

March, 2021

NAM KIM STEEL JSC (HSX: NKG)

Benefits from rising steel prices and high demand from overseas

(VND bn)	4Q-FY20	3Q-FY20	+/- qoq	4Q-FY19	+/- yoy
Net revenue	3,418	3,376	1%	3,201	7%
PAT	154	83	86%	7	2,052%
EBIT	198	143	38%	47	323%
EBIT margin	5.8%	4.2%	154bps	1.5%	432bps

Source: NKG, Rong Viet Securities

2020: Favorable HRC prices and recovering demand from both domestic and export markets boosted net income

- 2H volume went up by 16% YoY to offset the 11% decrease in 1H volume as we believe the overall demand is recovering. 2020 whole year volume stabilized at +3.0% YoY.
- GPM improved from 2.8% in 2019 to 7.5% in 2020 as HRC prices surged by 19% QoQ and 18% QoQ in 3Q and 4Q respectively, the highest increase over the last three years.
- 2H surprises brought the bottom-line from a loss in 1H to VND 295 billion net profit for the whole year, up 524% YoY.

2021: Steel prices and strong demand from European and North American markets are going to boost net income in the short-term

We expect that NKG can produce at full capacity in 2021 and sell 800,000 tons of products, increasing by 14% YoY. Strong orders from Europe have guaranteed the consumption of NKG's production output in 1H. Due to increasing steel prices and higher profitability from developed markets, gross margin is predicted at 8.5% in 1H2021. For 2H, the company can increase its selling volume in domestic and traditional export markets to reduce the dependence on the demand from the EU. However, as we believe HRC prices cannot rally as strongly toward the end of the year, NKG's gross margin will be lowered to 4.3% in 2H.

We forecast its average selling price will be up by 30%, coupled with an increase of 14% in selling volume, resulting in a revenue increase of 48% YoY. NKG's gross margin and NPAT are forecasted to be 6.7% and VND 514 billion (+74% YoY) respectively.

Valuation and recommendation

Seizing opportunities from the European and North American markets will help NKG to improve both sales volume and gross margin in 1H2021. Afterwards, the company can reallocate its selling volume to the domestic market in 2H2021 if the demand from foreign markets becomes weaker. Overall, we think NKG can achieve substantial earnings in 2021 via both volume growth and higher HRC price.

Using a P/B of 1.1x and P/E of 9.5x, we estimate NKG's fair value is roughly **VND 24,700** per share. Although NKG's NPAT can increase strongly in 1H, we think its results still are uncertain in 2H due to the highly volatile steel price. "Short-term" investors can consider our target price of VND 25,600 per share, which is based on the P/E method. With a cash dividend of VND 300/share over the next 12 months, the total return is **+15%**, based on the closing price on 25th March 2021. Therefore, we recommend to **ACCUMULATE** this stock.

ACCUMULATE +15%

Target price (VND)	24,700
Current market price (VND)	21,700

Cash Dividend (VND)* 300

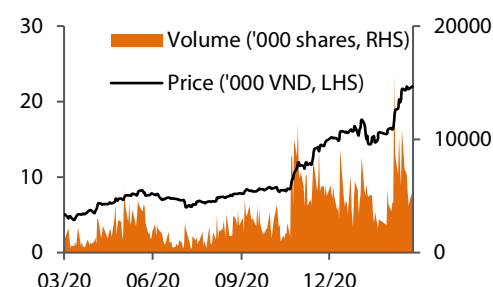
* Expected in the next 12 months

Stock Info

Sector	Basic Materials
Market Cap (VND billion)	3,895.8
Current Shares O/S	172.0
Avg. Daily Volume (in 20 sessions)	6,628.6
Free float (%)	50
52 week High	22,650
52 week Low	4,313
Beta	1.0

	FY2019	TTM
EPS	260	1,623
EPS Growth (%)	-17.4	524.1
Diluted EPS	260	1,623
P/E	26.5	5.1
P/B	0.4	0.5
EV/EBITDA	7.1	4.4
Cash dividend yield (%)	0	4
ROE (%)	1.6	9.3

Price performance



Major Shareholders (%)

Ho Minh Quang	13.6
Vo Hoang Vu	11.1
Remaining ownership room (%)	87.4

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Exhibit 1: 4Q/2020 Results

(VND Bn)	4Q-FY20	3Q-FY20	+/- (qoq)	4Q-FY19	+/- (yoy)
Net revenue	3,418	3,376	1.3%	3,201	6.8%
Gross profit	307	242	26.8%	130	137.3%
SG&A	110	99	10.6%	83	32.6%
Operating income	198	143	38.1%	47	322.9%
EBITDA	293	238	23.2%	159	84.0%
EBIT	198	143	38.1%	47	322.9%
Financial expenses	54	73	-25.3%	144	-62.4%
- Interest Expenses	49	56	-12.4%	134	-63.5%
Dep. and amortization	95	95	0.6%	112	-15.3%
Non-recurring items (*)					
Extraordinary items (*)					
PBT	171	92	86.5%	7	2251.2%
PAT	154	83	86.4%	7	2052.0%
(*) Adjusted PAT	154	83	86.4%	7	2052.0%

Source: NKG, Rong Viet Securities

Exhibit 2: 4Q/2020 Performance Analysis

Particulars	4Q-FY20	3Q-FY20	+/- (qoq)	4Q-FY19	+/- (yoy)
Profitability Ratios (%)					
Gross Margin	9.0%	7.2%	181bps	4.0%	495bps
EBITDA Margin	8.6%	7.0%	152bps	5.0%	359bps
EBIT Margin	5.8%	4.2%	154bps	1.5%	432bps
Net Margin	4.5%	2.4%	206bps	0.2%	428bps
Adjusted Net Margin	4.5%	2.4%	206bps	0.2%	428bps
Turnover *(x)					
-Inventories	5.4	4.9	0.5	5.3	0.1
-Receivables	9.4	10.6	-1.2	14.8	-5.3
-Payables	10.5	10.8	-0.3	8.4	2.1
Leverage (%)					
Total Debt/ Equity	121.9%	148.1%	-2,616bps	135.3%	-1,335bps

Source: NKG, Rong Viet Securities. (*) annualized

Exhibit 3: 1Q/2021 Performance Forecast

(VND Bn)	1Q-FY21	+/-qoq	+/-yoy
Revenue	4,360	27.6%	77.9%
Gross profit	429	39.5%	102.3%
EBIT	313	58.6%	139.1%
NPAT	256	66.2%	516.6%

Source: Rong Viet Securities

- Revenue is going to increase by 78% YoY because NKG's selling volume can increase by 35% supported by the strong demand from the EU and North America. Besides, we expect the quarterly average HRC price will increase by 45% YoY.

- Gross margin is forecasted to expand from 8.6% in 1Q2020 to 9.8% in 1Q2021 because the average HRC price is expected to increase by 20% QoQ, while it increased by only 7% QoQ in 1Q2020.

Update

NKG's profit increased strongly in 2020 owing to the sharp increase in HRC price and high sales volume, mainly export volume.

Due to the favorable HRC price movement, the gross profit margin in 2H2020 increased strongly compared to 1H2020. HRC price has increased by 19% QoQ in 3Q and 18% during 4Q, after hitting the bottom in 2Q. The increase in HRC price improved NKG's gross margin from 4.6% in 2Q to 7.2% in 3Q and 9.0% in 4Q.

Sales volume improved rapidly due to the recovery of export orders and domestic steel pipe demand. The total consumption volume of NKG in 2H reached 404,000 tons, up 16% YoY, and export volume increased strongly by 18% YoY. The main reason is that construction activities are back to normal after the pandemic and export orders to European markets increased. Therefore, NKG's profit grew from VND 47 billion in 2019 to VND 295 billion in 2020.

Strong demand from Europe and North American will continue to boost NKG's selling volume and profitability in 1H2021.

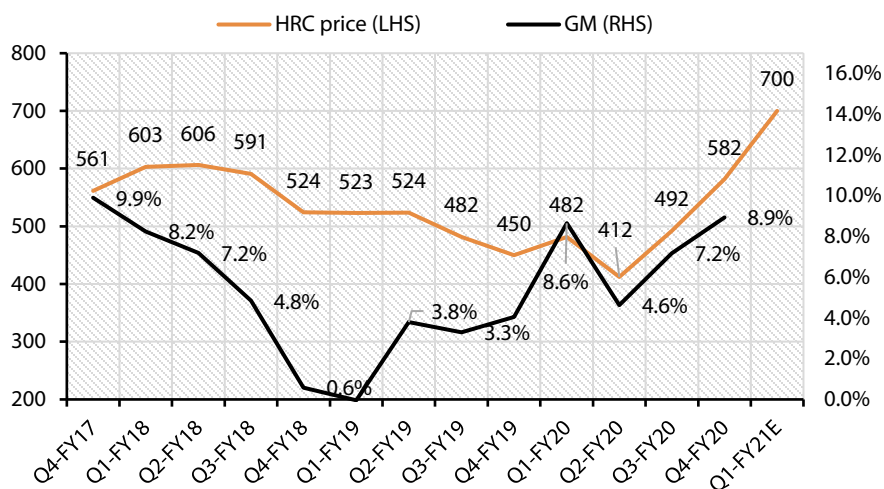
Export volume to Europe and North America has been increasing strongly as NKG has received enough orders for production until June 2021. This shows the demand from these markets is strong as NKG only receives orders one to two months in advance under normal market conditions. The coated steel consumption in these markets has been stronger in 1Q2021 due to the expectation that economies will recover due to available COVID-19 vaccines. The European and North American markets require high-quality standards, hence, limiting the supply and bringing a higher gross margin. Besides, flat steel prices are highly different between Vietnam and these markets, leading to higher profitability for exporters. The European and North American markets' share currently accounts for roughly 80% - 90% of the company's total export volume.

Besides, NKG's profitability will be improved compared to 2H 2020 as exporting to these markets brings more attractive gross margin compared to the traditional markets and export volume accounts for a higher portion in NKG's sales. We expect that NKG's gross margin in current export markets will range from 9% to 12%. In the short term, the company will prioritize export orders and only maintain the domestic sales portion at 30%-40%, lower compared to 58% in 2020.

NKG can maintain high earnings growth in 2021

NKG's NPAT in 1Q can still grow by 66% QoQ owing to the favorable HRC price and higher selling volume. We expect that the quarterly HRC average price will increase by roughly 20% QoQ in 1Q, which will support NKG's gross margin at roughly 9.8% this quarter, higher than that of 9.0% in 4Q2020. Exporting to developed markets, such as Europe and North America, also brings higher gross margin due to the tight supply in these markets. In addition, because factories will run at full capacity until June, NKG's selling volume can reach 400,000 tons in 1H, growing by 35% YoY.

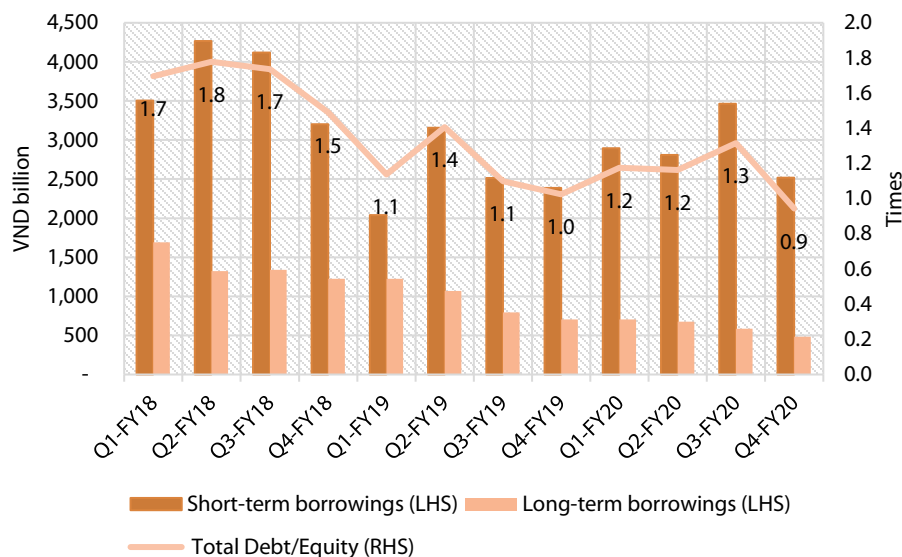
Figure 1: Quarterly HRC average price and NKG's gross margin



Source: Bloomberg, NKG

Despite a certain level of dependence on HRC's price fluctuation, we think that in case of a decrease in steel prices in 2021, NKG's gross margin will not be hit as strongly as it was in the 2018-2019 period. During late-2018 and early-2019, large inventories accumulated at a high price caused gross margin to hit the bottom of roughly 0% in the 4Q2018 - 1Q2019 period, alongside with an interest expense burden deteriorating NKG's bottom line. However, NKG now maintains inventories at only two months, lower compared to that of roughly three months in the 2018-2019 period. The majority of which already secured a buyer, as mentioned above. The current debt-to-equity ratio is only 0.9 times, significantly lower than that of 1.8 in 2018. Interest expenses also decreased to VND 222 billion in 2020 and is expected to fall by 7% YoY to VND 207 billion in 2021. In short, we believe that the company has taken precautionary measure to reduce the risks associated with commodity prices.

Figure 2: Borrowings and debt-to-equity ratio



Source: NKG, Rong Viet Securities

We expect NKG's net income to reach VND 514 billion in 2021, increasing by 74% YoY, mainly coming in 1H2021. Our forecast is based on the assumption that the average HRC price in 2021 is USD 650/ton. NKG's net income target is VND 600 billion, increasing by 103% compared to the 2020 result. The plans were set based on the HRC price assumption of USD 700/ton in 2021, which we think is high. Besides, the company expects export activities to contribute roughly 70% of total net income.

NKG does not have plan to sell its 32-ha land in My Xuan B industrial park in Ba Ria – Vung Tau province in 2021. However, we estimate that the company can earn a large profit by selling its land as the average market price for industrial land in Ba Ria – Vung Tau province is roughly 100 USD/m², while the company's purchasing cost for this land was roughly USD 45/m². The unrealized PAT from this land can be approximately VND 330 billion.

The new warehouse can bring some growth potential in NKG's coated steel production volume in late-2021.

NKG plans to invest VND 250 billion in building a new warehouse in Binh Duong, which will be completed in mid-3Q 2021. The new warehouse will create more production space for the factory in Binh Duong, hence, the company can boost coated steel volume to roughly one million tons/year. Currently, the company does not have a plan to expand its cold-rolling capacity, hence, it has to buy CRC to reach that coated steel production volume.

We think the company will not face difficulties to finance this project. Owing to the larger portion of export volume, cash flow from operating is expected to improve. In export deals, the company just takes two-three weeks to receive the payment, while its days sales outstanding in the domestic market is 30-35 days. In 2021, NKG is forecasted to depreciate roughly VND 390 billion and earn VND 500 billion NPAT, meanwhile, investment in working capital and capital expenditure are only roughly VND 650 billion and VND 250 billion.

Valuation

To value NKG, we use the PE and PB methods with a weighting of 70% and 30%, respectively. In 2021, we use a target P/E of 9.5x and an estimated EPS this year of roughly VND 2,681. The target P/B for NKG is 1.1x because the company is using its assets effectively and the market price of several assets is higher than book value, such as land use rights. We arrive at target price per share of **VND 24,700**. Therefore, we recommend to **Accumulate** this stock.

VND Billion

INCOME STATEMENT	2019	2020	2021E	2022F
Revenue	12,177	11,560	17,112	15,825
COGS	11,835	10,690	15,970	15,003
Gross profit	342	869	1,143	822
Selling expenses	210	268	350	315
G&A expenses	69	92	104	96
Financial income	107	89	116	120
Financial expenses	275	281	234	259
Other income/loss	195	4	0	0
Gain/(loss) from JVs	0	0	0	0
PBT	90	321	571	272
Tax expense	43	25	57	33
Minority interests	0	0	0	0
PAT	47	295	514	238
EBIT	63	509	689	411

%

FINANCIAL RATIO	2019	2020	2021E	2022F
Growth (%)				
Revenue	-17.8	-5.1	48.0	-7.5
Operating Income	-37.8	75.5	22.1	-25.7
EBITDA	-83.9	710.8	35.3	-40.4
PAT	-17.4	524.1	73.8	-53.6
Total Assets	-0.7	-6.5	18.8	-7.2
Equity	1.5	5.4	13.6	3.7
Profitability (%)				
Gross margin	2.8	7.5	6.7	5.2
EBITDA margin	4.1	7.7	6.3	5.1
EBIT margin	0.5	4.4	4.0	2.6
Net margin	0.4	2.6	3.0	1.5
ROA	0.6	3.9	5.7	2.9
ROE	1.6	9.3	14.2	6.4
Efficiency				(times)
Receivable Turnover	13.9	8.0	14.3	13.8
Inventory Turnover	4.6	5.0	4.4	4.3
Payable Turnover	6.2	8.1	8.4	9.7
Liquidity				(times)
Current	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4
Quick	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
Finance Structure (%)				
Total Debt/Equity	102.5	94.4	93.4	78.5
Current Debt/Equity	79.2	79.2	79.4	67.7
Long-term Debt/Equity	23.3	15.2	14.0	10.8

VND Billion

BALANCE SHEET	2019	2020	2021E	2022F
Cash and cash equivalents	76	219	591	395
Short-term investments	702	370	333	432
Accounts receivable	877	1,439	1,199	1,148
Inventories	2,589	2,150	3,626	3,495
Other current assets	191	95	76	84
Property, plant & equipment	3,260	2,936	2,806	2,435
Acquired intangible assets	247	249	242	236
Long-term investments	48	23	23	23
Other non-current assets	74	63	66	69
Total assets	8,064	7,544	8,961	8,317
Accounts payable	1,904	1,317	1,903	1,542
Short-term borrowings	2,389	2,520	2,869	2,540
Long-term borrowings	703	482	507	405
Other non-current liabilities	2	2	2	2
Bonus and Welfare fund	49	41	67	79
Technology-science, dev. fund	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	5,048	4,362	5,346	4,567
Common stock and APIC	2,586	2,586	2,586	2,586
Treasury stock (enter as -)	0	-78	-78	-78
Retained earnings	356	576	984	1,108
Other comprehensive income	36	37	37	37
Inv. and Dev. Fund	39	60	85	97
Total equity	3,017	3,181	3,614	3,750
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0

VALUATION RATIO	2019	2020	2021E	2022F
EPS (VND)	118	1,101	2,681	1,244
P/E (x)	26.5	5.1	8.1	17.5
BV (VND)	16,576	17,479	19,859	20,603
P/B (x)	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.1
DPS (VND/cp)	0	300	300	500
Dividend yield (%)	0.0%	2.0%	1.4%	2.3%

VALUATION MODEL	Price	Weight	Average
PE	25,598	70%	17,919
PB	22,719	30%	6,816

Target price **24,700**

VALUATION HISTORY	Price	Recommendation	Period
06/11/2015	8,947	Neutral	Intermediate
01/11/2016	30,466	Buy	Intermediate
19/07/2017	39,800	Buy	Intermediate
31/08/2018	18,000	Buy	Intermediate

RESULT UPDATE

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RATING GUIDANCE

Ratings	BUY	ACCUMULATE	REDUCE	SELL
Total Return including Dividends in 12-month horizon	>20%	5% to 20%	-20% to -5%	<-20%

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