



Apple Inc. (AAPL)

Updated August 4th, 2023, by Eli Inkrot

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$185	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	-1.6%	Market Cap:	\$2.9 T
Fair Value Price:	\$117	5 Year Growth Estimate:	7.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	08/11/23
% Fair Value:	158%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-8.8%	Dividend Payment Date:	08/17/23
Dividend Yield:	0.5%	5 Year Price Target	\$164	Years Of Dividend Growth:	11
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Retirement Suitability Score:	D	Rating:	Sell

Overview & Current Events

Apple revolutionized personal technology with the introduction of the Macintosh in 1984. Today the technology company designs, manufactures, and sells products such as iPhones, iPads, Mac, Apple Watch and Apple TV. Apple also has a services business that sells music, apps, and subscriptions. The company was founded in 1976, is headquartered in Cupertino, CA and is valued at \$2.9 trillion.

On May 4th, 2023, Apple authorized an additional \$90 billion for share repurchases and declared a \$0.24 quarterly dividend, marking a 4.3% year-over-year increase.

On August 3rd, 2023, Apple reported Q3 fiscal year 2023 results for the period ending July 1st, 2023. (Apple's fiscal year ends the last Saturday in September). For the quarter, Apple generated revenue of \$81.8 billion, a -1.4% decline compared to Q3 2022. Product sales were down -5.7%, driven by a -19.8% decline in iPad sales. The iPhone segment (48% of total sales) was down -2.4%. Service sales increased 8.2% to \$21.2 billion and made up 25.9% of all sales in the quarter. Net income equaled \$19.88 billion or \$1.26 per share compared to \$19.44 billion or \$1.20 per share in Q2 2022. Notably, earnings-per-share increased 5.0% while company-wide profits increased 2.3%, due to a lower share count.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
EPS	\$1.42	\$1.61	\$2.31	\$2.08	\$2.30	\$2.98	\$2.97	\$3.28	\$5.61	\$6.11	\$6.15	\$8.63
DPS	\$0.41	\$0.45	\$0.50	\$0.55	\$0.60	\$0.68	\$0.75	\$0.80	\$0.85	\$0.90	\$0.96	\$1.82
Shares¹	25,178	23,465	22,315	21,345	20,505	19,020	17,773	16,977	16,865	16,326	15,700	13,500

In the 2013 through 2022 stretch, Apple grew its earnings-per-share by 17.6% annually. Naturally this is an attractive growth rate, although it is lower than the growth rates Apple produced in the years prior to 2013. The larger the bottom line gets, the harder it becomes to grow at a very fast pace.

Going forward Apple's earnings growth will be driven by several factors. One of these is the ongoing cycle of iPhone releases, which creates lumpy results. In the long run Apple should be able to grow its iPhone sales, albeit in an irregular fashion. Moreover, in emerging countries where consumers have rising disposable incomes, Apple should be able to increase the number of smartphones it is selling in the coming years. In addition, Apple's Services unit which consists of iTunes, Apple Music, the App Store, iCloud, Apple Pay, etc., has recorded a significant revenue growth rate in recent years. Services revenues grow at a fast rate and produce high-margin, recurring revenues.

Another factor that has played a role in the past is the shrinking share count. Due to its immense cash flows Apple can repurchase hundreds of millions of shares. Apple should continue to lower its share count, further boosting EPS.

The COVID-19 pandemic does not appear to be materially impairing the company's underlying earnings power. Over the intermediate term we believe Apple could generate 7% annual growth.

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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	12.3	13.0	12.8	12.6	14.9	15.3	16.1	24.7	23.4	25.5	30.1	19.0
Avg. Yld.	2.3%	2.2%	1.7%	2.1%	1.8%	1.5%	1.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	1.1%

In the 2011 through 2016 stretch shares of Apple routinely traded with an average price-to-earnings multiple between 12- and 13-times earnings. In the years since the earnings multiple has expanded tremendously. With shares now trading near 30 times expected earnings, we believe there is the potential for a significant valuation headwind in the years to come. This view could be too conservative if the valuation remains elevated, but we are not yet ready to make that leap and instead forecast a high-teens multiple. While the dividend yield is not spectacular, it is very well covered with the propensity to grow over time.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	29%	28%	22%	26%	26%	23%	25%	24%	15%	15%	16%	21%

Apple started paying a dividend in 2012. Since then, the dividend has been increased regularly, but at a pace slower than earnings-per-share growth, which is why the dividend payout ratio has remained low. This, coupled with the company's enviable balance sheet, makes Apple's dividend look quite safe.

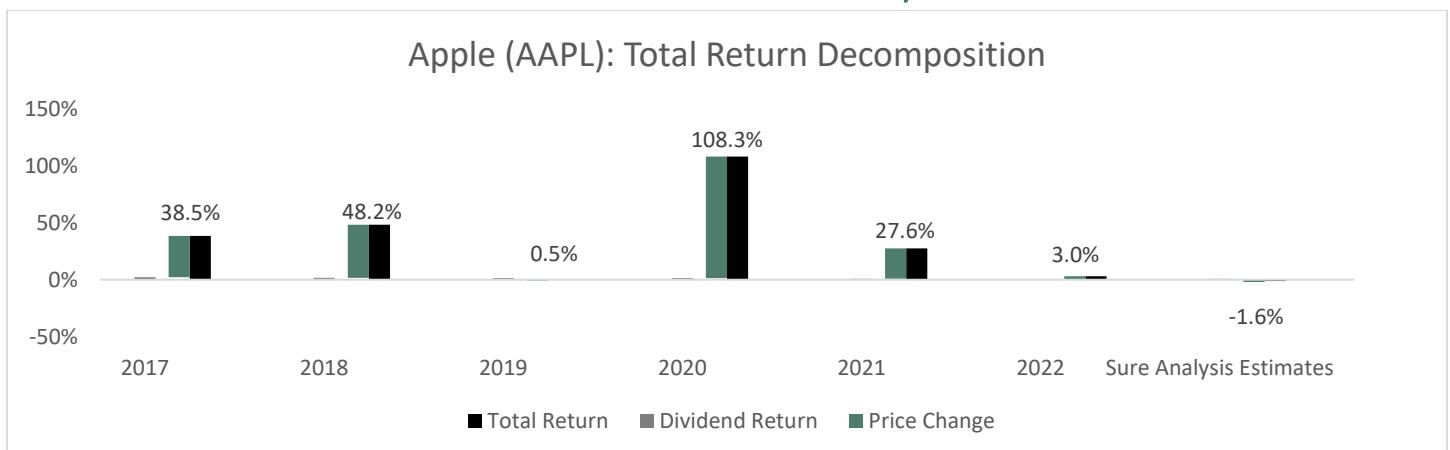
Apple's brand is admired around the globe, and together with Samsung the company basically earns all the profits in the top end smartphone market. In addition, Apple's Services will bring in an increasing stream of recurring revenues. During the last financial crisis Apple's profits rose, but that was during the hyper-growth phase. Since Apple is still highly dependent on sales of relatively high-cost smartphones, a major economic crisis could hurt its profits.

As of the most recent report Apple held \$62.5 billion in cash and securities, \$122.7 billion in current assets and \$335.0 billion in total assets (of which an additional \$104.1 billion are non-current securities) against \$125.0 billion in current liabilities and \$274.8 billion in total liabilities.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Shares are up 14% in the last year. We are enthused on several fronts, including an extraordinary business story, a growing Services segment and a balance sheet that provides significant safety. However, in our view, the current valuation remains a hindrance. We are forecasting -1.6% annual total return potential, stemming from 7% growth and a 0.5% starting yield, offset by the potential for a valuation headwind. Due to the valuation shares earn a sell rating.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue (\$B)	170.91	182.8	233.7	215.64	229.2	265.6	260.2	274.5	365.8	394.3
Gross Profit	64304	70537	93626	84263	88186	102B	98392	105B	153B	171B
Gross Margin	37.6%	38.6%	40.1%	39.1%	38.5%	38.3%	37.8%	38.3%	41.8%	43.4%
SG&A Exp.	10830	11993	14329	14194	15261	16705	18245	19920	21970	25090
D&A Exp.	6757	7946	11257	10505	10157	10903	12547	11060	11280	11100
Operating Profit	48999	52503	71230	60024	61344	70898	63930	66290	109B	119B
Op. Margin	28.7%	28.7%	30.5%	27.8%	26.8%	26.7%	24.6%	24.1%	29.8%	30.2%
Net Profit	37037	39510	53394	45687	48351	59531	55256	57410	94680	99800
Net Margin	21.7%	21.6%	22.8%	21.2%	21.1%	22.4%	21.2%	20.9%	25.9%	25.3%
Free Cash Flow	44590	49900	69778	52276	50803	64121	58896	73360	92950	111B
Income Tax	13118	13973	19121	15685	15738	13372	10481	9680	14530	19300

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets (\$B)	207.00	231.84	290.35	321.69	375.32	365.73	338.52	323.9	351	353
Cash & Equivalents	14259	13844	21120	20484	20289	25913	48844	38020	34940	26650
Accounts Receivable	13102	17460	16849	15754	17874	23186	22926	16120	26280	28180
Inventories	1764	2111	2349	2132	4855	3956	4106	4061	6580	4946
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	5756	8758	9009	8620	8015	---	---	---	---	---
Total Liab. (\$B)	83.45	120.29	170.99	193.44	241.27	258.58	248.03	258.6	287.9	302.1
Accounts Payable	22367	30196	35490	37294	49049	55888	46236	42300	54760	64120
Long-Term Debt (\$B)	16.96	35.30	64.33	87.03	115.68	114.48	108.05	112.4	124.7	120.1
Total Equity (\$B)	123.55	111.55	119.36	128.25	134.05	107.15	904.88	63340	63.1	50670
LTD/E Ratio	0.1373	0.3164	0.539	0.6786	0.863	1.0685	1.19	1.72	1.98	2.37

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Return on Assets	19.3%	18.0%	20.5%	14.9%	13.9%	16.1%	15.7%	17.3%	28.1%	28.4%
Return on Equity	30.6%	33.6%	46.2%	36.9%	36.9%	49.4%	55.9%	73.7%	147.4%	175.5%
ROIC	28.6%	27.5%	32.3%	22.9%	20.8%	25.3%	26.3%	30.5%	51.8%	55.7%
Shares Out.	25,178	23,465	22,315	21,345	20,505	19,020	17,773	16,977	16,860	16,330
Revenue/Share	6.55	7.46	10.09	9.80	10.91	13.28	13.99	15.66	21.69	24.15
FCF/Share	1.71	2.04	3.01	2.43	2.46	3.21	3.17	4.19	5.51	6.83

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

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