

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.

Current Liab. **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% 2.5% 2.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 15.0% 1.0% 19.5% 8.0%

51350

7461

6862

25831

40154

49422

6864

5731

27005

39600

46316

6314 4532

24794

35640

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30		\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2012	24673	25783	24747	29304	104507
2013	23408	24924	23720	27699	99751
2014	22236	24047	22397	24113	92793
2015	19590	21000	20000	22410	83000
2016	19750	21250	20250	22750	84000
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	2.44	3.30	3.25	5.36	14.35
2016	2.55	3.50	3.40	5.55	15.00
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	1 30			

IBM is engaged in a multivear effort to reinvent itself. The company's legacy operations didn't fare well in recent years in the face of rapid changes in the information technology sector. As a result, IBM divested its customer care, Systems x, and microelectronics operations in 2014, and is shifting its revenue mix to faster-

growing, higher-margined businesses.

The company began 2015 on a mixed note. Revenues fell 12% year to year due to unfavorable currency movements and last year's divestitures. Adjusted, the top line was flat, with software and services each down 2% and systems up 30% supported by a 130% increase in IBM's new z13 mainframe computer. Some of its newer businesses, like cloud computing and analytics, enjoyed strong growth, and IBM looks to raise their top-line contribution from 27% of revenues in 2014 to 40% by 2018. The gross margin expanded, reflecting an increase in high-margined software in the revenue mix, the absence of the divested operations' losses, and the new mainframe product. Selling expenses moderated. Reported share net included \$0.47 of acquisitions and retirement costs.

The year ahead will be a transitional period. Revenues are set to decline again in 2015 due to the divestitures. The momentum in cloud computing and other strategic businesses may not stay quite as strong. And with two-thirds of IBM's revenues outside of the U.S., the currency pressures are likely to persist. But more of the large technology service deals signed in 2014 ought to translate into revenues this year. Meanwhile, expenditures to build up strategic businesses may pressure margins initially. In all, IBM looks for reported earnings, including \$1.58 a share of nonoperating costs, in the \$14.17-\$14.92-a-share range. The mix of very profitable software is likely to determine whether results hit the high or low end of that span. We assume earnings growth will resume in 2016, although the company's prospects aren't well defined.

IBM's dividend yield is attractive, and the shares have worthwhile total return potential to 2018-2020. But only very patient investors should consider the stock at this early stage in what may be a long recovery process.

Theresa Brophy July 3, 2015

(A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses) from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01): '05. (\$0.02): '06 , '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 65 **Earnings Predictability** 100