

communication systems, services, and program products. 2014 revenue breakdown: Global Technology Services, 38%; Global Business Services, 18%; Systems and Technology, 10%; Software, 32%; Global Financing, 2%. Foreign business: 55% of 2014 reve-

Hathaway, 7.8%; State Street, 5.5%; BlackRock, 5.4%; Vanguard Group, 5.6% (3/15 proxy). Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Add.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 Past 10 Yrs. 6.0% 10.5% 13.0% 5 Yrs. 5.0% 9.0% 11.5% of change (per sh) to '18-'20 1.0% 3.5% 3.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 15.0% 1.0% 6.0% 19.5%

49433

7952

9181

43625

51350

7461 6862

25831

40154

49422

6864

5731

27005

39600

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	24673	25783	24747	29304	104507
2013	23408	24924	23720	27699	99751
2014	22236	24047	22397	24113	92793
2015	20000	21250	20750	22000	84000
2016	20250	21500	21000	22250	85000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	2.61	3.34	3.33	5.13	14.37
2013	2.70	2.91	3.68	5.73	14.94
2014	2.43	4.23	3.46	5.54	15.59
2015	2.60	3.65	3.45	5.30	15.00
2016	2.75	3.85	3.70	5.60	15.90
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B■				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
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	1.10	4.25
2015	1.10				

IBM's results in the final quarter of 2014 were weak overall. The divestitures of its System x (mainframe) line and its Customer Care businesses reduced revenues by \$1.6 billion. Unfavorable currency movements clipped \$1.2 billion from the top line. Adjusted revenues slipped 2%, with services flat, software down 3%, and systems off 12%. Without the lowmargined Systems x line, the gross margin expanded. Pretax earnings were bolstered by a \$1.1 billion gain on the Systems x sale, but the tax rate rose. Stock repurchases mitigated the share-net decline.

The company plans to invest \$4 billion in strategic areas. The latter, which include cloud computing, analytics, mobile computing, and information security, generated \$25 billion in revenues in 2014, a 16% increase from 2013. IBM expects revenues from these initiatives to reach \$40 billion by 2018 and account for over 40% of the top line then, from 27% in 2014. Very profitable transactional business, like the recently refreshed Power systems line, should also contribute nicely to results. But revenues from legacy businesses, like mainframe computers, probably will

decline with time. Over the long haul, total revenues should rise at a low-singledigit pace, and a more profitable product mix (with more software content) should support high-single-digit growth in operat-

ing earnings per share.

The going is apt to remain difficult this year and next, however. Due to last year's divestitures, IBM started 2015 with a lower revenue base. Revenues are also likely to be hurt by the strong dollar and challenges in some emerging markets. The cloud computing business isn't up to scale yet, and business transformation costs may limit margin expansion. Our 2015 share-net call of \$15.00 includes an estimated \$0.75 of nonoperating costs. We don't look for much revenue growth in 2016 but margins might improve a bit.

IBM shares haven't recovered yet from their sharp falloff last October, when the Dow company abandoned its previous earnings target. If revenues and earnings track our current expectations, investors should be rewarded with slightly above-average total returns, but they may need to be very patient. Theresa Brophy April 3, 2015

(A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses) from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02); '06, \$0.05; '14. (\$3.65). Quarters may not sum due

Dividend reinvestment plan available. (C) In

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