

music player, the iPad tablet, the iPhone smartphone, and the "Apple Watch," for sale primarily to the business, creative, education, government, and consumer markets. It also sells operating systems, utilities, languages, developer tools, and database soft-

al markets. R&D: 3.3% of '14 revenues. Has 92,600 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common; BlackRock, 5.5% (1/15 Proxy). CEO: Tim Cook. Inc.: CA. Addr.: 1 Infinite Loop, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel.: 408-996-1010. Internet: www.apple.com

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 36.0% 40.5% 13.5% 63.5% 54.5% 14.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 14.5% 21.0% 11.5% 70.5% 52.5% 36.5% 41.0%

22367

21291

43658

30196

63448

6308

38001

3899 31711

73611

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fiscal Year Ends		ARTERLY S er Mar.Per			Full Fiscal Year
2012	46333	39186	35023	35966	156508
2013	54512	43603	35323	37472	170910
2014	57594	45646	37432	42123	182795
2015	74599	57901	50800	52700	236000
2016	78400	60800	53400	55400	248000
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A BFull .				
Year Ends	Dec.Pe	r Mar.Per	Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Fiscal Year
2012	1.98	1.76	1.33	1.24	6.31
2013	1.97	1.44	1.07	1.18	5.66
2014	2.07	1.66	1.28	1.42	6.45
2015	3.06	2.31	1.85	1.93	9.15
2016	3.25	2.45	2.00	2.10	9.80
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID F Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011					
2012			.379	.379	.76
2013	.379	.436	.436	.436	1.69
2014	.436	.47	.47	.47	1.85
2015	.47				
ı	1				1

Fiscal 2015 (ends September 26th) is shaping up to be an excellent year for **Apple.** The tech giant got off to a fast start this year, with December-period share net of \$3.06 handily topping our \$2.50 estimate and Wall Street's consensus view of \$2.60. What's more, there's little to suggest that the earnings momentum will let up, given the strength of the *iPhone* franchise, which appears to have reasserted its dominance in the smartphone space. Indeed, the company is benefiting from a powerful *iPhone 6/6 Plus* upgrade cycle (these latest devices have larger displays than their predecessors), and from a related "halo effect" that is supporting Mac computer sales. Too . .

The company's smartphones are gaining serious traction in China. Part of this is due to the popularity of the larger screens, which is helping Apple to wrest market share from the likes of Samsung, Lenovo, and up-and-comer Xiaomi. But growth in that important region is also being aided by aggressive store expansion (around 25 new locations will be opened over the next two years) and strategic tieups with local wireless carriers (like the

one reached in late 2013 with China Mobile). These initiatives suggest that China may soon overtake the U.S. in terms of total *iPhone* shipments.

The "Apple Watch," set to be released on April 24th, may be the next big **thing.** While the *iPhone* line is going strong (and accounts for the bulk of the growth here), Apple continues to search for new catalysts, a tall order for a company this size. The *iPad* was a big hit when first launched in 2010, but the tablet line appears to have lost steam, with unit sales down 18% in the first quarter. The "Apple Watch," targeting not just tech lovers but affluent fashionistas (some models will sell for over \$10,000), ought to have more staying power. New services, meanwhile, from "Apple Pay" to a streaming TV product, should further broaden the company's ecosystem (and augment earnings growth) in fiscal 2015 and beyond.

High-quality Apple stock, now part of the prestigious Dow 30, is a timely selection. It should also provide investors with attractive risk-adjusted returns through the 2018-2020 period. Justin Hellman

April 3, 2015

(A) Fiscal year ends last Saturday in September. (B) Diluted earnings. Quarters may not add to total due to rounding. Excludes nonrecurring gains: '99, 4¢; '00, 3¢; '01, 1¢; '05,

Depreciation on accelerated basis. (E) Includes gust, and November. intangibles. In 2014, \$8758 mill., \$1.49 a share.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 65 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 60

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