

penses, which reduced earnings per share by \$0.11 compared with \$0.26 in the year-earlier period. Net of a legal settlement, one-time items clipped \$0.03 from reported share net compared with \$0.14 in the final period of 2014.

Average loans advanced a healthy 15% in the quarter. The net interest margin widened, helped by the better asset mix and securities gains. Credit quality remained strong, notwithstanding some stress related to energy sector credits that prompted JPMorgan to add \$124 million to its loan loss reserve. The company reduced total expenses by 7% and strengthened its equity capital position.

Meanwhile, fee income was a bit soft. Investment banking and trading revenues were hurt by more-subdued client activity and a program to simplify operations, which lowered assets by \$220 million and noncore deposits by \$200 million in 2015. Mortgage, card, and asset management fees fell short of levels a year ago.

The outlook for 2016 is similarly mixed. Based on the December interest-

tal net interest income in 2016. Additional interest-rate hikes would be a plus. And the company remains on track to lower investment banking and consumer banking expenses by \$2 billion and \$2.8 billion respectively by 2017. But prospects for improvement in investment banking and trading revenues are unclear. Mortgage revenues are expected to decline \$700 million in 2016. Too, management estimates that, if oil prices remain near \$30 a barrel for 18 months or so, the company might add up to \$750 million to its loan loss reserve. We tentatively look for earnings to roughly march in place this year.

Like most bank stocks, JPMorgan shares have lost a lot of ground since late December. We look for higher interest rates, the company's business simplication efforts, and its strong positions in consumer and investment banking to support much stronger earnings by late decade. Still, the stock's total return potential to 2018-2020 is below average. But the dividend yield is appealing. Theresa Brophy

February 12, 2016

8.0%

8.5%

LOANS (\$ mill.) Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

695096 703780 699123 711860

708106 706202 711108 722154

830000 850000 870000 890000

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B=

728368

1.40

d.17

1.36

1.68

1.50

Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

.30

.38

.40

.44

743151

823744

1.39

1.30

1.19

1.60

.30

.38

.40

.44

715124 731657

1.19

1.59

1.28

1.45

1.40

Mar.31

.25

.30

.38

.40

.44

750120 777332 795991

1.21

1.60

1.46

1.54

1.50

.30

.30

.38

.40

7.0%

Full

Year

5.20

4.35

5.29

6.00

6.00

Full

Year

1.15

1.36

1.56

1.68

Loans

endar

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

Cal-

endar

2012

2013

2014

2016

Cal-

endar

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

Earnings Dividends

Book Value

(A) Chase Manhattan only prior to '00. Diluted earnings. Quarterly earnings per share in '13 & '15 do not sum due to change in shares. Excludes income from discontinued operations: '06, \$0.17. Excl. extraordinary gain: '15 do not sum due to change in shares. Excludes unusual expenses: '04, \$1.31; '05, '13, (\$1.85). Next earnings report mid-Apr. (B) Dividends historically paid late Jan., Apr., 2 Unidends historically paid late Jan.,

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 70 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 45