

"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-

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 '13-'15 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 36.0% 40.5% 11.5% 13.5% 63.5% 54.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 14.0% 17.0% 13.0% 70.5% 52.5% 36.5% 41.0%

22367

21291

43658

30196

6308

63448

35490 10999

80610

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fiscal Year Ends		ARTERLY S er Mar.Per		nill.) ^ 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	51501	233715
2016	78700	61000	51300	54000	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	3.08	2.33	1.85	1.96	9.22
2016	3.35	2.55	2.00	2.10	10.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID F				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012			.379	.379	.76
2013	.379	.436	.436	.436	1.69
2014	.436	.47	.47	.47	1.85
2015	.47	.52	.52	.52	
2016					
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Apple stock, mostly treading water since our October review, has remained a modest laggard. The shares are being kept in check, we think, by a growing tide of negativity on Wall Street. Indeed, many analysts have been vocal about supply chain concerns (some recent procurement orders appear underwhelming), and fears that the tech giant's cashcow iPhone franchise may be losing a bit of its luster. The company is coming off a great year, however, one which saw the bottom line jump over 40%. And we expect the growth story to continue to play out in fiscal 2016 (ends September 24th), with share net apt to reach at least \$10.00.

The iPhone should remain the primary catalyst here. (iPhone offerings account for more than 60% of the top-line mix at present.) Unit shipments may decelerate somewhat as the global smartphone market nears saturation. But Apple is in the midst of a powerful replacement cycle, with the new *iPhone 6S* and *6S Plus*, which debuted in late September, still gaining traction. And the company looks to have plenty of room to expand in emerging countries, including China and

India. Notably, aided by a rising middle class, iPhone sales soared 87% in the Greater China region during the September interim. In the meantime . . .

We look for share trends to remain favorable, not just for the *iPhone*, but also for the Mac line. The iPad franchise should stabilize, too (it's been one of the weaker links), as the tablets make strides in the enterprise market. And we anticipate decent growth from the Apple Watch and the increasingly important services business. We have especially high hopes for Apple Pay, the company's electronic payment system, which will be available to some customers in China in early 2016. The digital wallet space seems to be heating up, and Apple will likely be a big beneficiary of this consumer shift.

This Dow component is timely (2), and looks to have plenty of upside potential out to 2018-2020. The good-quality issue would make a fine addition to most diversified portfolios, in our view. What's more, the recent quotation is very attractive, suggesting that now is an opportune time for investors to build positions. Justin Hellman

January 1, 2016

(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 January. (C) In mill., adjusted for splits. (D) 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