving. In NAND, in particular, we are seeing price elasticity beginning to spur demand and price declines have begun to moderate with overall supply/demand fundamentals returning to relative balance. In DRAM, though supply is still exceeding demand, with multiple capex cuts and utilization reductions, we expect supply/demand fundamentals to exit the year in relative balance. The one clear trend is that memory companies continue to place a high priority on profitability and free cash flow generation, and trough earnings are vastly improved compared to prior cycles.
- Near-term demand for Memory equipment remains weak, while Foundry/Logic demand is robust, but we expect overall equipment spending to grow in 2020 and expect semicap stocks under coverage to outperform.** With memory makers reducing DRAM and NAND output and focusing on profitability/free cash flow, memory equipment spending in 2019 is on pace to decline by >35%. On the other hand, Foundry/Logic spending, led by leading edge investments, remains robust. Looking ahead to 2020, our preliminary expectation is for wafer fab equipment (WFE) spending to return to growth as Foundry/Logic investments continue strong and as memory investments inflect positively led first by NAND investments

followed by DRAM investments later in the year. Despite weak memory demand, semicaps under coverage continue outperforming as service revenue growth is partially offsetting weaker demand. In addition, we are confident in companies under coverage outperforming on served available market (SAM) and market share expansion opportunities. Our positive view on semicaps is also supported by rising capital intensity associated with technology migrations. We favor OW-rated KLAC on diversified revenue streams, strong product cycles and positive exposure to EUV lithography adoption. We are also OW-rated on AMAT and LRCX.

- **We remain positive on semiconductors/semicaps as we move into the back half of the year.** Semiconductor stocks have outperformed in 2019 with the SOX index up 28% YTD (vs. S&P at 16%) and we expect the group to continue to outperform broader indices this year assuming no further meaningful breakdown in trade discussions. Top picks include OW-rated AVGO, MRVL, TXN, INTC, MCHP, NVDA, MU, and IPHI. In semicaps, we continue to favor OW-rated KLAC.

Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

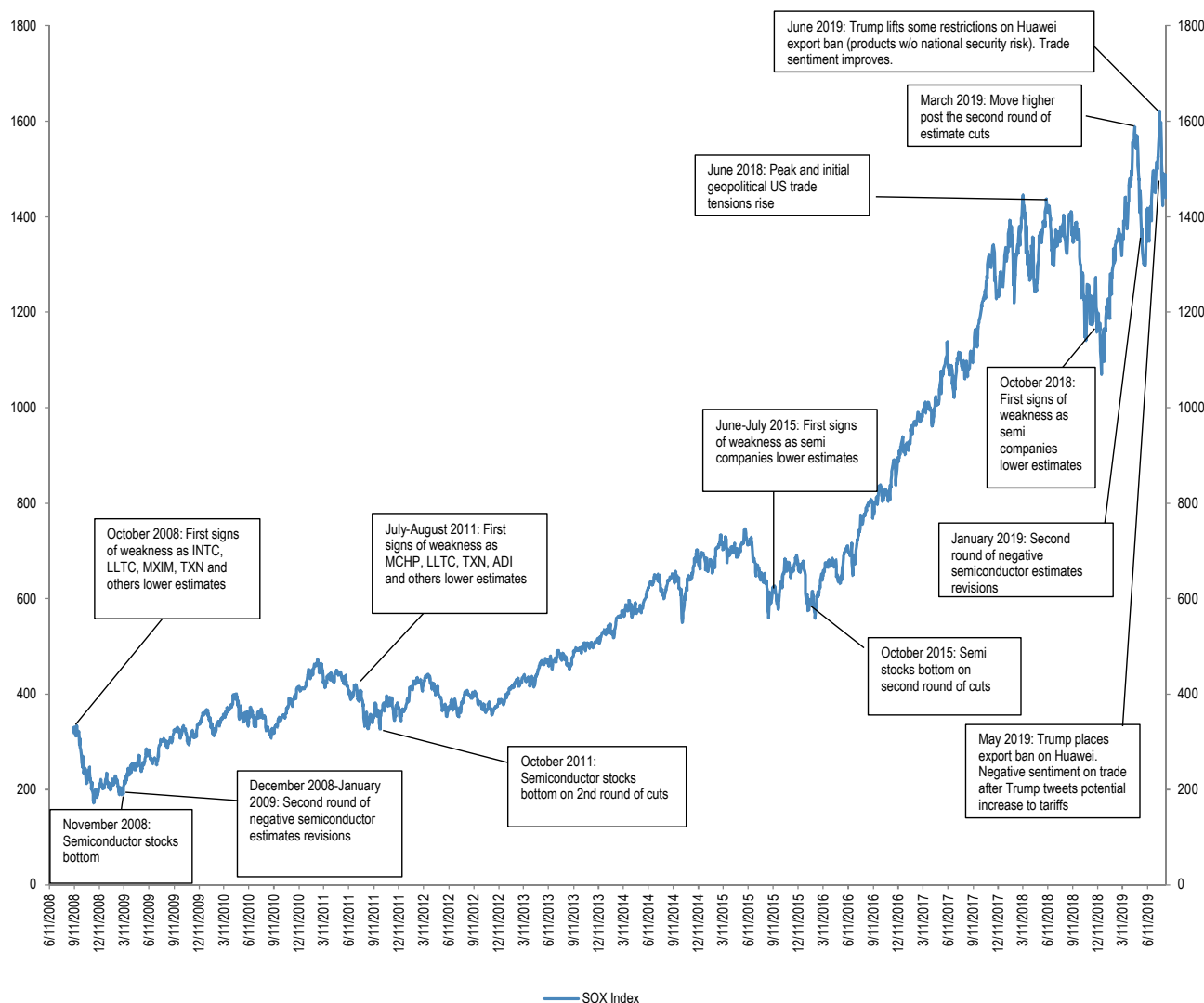
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Current cycle different than prior three cycles with recovery extended due to tariffs

Post the June earnings season (the 4th round of consensus estimate cuts), 67% of our companies missed consensus expectations on the forward guidance for September. Stocks in the past have usually started to positively discount recovery 2-3 quarters out and similar to the pattern seen in the past 3 down cycles, but this cycle has been different from prior cycles with tariffs extending recovery (more recently, \$75B placed on US goods). However, assuming no further deterioration in US/China Trade negotiations, we believe that semiconductor stocks will continue to outperform the broader markets as they discount Y/Y industry positive inflection in 1H20.

Figure 1: Historical SOX Performance of Last Three Down Cycles



Source: Bloomberg

Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

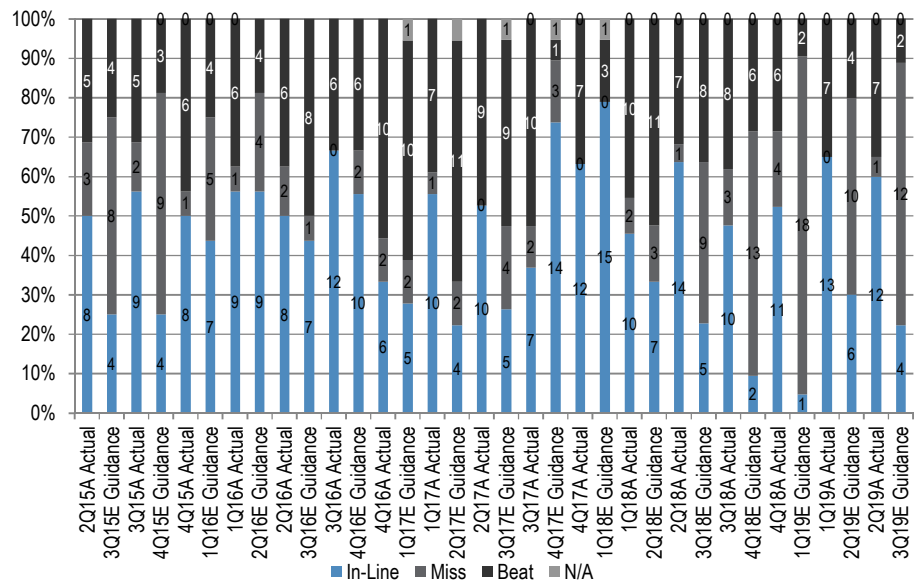
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Similar correction cycle to what was seen during the 2015/2016 slowdown

October earnings season marked the first quarter where 50% of our companies missed on forward guidance, followed by 67% of companies missing during the recent June earnings season (Figure 2). Similar to what we experienced during the 2015/2016 downturn, even though we model sub-seasonal demand trends through 4Q19, we expect stocks to continue discounting improving fundamentals after the fourth round of number cuts.

Figure 2: Semiconductor Coverage Universe Revenue Results and Guidance vs. Consensus – 1Q16A to 3Q19E Guidance



Source: Company reports, J.P. Morgan estimates and Bloomberg.

Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

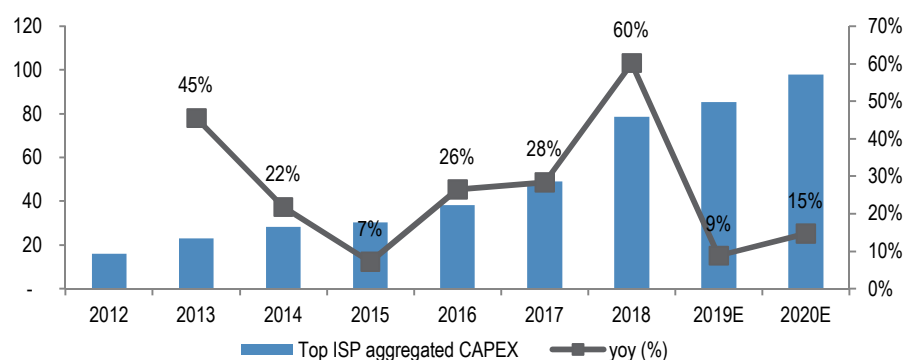
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Cloud spending trends should result in spending reacceleration in 2H19

After a strong year of datacenter capex spending trends that saw 60% Y/Y growth in 2018, we continue to anticipate that 2H19 will be up 20-30% vs. 1H19 due to growth trends in cloud datacenter infrastructure spending on compute-intensive applications (AI-based workloads, IoT, Deep Learning) post the June earnings season. Specifically, CSP capex looks positive as most of the top cloud providers expect to grow their capex. In the figure below, we aggregate total capex forecasts for the top 7 CSP companies – Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, IBM, Tencent and Alibaba. We note that top 7 CSP capex is expected to decelerate from 60% Y/Y in 2018 to 9% Y/Y in 2019E (see Figure 3).

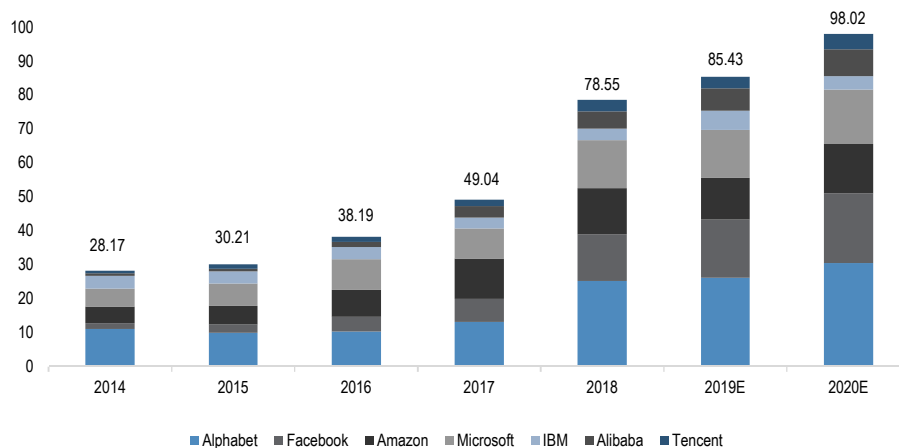
Figure 3: Cloud Service Provider Spending - Top 7 CSPs (2012-2020E)



Source: Company reports, J.P. Morgan estimates and Bloomberg.

Figure 4: Top 7 CSP Capex Summary by Company

in billions (\$)



Source: Company reports, J.P. Morgan estimates and Bloomberg.

Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

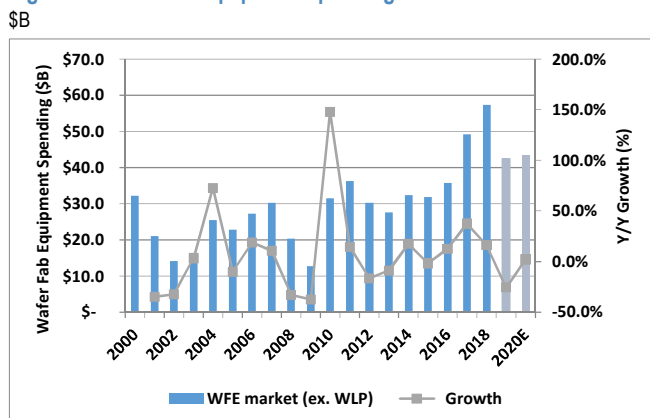
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Semiconductor equipment and Memory stocks beginning to discount improving S/D demand fundamentals

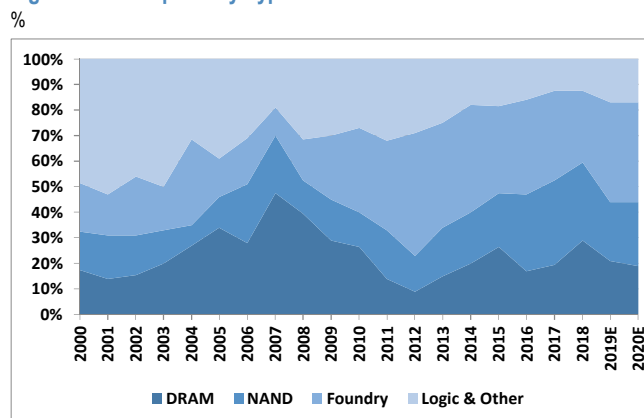
We expect wafer fab equipment (WFE) spending to decline by 20%+ in 2019 as memory makers are actively reducing bit supply growth and ASPs have declined meaningfully since peaking in 2018. However, with a sharp decline in memory spending and with factory utilization being reduced, we are becoming more comfortable that supply/demand will likely come back into balance in the coming quarters (with NAND already likely back into relative balance), which provides a positive setup for both semicaps (improved spending environment as we look toward next year), and for memory stocks as ASP declines moderate (thus improving profitability). In the near-term, we believe we are near trough spending levels and likely to bounce along the bottom for a few more quarters. We would note that even with the current 'downturn', memory and semicap stocks are still highly profitable, a scenario that hasn't played out in prior downturns, and it is illustrative of a maturing industry focused on profitable growth and free cash flow generation. Figure 5 and Figure 6 illustrate our estimates for wafer fab equipment (WFE) spending and WFE spending by customer type (DRAM, NAND, Foundry, Logic and other), where we see Foundry and Logic increasing as a portion of spending (likely slightly up for the year). We estimate Memory WFE will likely decline in 2019 by >35% Y/Y before recovering in 2020 as supply/demand fundamentals improve and Foundry/Logic to be up slightly in 2019 with continued strength in 2020.

Figure 5: Wafer Fab Equipment Spending



Source: Gartner and J.P. Morgan estimates.

Figure 6: WFE Spend By Type



Source: Industry data and J.P. Morgan estimates.

Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

North America Equity Research
04 September 2019

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Appendix I – Valuation and Comp Table

Table 1: Semiconductor Valuation and Comp Table

	JPM		Market Cap	9/3/19 Price	Non-GAAP EPS		P/E		Revenue		P/S		EV/Sales		Consensus Non-GAAP EPS		Consensus Sales		Consensus P/E		Consensus P/S	
	Rating				C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E	C19E	C20E
Harlan Sur, Lead Coverage phone: 415-315-6700, email: harlan.sur@jpmchase.com																						
PC Semiconductors																						
INTC	OW	\$212,491	\$46.98	\$4.40	\$4.75	10.7	9.9	\$69,500	\$71,350	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.1	\$4.37	\$4.44	\$69,406	\$71,050	10.7	10.6	3.1	3.0	
NVDA	OW	\$101,129	\$164.17	\$5.41	\$7.13	30.4	23.0	\$10,776	\$13,006	9.4	7.8	8.7	7.2	\$5.07	\$6.96	\$10,489	\$12,729	32.4	23.6	9.6	7.9	
AMD	N	\$34,268	\$30.90	\$0.62	\$0.94	49.8	32.9	\$6,781	\$8,113	5.1	4.2	5.0	4.2	\$0.61	\$1.05	\$6,753	\$8,383	50.6	29.5	5.1	4.1	
Memory																						
MU	OW	\$50,794	\$44.99	\$3.47	\$1.79	13.0	25.1	\$19,607	\$18,669	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.6	\$3.28	\$3.32	\$19,543	\$21,397	13.7	13.5	2.6	2.4	
WDC	N	\$16,896	\$57.47	\$1.19	\$4.31	48.3	13.3	\$15,403	\$18,041	1.1	0.9	1.6	1.3	\$1.35	\$4.89	\$15,407	\$17,053	42.6	11.8	1.1	1.0	
Enterprise/Networking/Datacenter Semiconductors																						
XLNX	UW	\$25,896	\$100.40	\$3.85	\$4.01	26.1	25.0	\$3,347	\$3,708	7.7	7.0	7.1	6.4	\$3.87	\$4.30	\$3,364	\$3,728	25.9	23.3	7.7	6.9	
MRVL	OW	\$15,455	\$23.29	\$0.70	\$1.17	33.3	19.9	\$2,679	\$3,074	5.8	5.0	6.2	5.4	\$0.72	\$1.10	\$2,704	\$3,087	32.2	21.1	5.7	5.0	
AVGO	OW	\$115,649	\$274.05	\$21.22	\$25.05	12.9	10.9	\$22,174	\$24,010	5.2	4.8	6.4	5.9	\$21.38	\$24.15	\$22,520	\$23,937	12.8	11.3	5.1	4.8	
MLNX	NR	\$6,043	\$107.00	\$6.35	N/A	16.9	N/A	\$1,253	N/A	4.8	N/A	4.2	N/A	\$6.39	\$7.13	\$1,258	\$1,389	16.7	15.0	4.8	4.4	
IPHI	OW	\$2,717	\$60.13	\$1.52	\$2.23	39.6	27.0	\$354	\$430	7.7	6.3	7.9	6.5	\$1.48	\$2.03	\$354	\$423	40.5	29.6	7.7	6.4	
Mobile Devices																						
SVKS	N	\$12,861	\$74.17	\$5.86	\$6.30	12.7	11.8	\$3,244	\$3,367	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	\$5.92	\$6.63	\$3,274	\$3,547	12.5	11.2	3.9	3.6	
QRVO	OW	\$8,513	\$70.28	\$5.21	\$5.99	13.5	11.7	\$2,974	\$3,155	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8	\$5.23	\$5.71	\$2,975	\$3,091	13.4	12.3	2.9	2.8	
KN	UW	\$1,860	\$20.11	\$1.13	\$1.25	17.8	16.1	\$862	\$908	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.2	\$1.13	\$1.26	\$869	\$905	17.8	15.9	2.2	2.1	
Analog/Microcontrollers																						
TXN	OW	\$116,018	\$121.74	\$5.35	\$5.70	22.8	21.4	\$14,710	\$15,364	7.9	7.6	7.9	7.5	\$5.43	\$5.86	\$14,685	\$15,456	22.4	20.8	7.9	7.5	
ADI	N	\$39,688	\$106.38	\$5.04	\$5.53	21.1	19.2	\$5,884	\$6,187	6.7	6.4	7.5	7.2	\$5.09	\$5.41	\$5,931	\$6,148	20.9	19.7	6.7	6.5	
NXPI	N	\$28,272	\$99.17	\$7.54	\$8.60	13.2	11.5	\$8,792	\$9,258	3.2	3.1	4.4	4.2	\$7.59	\$8.81	\$8,832	\$9,372	13.1	11.3	3.2	3.0	
MCHP	OW	\$21,554	\$84.89	\$5.75	\$6.81	14.8	12.5	\$5,350	\$5,754	4.0	3.7	5.6	5.2	\$5.78	\$6.64	\$5,354	\$5,738	14.7	12.8	4.0	3.8	
MXIM	OW	\$14,826	\$53.75	\$2.08	\$2.62	25.9	20.5	\$2,159	\$2,345	6.9	6.3	6.3	5.8	\$2.10	\$2.43	\$2,168	\$2,292	25.6	22.1	6.8	6.5	
MXL	N	\$1,369	\$19.31	\$0.83	\$1.07	23.2	18.0	\$327	\$355	4.2	3.9	4.8	4.4	\$0.83	\$1.03	\$328	\$356	23.2	18.7	4.2	3.9	
Diversified/Consumer/Standard Components/Other																						
ON	N	\$7,289	\$17.45	\$1.56	\$1.60	11.2	10.9	\$5,494	\$5,696	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.8	\$1.56	\$1.74	\$5,502	\$5,759	11.2	10.0	1.3	1.3	
MTSI	UW	\$1,285	\$19.48	N/A	\$0.52	N/A	37.2	\$460	\$485	2.8	2.6	3.9	3.7	(\$0.61)	\$0.31	\$451	\$474	(32.0)	63.9	2.8	2.7	
VSH	N	\$2,257	\$15.56	\$1.27	\$1.13	12.3	13.8	\$2,646	\$2,583	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	\$1.34	\$1.26	\$2,653	\$2,568	11.6	12.4	0.9	0.9	
CY	NR	\$5,420	\$23.03	\$1.12	N/A	20.6	N/A	\$2,210	N/A	3.8	N/A	4.1	N/A	\$1.11	\$1.25	\$2,207	\$2,339	20.8	18.4	3.8	3.6	
Semiconductor Capital Equipment																						
AMAT	OW	\$44,611	\$47.61	\$2.91	\$3.70	16.3	12.9	\$14,446	\$16,030	3.1	2.8	3.2	2.9	\$2.95	\$3.52	\$14,474	\$15,909	16.1	13.5	3.1	2.8	
LRCX	OW	\$32,894	\$212.94	\$13.35	\$14.90	16.0	14.3	\$9,122	\$9,631	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	\$13.47	\$13.47	\$9,149	\$9,997	15.8	15.8	3.6	3.3	
KLAC	OW	\$24,279	\$149.93	\$8.18	\$10.24	18.3	14.6	\$5,096	\$5,630	4.8	4.3	5.0	4.5	\$8.14	\$8.14	\$5,095	\$5,635	18.4	18.4	4.8	4.3	
Large Cap Semi Average																						
Small-Mid Cap Semi Average																						
Semi Group Average (ex-outliers)																						
SOX Index																						
S&P500																						

Source: Company reports, Bloomberg and J.P. Morgan estimates. Pricing as of the market close 09/03/19.

Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

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Companies Discussed in This Report (all prices in this report as of market close on 30 August 2019)

Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL/\$1190.53/Overweight), Applied Materials (AMAT/\$48.02/Overweight), Broadcom Inc (AVGO/\$282.64/Overweight), Inphi (IPHI/\$61.19/Overweight), Intel (INTC/\$47.41/Overweight), KLA Corporation (KLAC/\$147.90/Overweight), Lam Research (LRCX/\$210.51/Overweight), Marvell Technology Group (MRVL/\$23.97/Overweight), Microchip Technology (MCHP/\$86.33/Overweight), Micron Technology (MU/\$45.27/Overweight), Microsoft (MSFT/\$137.86/Overweight), NVIDIA Corporation (NVDA/\$167.51/Overweight), Texas Instruments (TXN/\$123.75/Overweight)

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IB clients*	52%	49%	36%
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Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

North America Equity Research
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Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

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Harlan Sur
(1-415) 315-6700
harlan.sur@jpmorgan.com

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