

of computing environments in consumer and enterprise markets. Hardware products include the Xbox video game console and Surface tablet. Revenue sources in fiscal 2016: Productivity & Business Processes, 28.8%; Intelligent Cloud, 27.2%; More Personal

offs. & dirs., 0.5%; The Vanguard Group, 6.1%; BlackRock, Inc., 5.6%; (10/16 proxy). Chrmn: John Thompson. CEO: Satya Nadella. Inc.: Washington. Addr.: One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052-6399. Tel.: 425-882-8080. Internet: www.microsoft.com.

Past Est'd '14-'16 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow 11.5% 11.0% 9.0% 7.0% 7.0% 8.0% 9.0% 16.5% 8.0% 10.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value -1.0%

114246

7432

2000

13043

45625

124712

6591 7484

23223 12560

49858

157909

6296 14536

26304 11674

58810

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab

Unearned Revenue Other

Fiscal Year Ends	QUART Sep.30	ERLY REV Dec.31	/ENUES (\$ Mar.31	mill.) ^A Jun.30	Full Fiscal Year
2013	16008	21456	20489	19858	77811
2014	18529	24519	20403	23382	86833
2015	23201	26470	21729	22180	93580
2016	21660	25506	22156	22642	91964
2017	22334	25100	22750	23566	93750
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB _Full .				
Year Ends	Sep.30	Dec.31	Mar.31	Jun.30	Fiscal Year
2013	.53	.76	.72	.66	2.65
2014	.62	.78	.68	.55	2.63
2015	.65	.77	.62	.62	2.65
2016	.70	.77	.63	.69	2.79
2017	.76	.78	.71	.70	2.95
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID ==				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.20	.20	.20	.23	.83
2013	.23	.23	.23	.28	.97
2014	.28	.28	.31	.31	1.18
2015	.31	.31	.31	.36	1.29
2016	.36	.36	.39		

Microsoft Corp. got a good start on fiscal 2017. (Years end June 30th.) The software and cloud services giant reported revenue and earnings of \$22.3 billion and \$0.76 a share (excluding the effect of \$1.9 billion in *Windows 10* license deferrals), nicely ahead of our estimates of \$21.7 billion and \$0.68. The latest earnings report was greeted warmly by investors, with market support for MSFT shares markedly strengthening.

The company continues to have success in the new era of computing and **computation.** Adoption of *Office 365* has shown few signs of slowing, as evidenced by the increasing subscriber base in both the commercial and consumer markets. The strength being exhibited here, coupled with the *Dynamics* products and cloud services, underpins the performance and the prospects for the Productivity and Business Process segment. Meanwhile, the Intelligent Cloud business is moving forward at a rapid pace, reflecting the success of the Azure platform. In addition to higher usage (compute time), Microsoft is finding that customers using its cloud infrastructure are becoming more interested

in its higher value-added services, which may well act as a differentiator in what is largely a commodity business. That said, Amazon Web Services remains a keen competitor, and Oracle Corporation is putmore emphasis on its cloud infrastructure-as-a-service by leveraging its strength in the database arena.

Finally, the Windows 10 operating system continues to find favor. Notably, commercial enterprises are increasingly working it into their information systems, and it is also being used in a wide range of consumer devices. The Surface tablet is also selling well; active use of Xbox Live is advancing rapidly; and the Search business remains profitable, owing to higher revenue per search and volume.

What about Microsoft stock? The timely shares have performed well under the strategy being executed by CEO Satya Nadella, and we think they are likely to continue to do so. Accordingly, we advise those already holding a position to maintain it. Those weighing new commitments may want to consider the stock's current valuation before taking a position. Charles Clark November 11, 2016

(A) Fiscal year ends June 30th. (B) Diluted earnings. Quarters may not add to total. Excl. nonrec. items: '01, d26¢; '02, d23¢; '03, d5¢; '04, d29¢; '05, d4¢; '12, d72¢; '13, d7¢;

\$2.29 a share.

15, d\$1.17; '16, d70¢. Next earnings report, discontinuous discontinuous (E) Dividends historically paid in March, June, mid-Jan. (C) In millions, adjusted for stock split. Sept., and Dec. ■Dividend reinvestment plan (D) Includes intangibles. In 2016: \$17.9 billion, available. Special dividend of \$3.00 a share paid December 2, 2004.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 85