

**ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '13-'15 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues "Cash Flow" -3.5% -1.5% 2.0% NMF 2.0% 4.0% 3.0% -8.5% 9.5% 3.0% -17.5% Earnings 3.0% 2.0% 5.5% **Book Value** 

16680

28064

2735

19362

35052

6489

19593

30340

2645

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 30818 127079 2014 31483 31586 33192 2015 31984 32224 33158 34254 31620 2016 32171 30532 30937 32340 125980 125500 2017 31000 30650 31250 32600 2018 31300 31000 31575 32925 126800 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2014 .84 .91 .89 .71 3.35 2015 1.02 1.04 .89 3.90 1.04 .94 1.01 2016 1.06 .86 3.87 1.01 1.01 .88 2017 1.00 3.90 4.00 2018 1.03 1.04 1.03 .90 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B. endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2013 .515 2.08 .515 .515 .53 2014 .53 .53 .53 .55 2.16 2015 .55 .55 .565 .565 2.23 2016 .565 .565 .58 .58 2.29 2017 .58

BUSINESS: Verizon Communications was created by the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE in June of 2000. It is a diversified telecom company with a network that covers a population of about 298 million and provides service to nearly 98.2 million. Acquired MCI, 1/06; Alltel, 1/09; Verizon Wireless, 2/14. Also the largest provider of print and on-line directory information. Has a wireline presence in 28

Verizon seems poised for an underwhelming performance in 2017. To wit, this Dow-30 component posted fourthquarter earnings of \$0.86 a share, well below our estimate and three cents below the year-ago result, on a 5.6% drop in revenue. These uninspiring results come as no great surprise, as we had warned in our December review that the outlook for the next couple of years was nothing to write home about, due to the combined effects of the April 1st sale of the company's highmargined wireline operations in California, Florida, and Texas to Frontier Communications, the ongoing shift of wireless customers to device payment plans, and the ramping up of its new business model. In the meantime, the company has a number of pending transactions in the hopper. Verizon expects its acquisition of XO Communications to close during the March period, while the sale of its data centers to Equinix is slated to be completed in the June interim. Lastly, the terms of the Yahoo acquisition were recently amended, with the purchase price pared by \$350 million, given recent data breaches at Yahoo. This \$4.48 billion deal

states & Washington, D.C.; a wireless presence in 50 states & D.C.; operations in 19 countries. 2016 revenue breakdown: wireline (includes telecom & business), 29%; domestic wireless, 71%. Has approximately 160,900 employees. Chairman and CEO: Lowell McAdam. Inc.: Delaware. Addr.: 1095 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10036. Tel.: 212-395-1000. Internet: www.verizon.com.

ought to close in the second quarter too. Verizon's board of directors is certainly dedicated to boosting shareholder value. In early March, the board authorized the repurchase of up to 100 million shares of its outstanding common stock. A previous buyback program, which expired on February 28th, had authorized the repurchase of 100 million shares, yet only 2.8 million shares were bought back. The new program will end when the aggregate number of shares bought back hits the 100 million mark, or at the close of business on February 28, 2020, whichever occurs first.

High-quality Verizon stock has something for everyone. The issue's Timeliness rank has moved up a notch since our December review, and it is now pegged to outperform the year-ahead market averages. And, at the recent quotation, the equity's 3- to 5-year appreciation potential is almost twice that of the average selection under our review. Lastly, incomeseeking investors will certainly be pleased by Verizon's dividend yield, which is more than double the Value Line median.

Kenneth A. Nugent

March 17, 2017

(A) Based diluted shares. Excl. n/r gains (losses): '01, (\$2.86); '02, (\$1.56); '03, (\$1.51); '04, \$0.08; '06, (\$0.42). Next earnings report April 20th. (B) Divd paid in early Feb., May,

Aug. & Nov. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) In mill. (D) Including financial subsidiary. (E) '00 GTE pro forma. (F) '06 MCI pro forma.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100
Price Growth Persistence 45
Earnings Predictability 65