

COMPANY UPDATE

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Tech Team

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▶ AT A GLANCE

HOLD		
Target price	KRW9,000	8%
Current price	KRW8,330	
Market cap	KRW889.19b/USD627.91m	
Shares (float)	106,745,265 (60.8%)	
52-week high/low	KRW17,760/KRW6,930	
Avg daily trading value (60-day)	KRW4.4b/USD3.1m	

▶ ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE

	1M	6M	12M
Kakao Games (%)	7.1	-45.7	-50.2
Vs Kosdaq (%pts)	11.4	-26.5	-49.8

▶ KEY CHANGES

(KRW)	New	Old	Diff
Recommend.	HOLD	HOLD	
Target price	9,000	10,000	-10.0%
2026E EPS	-920	-1,167	nm
2027E EPS	-3,882	-1,960	nm

▶ SAMSUNG vs THE STREET

No of estimates	6
Target price	8,733
Recommendation	3.2
※ Rating: 4 < → BUY, 3 = HOLD, 2 > → SELL	



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Kakao Games (293490)

Losses continue on lack of new releases

- Kakao Games posted a 2Q operating loss of KRW23b due to the absence of new titles and declining revenue from existing games.
- Although new title launch schedules have been delayed, five new titles are planned for release from Oct 2026 through 1Q27.
- Cost efficiency initiatives, including restructuring, are underway, but a turn to profitability is expected only from 2027 onward. Given ongoing uncertainty around new title launches, we recommend waiting for clear evidence of new title success before initiating investment.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

2Q review—Persistent operating loss amid lack of new titles: Kakao Games reported a 10% q-q decline in sales in 2Q, hit by declining revenue from existing games amid the absence of new titles—eg, PC game revenue fell 20% q-q due to the seasonal downturn of PUBG: Battlegrounds, while mobile game revenue dropped 4% q-q, driven by lower live-service revenue and the transfer of the publishing and service rights of the MMORPG R.O.M to RedLab Games. Combined with rising severance costs from restructuring, the company posted an operating loss of KRW23b in 2Q, extending its streak of operating losses to seven consecutive quarters.

New title launches to start in October: The launch schedule for highly anticipated titles, including Odin: Q, has been further delayed by one to two quarters. However, Kakao Games has confirmed launch dates for The World of Dokkaebi (formerly Project OQ) and Odin: Q in Oct 2026 and Jan 2027, respectively, thus ruling out further delays to these two titles. Although complete elimination of future slippage remains uncertain, if five new titles are successfully launched by 1Q27 as planned, a revenue recovery could materialize starting in 2027.

(Continued on the next page)

SUMMARY 2Q26 RESULTS

(KRWb)	2Q26	Chg		Diff (%)	
		(% y-y)	(% q-q)	Samsung	Consensus
Sales	75.0	-35.2	-9.6	-5.2	-3.5
Operating profit	-23.0	nm	nm	nm	nm
Pre-tax profit	-64.5	nm	nm	nm	nm
Net profit	-57.0	nm	nm	nm	nm
Margins (%)					
Operating profit	-30.7				
Pre-tax profit	-86.0				
Net profit	-76.0				

Source: Company data, Fnguide, Samsung Securities estimates

VALUATION SUMMARY

	2025	2026E	2027E
Valuation (x)			
P/E	n/a	n/a	n/a
P/B	1.1	0.9	0.9
EV/EBITDA	200.8	n/a	13.5
Div yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
EPS growth (% y-y)	nm	nm	nm
ROE (%)	-7.9	-11.9	-2.6
Per-share data (KRW)			
EPS	-539	-920	-3,882
BVPS	13,314	9,677	9,433
DPS	0	0	0

Restructuring to improve fundamentals: The new management team appointed following the change in the largest shareholder plans to optimize cost structure via structural reforms, rationalization of underperforming projects, expansion of global co-development, and increased outsourcing. Over 100 employees were reduced in 2Q, with additional workforce adjustments planned for 2H. Fixed cost burdens should ease significantly in 2027 once severance payments are fully settled.

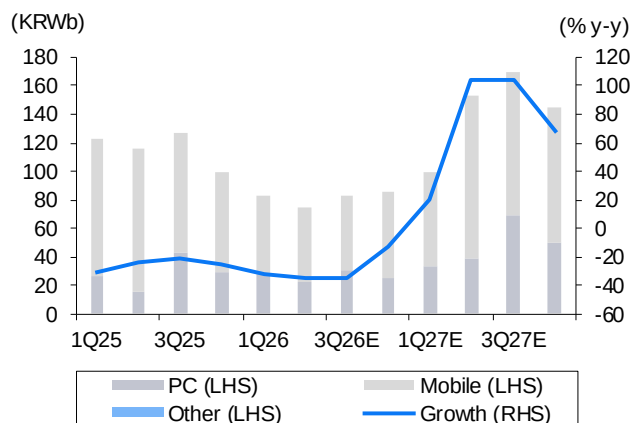
Recommend waiting for clear evidence of new title success before initiating investment: Reflecting delays in new title launches and downward pressure on peer valuations, we cut our target price for Kakao Games by 10% from KRW10,000 to KRW9,000 (using SOTP methodology) and maintain our HOLD rating. While revenue recovery is anticipated from 4Q, profitability is not expected until 2027, after accounting for marketing expenditures. As uncertainty lingers regarding the timing and commercial success of upcoming titles, we recommend waiting for clear evidence of new title success before initiating investment.

2Q26 review

(KRWb)	2Q26			Diff (%)		2Q25	1Q26	Chg	
	Result	Samsung	Consensus	Result	Samsung			(% y-y)	(% q-q)
Sales	75.0	79.1	77.8	(5.1)	(3.5)	115.8	82.9	(35.2)	(9.5)
PC	22.3	27.0		(17.4)		14.8	27.9	50.5	(20.1)
Mobile	52.7	52.1		1.2		101.0	55.0	(47.8)	(4.1)
Operating expenses	98.0	106.8		(8.2)		124.4	108.4	(21.2)	(9.6)
Labor costs	45.3	38.7		16.9		43.2	38.7	4.8	17.0
Commission paid	32.1	41.7		(23.2)		57.5	45.9	(44.2)	(30.1)
Advertising expenses	3.5	7.1		(50.6)		8.5	4.6	(58.7)	(23.5)
Other	17.2	19.2		(10.5)		15.2	19.2	13.0	(10.5)
Operating profit	(23.0)	(27.7)	(27.7)	(16.9)	(16.9)	(8.6)	(25.5)	167.3	(9.7)
Pre-tax profit	(64.5)	(45.8)	(36.8)	40.8	75.5	(36.0)	(45.8)	79.1	40.7
Net profit	(57.0)	(39.5)	(39.5)	44.3	44.3	(33.6)	(39.5)	69.6	44.2
Net profit (controlling)	(7.9)	(36.2)	(27.4)	(78.1)	(71.0)	(26.1)	(30.0)	(69.6)	(73.5)
Margins (%)									
Operating profit	(30.7)	(8.2)	(35.6)			(7.4)	(30.8)		
Pre-tax profit	(86.0)	(22.3)	(47.3)			(31.1)	(55.3)		
Net profit	(75.9)	(21.1)	(50.8)			(29.0)	(47.7)		
Net profit (controlling)	(10.6)	(20.1)	(35.2)			(22.6)	(36.1)		

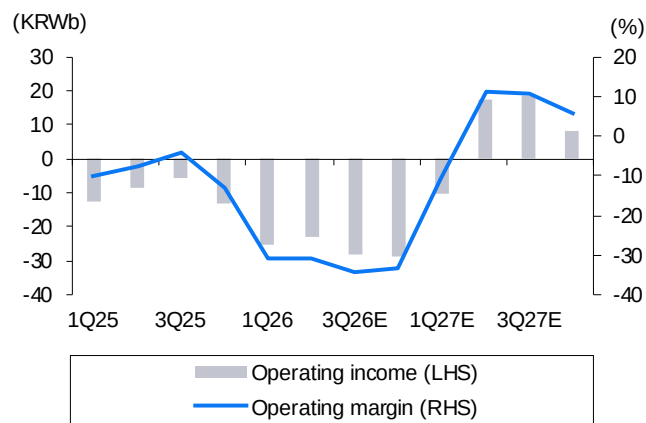
Source: Company data, FnGuide, Samsung Securities estimates

Quarterly sales



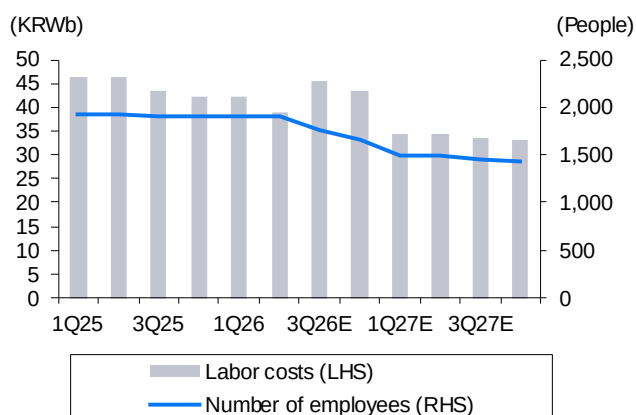
Source: Sensor Tower

Quarterly operating income



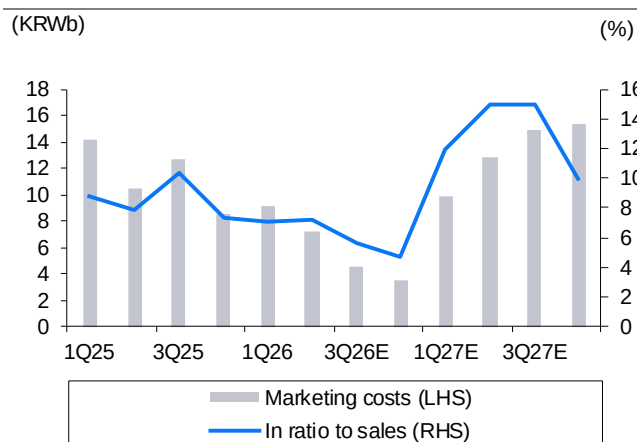
Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Quarterly labor costs



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Quarterly marketing costs



Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

2.5D MMORPG, The World of Dokkaebi



Source: Company data

Odin Q, by Lionheart studio



Source: MTN news

Upcoming titles

Launch	Title	Genre	Platform	Region	In-house/publishing
4Q26	The World of Dokkaebi (formerly Project OQ)	Dot graphics 2.5D MMORPG	Mobile, PC	Korea	Publishing (SuperCat)
	ArcheAge Chronicle	Online Action RPG	PC, Console	Global	In-house (XL Games)
	Dungeon Arise	Strategy Adventure RPG	Mobile	Global	Publishing (TinyFun Games)
1Q27	Odin Q	MMORPG	Mobile, PC	Korea	In-house (Lionheart)
	God Save Birmingham	Open-world zombie survival simulator	PC, Console	Global	In-house (Ocean Drive)
2Q27	Chrono Odyssey	Online Action RPG	PC, Console	Global	Publishing (Chronos Studio)
	Age of Empires S: The Strait of Freedom	MMORPG	PC	Global	In-house (XL Games)
TBD	Project C	Subculture simulation	Mobile, PC	Korea, Japan	In-house (Lionheart)
	Project S	Looter shooter	PC, console	Global	In-house (Lionheart)

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Valuation

	(KRWb)
Enterprise value (A+B)	727
Operating value (A=a*b)	621
2027E EBITDA (a)	75
Target EV/EBITDA (x) (b) *	8.3
Asset value (B=c+d)	106
Net cash (c)	(89)
Other financial assets (d)	195
Shares ('000)	82,737
Fair value per share	8,781
Target price	9,000
Current price	7,770
Upside (%)	15.8%

Note: *Average 2027 EV/EBITDA at which peer group is trading;

Based on Aug 5 closing prices

Source: Samsung Securities estimates

Global peers: EV/EBITDA valuation

(x)	2026E	2027E
Pearl Abyss	5.2	4.9
Netmarble	6.0	5.3
Square Enix	6.8	6.3
Nintendo	7.2	7.1
Nexon	9.1	8.4
EA	17.8	17.7
Average	8.7	8.3

Note: Based on Aug 5 closing prices

Source: Bloomberg

Quarterly results and forecasts

(KRWb)	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26E	4Q26E	1Q27E	2Q27E	3Q27E	4Q27E
Sales	122.9	115.8	127.5	98.9	82.9	75.0	82.8	85.9	99.4	153.1	169.1	144.8
PC	26.8	14.8	42.7	29.9	27.9	22.3	31.3	24.6	33.2	38.5	68.9	50.1
Mobile	96.1	101.0	84.8	69.0	55.0	52.7	51.5	61.3	66.2	114.6	100.3	94.7
Operating expenses	135.3	124.4	132.9	112.0	108.4	98.0	111.0	114.7	109.8	135.6	150.6	136.7
Labor costs	46.2	43.2	42.1	42.0	38.7	45.3	43.5	41.7	34.3	33.6	33.1	32.8
Commission paid	62.3	57.5	66.2	48.2	45.9	32.1	42.9	45.0	46.9	69.2	83.6	72.3
Advertising expenses	12.7	8.5	9.1	7.2	4.6	3.5	9.9	12.9	14.9	15.3	15.2	13.0
Other	14.1	15.2	15.5	14.6	19.2	17.2	14.6	15.1	13.6	17.5	18.7	18.6
Operating profit	(12.4)	(8.6)	(5.4)	(13.1)	(25.5)	(23.0)	(28.2)	(28.8)	(10.4)	17.5	18.6	8.1
Pre-tax profit	(34.3)	(36.0)	18.5	(135.5)	(45.9)	(64.5)	(43.3)	(76.1)	(25.1)	(0.2)	1.9	(32.3)
Net profit	(33.4)	(33.6)	34.6	(110.7)	(39.5)	(57.0)	(36.8)	(64.7)	(21.3)	(0.1)	1.6	(28.1)
Net profit (controlling)	(23.0)	(26.1)	34.0	(84.9)	(37.3)	(7.9)	(33.1)	(60.6)	(16.8)	5.1	7.5	(21.7)
Adjusted EPS (KRW)	(161)	(130)	260	(463)	(281)	(40)	(217)	(438)	(81)	(4,290)	578	(87)
Margins (%)												
Operating profit	(10.1)	(7.4)	(4.3)	(13.2)	(30.8)	(30.7)	(34.1)	(33.5)	(10.4)	11.4	11.0	5.6
Pre-tax profit	(27.9)	(31.1)	14.5	(137.0)	(55.4)	(86.0)	(52.3)	(88.6)	(25.2)	(0.1)	1.1	(22.3)
Net profit	(27.2)	(29.0)	27.2	(111.9)	(47.7)	(75.9)	(44.5)	(75.3)	(21.4)	(0.1)	1.0	(19.4)
Net profit (controlling)	(18.7)	(22.6)	26.7	(85.9)	(45.0)	(10.6)	(40.0)	(70.5)	(16.9)	3.3	4.4	(15.0)

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	353.0	326.6	(7.5)	605.7	566.4	(6.5)	484.3	492.2	1.6
PC	115.0	106.1	(7.7)	211.9	190.7	(10.0)	201.9	189.1	(6.3)
Mobile	238.0	220.5	(7.4)	393.8	375.8	(4.6)	282.4	303.1	7.3
Operating expenses	455.4	432.1	(5.1)	589.5	532.6	(9.6)	536.9	489.7	(8.8)
Labor costs	154.9	169.3	9.3	155.2	133.7	(13.9)	156.6	129.7	(17.2)
Commission paid	188.8	165.9	(12.2)	291.8	272.1	(6.7)	248.6	247.0	(0.7)
Advertising expenses	32.7	30.9	(5.4)	52.9	58.5	10.5	43.5	44.2	1.6
Other	79.0	66.1	(16.4)	89.5	68.3	(23.7)	88.2	68.8	(22.1)
Operating profit	(102.4)	(105.6)	3.1	16.2	33.8	109.0	(52.7)	2.5	nm
Pre-tax profit	(205.4)	(229.7)	11.8	(75.1)	(55.6)	(25.9)	(143.7)	(86.9)	(39.6)
Net profit	(177.0)	(197.9)	11.8	(65.4)	(47.9)	(26.7)	(125.1)	(75.6)	(39.6)
Net profit (controlling)	(162.8)	(131.5)	(19.2)	(41.8)	(26.0)	(37.9)	(92.0)	(43.9)	(52.2)
Adjusted EPS (KRW)	(1,167)	(920)	(21.1)	(1,960)	(3,882)	98.1	(549)	(219)	(60.2)
Margins (%)									
Operating profit	(29.0)	(32.3)		2.7	6.0		(10.9)	0.5	
Pre-tax profit	(58.2)	(70.3)		(12.4)	(9.8)		(29.7)	(17.7)	
Net profit	(50.1)	(60.6)		(10.8)	(8.5)		(25.8)	(15.4)	
Net profit (controlling)	(46.1)	(40.3)		(6.9)	(4.6)		(19.0)	(8.9)	

Source: Company data, Samsung Securities estimates

Income statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Sales	627	465	327	566	492
Cost of goods sold	0	0	0	0	0
Gross profit	627	465	327	566	492
Gross margin (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SG&A expenses	608	505	432	533	490
Operating profit	19	-40	-106	34	3
Operating margin (%)	3.1	-8.5	-32.3	6.0	0.5
Non-operating gains (losses)	-141	-148	-124	-89	-89
Financial profit	43	54	23	20	13
Financial costs	109	56	109	77	76
Equity-method gains (losses)	-16	-3	-7	-4	-4
Other	-59	-143	-31	-28	-23
Pre-tax profit	-122	-187	-230	-56	-87
Taxes	5	-44	-32	-8	-11
Effective tax rate (%)	-4.3	23.6	13.8	13.9	13.0
Profit from continuing operations	-113	-140	-198	-48	-76
Profit from discontinued operations	-15	-3	0	0	0
Net profit	-128	-143	-198	-48	-76
Net margin (%)	-20.4	-30.8	-60.6	-8.5	-15.4
Net profit (controlling interests)	-109	-100	-132	-26	-44
Net profit (non-controlling interests)	-19	-43	-66	-22	-32
EBITDA	91	8	-65	75	43
EBITDA margin (%)	14.6	1.7	-19.8	13.2	8.8
EPS (parent-based) (KRW)	-1,318	-1,186	-1,330	-243	-412
EPS (consolidated) (KRW)	-1,550	-1,696	-2,001	-449	-708
Adjusted EPS (KRW)*	-716	-539	-948	-3,882	-219

Cash flow statement

Year-end Dec 31 (KRWb)	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Cash flow from operations	27	-44	-70	286	-182
Net profit	-128	-143	-198	-48	-76
Non-cash profit and expenses	220	209	66	55	56
Depreciation	36	19	20	20	20
Amortization	37	28	21	21	21
Other	148	161	25	14	15
Changes in A/L from operating activities	-17	-23	48	271	-174
Cash flow from investments	85	-6	96	-119	115
Change in tangible assets	-10	-8	-16	0	0
Change in financial assets	120	-268	99	-147	94
Other	-25	271	13	28	21
Cash flow from financing	-137	-89	-58	7	-79
Change in debt	-232	-10	28	53	-34
Change in equity	0	20	-7	0	0
Dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other	95	-98	-79	-46	-45
Change in cash	-24	-137	-79	167	-146
Cash at beginning of year	654	630	492	413	579
Cash at end of year	630	492	413	579	434
Gross cash flow	92	66	-132	7	-20
Free cash flow	15	-52	-86	286	-182

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	1,069	941	756	1,086	836
Cash & equivalents	605	492	413	579	434
Accounts receivable	43	25	22	37	27
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	421	424	321	469	375
Fixed assets	2,104	1,736	1,714	1,687	1,637
Investment assets	498	237	231	245	236
Tangible assets	12	13	14	-6	-26
Intangible assets	1,484	1,348	1,342	1,321	1,300
Other long-term assets	109	137	127	127	127
Total assets	3,173	2,677	2,470	2,773	2,473
Current liabilities	1,199	514	556	736	621
Accounts payable	0	0	0	0	0
Short-term debt	190	0	0	0	0
Other current liabilities	1,009	514	556	735	620
Long-term liabilities	495	965	976	1,146	1,037
Bonds & long-term debt	147	645	658	658	658
Other long-term liabilities	348	319	318	488	379
Total liabilities	1,695	1,479	1,532	1,882	1,658
Owners of parent equity	1,338	1,184	1,030	1,004	960
Capital stock	8	9	9	9	9
Capital surplus	1,100	1,119	1,112	1,112	1,112
Retained earnings	188	137	6	-20	-64
Other	42	-81	-97	-97	-97
Non-controlling interests' equity	140	14	-91	-113	-144
Total equity	1,478	1,198	939	891	815
Net debt	444	280	485	235	435

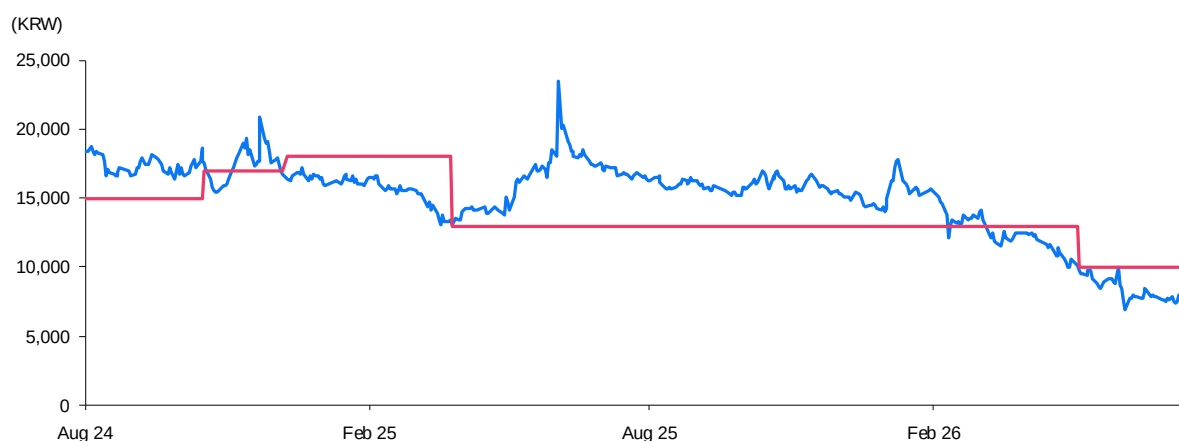
Financial ratios

Year-end Dec 31	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
Growth (%)					
Sales	-13.6	-25.9	-29.8	73.4	-13.1
Operating profit	-74.6	nm	nm	nm	-92.6
Net profit	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Adjusted EPS**	nm	nm	nm	nm	nm
Per-share data (KRW)					
EPS (parent-based)	-1,318	-1,186	-1,330	-243	-412
EPS (consolidated)	-1,550	-1,696	-2,001	-449	-708
Adjusted EPS**	-716	-539	-948	-3,882	-219
BVPS	16,316	13,314	9,677	9,433	9,020
DPS (common)	0	0	0	0	0
Valuations (x)					
P/E***	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
P/B***	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
EV/EBITDA	21.2	200.8	n/a	13.5	27.1
Ratios (%)					
ROE	-8.0	-7.9	-11.9	-2.6	-4.5
ROA	-3.9	-4.9	-7.7	-1.8	-2.9
ROIC	1.1	-2.0	-6.7	2.3	0.2
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	30.1	23.4	51.7	26.4	53.3
Interest coverage (x)	0.4	-0.8	-2.4	0.7	0.1

Compliance notice

- As of 8/7 2026, the covering analyst(s) did not own any shares, or debt instruments convertible into shares, of any company covered in this report.
- As of 8/7 2026, Samsung Securities' holdings of shares and debt instruments convertible into shares of each company covered in this report would not, if such debt instruments were converted, exceed 1% of each company's outstanding shares.
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Target price changes in past two years



Rating changes over past two years (adjusted share prices)

Date	2024/7/12	11/7	12/30	2025/4/16	2026/4/16	2026/5/27	8/6
Recommendation	HOLD	HOLD	HOLD	HOLD	HOLD	HOLD	HOLD
Target price (KRW)	15000	17000	18000	13000	13000	10000	9000
Gap* (average)	17.94	2.77	-12.52	20.32	-11.62	-16.85	
(max or min)**	9.47	-9.47	-4.17	-11.46	-3.69	0.40	

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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General

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