

of computing environments in consumer and enterprise markets. Hardware products include the Xbox video game console and Surface tablet. Revenue sources in fiscal 2017: Productivity & Business Processes, 32%; Intelligent Cloud, 28%; More Personal Com0.5%; The Vanguard Group, 6.1%; BlackRock, Inc., 5.6%; (10/16 proxy). Chrmn: John W. Thompson. CEO: Satya Nadella. Inc.: Washington. Addr.: One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052-6399. Tel.: 425-882-8080. Internet: www.microsoft.com.

Current Liab ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '14-'16 Past 10 Yrs. to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow 11.5% 11.0% 9.0% 7.0% 7.5% 8.5% 9.0% 16.5% 8.0% 9.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 2.0%

114246

7432

2000

13043

45625

124712

6591 7484

23223 12560

49858

159851

7390 10121

34102 12914

64527

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Unearned Revenue Other

Fiscal Year Ends	QUART Sep.30	ERLY REV Dec.31	ENUES (\$ Mar.31	mill.) ^A Jun.30	Full Fiscal Year
2014	18529	24519	20403	23382	86833
2015	23201	26470	21729	22180	93580
2016	21660	25506	22156	22642	91964
2017	22334	26066	23557	24700	96657
2018	24000	28500	25500	27000	105000
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB				_Full .
Year Ends	Sep.30	Dec.31	Mar.31	Jun.30	Fiscal Year
2014	.62	.78	.68	.55	2.63
2015	.65	.77	.62	.62	2.65
2016	.70	.77	.63	.69	2.79
2017	.76	.83	.73	.75	3.08
2018	.76	.84	.77	.80	3.17
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID E■				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.23	.23	.23	.28	.97
2014	.28	.28	.31	.31	1.18
2015	.31	.31	.31	.36	1.29
2016	.36	.36	.39	.39	1.50
2017	.39	.39			

Microsoft Corporation ended fiscal 2017 on a strong note. (Years end June 30th.) As has been the case for the last 12 to 18 months, the high-tech giant continued experiencing strong demand for its cloud infrastructure and related platform services (e.g., Azure), as well as from cloud-based productivity offerings *Office* 365 (in both the commercial and consumer markets) and Dynamics 365. Specifically, revenues from Microsoft's commercial cloud businesses finished the fiscal fourth quarter at an annual run rate of \$18.9 billion, up 56%. Meanwhile, the gross margin in the commercial cloud arena was 52%, up 10 points, with improvements across each of *Azure, Office 365*, and *Dynamics 365*. *Windows 10* and its associated ecosystem also performed well versus the general PC market in the June period. This was particularly notable in the commercial arena. Elsewhere, Gaming appears to be shaping up nicely, with good prospects for the holiday season. For its part, Search continued to contribute to corporate results, with advertising revenue advancing 10% (net of traffic acquisition costs).

Microsoft shares have performed well **so far this year.** On balance, investors seemed to take the latest earnings report in stride, though, as support for the stock weakened slightly with the June-period release. Indeed, a period of consolidation may be in order, particularly given the gains recorded in the last six to 12 months. That said, the prospects for Microsoft as a company remain intact. Although investment in the cloud is still required, the company should continue benefiting from the scale of the buildout. Accordingly, revenues and profits from its cloud infrastructure and cloud-based productivity services should remain in rapid growth mode in fiscal 2018. Moreover, Microsoft is demonstrating that it is a very effective competitor in the cloud arena, and will likely continue improving on its position in coming years, as the secular move to cloud architecture unfolds. All things considered, though, new commitments to MSFT shares do not appear overly attractive, given the stock's current valuation. If the shares are already owned, we would advise to continue to hold them. Charles Clark August 11, 2017

(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¢;

tangibles. In 2017: \$35.1 billion, \$4.55 a share. paid December 2, 2004.

'13, d7¢; '15, d\$1.17; '16, d70¢; '17, d37¢. (E) Dividends historically paid in March, June, Next earnings report, late October. (C) In mill., Sept., and Dec. ■Dividend reinvestment plan adjusted for stock split. (D) Includes in- available. Special dividend of \$3.00 a share

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 95