



# Intercontinental Exchange Inc. (ICE)

Updated August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 by Prakash Kolli

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$114	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	10.3%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$63.73B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$118	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	8.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	09/14/23
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	96%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	0.8%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	09/29/23
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	1.5%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$174	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	11
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	C	<b>Rating:</b>	Buy

## Overview & Current Events

Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. is an operator of financial exchanges and mortgage technology. The company owns the New York Stock Exchange, operates a derivatives exchange, operates an electronic marketplace for futures and over the counter energy contracts, and owns the leading soft commodity exchange. ICE also offers pricing and market data, risk management, and trading support. The company acquired Ellie Mae in 2020 for \$11B, expanding into mortgage technology services. The firm now has three reporting segments: Exchanges (60%), Fixed Income and Data Services (30%), and Mortgage Technology (10%). Total revenue in 2022 was \$7.3B.

ICE reported Q2 2023 results on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Net revenue grew 4% to \$1,888M from \$1,814M and adjusted diluted earnings per share rose 8% to \$1.43 from \$1.32 on a year-over-year basis. On a GAAP basis, diluted earnings per share spiked to \$1.42 from \$0.99 in comparable periods. ICE benefitted from higher revenue driven by exchange and fixed income services growth offset by much weaker mortgage origination and closing.

The Exchanges segment revenue increased 9% to \$1,093M in the quarter from \$1,005M in the prior year driven by increases in Ags (+27%), Data and Connectivity (+6%), and Energy (+35%), offset by OTC & Other (-4%), Cash and Equity Options (-3%), Listings (-5%), and Financials (-16%). Fixed Income and Data Services segment revenue increased 7% to \$546M from \$512M in comparable periods driven by increases in Fixed Income Execution (+17%), Other Data and Network (+7%), CDS Clearing (+26%), and Income Data and Analytics (+1%). Mortgage Technology segment revenue was down (-16%) to \$249M versus \$297M in the prior year. Origination volumes are (-13%) lower due to higher mortgage rates and low inventory, Closings fell (-28%), Data & Analytics (-5%), and Other (-32%).

ICE is acquiring Black Knight, a mortgage technology company, for \$13B in cash and stock pending approvals.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
<b>EPS</b>	\$1.63	\$1.93	\$2.43	\$2.78	\$2.95	\$3.59	\$3.88	\$4.51	\$5.61	\$5.30	<b>\$5.64</b>	<b>\$8.29</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$0.13	\$0.52	\$0.58	\$0.68	\$0.80	\$0.96	\$1.10	\$1.20	\$1.32	\$1.52	<b>\$1.68</b>	<b>\$2.83</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	575	565	595	595	596	569	604	561	561	556	<b>550</b>	<b>524</b>

ICE has grown the bottom line at a good clip since the Great Recession driven by both organic growth and many acquisitions. ICE is an acquisitive company and bought several companies including NYSE Euronext in 2013, Interactive Data in 2015, and Ellie Mae in 2020, adding to the top line. But the additional shares issued for the purchases have kept a lid on earnings per share growth. Over time, organic growth will come from increased trading, new market and pricing data products, and mortgage origination. The company increased adjusted earnings per share at a roughly 16% rate from 2006 to 2022. We are now forecasting on average annual 8% earnings per share growth out through 2028, accounting for slowing growth rates. ICE initiated a dividend in 2013 and grew it at a double-digit rate since then, but the current yield is low. We are forecasting on average 11% annual growth rate in the dividend due to the low payout ratio

<sup>1</sup> Share count 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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of ~30%. The company has not conducted significant share buybacks in the past, but this changed as a \$2.4B share repurchase was authorized at the start of 2020, which was then suspended because of the Black Knight deal.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	21.6	21.1	19.3	18.8	21.5	20.7	22.0	24.8	23.3	20.5	<b>20.2</b>	<b>21.0</b>
Avg. Yld.	0.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

ICE's stock price is up slightly since our last report. The company's mortgage segment is facing significant headwinds and uncertainty about the Black Knight acquisition. We updated our 2023 earnings estimates to consensus. Our fair value multiple is 21X, which is near the 10-year average. Our fair value estimate is \$118. Our 5-year price target is \$174.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

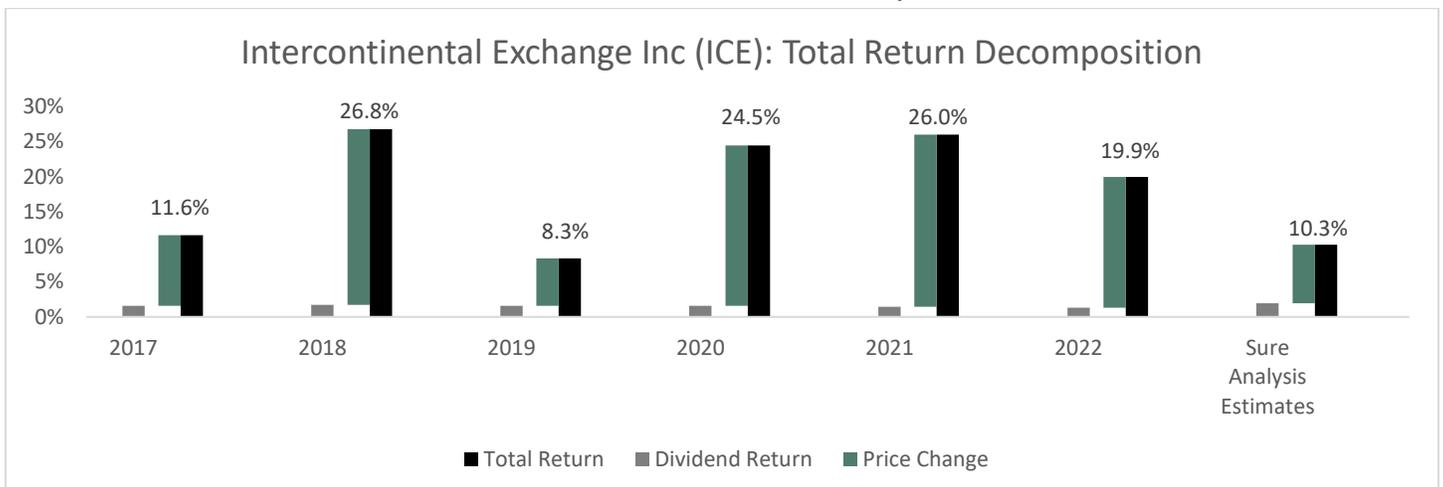
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	8%	27%	24%	24%	27%	27%	28%	27%	24%	29%	<b>30%</b>	<b>34%</b>

ICE's competitive advantage is its scale in trading, the NYSE brand, proprietary exchange products, data in commodity futures and fixed-income data, and mortgage technology. The company can provide unique datasets from its exchanges that competitors do not have access to. ICE does face risks in changing regulatory environments, lower home sales, and a decline in trading volumes. A downturn in trading volume during a recession will likely reduce ICE's top and bottom lines. During the Great Recession, EPS exhibited a significant sequential quarterly decline from \$0.26 in Q1 2008 to a bottom of \$0.13 in Q4 2008 before recovering through 2009. By Q1 2010, quarterly EPS had returned to \$0.27. The stock price declined severely during this time. Next, there is the omnipresent threat of cyber-attacks or disruptions to trading. ICE is taking on significant debt and leverage to acquire and build its mortgage business at a time when interest rates are rising creating some risk. Long-term debt was \$18,128M at end of Q2 2023. This was offset by \$8,290M in cash and marketable securities. The leverage ratio is now over 3.3X and interest coverage is about 5.4X.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

At present we are forecasting a 10.3% total annualized return through 2028 from a dividend yield of 1.5%, 8% EPS growth, and 0.8% P/E multiple expansion. ICE is acquiring Black Knight for \$13B, but at the cost of much higher debt and leverage in the face of a slowing housing market and higher rates. At the current stock price, we rate this equity a buy.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Revenue</b>	1730	4352	4682	5971	5843	6276	6547	8244	9168	9636
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1296	2500	2727	3559	3692	3985	4160	4848	5018	5202
<b>Gross Margin</b>	74.9%	57.4%	58.2%	59.6%	63.2%	63.5%	63.5%	58.8%	54.7%	54.0%
<b>SG&amp;A Exp.</b>	207	590	515	697	742	782	823	959	458	440
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	156	333	374	610	535	586	662	751	1009	1031
<b>Operating Profit</b>	933	1577	1838	2252	2415	2617	2675	3138	3551	3731
<b>Operating Margin</b>	53.9%	36.2%	39.3%	37.7%	41.3%	41.7%	40.9%	38.1%	38.7%	38.7%
<b>Net Profit</b>	254	981	1274	1430	2526	1988	1933	2089	4058	1446
<b>Net Margin</b>	14.7%	22.5%	27.2%	23.9%	43.2%	31.7%	29.5%	25.3%	44.3%	15.0%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	556	1264	1034	1784	1728	2253	2354	2471	2671	3072
<b>Income Tax</b>	184	402	358	586	-28	500	521	658	1629	310

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total Assets</b>	64422	68254	77987	82003	78264	92791	94493	126200	193500	194338
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	961	652	627	407	535	724	841	583	607	1799
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	546	508	700	777	903	953	988	1230	1280	1169
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	18512	16315	22837	22711	22485	23547	23600	35699	34860	34201
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	52041	55862	63147	66249	61279	75560	77207	106666	170750	171577
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	477	546	514	519	590	626	643	846	703	866
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	5058	4277	7308	6364	6100	7441	7819	16537	13290	18122
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	12349	12360	14808	15717	16957	17201	17255	19498	22710	22706
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.41	0.35	0.49	0.40	0.36	0.43	0.45	0.85	0.61	0.80

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Return on Assets</b>	0.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.8%	3.2%	2.3%	2.1%	1.9%	2.5%	0.7%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	3.2%	7.9%	9.4%	9.4%	15.5%	11.6%	11.2%	11.4%	19.2%	6.4%
<b>ROIC</b>	2.3%	5.8%	6.6%	6.5%	11.2%	8.3%	7.8%	6.8%	11.1%	3.7%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	575	565	595	595	596	569	604	598	565	561
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	4.38	7.60	8.38	9.97	9.84	10.84	11.59	14.85	16.23	17.18
<b>FCF/Share</b>	1.41	2.21	1.85	2.98	2.91	3.89	4.17	4.45	4.73	5.48

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

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