

communication systems, services, and program products. 2013 revenue breakdown: Global Technology Services, 37%; Global Business Services, 18%; Systems and Technology, 14%; Software, 27%; Global Financing, 4%. Foreign business: 65% of 2013 reve-

Hathaway, 6.3%; State Street, 5.4%; BlackRock, 5.4%; Vanguard Group, 5.1% (3/14 proxy). Chairman: Samuel J. Palmisano. Pres. & CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Add.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com

Current Liab. **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '11-'13 Past 10 Yrs. 6.5% 10.5% 13.0% 5 Yrs. 6.0% 11.0% 14.0% 17.0% 2.5% to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 4.0% 7.0% 7.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 9.0%

49433

7952

9181

43625

51350

7461 6862

25831

40154

48182

6271

12462

42433

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30		\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2011	24607	26666	26157	29486	106916
2012	24673	25783	24747	29304	104507
2013	23408	24924	23720	27699	99751
2014	22484	24364	23400	27327	97575
2015	22800	24500	23800	27900	99000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	2.31	3.00	3.19	4.62	13.06
2012	2.61	3.34	3.33	5.13	14.37
2013	2.70	2.91	3.68	5.73	14.94
2014	2.29	4.12	4.30	6.29	17.00
2015	3.20	4.30	4.45	6.55	18.50
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010	.55	.65	.65	.65	2.50
2011	.65	.75	.75	.75	2.90
2012	.75	.85	.85	.85	3.30
2013	.85	.95	.95	.95	3.70
2014	.95	1.10	1.10		

IBM. like many of its rivals in the information technology space, has been having a hard time reigniting revenue growth. Its June-quarter earnings handily beat results in the comparable period of 2013, which were reduced by a \$0.65-ashare workforce rebalancing charge. But revenues slipped 2% year to year, or 1% adjusted for currency and the divestiture of its customer care business. That was an improvement over the 4% decline in the March period, however. IBM's systems segment was its weakest link, posting a 12% revenue decline compared with a 23% reduction in the prior period. The systems business was also responsible for the reduction in gross profits. But lower operating costs more than offset the shortfall, And repurchases of stock enhanced earnings per share. Note that reported share net in the quarter and the first half included \$0.20 and \$0.45, respectively, of acquisitions and other nonoperting costs

Management looks for full-year 2014 earnings of \$17.00 a share, after \$1.00 of nonoperating expenses. We expect IBM to earn about \$18.50 a share on a reported basis in 2015. The company will

miss its System x revenues after the pending sale of that business eventually closes. And the 33% decline in signings in the June term may hamper services revenues. But we look for revenues to gradually stabilize in the next couple of quarters, and rise modestly in 2015. The smaller falloff in revenues in the June term was encouraging, and IBM should benefit from its substantial investments to align its offerings with industry shifts, like the increased adoption of cloud computing. It is investing \$3 billion over the next five years in next-generation chip technology. It also plans to bring out new POWER8 systems for the mid- and high-ends of the market in the second half of 2014. Meanwhile, ongoing productivity should help rein in expenses. measures

The stock, the bluest of the blue chips, may appeal to a number of types of investors. The shares are ranked 1 (Highest) for Timeliness; the dividend yield, based on a payout that has been increased annually, is a bit above average; and the issue has worthwhile total return potential to 2017-2019.

Theresa Brophy

October 3, 2014

(A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses):'02, (\$1.89); '04, (\$0.11); '05, (\$0.34); gain (losses) from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02);

'06, \$0.05. Quarters may not sum due to change in shares. Next earnings report mid-oct. **(B)** Dividends historically paid in early March, June, September, and December. Dividend reinvestment plan available. **(C)** In millions. **(D)** Incl. Intangibles. As of 6/30/14, 935.2 billion, \$35.24/sh. **(E)** In '08, incl. \$15.2 bill. retirement benefit plan loss.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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