

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. \$84.14

NYSE: FCX

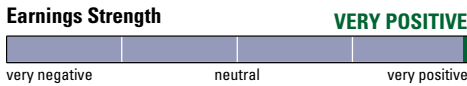


STRONG BUY

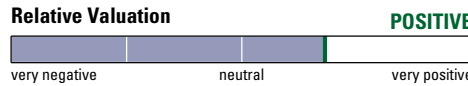
Reiterated 11/27/09

We project that FCX will strongly outperform the market over the next 6 to 12 months. This projection is based on our analysis of three key factors that influence common stock performance: earnings strength, relative valuation, and recent price movement.

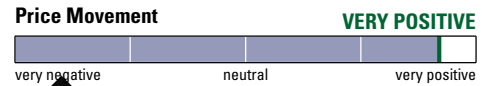
Previous Rating Buy (9/05/09 - 10/03/09)	52-Week Price Range \$16.80 - \$87.32	Market Capitalization 36.17 Billions	Annual Dividend Yield 0.7%	Annual Dividend Rate \$0.60	Industry Copper
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EPS increased from \$4.74 to an estimated \$5.03 over the past 5 quarters indicating an improving growth rate. Analyst forecasts have recently been raised. Company recently reported better than expected results.



Operating Earnings Yield of 6% ranks above 68% of the companies covered by Ford.



1-year price up 232.2%: **VERY POSITIVE**
 1-quarter up 30.9%: **VERY NEGATIVE**
 1-month up 8.6%: **VERY NEGATIVE**

Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold is an international mining company. The company's mines primarily produce copper, molybdenum and gold. The company's portfolio of assets includes the Grasberg minerals district in Indonesia; mining operations in North and South America; as well as the Tenke Fungurume development project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. As Dec 31, 2008, the company's consolidated recoverable proven and probable reserves totaled 102.00 billion pounds of copper, 40.0 million ounces of gold, 2.48 billion pounds of molybdenum, 266.6 million ounces of silver and 0.70 billion pounds of cobalt.

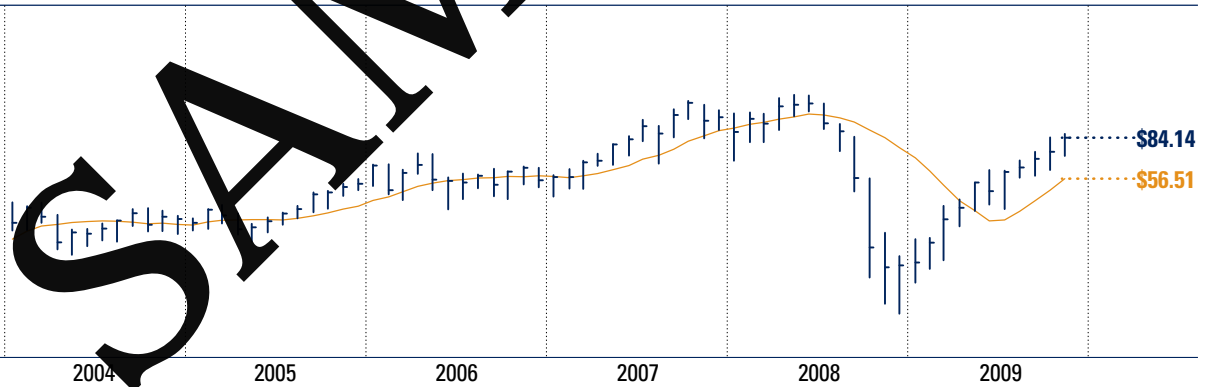
Copper performance is POSITIVE

Peer Group Comparison

Ticker	Company Name	Overall Rating	Quality Rating	Recent Price (\$)	Market Cap (\$B)	EPS (ttm)	P/E (mrq)	P/B (ttm)	1 year Price Change
FCX	Freeport-McMoRan Co..	Strong Buy	Good	84.14	36.17	2.20	38.25	6.80	232.20
LUNMF	Lundin Mining Corp.	Hold	Low	2.20	2.56	-0.21	(NM)	0.90	413.40
PCU	Southern Copper Corp.	Buy	Low	34.62	29.43	0.60	57.70	8.13	141.30

FCX Price Performance

Trailing 10 Months Average Price —



Net Profit on Sales	4.2%	20.2%	23.8%	18.7%	11.0%	7.6%
Cash Flow/share	\$2.08	\$7.13	\$8.27	\$10.98	\$-24.89	--
Book Value/share	\$0.38	\$4.25	\$6.88	\$47.63	\$5.38	\$12.38
Return on Equity	149.3%	113.4%	101.7%	17.3%	88.2%	17.8%
Debt to Equity	161.0%	54.0%	27.0%	39.0%	126.0%	--

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Ford Equity Research

A Mergent Company

Recommendation Summary

Ford's Strong Buy recommendation on Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. is the result of our systematic analysis on three basic characteristics: earnings strength, relative valuation, and recent stock price movement. The company has enjoyed a very positive trend in earnings per share over the past 5 quarters and while recent estimates for the company have been raised by analysts, FCX has posted better than expected results. Based on operating earnings yield, the company is undervalued when compared to all of the companies we cover. Share price changes over the past year indicates that FCX will perform very well over the near term.

Earnings Strength is VERY POSITIVE

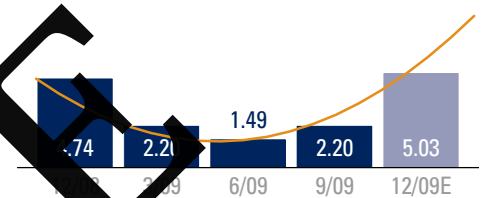
Ford's earnings momentum measures the acceleration or deceleration in trailing 12 month operating earnings per share growth. The upward curvature of the plotted points in the graph on the right indicates that while **Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.'s earnings have increased from \$4.74 to an estimated \$5.03 over the past 5 quarters, they have shown strong acceleration in quarterly growth rates** when adjusted for the volatility of earnings. This indicates an improvement in future earnings growth may occur.

Nearly 40 years of research have shown that the change in the growth of earnings per share is an important factor that drives stock price performance. Ford measures earnings momentum and analysts' forecast changes to get an early indication of changing earnings patterns.

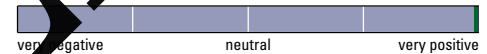
Recent changes to analysts' forecasts and variances between reported and estimated earnings provide important information about a company's future earnings performance. Ford uses this information, in conjunction with earnings momentum, as early evidence of catalysts to near-term stock price performance. Earnings forecasts for Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. have been increasing which indicates an improvement in future earnings growth. The company has also reported higher earnings than those predicted in earlier estimates. This indicates an ability to exceed analysts' expectations and the potential for improving earnings growth in the future.

TTM Operating EPS in US (\$)

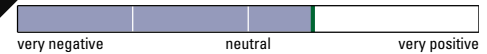
Positive earnings trend over past 5 quarters



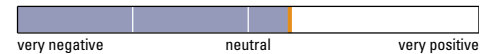
Earnings Momentum



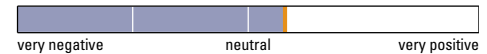
Current FY Estimate Change



Next Fiscal Year Estimate Change



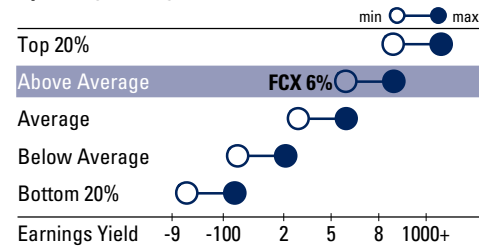
Reported vs Expected EPS



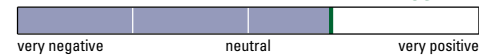
Relative Valuation is POSITIVE

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.'s operating earnings yield of 6% ranks above 68% of the other companies in the Ford universe of stocks, indicating that it is undervalued. Ford measures the relative valuation of each company against all other companies in our research universe. Operating earnings yield, an earnings-to-price ratio based on the last 3 quarters of operating earnings and the current quarter's estimate, has proven to be the most reliable relative valuation measure. A stock may stay undervalued or overvalued for a long period of time. For this reason, it is important to combine this factor with shorter-term predictive factors such as earnings momentum or price momentum to identify more imminent valuation adjustments.

Operating Earnings Yield(%) within the Ford Universe



Operating Earnings Yield



Price Movement is VERY POSITIVE

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.'s stock price is up 232.2% in the last 12 months, up 30.9% in the past quarter and up 8.6% in the past month. This historical performance should lead to above average price performance in the next one to three months.

Historical price action of a company's stock is an especially helpful measure used to identify intermediate and short term performance potential. Long term historical performance is a good predictor of future price performance, but much more importantly, large price movements over the intermediate and short term tend to reverse themselves. Ford's price momentum measure integrates historical long, intermediate and short term price changes, creating ratings that are highest for stocks with strong twelve month price performance that have had a price consolidation in the past quarter and month.

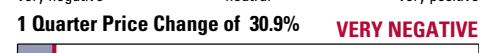
Stock Price is up 232.2% in the past year



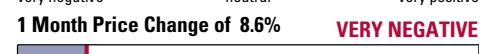
1 Year Price Change of 232.2%



1 Quarter Price Change of 30.9%



1 Month Price Change of 8.6%



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Ford Stock Ratings: Ford covers approximately 4,000 stocks using a proprietary quantitative model that evaluates a company's earnings strength, its relative valuation and recent price movement. Ford's five recommendation ratings include strong buy, buy, hold, sell, strong sell. For all stocks in our coverage universe, ratings are generated each week and reflect the fundamental and price data as of the last trading day of the week.

Ford Stock Rating	Percentage of Universe With Rating	12-month Relative Return Forecast
STRONG BUY	8.7%	Significantly above average
BUY	16.6%	Above average
HOLD	57.8%	Average
SELL	11.9%	Below average
STRONG SELL	5.0%	Significantly below average

Earnings Strength: Earnings strength is a weighted combination of factors that measure a company's earnings growth performance. These include Ford's proprietary Earnings Momentum model, changes in analysts' estimates for the current and next fiscal year, and earnings surprises as compared to estimates. Combined score ratings and percentiles are as follows: Very Positive – top 20%, Positive - next highest 20%, Neutral – middle 20%, Negative - second lowest 20%, Very Negative – lowest 20%.

Relative Valuation: The coverage universe is sorted in descending order based on Ford's operating earnings yield measure. Operating earnings yield is the ratio of 12-month operating earnings per share (including the current quarter estimated EPS) to closing share price on the report date. Relative valuation ratings and percentiles are as follows: Very Positive – top 20%, Positive - next highest 20%, Neutral – middle 20%, Negative - second lowest 20%, Very Negative – lowest 20%.

Price Movement: Price movement is a proprietary evaluation of a company's relative share price change in the past 1-year, 1-quarter and 1-month periods. For analysis, positive price changes in the past 1-year period are a favorable indicator of near-term price gain. Conversely, positive price changes in the past quarter or month periods can indicate a short-term overbought condition, resulting in negative near-term price change. Price movement score ratings and percentiles are as follows: Very Positive – top 20%, Positive - next highest 20%, Neutral – middle 20%, Negative - second lowest 20%, Very Negative – lowest 20%.

Industry Performance: Ford measures the relative performance of the 88 industry groups that we cover. The top 20% of industries based on our metric are expected to have above average near-term performance and are classified as Positive. The bottom 20% based on the same metric are expected to have below average near-term performance and are classified as Negative. The remaining middle 60% of industries are expected to have average performance and are classified as Neutral.

Operating Earnings per Share: Earnings per share figures in the Ford Valuation Bands, quarterly earnings series and 5-quarter earnings trend plot reflect Ford's operating earnings per share. Operating earnings per share are earnings per share from continuing operations and before accounting changes that have been adjusted to eliminate non-recurring and unusual items. In this way, earnings trend and valuation measurements are not affected by one-time and non-operational items that can skew earnings results.

Peer Group: Ford classifies each company in our coverage universe into one of 232 peer group categories based on industry group, products or services offered, annual sales level and market capitalization. Peer groups, which are made up of between 3 and 8 companies, are a useful point of industry reference and a source for alternative ideas within an industry.

Quality Rating: Quality Rating is based on factors that indicate a company's overall financial strength and earnings predictability. Each company in the Ford database is assigned a quality rating ranging from A+ to C- based on size, debt level, earnings history and industry stability. High quality stocks tend to have higher average market capitalizations and annual sales, as well as lower average levels of debt as a percent of equity and lower earnings variability. High quality stocks also tend to have lower standard deviations of annual returns. Accordingly, a firm's quality rating may be used to gauge the risk associated with a particular stock. The Quality Rating letter grades are divided into the following categories: A- and higher are High Quality; B and B+ are Good Quality; B- is Average Quality; C+ is Low Quality; C and lower are Very Poor Quality.

Valuation Band: The Ford Valuation Band chart shows the price performance of the stock over the past 5 year period in relation to its historical price/earnings valuation range. The red and green lines indicate the highest and lowest P/E, respectively, in the past 5 years multiplied by trailing 12-month operating earnings per share at the plotted point. The end point prices shows the current share price (in black) along with the potential high price based on the highest realized P/E in the past 5 years (in red), potential low price based on lowest realized P/E in the past 5 years (in green), and trailing 10-month average price (in yellow).

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