Zacks Small-Cap Research

January 24, 2012
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Silicom Limited (SILC-NASDAQ)

SILC, Record Quarter and Year: OUTPERFORM

Current Recommendation	**Outperform**
Prior Recommendation	N/A
Date of Last Change	09/09/2010
Current Price (01/23/12)	$19.33
Six- Month Target Price	**$25.00**

OUTLOOK

Silicom engages in the design, manufacture, marketing, and support of connectivity solutions for a range of servers and server based systems. The firm has several growth engines including Information Technology's return to growth, the march to 10GB per second technology, a large and growing base of OEM customers includes most of the market-leading players, staged launch of new products, and a strong OEM business model which limits operating expenses. SETAC, the firms new Server to Appliance Converter, which combines the best of standard servers with hardware appliances should allow the firm to push its revenues to the 100 million run rate level in coming years. We see value in the shares of Silicom.

SUMMARY DATA

52-Week High	**$21.53**
52-Week Low	**$12.31**
One-Year Return (%)	**-1.88**
Beta	**0.83**
Average Daily Volume (sh)	**13,219**
Shares Outstanding (mil)	**7**
Market Capitalization ($mil)	**$133**
Short Interest Ratio (days)	**0.83**
Institutional Ownership (%)	**11**
Insider Ownership (%)	**25**
Annual Cash Dividend	**$0.00**
Dividend Yield (%)	**0.00**
5-Yr. Historical Growth Rates	
Sales (%)	**10.1**
Earnings Per Share (%)	**2.6**
Dividend (%)	**N/A**
P/E using TTM EPS	**15.6**
P/E using 2012 Estimate	**14.5**
P/E using 2013 Estimate	**12.8**
Zacks Rank	**1**

Risk Level	**Average,**
Type of Stock	**Small-Blend**
Industry	**Comp-Networks**

ZACKS ESTIMATES

Revenue
(in millions of $)

	Q1 (Mar)	Q2 (Jun)	Q3 (Sep)	Q4 (Dec)	Year (Dec)
2010	6.4 A	6.7 A	7.4 A	9.9 A	30.4 A
2011	9.2 A	9.4 A	10.0 A	11.0 A	39.6 A
2012	10.0 E	11.0 E	12.0 E	13.0 E	46.0 E
2013					55.0 E

Earnings per Share
(EPS is operating earnings before non recurring items)

	Q1 (Mar)	Q2 (Jun)	Q3 (Sep)	Q4 (Dec)	Year (Dec)
2010	$0.13 A	$0.20 A	$0.21 A	$0.28 A	$0.82 A
2011	$0.27 A	$0.30 A	$0.32 A	$0.36 A	$1.24 A
2012	$0.27 E	$0.31 E	$0.35 E	$0.39 E	$1.33 E
2013					$1.50 E

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WHATS NEW

Record Quarter and Year for Silicom!

On January 23, 2012, Silicom Ltd, the provider of high-performance server and appliances networking solutions, reported financial results for its fiscal 2011 fourth quarter and full year, ended December 31, 2011.

A solid fourth quarter by the Company resulted in record quarterly and year end revenues, operating income, net income and earnings per share.

The strong results include the doubling of revenues and tripling of net income over the past two years, which was primarily driven by growth of sales for both established and new product lines as well as increasingly diversified sales across the Company's entire product line.

Silicom's fourth quarter revenues increased over 12 percent year over year to a record $11.080 million, which compares to revenues of $9.880 million for the three months ended December 31, 2010.

Operating income for the fourth quarter increased over 27 percent, reaching the Company's highest ever $2.469 million, mainly as a result of the revenue highs, improved gross margin and lower total operating expenses as a percentage of revenues.

Gross margin for the three months ended December 31, 2011 improved to 42.5 percent compared to 40.7 percent for the fourth quarter, ended December 31, 2010.

Although total operating expenses increased year over year by $161,000, as a percent of revenues, they fell to 20.2 from 21.1 percent during the fourth quarter of 2010.

The Company's fourth quarter net income on a GAAP basis increased by nearly 23 percent or $446,000 to $2.400 million from net income of $1.954 million for the comparable quarter of 2010.

Here again, the increase in net income was a result of record revenues and improved margins.

Based on the weighted average number of ordinary common shares of 6.917 million shares, basic net income per share for the fourth quarter resulted in net income of $0.35 per ordinary share during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011. This compared to a basic net income per share of $0.29 on a weighted average number of ordinary shares of 6.853 million shares during the three months ended December 31, 2010.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, year over year revenues improved by over 30 percent to a best ever $39.633 million while net income on a GAAP basis increased over 44 percent or $2.528 million to $8.243 million.

Here again, the increase in revenues was primarily driven by growth of sales for both established and new product lines as well as increasingly diversified sales across the Company's entire product line.

Similarly, the increase in net income was a result of record revenues, lower total operating expenses as a percent of revenues and improved margins.

Gross margin for the year improved to 43.4 percent compared to gross margin of 42.5 percent for the fiscal ended December 31, 2010 while total operating expenses fell to 22 percent of total revenues from 23.1 percent of revenues during fiscal 2010.

Based on the weighted average number of ordinary common shares of 6.896 million shares, ordinary net income per share resulted in net income of $1.20 per ordinary share during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011. This compared to an ordinary net income per share of $0.84 on a weighted average number of ordinary shares of 6.821 million shares during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

Silicom's cash, cash equivalents, bank deposits and marketable securities totaled $49.2 million, or $7.10 per ordinary share. This is an improvement from $47.4 million, or $6.87 per outstanding share as of September 30, 2011, and a year over year increase of $3.7 million.

The improvement of assets provides the Company with a substantial level of working capital and financial flexibility, placing Silicom in a position of strength and stability, enabling the Company to continue to invest in its business as well as take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

Silicom continues to add new names to its list of over 75 loyal and stable OEM customers.

The Company expects to sustain its diversification of revenue sources into 2012 and believes that the fundamentals of its industry remain very strong.

Silicom anticipates continued stronger growth than its target markets in 2012 and beyond as a result of the rapid development of the server and network appliance sectors being driven by cloud computing and virtualization and its components being viewed as reliable, differentiated performance enhancers.

Furthermore, Silicom believes that it is favorably positioned to continue growing rapidly in 2012 and beyond as a result of its ahead-of-plan growth for its strategic SETAC product lines, positioning the Company to enter even more deeply into the network appliance space.

The Company has 10 to 15 current SETAC customers and stated that it has approximately the same amount in its pipeline.

Silicom's cost competitive SETAC (Server To Appliance Converter) product family, offers a distinctive growth opportunity that enables the Company to offer a full network appliance platform solution. This new product line permits Silicom to address new market segments as well as obtain nearly unlimited potential with the its existing customer base.

Here again, given that the Company's products are core and critical building blocks for next generation servers and appliances, it is very possible to expect to see continued strong demand with the selling of a broader range of products to a larger number of customers resulting in Silicom's sales exceeding the growth rate of the Company's end market.

Silicom's Promising Growth Drivers

The strong trends in rising internet traffic, cloud computing and virtualization that are developing within the information technology market offer Silicom several unique opportunities to dramatically increase revenues.

These external developments strongly escalate Silicom's customer's network appliances needs for WAN optimization, internet security and application delivery.

While total global monthly internet traffic is expected to be 4x greater in 2015 than it was in 2010, the Company estimates that the WAN optimization, internet security and application delivery markets are growing at an average of 20 percent per year.

These solid external growth engines combined with internal growth engines such as the Company's

increasing sales of SETAC and SETAC based network appliance products, as well as the staged launch of additional new products, has the potential to push the Company's revenues to a $100 million per year run rate in the long-term

What's more, the SETAC (Server To Appliance Converter) product family, not only permits Silicom to address new market segments, but also allows the Company to obtain nearly unlimited potential with its existing customer base of 75 OEM businesses that include market leaders within target segments.

Along the same lines, the growth in demand from existing and new customers has led to four design wins during the past twelve months that are expected to ramp up gradually, generating approximately $6.5 million in new revenue per year.

Furthermore, while orders for SETAC products were placed throughout 2010, more recently in May 2011, SILC announced it achieved two important design wins for SETAC derivative models that are expected to total approximately $3 million in new sales per year.

INVESTMENT THESIS

- The OEM business model provides leverage.
- The firm offers the widest selection of server adapters in terms of speed, ports and chip sets.
- 10 GB Ethernet is replacing 1 GB as the backbone network and has just begun to migrate down to high-end server systems.
- SILC's SETAC combines the best of both Standard Server and Hardware Appliance.
- With $7.10 per share in cash, the firm's balance sheet is a source of strength.
- Silicom appears to have entered a new growth phase which may push revenues to the $100 million mark.

Silicom Ltd. engages in the design, manufacture, marketing, and support of connectivity solutions for a range of servers and server based systems in North America, Europe, and internationally. It primarily offers server networking cards with and without bypass (server adapters). The company's server adapters are used in various applications, such as security appliances, wide area network optimization appliances, load balancing and traffic management appliances, network-attached storage, video on demand servers, content delivery servers, Internet service providers/Web hosting, and computing. It also offers a range of intelligent and programmable cards, such as encryption acceleration cards and redirector cards; and intelligent stand alone bypass units. The company markets most of its products through original equipment manufacturers, and sometimes through distributors, and resellers.

A History

In late 2002 Silicom began exploring a new direction which has become its primary growth driver and will continue being the main source of growth in the next few years: high-end server networking cards. The firm's core expertise has always been a broad range of Ethernet and connectivity products, which provided personal computer users with solutions to their connectivity problems. In late 2002, the firm decided to employ its core know-how in the realm of server-based systems. SILC is now able to take advantage of its competitive edge by using the expertise it developed in connectivity solutions for personal computers in

industries which require broader connectivity solutions with very high-performance environments. Examples of these industries are security, WAN optimization, load balancing and other network appliances, data storage, video on demand, internet content delivery, high-performance computing and web servers.

Widest Selection

SILC has developed a line of products for the server networking industry which facilitates interaction between servers, allowing them to communicate with each other through a larger number of ports and with higher performance than their original capabilities. These are powerful products that allow server-based systems to fully exploit the high speed potential of Gigabit Ethernet. The products have either one, two, four or six ports, which plug into the servers between which interaction is facilitated.

Markets Served	Leaders
WAN Optimization Appliances	Riverbed, Blue Coat, Cisco, Citrix, Silver Peak
Security Appliances	Checkpoint, Cisco, Juniper, Trend Micro, McAfee
Load Balancing Appliances	F5, Radware
Storage	EMC, Network Appliance
Telecom	Alcatel-Lucent
General Purpose Servers	Dell, HP, Intel, IBM, Fujitsu

Gigabit Ethernet is a term describing various technologies for transmitting Ethernet frames at a rate of a gigabit per second. Higher bandwidth 10 gigabit Ethernet standards have since become available as the IEEE ratified a fiber-based standard in 2002, and a twisted pair standard in 2006. As of 2009 10Gb Ethernet is replacing 1Gb as the backbone network and has just begun to migrate down to high-end server systems. The accelerating growth of worldwide network traffic is forcing service providers, enterprise network managers and architects to look to ever higher-speed network technologies in order to solve the bandwidth demand crunch. Today, these administrators typically use Ethernet as their backbone technology. Although networks face many different issues, 10 Gigabit Ethernet meets several key criteria for efficient and effective high-speed networks:

The firms products cover a broader scope of features than those of it competitors. SILC's belief that its expanded feature set coupled with the fact that its products are based on two different industry leader chip sets (Intel and Broadcom), which makes them more compatible with potential customers' needs, gives the firm a competitive edge. Silicom is currently the only company offering such a comprehensive range of server networking products.

A Backdrop of Growth

Market research firm IDC feels that while downside macroeconomic risks are still present, we entered 2011 on the back of a resounding rebound for the technology industry. The overall IT market will grow by 7 percent this year, as per the IDC report, to $1.65 trillion with another year of double-digit growth for hardware spending (10 percent), while the software and services markets will increase by 5 percent and 4 percent, respectively. Another research firm Forrester believes businesses will spend 7.1% more on IT than they did last year, when IT spending growth rose 7.2% from 2009. According to Forrester companies are expected to spend $1.69 trillion in IT products and services this year.

Growth Drivers

Internal Growth Drivers	External Growth Drivers
Growing revenues to existing clients	IT Market's Return to growth
improve offering within existing product line	Continued Evolution to new computing (Nehalem)
SETAC based sales growth	Migration to 10GBPS from 1GBPS

OEM Business Model

The firm utilizes an OEM model for approximately 95% of its sales. This creates significant operating leverage through reduced sales and marketing expenses and gives the firm insight into new technologies. OEM partnerships enhance visibility and market reputation and approximately 70 of the firms that SILC works with are market leaders. Once selected by a customer Silicom has never been replaced by competitors.

Smart Adapters

The firm's High Performance Multi Protocol Server Adapters are adapter in which one Server Adapter addresses networking, storage, HPC and virtualization. These intelligent programmable adapters improve performance by redirecting traffic based on packet characteristics, thereby offloading the server.

SETAC, The best of both worlds

SETAC, which is Silicon's new patent pending, product family converts standard servers to network appliances and is designed for systems that require front I/O ports, I/O ports replaceable without opening the system chassis, high quantity of I/O ports and flexibility to provide high quantity of different configurations.

When network appliance providers design their network appliances, they can either use a general server or a specific appliance oriented hardware solution. The server with standard add-on adapters assures server-grade reliability and a stable state of the art technological environment but sacrifices flexibility. On the other hand using specific appliance- oriented hardware solutions allows for superior flexibility and field-re-configurability but lacks in server grade reliability and technological stability.

SETAC offers the benefits of these two options, enabling branded high technology servers to be configured as hardware appliances, and creating an ideal network appliance that combines server grade reliability, front-end access, field- replaceable architecture and a stable state-of-the-art technology environment.

STANDARD SERVER

Pro	Con
Server grade reliability	Server look and feel
State of the Art technology	inconvenient back connectivity
Lower cost/unit	not modular- cant reconfigure

HARDWARE APPLIANCE

Pro	Con
easy to reconfigure	no server grade reliability
appliance look and feel	higher cost
reliable networking modules integration	time to market lag with each new generation

SETAC Moves into the Spotlight
On August 16, 2010 SILC announced that SETAC has been selected by one of the security industry's dominant players for use in next-generation lines of security appliances to be launched in early 2011. Silicom estimates that sales related to the deal will ramp up over the next year generating revenues of over $3 million in its first production year.

On March 15, 2010 the firm announced that MaxStar, a leading Chinese manufacturer of network appliances, had chosen Silicom's SETAC as the basis for its new product line for medium-to-high-end customers. Using the SETAC, MaxStar will offer its customers unique network appliances that combine front-loading modular networking capabilities in a specialized chassis with the robust reliability of a standard motherboard. This combination fits the demands of network application providers in China, a vast, sophisticated and rapidly-growing market.

On January 26th 2011 the firm announced that a Tier 1 server manufacturer will begin offering appliances which integrate Silicom's SETAC Server To Appliance Converter with one of the popular models of its standard servers. Shaike Orbach, Silicom's President and CEO feels that, "From an exposure point of view, **the SETAC will be moving into the spotlight,** benefiting from the marketing efforts and recommendations of the manufacturer's OEM Group and its customization partner."

In May 2011 SILC announced it achieved two important Design Wins for Networking Modules which is part of the Company's SETAC Server-to-Appliance Converter strategy. SETAC was selected by one of its major customers that is a dominant player in the global security industry as well as a leading company in the Traffic Management and Policy Enforcement industry. Silicom estimates that sales to the two customers will total approximately $3 million per year.

Valuation
Silicom should outperform given the IT market's bottomless need for faster response times and increased bandwidth against the backdrop of cloud computing, virtualization, and Internet-based applications.

We believe Silicom should be valued by its cash plus business operations. With the cash and liquid assets of $7.10 per share plus the company's business operations value based on 13.5x our 2012 estimate gives us a $25.00 company value**.**

Looking at it another way we value the company based on the average of our P/E multiple (16.8x 2012 estimated EPS) and our two stage intrinsic model. The networking and communication device group average P/E is between 14x-26x. We feel SILC should trade at a premium to its peers, given the fact that the company has high growth/ high margin products.

The intrinsic value is essentially a sum of the company's future earnings, minus any long-term debt (Zero in SILC's case). Dividing the intrinsic value by the number of shares outstanding yields an intrinsic stock price. We used the following inputs:

- An 8-year period with an earnings growth rate of 18.0% and a discount rate of 12.05%.
- A continuing period assumed to go on forever, with earnings growing at 6% and a discount rate of 10.40%.

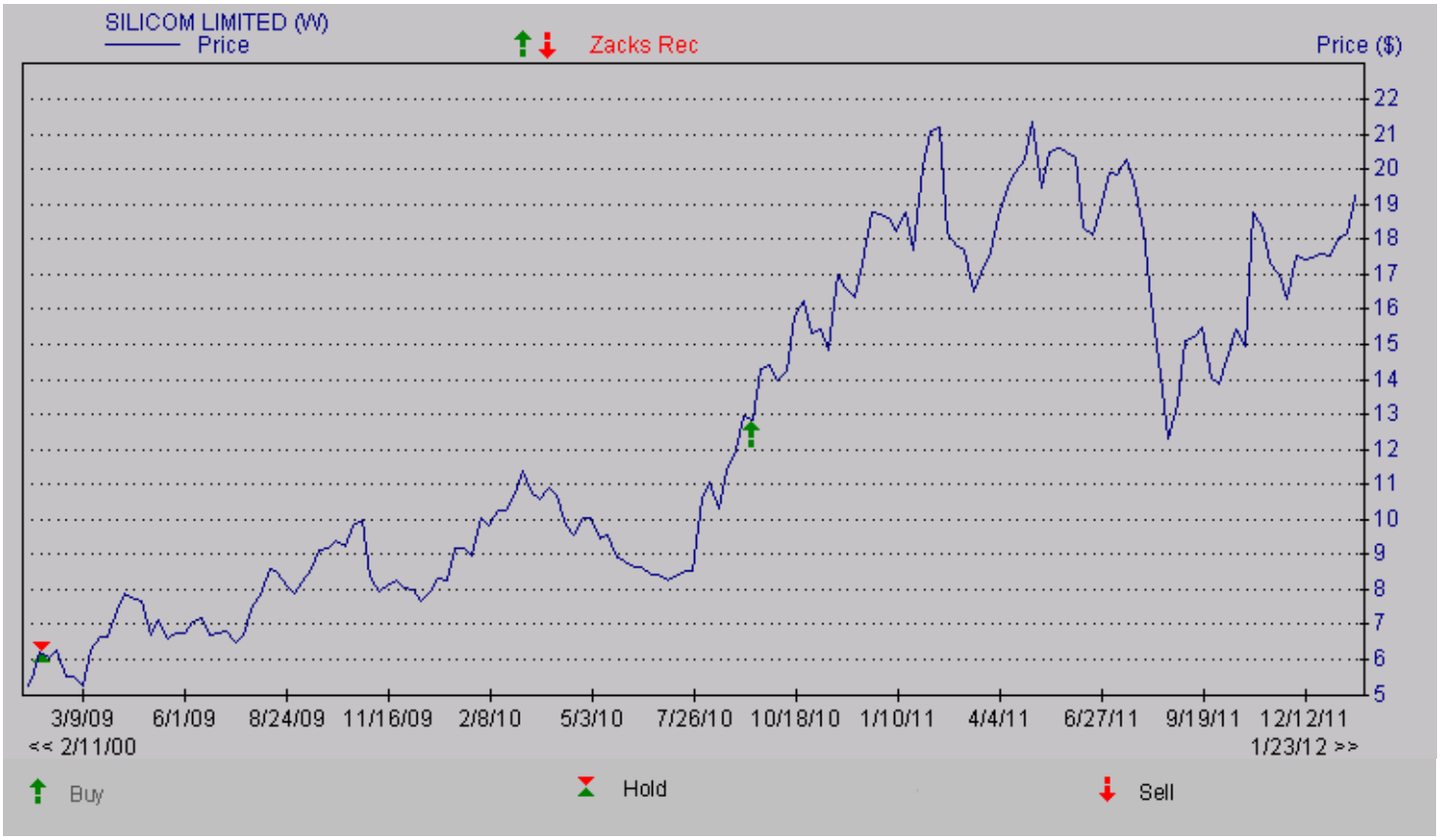
With these inputs we arrive at a target price of **$25.00.**

PROJECTED INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME STATEMENT ($ Mil)	Dec-10 Q4 10	Mar-11 Q1 11	Jun-11 Q2 11	Sep-11 Q3 11	Dec-11 Q4 11	Mar-12 Q1 12 E	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012 E	FY 2013 E
REVENUE												
Net Revenue	**9.9**	**9.2**	**9.4**	**10.0**	**11.1**	**10.0**	**25.55**	**20.53**	**30.40**	**39.63**	**46.00**	**55.00**
Sequential Growth		*-7%*	*2%*	*7%*	*11%*	*-10%*						
OPERATING EXPENSES												
Cost of Revenues	5.86	5.20	5.21	5.65	6.36	5.65	15.41	12.46	17.49	22.4	26.2	32.0
% of Revenue	*59.3%*	*56.6%*	*55.7%*	*56.4%*	*57.4%*	*56.5%*						
Gross Profit -	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.1**	**4.4**	**4.7**	**4.4**	**10.15**	**8.07**	**12.9**	**17.2**	**19.8**	**23.0**
Proforma Gross Margin	*40.7%*	*43.4%*	*44.3%*	*43.6%*	*42.6%*	*43.5%*	*39.7%*	*39.3%*	*42.5%*	*43.4%*	*43.0%*	*41.8%*
R&D + Engg	0.95	1.04	1.00	1.04	1.05	1.10	3.0	2.7	3.3	4.1	4.4	5.1
% of Revenue	*9.6%*	*11.3%*	*10.6%*	*10.3%*	*9.5%*	*11.0%*	*11.9%*	*13.2%*	*10.8%*	*10.4%*	*9.6%*	*9.2%*
SG&A	1.14	1.17	1.05	1.09	1.10	1.20	3.52	3.13	3.73	4.41	5.40	6.50
% of Revenue	*11.5%*	*12.8%*	*11.3%*	*10.9%*	*9.9%*	*12.0%*	*13.8%*	*15.3%*	*12.3%*	*11.1%*	*11.7%*	*11.8%*
GW Amort, Restructuring, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Revenue												
Total Operating Expenses	2.08	2.21	2.05	2.13	2.15	2.30	6.57	5.85	7.01	8.53	9.80	11.55
% of Revenue	*21.1%*	*24.1%*	*21.9%*	*21.2%*	*19.4%*	*23.0%*	*25.7%*	*28.5%*	*23%*	*22%*	*21%*	*21%*
Operating Income -	**1.9**	**1.8**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**2.6**	**2.1**	**3.58**	**2.22**	**6**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Operating Margin	*19.6%*	*19.3%*	*22.4%*	*22.4%*	*23.2%*	*20.5%*	*14%*	*11%*	*19%*	*22%*	*22%*	*21%*
NON-OPERATING ITEMS												
Non operating Income/Expense	0.12	0.18	0.15	0.02	0.09	0.02	1.19	0.91	0.62	0.44	0.44	0.55
% of Revenue	*1.24%*	*1.98%*	*1.61%*	*0.19%*	*0.79%*	*0.20%*	*4.65%*	*4.43%*	*2.03%*	*1.11%*	*0.96%*	*1.00%*
Tax Provision	0.11	0.19	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.12	0.31	0.60	0.67	1.10	1.50
Effective Tax Rate												
Net Income -	**1.95**	**1.77**	**2.08**	**2.10**	**2.50**	**1.90**	**4.65**	**2.82**	**5.9**	**8.5**	**9.3**	**10.5**
Net Income Margin	*19.8%*	*19.2%*	*22.3%*	*21.0%*	*22.6%*	*19.0%*	*18.2%*	*13.7%*	*19%*	*21%*	*20%*	*19%*
EARNINGS PER SHARE												
EPS - Basic	$0.29	$0.27	$0.30	$0.32	$0.36	$0.27	$0.69	$0.42	$0.84	$1.26	$1.35	$1.52
EPS - Diluted	$0.28	$0.27	$0.30	$0.32	$0.36	$0.27	$0.69	$0.41	$0.82	$1.24	$1.33	$1.50

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HISTORICAL ZACKS RECOMMENDATIONS



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