

|  | 8476 | 8194 | 9968 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Cash Assets | 31831 | 28554 | 25196 |
| Receivables | 1551 | 1729 |  |
| Inventory (Avg Cst) | 2103 | 7012 | 4205 |
| Other | 4540 |  |  |
| Current Assets | 49422 | 42504 | 41433 |
| Accts Payable | 6864 | 6028 | 5271 |
| Debt Due | 5731 | 6461 | 6920 |
| Other | $\frac{27005}{}$ | 21780 | 22256 |
| Current Liab. | 39600 | 34269 | 34447 |


| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '13-'15 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to'19-'21 |
| Revenues | $5.0 \%$ | $3.5 \%$ | $1.0 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | $9.0 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ | Nil |
| Earnings | $11.5 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ | $-.5 \%$ |
| Dividends | $20.0 \%$ | $14.5 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ |
| Book Value | $-1.5 \%$ | $1.0 \%$ | $16.0 \%$ |


| Cal- <br> endar | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) <br> Mar.31 |  |  |  | Funll <br> Full |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2013 | 23408 | 24924 | 23720 | 27699 | 99751 |
| 2014 | 22236 | 24047 | 22397 | 24113 | 92793 |
| 2015 | 19590 | 20813 | 19280 | 22059 | 81741 |
| 2016 | 18684 | 20238 | 19226 | 21752 | 79900 |
| 2017 | 18500 | 20000 | 19000 | 22000 | 79500 |
| 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 | 2.09 | 2.61 | 2.98 | 4.57 | 12.25 |
| 2017 | 2.10 | 2.65 | 3.00 | 4.75 | 12.50 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID Ba | Full |  |  |  |
| 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 | 1.40 | 1.40 | 1.40 |  |

BUSINESS: International Business Machines Corporation is a worldwide supplier of technology and business services, software, 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

## IBM's September-quarter perform-

 ance was flattish. Revenues slipped less than 1\% year to year. Cognitive Solutions (software) revenues rose $5 \%$, led by analytics, including Watson, a supercomputer with many human cognitive abilities, like the ability to process natural language. And Technology Services/Cloud Platforms revenues inched 1\% higher. But Global Business Services revenues (including traditional consulting) slipped $2 \%$, and Systems revenues fell 21\%, due partly to a normal decline in sales of zSystems servers seven quarters after the product's debut and owing to transitions in the Power systems and storage systems businesses. Currency shifts were a slight positive.Meanwhile, the gross margin contracted two percentage points, reflecting higher investment in IBM's businesses, including acquisitions, and a shift to software-as-a-service, which is ramping up. But net income benefited from a lower tax rate, and stock repurchases ( $\$ 900$ million in the period) enhanced reported share net, which nearly matched the year-earlier tally.
rate: $13.1 \%$. Had 377,757 employees on 12/31/15. Officers \& directors control less than $1 \%$ of stock; Berkshire Hathaway, $8.4 \%$; National Indemnity Company, 6.1\%; 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.
We think the company ended 2016 on a similar note, and look for a little bottom-line improvement in 2017. In the software business, newer markets (analytics, cloud computing, mobility, and information security) accounted for $40 \%$ of revenues in the trailing 12 months, and management looks for continued rapid growth in these strategic areas. IBM continues to find new applications for Watson technol ogy. Too, good signings and healthy backlog in Global Technology services in the September quarter position the company favorably for the next couple of quarters. To be sure, competition remains intense and investment spending may remain high, pressuring margins in the year ahead (but positioning IBM for faster growth over the long haul). In all, a meaningful turnaround in IBM's fortunes probably will take another year or two.
The stock's Timeliness rank has risen a notch, to 2 (Above Average). And the issue's decent dividend yield may appeal to income-oriented investors. But IBM shares have only modest total return potential to 2019-2021.
Theresa Brophy
December 30, 2016

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[^0]:    
     '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02); '06,
    $\$ 0.05 ;$ June, September, and December. © Dividend
    reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions. (D)

    Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence

