

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

26474

65285

6999

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fiscal Year Ends		ARTERLY S er Mar.Per		iill.) ^ Sep.Per	Full Fiscal Year
2012	46333	39186	35023	35966	156508
2013	54512	43603	35323	37472	170910
2014	57594	45646	37432	42123	182795
2015	74599	58010	49605	50286	232500
2016	78600	61100	52300	53000	245000
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	2.33	1.85	1.81	9.05
2016	3.25	2.50	2.00	1.95	9.70
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	.52	.52		
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Apple shares have been on a bumpy ride since our last full-page review in early July. The new Dow component came under pressure following the Juneperiod earnings release that showed iPhone sales coming in below Wall Street's lofty expectations. (Unit shipments of the cash-cow smartphone franchise amounted to 47.5 million, less than the 50 millionplus figure that many investors had hoped for.) Then the stock fell farther in August, briefly dipping into the low \$90s, as fears spread rapidly about an economic slowdown in China, which has become an important growth market for the company. September was better, however, with the issue now back to around the \$113 level.

The current entry point looks attractive. Earnings advances ought to moderate after a blockbuster fiscal 2015 (ended September 26th), when share net probably jumped about 40%, to \$9.05. But the growth story at Apple appears far from over, with the tech giant constantly working to broaden its integrated ecosystem all of the company's devices work well together and are run by similar operating systems — and increase its exposure to

emerging geographies. Notably, CEO Tim Cook has indicated that the China business has continued to do well, despite worries to the contrary. In addition, the latest smartphones, the just-launched iPhone 6S and 6S Plus, have gotten off to a very strong start, with first-weekend unit sales likely to set a new record of more than 10 million. This suggests that Apple will be able to continue gaining share at the high end of the smartphone market, where it has faced stiff competition from Samsung and other Asian rivals in recent years. Meanwhile, other new products, from a large-screen iPad Pro to an upgraded Apple TV, should further strengthen the company's ecosystem, benefiting both sales and margins. And we have high hopes for the Apple Watch (it began shipping in April), with functionality and global availability still improving. All told, we still see share net rising to \$9.70 in fiscal 2016 and \$13.75 by late decade.

The issue is Above Average for Timeliness and suitable for most accounts. The generous capital-return program adds to the stock's appeal as a core holding. *Justin Hellman*October 2, 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,

2¢; loss: '02, 1¢. Next earnings report due late October. (C) In mill., adjusted for splits. (D) Depreciation on accelerated basis. (E) Includes (F) New dividend policy adopted 3/12. Payments typically made in February, May, August, 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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