

and peripheral and consumer products, such as the iPod digital music player, the iPad tablet, the iPhone smartphone, and the Apple Watch, for sale primarily to the business, creative, education, government, and consumer markets. It also sells operating systems, utilities, languages, developer tools, and database software.

countries, with lease terms ranging from five to 20 years. R&D: 4.7% of '16 sales. Has about 116,000 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common; Vanguard, 6.1%; BlackRock, 6.0% (1/17 Proxy). CEO: Tim Cook. Inc.: CA. Addr.: 1 Infinite Loop, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel.: 408-996-1010. Internet: www.apple.com.

Apple is on track for a bounce-back ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 **year.** The Dow component has had a fine to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 2017 thus far, rallying about 25% in value. 28.5% 31.5% 8.0% 9.5% 32.0% And recent results have been solid, justify-'Cash Flow" 46.0% ing, we think, the renewed investor enthusiasm for this large-cap tech name. 45.0% 28.0% 10.0% 12.5% 14.0% Dividends Book Value 32.5% 22 0% True, revenues of \$52.9 billion for the sec-Full Fisca Year QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) A ond quarter of fiscal 2017 (ends September Dec.Per Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per 30th) were a tad lighter than expected, as 57594 45646 37432 42123 182795 currency headwinds hurt Apple's business 233715 74599 58010 49605 51501 in China and iPhone momentum slowed 215639 42358 46852 75872 50557 slightly ahead of the much-anticipated 44953 78351 52896 51800 228000 10th anniversary smartphone edition that 244000 83850 56600 48100 55450 is rumored to be launching this fall. But Full Fiscal Year **FARNINGS PER SHARE A B** the iPhone franchise, which has been a Dec.Per Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per cash cow for the company since debuting 1.28 2.07 1.42 1.66 6.45 in 2007, is still performing quite well, with 9.22 especially brisk sales being seen for the high-margined 7 Plus model. In fact, Apple 3.08 1.85 1.96 2.33 1.90 1.42 3.28 1.67 8.31 1.59 9.10 3.36 2 10 2.05 looks to be gaining share in the premium 3.80 2.35 1.80 2.30 10.25 smartphone category, where it mainly competes with Samsung and numerous QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID F Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year regional OEMs. This suggests that the .379 .436 .436 .436 1.69 iPhone 8 will usher in a very powerful .436 .47 .47 .47 1.85 (and profitable) upgrade cycle. .52 .47 .52 .52 2.03

There still appear to be plenty of catalysts here. Aside from further iPhone gains, the company should benefit from a

booming services business. This segment grew 18% during the March interim and now generates revenues in excess of \$7 billion. Moreover, Apple thinks it can double in size by 2020, as *App Store* sales charge ahead, the *Apple Pay* digital wallet platform makes inroads with consumers, and new investments in digital content begin to bear fruit. The company, notably, has been investing heavily in original content, from movies to TV shows. And we think it could emerge as a formidable competitor with Netflix and Amazon in the years ahead. In the meantime, though operating conditions in China have been difficult lately, we still expect that country to be a big growth market for Apple over the long haul. The *iPhone 8* will probably help matters there, since the upcoming device will likely feature a large edge-to-edge display that is well suited for video games — a thriving industry in China. All in all, we remain confident that share net will climb at a double-digit average annual clip through 2020-2022. With this in mind . . . We continue to like this quality issue for low-risk, buy-and-hold investors.

(A) Fiscal year ends last Saturday in September. (B) Diluted earnings. Quarters may not add to total due to rounding. Excludes nonrecurring gains: '01, 1¢; '05, 2¢; loss: '02, 1¢.

.57

.63

.57

.57

2.23

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Sales

Earnings

Fiscal

Year Ends

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Fiscal Year Ends

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Cal-

endar

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

.52

89378

35490

10999

34121

80610

106869

37294 11605

79006

101990

28573

13991

73342

Next earnings report due late July. (C) In mill., adjusted for splits. (D) Depreciation on accelerated basis. (E) Includes intangibles. In 2016, \$8620 mill., \$1.62 a share. (F) New divi-

dend policy adopted 3/12. Payments typically made in February, May, August, and Novem-

Justin Hellman

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 65 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 60

June 30, 2017