



Microsoft Corp. (MSFT)

Updated July 30th, 2021, by Eli Inkrot

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$285	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	1.1%	Market Cap:	\$2.1 T
Fair Value Price:	\$204	5 Year Growth Estimate:	7.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	08/18/21
% Fair Value:	140%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-6.5%	Dividend Payment Date:	09/09/21
Dividend Yield:	0.8%	5 Year Price Target	\$286	Years Of Dividend Growth:	19
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Last Dividend Increase:	9.8%

Overview & Current Events

Microsoft Corporation, founded in 1975 and headquartered in Redmond, WA, develops, manufactures and sells both software and hardware to businesses and consumers. Its offerings include operating systems, business software, software development tools, video games and gaming hardware, and cloud services. Microsoft's market capitalization is now \$2.1 trillion, compared to annual underlying earnings power of \$60+ billion.

On September 15th, 2020 Microsoft declared a \$0.56 quarterly dividend, marking the 19th consecutive yearly increase.

On July 27th, 2021, Microsoft reported Q4 and fiscal year 2021 results for the period ending June 30th, 2021. For the quarter, the company generated revenue of \$46.2 billion, representing a 21.3% increase compared to Q4 2020. The growth was across the board with Productivity and Business Processes, Intelligent Cloud and Personal Computing growing 25%, 30% and 9% respectively. Azure, Microsoft's high-growth cloud platform, grew by 51% year-over-year. Net income equaled \$16.5 billion or \$2.17 per share compared to \$11.2 billion or \$1.46 per share in Q4 2020.

For the year Microsoft generated \$168.1 billion in revenue, representing a 17.5% increase compared to 2020. Adjusted net income equaled \$60.7 billion or \$7.97 per share compared to \$44.3 billion or \$5.76 per share in 2020.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
EPS	\$2.72	\$2.65	\$2.63	\$2.65	\$2.79	\$3.08	\$3.88	\$4.75	\$5.76	\$7.97	\$8.50	\$11.92
DPS	\$0.80	\$0.89	\$1.12	\$1.24	\$1.44	\$1.56	\$1.68	\$1.80	\$1.99	\$2.19	\$2.24	\$3.45
Shares¹	8,381	8,328	8,239	8,027	7,808	7,708	7,677	7,643	7,571	7,608	7,500	7,400

After years of solid growth, Microsoft had a hard time growing its profits during the 2011 through 2015 timeframe. After some change-up in its management and a strategic shift towards cloud computing and mobile, Microsoft's growth has been reinvigorated. Growth rates for revenues and especially for profits have been compelling during recent years.

Microsoft's cloud business is growing at a rapid pace thanks to Azure, which has been growing tremendously for a few years. Microsoft's Office product range, which had been a low-growth cash cow for many years, is showing strong growth rates as well after Microsoft changed its business model towards the Office 365 software-as-a-service (SaaS) system. Due to low variable costs, Microsoft should be able to maintain a solid earnings growth rate for the foreseeable future. Buybacks are an additional factor for earnings-per-share growth, although this form of capital allocation becomes less attractive with an elevated valuation.

The markets Microsoft addresses continue to grow, with cloud computing being the most compelling. This means that even without any market share gains Microsoft will most likely be able to grow its top line. Thanks to rising margins and a declining share count, Microsoft's growth outlook over the coming years looks quite compelling. Longer-term, from 2008 through 2019, Microsoft was able to grow its earnings-per-share by 8.8% annually. We are forecasting 7% annual growth over the intermediate term, as we weigh the tremendous results as of late with the significant base from which Microsoft must grow.

¹ In millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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Valuation Analysis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Now	2027
Avg. P/E	9.6	10.4	11.2	14.0	17.0	18.1	20.2	22.1	23.7	27.4	33.5	24.0
Avg. Yld.	2.5%	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.9%	2.5%	2.0%	1.6%	1.3%	0.8%	1.2%

Microsoft is marked by several very distinct valuation periods. In the 1990's and early 2000's, it was not uncommon to see shares trade north of 30- or 40-times earnings. From 2003 through 2008 shares regularly traded in the 20 to 25 times earnings range. From 2009 through 2014 a 10 to 15 multiple was typical. And lately, 20 times earnings and above has once again become the norm as growth has picked up extensively. Our view is that an above average multiple is warranted for the business, especially considering the strong balance sheet, but not something that approaches 30+ times earnings. From this point we are forecasting a meaningful headwind on the valuation front, using 24x as fair value.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Payout	29%	34%	43%	47%	52%	51%	43%	38%	35%	27%	26%	29%

Microsoft has been a solid income investment throughout the last decade. The dividend payout ratio has never risen substantially above 50%, and the fact that Microsoft owns one of the strongest balance sheets in the world means that the dividend is very safe. However, the below-average yield makes Microsoft less suitable as an income stock today.

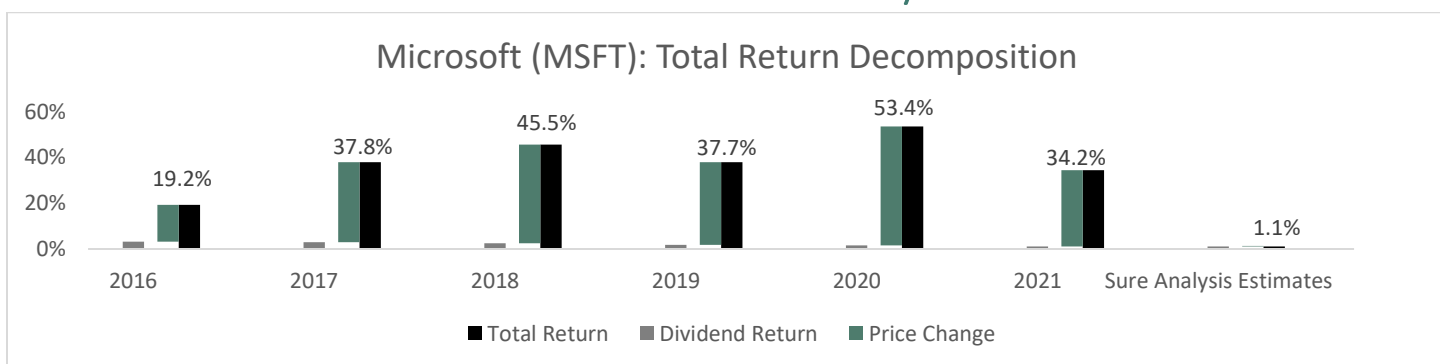
Microsoft has a great moat in the operating system & Office business units and a strong market position in cloud computing. It is unlikely that the company will lose market share with its older, established products, whereas cloud computing is such a high-growth industry that there is enough room for growth for multiple companies. Microsoft has a renowned brand and a global presence, which provides competitive advantages. The company is relatively resilient against recessions, and its AAA-rated balance sheet makes it a low-risk business.

As of the most recent quarterly report Microsoft held \$130.3 billion in cash and securities, \$184.4 billion in current assets and \$333.8 billion in total assets against \$88.7 billion in current liabilities and \$191.8 billion in total liabilities.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

After being up 16% and 5% in our last two reports, shares are up another 13% in the last three months. Microsoft had been a low-growth cash cow throughout the majority of the last decade, but a focus on cloud computing and mobile has reinvigorated Microsoft's growth. However, we believe intermediate total return potential, 1.1% annually, is limited as the 7% anticipated growth rate and 0.8% starting dividend yield could be largely offset by the potential for a meaningful valuation headwind. Even though Microsoft the business looks strong, we are not compelled by the valuation. Shares earn a sell rating.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	73723	77849	86833	93580	91154	96571	110360	125843	143015	168090
Gross Profit	56193	57464	59755	60542	58374	62310	72007	82933	96937	115860
Gross Margin	76.2%	73.8%	68.8%	64.7%	64.0%	64.5%	65.2%	65.9%	67.8%	68.9%
SG&A Exp.	18426	20289	20488	20324	19198	19942	22223	23098	24709	25220
D&A Exp.	2967	3755	5212	5957	6622	8778	10261	11682	12796	11690
Operating Profit	27956	26764	27886	28172	27188	29331	35058	42959	52959	69920
Op. Margin	37.9%	34.4%	32.1%	30.1%	29.8%	30.4%	31.8%	34.1%	37.0%	41.6%
Net Profit	16978	21863	22074	12193	20539	25489	16571	39240	44281	61270
Net Margin	23.0%	28.1%	25.4%	13.0%	22.5%	26.4%	15.0%	31.2%	31.0%	36.5%
Free Cash Flow	29321	24576	27017	23724	24982	31378	32252	38260	45234	56120
Income Tax	5289	5189	5746	6314	5100	4412	19903	4448	8755	9831

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Assets (\$B)	121	142	172	174	193	250	259	287	301	334
Cash & Equivalents (\$B)	7	4	9	6	7	8	12	11	13.6	14.2
Acc. Receivable (\$B)	16	15	20	18	18	22	26	30	32.0	38
Inventories (\$B)	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	1.9	2.6
Goodwill & Int. (\$B)	17	18	27	22	22	45	44	50	50.4	57.5
Total Liab. (\$B)	55	63	83	94	121	163	176	184	183.0	191.8
Accounts Payable (\$B)	4	5	7	7	7	7	9	9	12.5	15.2
Long-Term Debt (\$B)	12	16	23	35	53	86	76	72	63.3	58.2
Total Equity (\$B)	66	79	90	80	72	88	83	102	118.3	142
D/E Ratio	0.18	0.20	0.25	0.44	0.74	0.98	0.92	0.71	0.54	0.41

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Return on Assets	14.8%	16.6%	14.0%	7.0%	11.2%	11.5%	6.5%	14.4%	15.1%	19.3%
Return on Equity	27.5%	30.1%	26.2%	14.4%	27.0%	31.9%	19.4%	42.4%	40.1%	47.1%
ROIC	23.1%	25.3%	21.3%	10.7%	17.1%	17.0%	10.0%	23.5%	24.9%	32.1%
Shares Out.	8,381	8,328	8,239	8,027	7,808	7,708	7,677	7,643	7,683	7,608
Revenue/Share	8.67	9.19	10.34	11.34	11.38	12.33	14.16	16.23	18.61	22.09
FCF/Share	3.45	2.90	3.22	2.87	3.12	4.01	4.14	4.93	5.89	7.38

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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