

and systems hardware. 2015 revenue breakdown: Global Technology Services, 39%; Global Business Services, 21%; Systems Hardware, 9%; Software, 28%; Global Financing, 3%. Foreign business: 53% of 2015 revenues; Research, 6.4%. '15 depreciation

tional Indemnity Company, 6.06%; BlackRock, 5.3%; State Street, 5.1% (3/16 proxy). Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Address.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com.

21780 Current Liab. **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '13-'15 Past 10 Yrs. 5.0% 9.0% 11.5% 5 Yrs. 3.5% 6.0% 7.5% of change (per sh) to '19-'21 Revenues "Cash Flow" 1.0% .5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 20.0% 14.5%

51350

7461

6862

25831

40154

49422

6864 5731

27005

39600

42504

6028

6461

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2013	23408	24924	23720	27699	99751
2014	22236	24047	22397	24113	99793
2015	19590	20813	19280	22059	81741
2016	18250	19500	18500	21250	77500
2017	18000	19300	18200	21000	76500
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
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	3.58	3.02	4.59	13.60
2016	1.85	3.25	2.75	4.40	12.25
2017	2.00	3.35	2.90	4.50	12.75
Cal-	al- QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
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	1.30	1.30	5.00
2016	1.30				

IBM snapped its string of 12 years of annual earnings increases in 2015. In fact, revenues have been falling since 2011 and quarterly earnings progress has been uneven in recent years. Rapid changes in the information technology sector have taken a toll on IBM's core operations. Economic weakness in emerging nations has hurt. In 2015, currency fluctuations reduced revenues by \$7 billion and profits by \$1 billion. Divestitures also lowered revenues by \$3 billion. Declines in Business Services and Software offset increases in Technology Services and Systems Hardware. Margins were hurt by spending to build up new businesses and shifts in resources to newer lines. Reported share net in the December quarter and 2015 included \$0.25 and \$1.32 of retirement/acquisition costs.

Turning its fortunes around will require further shifts in IBM's business mix. The company is making progress. Newer, faster-growing markets, like Cloud computing and analytics, accounted for 35% of IBM's revenues in 2015, up from 22% in 2013. The company also is delivering more technology as a service (revenues

of \$4.5 billion in 2015). But thus far. declines in IBM's traditional businesses have offset the growth in newer ones. And competition in the software arena, IBM's most profitable segment, remains intense. It may take a couple of years for the transformation to translate into bet-ter results. And in 2016, management expects the currency pressures to persist, reducing revenues by another 2%-3%, pretax profits by \$1.3 billion, and share net by \$1.00. In 2017, although revenues may decline a bit further, we tentatively look for a modest earnings uptick. Gross margins might be helped by the slowly improving revenue mix, and stock repurchases should enhance share net.

Nonetheless, the growth in revenues in newer markets apparently has lent some support to the stock, which recently retraced some of the decline **since mid-2013.** The untimely issue is not as cheap as at the start of this year and is ranked unfavorably for Timeliness, but still may interest patient investors. Total return potential to 2019-2021 is enhanced by IBM's attractive dividend. Theresa Brophy

April 1, 2016

(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

to change in shs. Next earnings report mid-April.(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, September, and December. | millions. (D) Incl. Intangibles. As of 12/31/15, April.(B) Dividends historically paid in early \$35.5 billion, \$36.77/sh. (E) In '08, incl. \$15.2 bill. retirement benefit plan loss.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95

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