Intel Corporation NASDAQ: INTC

Equity research update · Semiconductors, integrated design and foundry · Prepared 5 September 2026

WATCHLIST	49 / 100	$95.80
RECOMMENDATION	OVERALL SCORE	PRICE (4 SEP CLOSE)

63.4x	+19.3%	Hold, $115.78	~$112	5.3%
Forward P/E, FY26E	FY26E revenue growth	Consensus (48)	Weighted fair value	14-day ATR

1. The price fell and the multiple did not

Intel closed at $95.80 on 4 September, 6.5% below the $102.50 the August report was priced off. On most stocks that would be the beginning of an improved case. Here it is not, and the reason is the most important single observation in this update: the consensus 2026 adjusted earnings estimate has fallen further than the share price. The August report worked from roughly $1.66 a share; forty analysts now carry $1.51, a cut of 9%. At $95.80 the stock trades on 63.4 times that figure, against 62 times three weeks ago. The shares are cheaper and the company is not.

The forward year is where the arithmetic differs. Consensus 2027 adjusted earnings of $2.04 put the stock on 47 times, against 51 times on the Bank of America estimate the August report used. Revenue estimates have held: $63.03 billion for 2026, up 19.3%, and $71.41 billion for 2027, up 13.3%. The cut is to margin and to the earnings that fall out of it, not to the top line, which is consistent with what the sell side has been saying about foundry costs and personal computer demand rather than about Intel losing share.

Item	15 August 2026	5 September 2026	Read
Share price	$102.50	$95.80	–6.5%
Consensus FY26 adjusted EPS	~$1.66	$1.51 (40 analysts)	–9.0%
Forward P/E on FY26E	~62x	63.4x	Slightly higher
Forward P/E on FY27E	~51x (BofA $2.01)	47.0x (consensus $2.04)	Lower
Consensus target	$114.88	$115.78 (48 analysts)	Broadly unchanged
Target range	$80 – $200	$75 – $200	Wider at the bottom
FY26 free cash flow, consensus	not stated	–$1.30bn	Negative for the year
50-day moving average	$109.40	$100.61	Falling; price still below
100-day moving average	$97.88	$103.86	Rising; price now below it
200-day moving average	cited near $70	$74.15 (computed)	Corrected upward
ATR (14) as % of price	7.0%	5.3%	Volatility has cooled

Consensus figures from S&P Global Market Intelligence via StockAnalysis.com, retrieved 5 September 2026. Price from Alpha Vantage, close of 4 September 2026. Moving averages computed by this report; see section 4. No earnings release has occurred since 23 July; third-quarter results are scheduled for 22 October 2026.

2. The first external foundry signal that is not Tesla

The August report was blunt that everything reduces to whether the foundry works commercially, and that the scoreboard was a single publicly named external customer on 14A. In the last two weeks a second name has appeared in industry reporting, and it deserves careful handling because it is both more and less than it looks.

SK hynix is reported to be considering Intel Foundry for the base dies used in HBM4E, its seventh-generation high-bandwidth memory, moving from sole-sourcing at TSMC to a dual-source arrangement. The commercial logic is specific and credible: the TSMC 12nm-class base die used in HBM4 is estimated to cost three to four times as much as the memory core dies it sits under, which gives SK hynix a direct financial motive to qualify a second supplier. Supporting that, SK hynix confirmed at Hot Chips 2026 that it had validated designs against Intel's EMIB-T packaging, with through-silicon vias handling vertical power delivery across the stack.

Three qualifications keep this from moving the rating. SK hynix has publicly described parts of the reporting as inaccurate without specifying which parts, so this is industry reporting rather than a disclosed agreement. A base die is a mature-node and packaging engagement, not a leading-edge one, so it is not the marquee 14A signature the August report named as the upgrade condition. And nothing about it changes the second-quarter scoreboard, which remains $293 million of Intel Foundry external revenue against a $2.1 billion segment operating loss.

What it does change is the competitive-advantage assessment, which moves up one point. Until now the argument that Intel's advanced packaging is genuinely competitive rested on Intel's own claims. A validated design from the world's leading HBM manufacturer, presented at a technical conference rather than in a press release, is external evidence of a different quality. It is evidence about capability, not about revenue, and the report treats it that way.

3. Valuation and the sell-side split

The valuation conclusion is unchanged and the case for it has, on the numbers, hardened slightly. Trailing GAAP earnings remain unusable because non-operating marks drive a loss beneath a positive operating line, so the forward adjusted figure is the only anchor. At 63.4 times 2026 and 47 times 2027 consensus, against TSMC near 24 times forward for a proven and profitable foundry, Intel's premium continues to be an option on execution rather than a claim about current earnings power.

Measure	Value	Comment
Forward P/E, FY26E consensus	**63.4x**	On adjusted EPS of $1.51; the estimate fell 9% while the price fell 6.5%
Forward P/E, FY27E consensus	**47.0x**	On adjusted EPS of $2.04; the one multiple that has genuinely improved
Forward P/E on the low estimate	**85.5x**	Street low FY26 of $1.12; dispersion remains extreme
EV / FY26E revenue	**~8.9x**	Consensus revenue $63.03bn; against 0.7x in early 2025
FY26E free cash flow	**–$1.30bn**	Consensus expects the year to consume cash, not generate it
Net cash position	**–$20.56bn**	$29.73bn cash against $50.54bn debt, before the August offering proceeds
Altman Z-score	**2.23**	Below 3; the balance sheet is not yet out of the danger band
Consensus target	**$115.78**	48 analysts at Hold; range $75 to $200
Scenario-weighted fair value	**~$112**	See section 6; 17.4% above the current price

The sell side has moved in both directions in the last three weeks, which is the same two-sided disagreement the August report described rather than a drift. Mizuho cut its target to $92 from $109 on 3 September while keeping a Hold, explicitly citing multiple compression, foundry margin pressure as newer nodes ramp, and weaker personal computer demand, while acknowledging accelerating agentic AI demand into 2027 and possible CPU supply shortages as offsetting tailwinds. UBS trimmed to $112 from $121. Bank of America reiterated a Buy at $145. J.P. Morgan raised its target to $85 from $45 on 24 August while keeping a Sell rating, which is a large move in the number and no change at all in the view. Raymond James initiated at Hold on 25 August. Across 48 analysts the distribution is 12 Strong Buy, 2 Buy, 32 Hold, 1 Sell and 1 Strong Sell, with an average target of $115.78 spanning $75 to $200.

Macro conditions that bear on this business. Intel is a two-sided macro story and neither side is the policy rate directly. Demand runs on the personal computer and data-centre replacement cycle: Dell's results in early September were read by at least one analyst as constructive for Intel CPU demand, while Mizuho's cut rested partly on a weaker personal computer market, so the evidence is genuinely mixed. The August employment report was strong, with payrolls of 162,000 against a 58,000 forecast and the two prior months revised up by a combined 55,000, which supports enterprise refresh budgets. The second side is the cost of capital for a company carrying $50.54 billion of debt, spending above $20 billion of capital expenditure in 2026 and guided higher in 2027, and expected to consume $1.30 billion of free cash flow this year. The ten-year Treasury yield touched 4.814% on 2 September, its highest since November 2023, with core PCE at 3.3% year-over-year in July and futures pricing better-than-even odds of a quarter-point Federal Reserve increase in mid-September. That is a rising cost of capital for a business that will need more of it, and it is the reason the August equity raise looks better in hindsight than it did on the day.

4. Technical position, with the 200-day average corrected

The August report noted that its 200-day average could not be computed from a 100-session series and cited a figure near $70 taken from elsewhere. That level was then used as the thesis-break trigger. A full 300-session series is now available and the 200-day average computes to $74.15 and is rising. Every level anchored to it has been reset in section 5 accordingly. This matters more than a rounding difference: a thesis-break placed at $70 would sit 6% below the trend line it was meant to represent, so the trend could break with the trigger untouched.

On the chart itself, the repair described in August has stalled. Price slipped from $103.49 on 17 August to $87.26 by 24 August, based around $85.14, and has recovered to $95.80 after a 4.5% session on 4 September. It sits above the 20-day at $93.95 but has now lost the 100-day at $103.86, which it was above three weeks ago, and remains well below the falling 50-day at $100.61. The MACD histogram is still positive at +0.62 but narrower than the +1.81 of the August report, so the crossover that looked imminent has not arrived. The genuinely constructive item is volatility: the 14-day average true range has fallen from 7.0% of price to 5.3%, the calmest this stock has been in months.

Indicator	Value	Read
Close (4 Sep 2026)	$95.80	Alpha Vantage; the price of record throughout this report
SMA 20 / 50 / 100	$93.95 / $100.61 / $103.86	Above the 20-day only; the 100-day has been lost since August
SMA 200	$74.15	Computed from a full 300-session series; rising
EMA 20 / 50	$93.27 / $97.59	Price above the 20, below the 50
RSI (14)	51.7	Neutral. Was 51.3 in the August report
MACD (12,26,9)	–2.45, signal –3.07, hist +0.62	Still negative; histogram narrower than August's +1.81
ATR (14)	$5.12 (5.3% of price)	Down from 7.0%; the calmest reading in months
Volume, 20d vs 50d average	97.9m vs 106.3m	Participation cooling after the July round trip
20-session range	$85.14 – $107.57	The late-August base and the post-raise high
60-session range	$81.79 – $142.35	The 29 July capitulation low and the June all-time high
Support / resistance	$94 / $85 / $74 · $101 / $104 / $142	20-day, base, 200-day; then 50-day, 100-day, June high

Computed by this report from a 300-session Twelve Data daily series of unadjusted closes through 4 September 2026, using Wilder smoothing for RSI and ATR. Percentage distances are measured against the $95.80 price of record. Technicals inform timing only and do not override the fundamental view.

5. Risks

Risk	Probability	Severity	Assessment
Valuation	High	High	63.4x forward 2026 earnings after a 6.5% price fall, because the estimate fell 9%. The premium to TSMC at roughly 24x is entirely an option on execution.
Earnings estimate momentum	High	Medium	New emphasis. Consensus 2026 adjusted EPS has been cut 9% in three weeks on foundry margin and personal computer demand, with revenue estimates intact.
Foundry customer risk	Medium	High	Tesla remains the only publicly named 14A customer. The SK hynix HBM4E reporting is unconfirmed and concerns packaging and mature nodes rather than the leading edge.
Cash consumption	High	Medium	Consensus expects 2026 free cash flow of –$1.30bn against capital expenditure guided above $20bn and higher again in 2027.
Balance sheet	Medium	Medium	Net debt of $20.56bn before the August proceeds and an Altman Z-score of 2.23. The raise improved this and did not resolve it.
Execution and yields	Medium	High	18A and 14A yields and High-NA EUV tooling remain unproven at volume. Risk production for 14A stays scheduled for the second half of 2027.
Competitive	High	Medium	TSMC's A14 targets the same 2028 window with structural advantages in cost, yield and ecosystem.
Further dilution	Medium	Medium	Share count up 13.3% year-over-year before the August offering. A second raise before the first is deployed would be a material negative.

6. Scorecard

Component	Score	Comment and change since 15 August
Business Quality	**5**/10	Unchanged. Improving operationally; the foundry segment still loses $2.1bn a quarter.
Financial Strength	**5**/10	Unchanged. The raise is now in the base, but 2026 free cash flow is forecast at –$1.30bn.
Competitive Advantage	**6**/10	Raised from 5. SK hynix validated designs against Intel's EMIB-T packaging at Hot Chips 2026.
Management	**6**/10	Unchanged. The August raise was well executed; the customer proof point is still absent.
Growth Potential	**7**/10	Unchanged. Revenue estimates hold at +19.3% for 2026 and +13.3% for 2027.
Valuation	**3**/10	Unchanged. 63.4x forward against 62x, because estimates fell faster than the price.
Risk (10 = lowest risk)	**3**/10	Unchanged. Negative free cash flow, an Altman Z of 2.23 and a $75–$200 target range.
Technical Setup	**4**/10	Reduced from 5. The 100-day average has been lost and the MACD histogram is narrowing.

Scored 1–10, where 10 is always best, including Risk. Weighting: Business Quality 15%, Financial Strength 15%, Competitive Advantage 12%, Management 10%, Growth Potential 15%, Valuation 18%, Risk 10%, Technical Setup 5%. Weighted result 49.1, reported as 49 / 100 against 48 / 100 in August. The August scorecard used this same direction convention, so the components are directly comparable and no restatement was required. Two moved: Competitive Advantage up on external packaging validation, Technical Setup down on the loss of the 100-day average. Valuation and Risk are unchanged and remain the binding constraints on the rating.

7. Recommendation and reference levels

Rating: Watchlist, reaffirmed. Own it lower, not here.

Three weeks ago the argument was that Intel had just asked shareholders for roughly $20 billion to build capacity whose returns its own roadmap places in 2028, for a node with one named external customer, at 62 times forward earnings. Every element of that is still true. The price has fallen 6.5% and delivered no improvement in the multiple, because the estimate behind it fell further. A 6.5% decline that leaves valuation marginally worse is not the pullback this rating has been waiting for.

Two things have moved in Intel's favour and neither is yet decisive. The SK hynix HBM4E reporting is the first external interest in Intel Foundry from a company of consequence other than Tesla, and the validated EMIB-T packaging work behind it is checkable technical evidence rather than a claim. But SK hynix has disputed part of the reporting, no agreement has been disclosed, and a base die is not a leading-edge node. Separately, realised volatility has fallen sharply, from a 7.0% average true range to 5.3%, which makes the stock easier to size without making it cheaper to own.

The reference levels below have been reset rather than carried over, and the reason is a correction rather than a change of view. The August report set a thesis-break at a sustained close below $70, described as the rising 200-day average, while noting that its own series was too short to compute that average. Computed properly from a 300-session history the 200-day stands at $74.15. Every level anchored to it moves with it: the thesis-break goes to a sustained close below $74, and the accumulation zone lifts to $78 to $88 so that it sits clearly above the trend line rather than straddling it. That separation is the point. The July report on this name placed a thesis-break inside its own buy zone, which told an investor simultaneously that the thesis was breaking and that this was the place to buy, and that error should not be reintroduced by carrying forward an average that has since moved.

Parameter	Level	Note
Current price	**$95.80**	Close of 4 September 2026
Preferred accumulation zone	**$78 – $88**	Raised from $70–$85. Brackets the late-August base at $85.14 and sits clearly above the recomputed 200-day average. Equivalent to 38–43x consensus 2027 earnings, which is a trend entry rather than a cheap multiple, and the report says so plainly.
Thesis-break level	**Sustained close below $74**	Corrected from $70. The 200-day average computes to $74.15 from a full series, not the approximate figure the August report was obliged to cite.
Weighted fair value	**~$112**	Reduced from ~$114 on the 9% cut to 2026 consensus earnings; 17.4% above the price
Near-term support	**$94 / $85 / $74**	20-day average, the late-August base, then the 200-day
Near-term resistance	**$101 / $104 / $142**	50-day, 100-day, then the June all-time high
Position sizing if entered	**Sized for a 5.3% ATR**	Calmer than August's 7.0%, but a beta above 2 has not gone away

What would change the view	Condition
Upgrade to Buy	A binding, publicly named marquee external 14A customer beyond Tesla, most plausibly after the PDK 0.9 design kit ships in late 2026; or a disclosed SK hynix HBM4E agreement rather than industry reporting; or foundry operating losses narrowing decisively rather than by roughly $300m a quarter; or a pullback into $78–$88.
Downgrade toward Avoid	An 18A or 14A timeline slip beyond 2028, loss of a prospective foundry customer, a further equity raise before the August proceeds are deployed, or a sustained close below the $74 two-hundred-day average.
Macro condition worth watching	A sustained deterioration in personal computer and enterprise refresh demand alongside a further rise in long-term yields, which would raise the cost of the next financing round for a business already expected to consume cash this year.

8. Scenario analysis

Case	Prob.	Fair value range	Midpoint	vs $95.80	Drivers
Bull	25% (=)	$150 – $185	**$167.50**	+75%	A marquee 14A customer signs after PDK 0.9, the SK hynix engagement converts into disclosed volume, 18A reaches profitability and foundry losses halve.
Base	50% (=)	$95 – $115	**$105.00**	+10%	18A ramps, Tesla plus one mid-size win, foundry losses narrow slowly, capital expenditure stays elevated. Reduced from $100–$120 on the 9% cut to consensus earnings.
Bear	25% (=)	$65 – $80	**$72.50**	–24%	PDK 0.9 slips or no additional customer emerges, capital expenditure climbs again and a further equity raise is required. Raised from $60–$75 as the 200-day floor has risen to $74.15.

Probabilities sum to 100%. The probability-weighted fair value on scenario midpoints is $112.50, computed as 0.25 × $167.50 plus 0.50 × $105.00 plus 0.25 × $72.50, and checked in code against its own inputs. That is 17.4% above the 4 September close, against 11.0% in the August report, and sits slightly below the $115.78 consensus target. The improvement comes from the lower share price rather than from a better outlook: the base case has been cut and the bear case raised, and the probabilities are unchanged.

9. Final verdict

Would a disciplined investor commit fresh capital to Intel at $95.80? No, and the reason has become cleaner rather than softer.

A stock that falls 6.5% while the earnings estimate behind it falls 9% has not become cheaper; it has become slightly more expensive with a lower headline price, which is the most common way an investor talks themselves into a position. The forward multiple is 63 times a 2026 number that the sell side is still cutting, the company is expected to consume $1.3 billion of free cash flow this year against capital expenditure above $20 billion, and thirty-two of forty-eight analysts sit on Hold with targets spread from $75 to $200. That last figure is the most honest description of the situation available: the professional community cannot agree within a factor of 2.7 on what this company is worth, because the answer depends on a customer signature that does not yet exist.

The constructive development is real and should not be dismissed. SK hynix appears to be evaluating Intel Foundry for HBM4E base dies, and it has validated designs against Intel's packaging in a technical forum, which is the first time an external party of consequence has put its own engineering behind a claim Intel has been making about itself. If that becomes a disclosed agreement it changes the foundry conversation, because it converts the question from whether anyone will use Intel Foundry to what they will use it for and at what volume. It has not become that yet, and the company whose name is on it has disputed part of the reporting.

The single biggest concern is unchanged and now has a number attached. Valuation and execution-timeline risk compound each other, and the last three weeks showed how: nothing bad happened, no guidance was cut by the company, no milestone slipped, and the forward multiple still went up because the analysts who follow it quietly reduced what they expect Intel to earn. A business whose multiple rises on falling estimates in a flat news period has no cushion. What would change the view is a customer, not a capital raise and not a lower price on its own. Until a name of consequence commits, or the stock comes into the $78 to $88 zone where the option is worth underwriting on a rising 200-day average, the disciplined position is to watch.

Sources and scope. Intel second-quarter 2026 results (23 July 2026), which remain the company's most recent reported quarter, and which were analysed in the report of 24 July; the August 2026 underwritten common stock offering announcements; industry reporting on SK hynix's evaluation of Intel Foundry for HBM4E base dies and on design validation against Intel's EMIB-T packaging presented at Hot Chips 2026, together with SK hynix's public statement that parts of that reporting are inaccurate; published analyst actions from Mizuho Securities (3 September), Raymond James (25 August), J.P. Morgan (24 August), UBS and Bank of America Securities (12 August); consensus estimates, ratings distribution and balance-sheet statistics from S&P Global Market Intelligence via StockAnalysis.com, retrieved 5 September 2026; moomoo news, notice and research feeds and the moomoo stock digest, both retrieved successfully on 5 September 2026; a 300-session Twelve Data daily price series through 4 September 2026, from which every technical indicator including the 200-day average was computed directly; Alpha Vantage for the 4 September closing price of record; and United States macroeconomic releases through 4 September 2026. No earnings release or earnings call has occurred since 23 July, so no new call transcript was applicable to this update; third-quarter results are scheduled for 22 October 2026. Forward multiples, scenario fair values, the probability-weighted fair value and the recomputed reference levels are this report's own calculations and are labelled as such rather than presented as company figures.

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