

COMPANY UPDATE

2026. 7. 30

Tech Team

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▶ AT A GLANCE

HOLD		
Target price	KRW28,000	-6.5%
Current price	KRW29,950	
Market cap	KRW1.8t/USD1.2b	
Shares (float)	58,741,890 (55.5%)	
52-week high/low	KRW44,000/KRW28,200	
Avg daily trading value (60-day)	KRW3.7b/USD2.6m	

▶ ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE

	1M	6M	12M
Shift Up (%)	-8.7	-16.9	-29.1
Vs Kospi (%pts)	35.4	-23.4	-59.6

▶ KEY CHANGES

(KRW)	New	Old	Diff
Recommend.	HOLD	HOLD	
Target price	28,000	32,000	-12.5%
2026E EPS	1,379	1,685	-18.2%
2027E EPS	1,102	1,346	-18.1%

▶ SAMSUNG vs THE STREET

No of estimates	9
Target price	45,556
Recommendation	3.8
※ Rating: 4 < → BUY, 3 = HOLD, 2 > → SELL	



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Shift Up (462870)

Nikke to rebound in 2Q, stock to recover in 2027

- We believe Shift Up's 2Q operating profit climbed 38% q-q (meeting consensus) on a strong recovery in *Nikke* sales.
- Its next potential blockbusters are set to be launched from 2028. While the company plans to sustain user anticipation through trailers and promotional content, its shares are only likely to rebound meaningfully from 2027.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

2Q preview—Nikke revenue recovery to drive earnings turnaround: We believe Shift Up's 2Q revenue declined 45% y-y due to lower sales of *Stellar Blade* but climbed 31% q-q on a strong recovery in *Nikke* sales. *Nikke*'s revenue likely expanded 11% y-y and 53% q-q in 2Q, supported by promotions relating to its 3.5-year anniversary. *Stellar Blade* sales likely fell 22% q-q. Though operating expenses likely grew KRW3b (due to the April acquisition of Unbound—a Japanese game developer), the projected *Nikke* sales rebound likely lifted the firm's 2Q operating profit to KRW29.6b (up 38% q-q; in line with FnGuide consensus).

Nikke—stable revenue stream: Since its launch, *Nikke* has consistently generated quarterly revenue in the KRW40b range thanks to regular content updates tied to semi-annual, annual, and seasonal events. This trend is expected to continue in 3Q, with a summer-themed swimsuit update likely to boost its sales ranking on both Google Play and the App Store. The firm's proven ability to sustain live-service operations provides a solid foundation for stable operating profit.

(Continued on the next page)

SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA

	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Revenue (KRWb)	295	222	215	311
Operating profit (KRWb)	181	97	72	141
Net profit (adj) (KRWb)	181	126	94	151
EPS (adj) (KRW)	2,650	1,379	1,102	2,069
EPS (adj) growth (% y-y)	10.4	-47.9	-20.1	87.7
EBITDA margin (%)	63.6	46.8	34.1	45.3
ROE (%)	21.6	13.0	8.7	12.5
P/E (adj) (x)	13.4	22.1	27.7	14.8
P/B (x)	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.9	15.7	21.1	10.5
Dividend yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Next major titles to be launched from 2028: Its next flagship title, *Spirit*, is expected to reach the market in 2028, with *BloodRayne* (the successor to *Stellar Blade*) potentially hitting the shelves in 2029. Unbound's new AAA titles—excluding casual games—are expected to arrive after *BloodRayne*. Shift Up is building a development system targeting the release of one major title *pa*, but meaningful revenue contributions from its new IP are not expected before 2028.

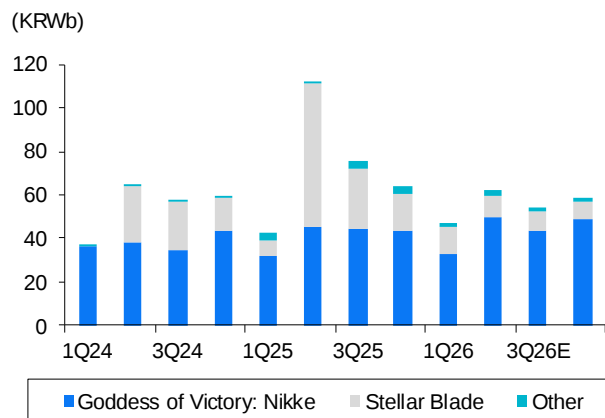
Maintaining HOLD and cutting target price: Given the projected absence of new-game releases until 2028, we maintain our HOLD rating and cut our target price from KRW32,000 to KRW28,000, which target we derived by applying the average P/E of domestic and international gaming companies (13.4x) to our estimated 2028 EPS figure (which includes projected revenue from new titles). While Shift Up plans to sustain user anticipation through the release of trailers and promotional content, a meaningful stock-price recovery is not expected until 2027.

2Q26 preview

(KRWb)	2Q26			Diff (%)		2Q25	1Q26	Chg	
	New	Old	Consensus	Old	Consensus			(% y-y)	(% q-q)
Sales	61.8	58.0	55.1	6.6	12.3	112.4	47.3	-45.0	30.6
Goddess of Victory: Nikke	49.9	40.7		22.7		45.1	32.7	10.7	52.8
Stellar Blade	10.0	14.7		-31.6		65.7	12.9	-84.7	-22.2
Other	1.8	2.6		-30.2		1.6	1.7	17.2	6.0
Operating expenses	32.2	27.5		17.1		44.2	25.8	-27.1	24.8
Labor costs	17.5	15.6		12.0		16.4	16.2	6.6	7.9
Commission paid	8.8	9.3		-4.7		25.2	4.5	-64.9	98.6
Other	5.8	2.6		126.7		2.5	5.1	132.4	14.2
Operating profit	29.6	30.5	30.0	-2.9	-1.2	68.2	21.5	-56.6	37.7
Pre-tax profit	40.0	34.8	40.0	15.0	0.0	62.6	47.4	-36.1	-15.6
Net profit	32.5	27.8	31.0	16.9	4.9	51.3	38.5	-36.6	-15.6
Net profit (controlling)	32.5	27.8	31.0	16.9	4.9	51.3	38.5	-36.6	-15.6
Margins (%)									
Operating profit	47.9	52.6	54.4			60.7	45.5		
Pre-tax profit	64.7	60.0	72.7			55.7	100.1		
Net profit	52.6	48.0	56.3			45.7	81.4		
Net profit (controlling)	52.6	48.0	56.3			45.7	81.4		

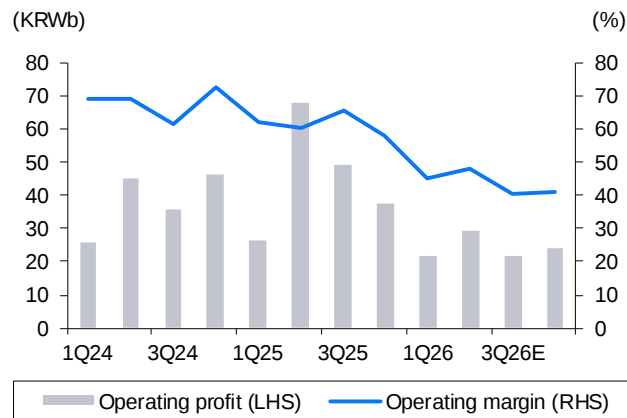
Source: Company data, FnGuide, Samsung Securities estimates

Quarterly sales, by game



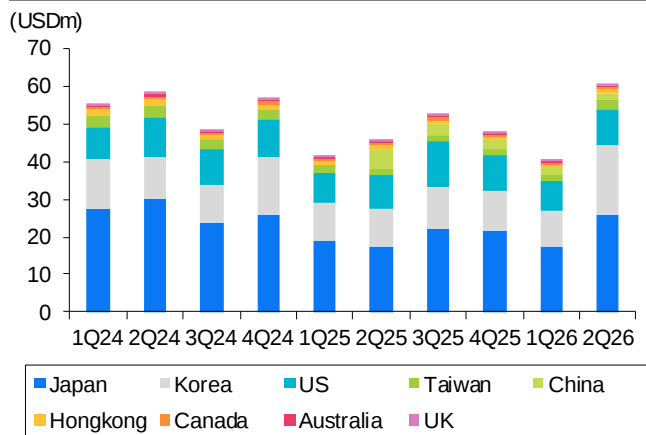
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Quarterly operating profit



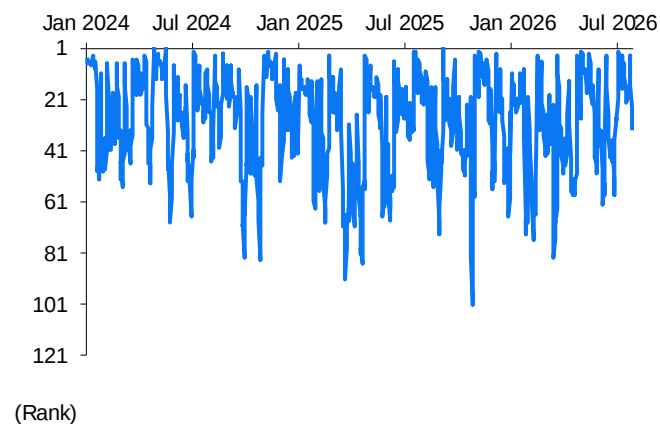
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Nikke: Quarterly sales estimates



Source: Sensor Tower

Nikke: Japan iOS game sales ranking



Source: Sensor Tower

Nikke's 3.5-year anniversary event with an idol concept



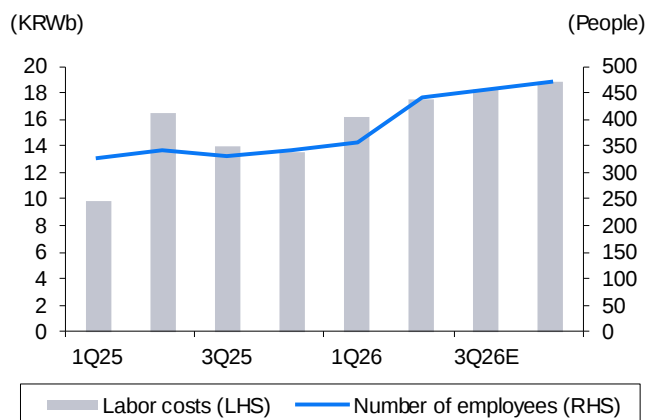
Source: Company data

'Stellar Blade: Blood Rain' video released in June



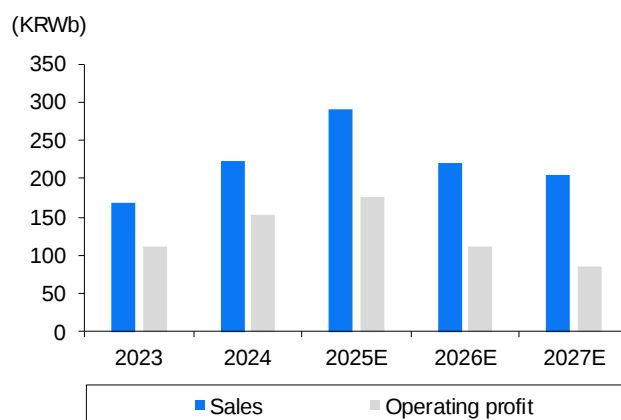
Source: Company data

Labor costs vs headcount



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Annual sales and operating profit



Source: Samsung Securities estimates

Upcoming titles

Game Title	Genre	Platform	Release Date
Project Spirit	Subculture RPG	PC/Mobile	2028
Stellar Blade: Blood Rain	AAA Action Adventure	PC/Console	2029
Unbound new title (Casual)	TBD	TBD	2027
Unbound new title (AAA)	TBD	PC/Console	2030

Source: Company data, media reports

Shift Up: P/E valuation

	(KRW)
2028 EPS	2,069
Target P/E* (x)	13.4
Fair price per share	27,707
Target price	28,000
Current price	30,550
Upside (%)	(8.3)

Note: *Average of 2026 P/E multiples at which peer group is trading; Based on Jul 27 closing prices

Source: Samsung Securities estimates

Peer P/E valuations

(x)	2026E
NCsoft	11.4
Netmarble	7.0
Pearl Abyss	7.0
Nexon	17.8
EA	24.2
NetEase	12.9
Average	13.4

Note: Based on Jul 27 closing prices

Source: Bloomberg

Quarterly results and forecasts

(KRWb)	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	1Q26	2Q26E	3Q26E	4Q26E	1Q27E	2Q27E	3Q27E	4Q27E
Sales	42.2	112.4	75.5	64.4	47.3	61.8	53.9	58.5	44.4	59.2	51.8	59.3
Goddess of Victory: Nikke	32.3	45.1	44.5	43.4	32.7	49.9	43.6	48.8	36.4	51.8	45.2	52.4
Stellar Blade	7.0	65.7	27.7	17.2	12.9	10.0	8.5	7.8	6.0	5.4	4.6	4.8
Spirit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	2.9	1.6	3.3	3.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1
Operating expenses	16.0	44.2	26.0	27.0	25.8	32.2	32.0	34.5	33.1	36.1	35.8	37.8
Labor costs	9.8	16.4	14.0	13.6	16.2	17.5	18.2	18.8	19.4	20.0	20.7	21.3
Commission paid	2.2	25.2	9.2	5.3	4.5	8.8	7.8	9.5	7.4	9.6	8.5	9.6
Other	3.9	2.5	2.7	8.2	5.1	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9
Operating profit	26.3	68.2	49.5	37.4	21.5	29.6	22.0	24.0	11.3	23.1	15.9	21.5
Pre-tax profit	31.6	62.6	68.1	56.7	47.4	40.0	33.0	34.6	21.9	34.0	27.2	32.5
Net profit	26.8	51.3	54.6	48.2	38.5	32.5	26.8	28.1	17.8	27.7	22.1	26.4
Net profit (controlling)	26.8	51.3	54.6	48.2	38.5	32.5	26.8	28.1	17.8	27.7	22.1	26.4
Adjusted EPS (KRW)	416	1,012	663	558	261	433	330	356	178	347	252	326
Margins (%)												
Operating profit	62.2	60.7	65.6	58.1	45.5	47.9	40.7	41.0	25.5	39.0	30.8	36.3
Pre-tax profit	74.9	55.7	90.1	88.0	100.1	64.7	61.1	59.1	49.2	57.5	52.6	54.8
Net profit	63.6	45.7	72.4	74.9	81.4	52.6	49.7	48.1	40.0	46.8	42.7	44.6
Net profit (controlling)	63.6	45.7	72.4	74.9	81.4	52.6	49.7	48.1	40.0	46.8	42.7	44.6

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Revisions to full-year forecasts

(KRWb)	2026E			2027E			2028E		
	Old	New	Diff (%)	Old	New	Diff (%)	Old	New	Diff (%)
Sales	221	222	0.2	206	215	4.2	198	311	57.2
Goddess of Victory: Nikke	154	175	13.7	148	186	25.2	151	193	27.9
Stellar Blade	57	39	(30.8)	30	21	(31.6)	19	13	(31.6)
Project Spirit	0	0	n/a	16	0	(100.0)	16	96	512.4
Other	10	7	(30.2)	12	8	(30.2)	13	9	(30.2)
Operating expenses	110	125	13.1	121	143	17.8	132	170	29.1
Labor costs	64	71	10.5	74	81	9.2	85	91	7.3
Commission paid	36	31	(13.9)	35	35	(0.0)	34	50	46.2
Other	10	23	121.2	12	26	126.8	13	29	127.0
Operating profit	111	97	(12.6)	85	72	(15.3)	66	141	113.4
Pre-tax profit	126	155	23.2	102	116	12.8	267	185	(30.6)
Net profit	101	126	25.3	82	94	14.7	214	151	(29.4)
Net profit (controlling)	101	126	25.3	82	94	14.7	214	151	(29.4)
Adjusted EPS (KRW)	1,685	1,379	(18.1)	1,346	1,102	(18.1)	3,624	2,069	(42.9)
Margins (%)									
Operating profit	50.2	43.8		41.2	33.5		33.3	45.2	
Pre-tax profit	56.8	69.9		49.7	53.9		135.0	59.6	
Net profit	45.5	56.8		39.8	43.8		108.0	48.5	
Net profit (controlling)	45.5	56.8		39.8	43.8		108.0	48.5	

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Income statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Sales	224	295	222	215	311
Cost of goods sold	0	0	0	0	0
Gross profit	224	295	222	215	311
Gross margin (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SG&A expenses	71	113	125	143	170
Operating profit	153	181	97	72	141
Operating margin (%)	68.1	61.6	43.8	33.5	45.2
Non-operating gains (losses)	26	38	58	44	45
Financial profit	21	49	53	41	42
Financial costs	2	9	20	16	17
Equity-method gains (losses)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	7	-2	25	19	19
Pre-tax profit	179	219	155	116	185
Taxes	31	38	29	22	35
Effective tax rate (%)	17.2	17.3	18.7	18.7	18.7
Profit from continuing operations	148	181	126	94	151
Profit from discontinued operations	0	0	0	0	0
Net profit	148	181	126	94	151
Net margin (%)	66.0	61.5	56.8	43.8	48.5
Net profit (controlling interests)	148	181	126	94	151
Net profit (non-controlling interests)	0	0	0	0	0
EBITDA	157	187	104	73	141
EBITDA margin (%)	70.1	63.6	46.8	34.1	45.3
EPS (parent-based) (KRW)	2,717	3,084	2,143	1,600	2,567
EPS (consolidated) (KRW)	2,717	3,084	2,143	1,600	2,567
Adjusted EPS (KRW)*	2,400	2,650	1,379	1,102	2,069

Cash flow statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Cash flow from operations	114	157	128	94	120
Net profit	148	181	126	94	151
Non-cash profit and expenses	16	6	7	8	19
Depreciation	3	4	6	1	0
Amortization	1	1	1	0	0
Other	12	0	1	7	19
Changes in A/L from operating activities	-44	-13	11	-1	-31
Cash flow from investments	-368	-283	-19	-0	-3
Change in tangible assets	-3	-3	-3	0	0
Change in financial assets	-0	-5	1	-0	-3
Other	-366	-276	-17	0	0
Cash flow from financing	427	-52	-6	0	1
Change in debt	-1	52	-2	0	1
Change in equity	433	5	0	0	0
Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other	-5	-109	-4	0	0
Change in cash	173	-179	115	92	62
Cash at beginning of year	116	289	110	224	317
Cash at end of year	289	110	224	317	379
Gross cash flow	164	187	133	102	170
Free cash flow	111	154	126	94	120

Note: *Excluding one-off items

**Fully diluted, excluding one-off items

***From companies subject to equity-method valuation

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Balance sheet

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Current assets	768	759	888	982	1,110
Cash & equivalents	289	110	224	317	379
Accounts receivable	102	130	118	120	165
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	377	519	545	546	565
Fixed assets	36	312	295	295	354
Investment assets	16	231	219	221	280
Tangible assets	3	4	3	3	2
Intangible assets	3	2	1	0	0
Other long-term assets	14	75	72	72	72
Total assets	804	1,071	1,183	1,278	1,464
Current liabilities	29	95	87	88	121
Accounts payable	0	0	0	0	0
Short-term debt	0	0	0	0	0
Other current liabilities	29	95	87	88	121
Long-term liabilities	11	65	63	63	65
Bonds & long-term debt	0	0	0	0	0
Other long-term liabilities	11	65	63	63	65
Total liabilities	39	160	149	151	186
Owners of parent equity	764	911	1,033	1,127	1,278
Capital stock	12	12	12	12	12
Capital surplus	527	532	533	533	533
Retained earnings	219	400	509	603	754
Other	6	-33	-20	-20	-20
Non-controlling interests' equity	0	0	0	0	0
Total equity	764	911	1,033	1,127	1,278
Net debt	-278	-47	-163	-256	-317

Financial ratios

Year-end Dec 31	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Growth (%)					
Sales	32.9	31.4	-24.8	-3.1	44.9
Operating profit	37.5	18.8	-46.5	-26.0	95.8
Net profit	38.7	22.3	-30.4	-25.4	60.4
Adjusted EPS**	12.5	10.4	-47.9	-20.1	87.7
Per-share data (KRW)					
EPS (parent-based)	2,717	3,084	2,143	1,600	2,567
EPS (consolidated)	2,717	3,084	2,143	1,600	2,567
Adjusted EPS**	2,400	2,650	1,379	1,102	2,069
BVPS	13,104	15,702	17,972	19,607	22,230
DPS (common)	0	0	0	0	0
Valuations (x)					
P/E***	26.4	13.4	21.7	27.2	14.5
P/B***	4.8	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.3
EV/EBITDA	21.8	10.9	15.4	20.6	10.2
Ratios (%)					
ROE	31.3	21.6	13.0	8.7	12.5
ROA	29.4	19.3	11.2	7.6	11.0
ROIC	144.3	105.4	47.3	36.3	64.5
Payout ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend yield (common)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net debt to equity	-36.4	-5.1	-15.8	-22.7	-24.8
Interest coverage (x)	130.5	138.2	24.1	17.9	34.4

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Target price changes in past two years



Rating changes over past two years (adjusted share prices)

Date	2025/5/7	5/26	7/11	8/12	2026/1/15	7/28
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	BUY	HOLD	HOLD	HOLD
Target price (KRW)	66000	58000	54000	40000	32000	28000
Gap* (average)	-16.62	-15.05	-19.98	-3.15	1.11	
(max or min)**	-11.36	-3.28	-17.04	-16.88	-11.88	

Note: * [(average, maximum, or minimum share price over duration of target price minus target price) / target price] x 100%

** Maximum/minimum share price if new target is higher/lower than market close on the business day prior to target price change

Samsung Securities uses the following investment ratings*

Company

BUY	Expected to increase in value by 15% or more within 12 months and is highly attractive within sector
HOLD	Expected to increase/decrease in value by less than 15% within 12 months
SELL	Expected to decrease in value by 15% or more within 12 months

Industry

OVERWEIGHT	Expected to outperform market by 5% or more within 12 months
NEUTRAL	Expected to outperform/underperform market by less than 5% within 12 months
UNDERWEIGHT	Expected to underperform market by 5% or more within 12 months

* Note: Effective Jul 27, 2023, BUY, HOLD, and SELL criteria are based on expectations of share-price moves of 15% or more within 12 months

Percentage of ratings in 12 months prior to 2026.06.30

BUY (85.5%)-HOLD (14.5%)-SELL (0%)

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