

and systems hardware. 2016 revenue breakdown: Technology Services & Cloud Platforms, 44%; Global Business Services, 21%; Systems, 10%; Cognitive Solutions, 23%; Global Financing, 2%. Americas region, 48% of revenue; EMEA, 29%; Asia, 23%. R&D,

Berkshire Hathaway, 8.5%; Nat'l Indemnity, 6.1%; BlackRock, 5.5%; State Street, 5.4% (3/17 proxy). Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Address.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com.

Revenues "Cash Flow" 4.0% 7.5% 2.0% 2.0% 3.0% Nil 6.5% 16.5% Earnings 10.0% 3.5% 19.0% -2.5% 14.5% -3.0% Dividends Book Value QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 24047 2014 22236 22397 24113 92793 19280 2015 19590 20813 22059 81741 2016 18684 20238 19226 21771 79919 77500 77500 18500 2017 18155 19289 21556 2018 17800 19200 18800 21700 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year

42504

6028

6461

34269

Past

43888

6209 7513

36275

5 Yrs.

1.5%

Past Est'd '14-'16

45013

5126

8061

35966

to '20-'22

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

4.23 5.54 15.59 2014 2.43 3.46 3.02 2015 2.44 3.58 4.59 13.60 2.98 2.09 2.61 4.73 2016 12.39 2.90 11.95 2017 1 85 2 48 4.72 12.10 2018 1.85 2.50 2.95 4.80 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B= endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 3.70 2013 .85 .95 .95 .95 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 5.50 2017 1.40 1.50 1.50

IBM turned in another quarter of disappointing earnings in the June term while it struggled to turn around its fortunes. Revenues slipped a currencyadjusted 3%, with declines in all five of the company's business segments. Some of the shortfall was attributable to efforts to move away from lower-value work and declining markets. Too, sales of IBM's z13 mainframe computer are winding down, 10 quarters after the product's introduction. One positive sign was that revenues generated by strategic initiatives, like cloud computing, rose 5% and accounted for 43% of the top line. The increase still didn't offset declines in traditional markets, however. Gross margins contracted across the board. IBM continued to spend heavily to build up promising operations, and margins may have been squeezed by the costs of ramping up small businesses acquired in the 2015/2016 time frame. Lower selling expenses, tax benefits, and stock repurchases mitigated the decline in reported share net, which included \$0.49 of acquisition and retirement costs.

Management expects results strengthen in the second half. And we

look for revenues to reach an inflection point in the coming year or two. IBM's Cognitive Solutions (software) segment experienced double-digit growth in software-as-a-service signings in the June term, which ought to support higher annuity revenues. Global Business Services signings have also improved, and the consulting backlog has stabilized, after several quarters of declines. New contracts added in 2017 ought to lift Technology Services revenues in 2018, but the segment probably will post a disappointing performance this year. The Systems business should get a boost from the rollout of IBM's z14 mainframe computer later this year. In sum, IBM still looks for reported share net of \$11.95 in 2017, including \$1.85 of one-time costs. Our forecast of a slight earnings uptick in 2018 is still rather tentative.

The stock's pullback since early 2017 has created a good entry point. IBM shares have decent 3- to 5-year total return potential, supported by an attractive dividend yield. But the issue is ranked unfavorably for Timeliness, and long-term investors may need to be patient.

Theresa Brophy September 29, 2017

(A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses) from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02); '06 , '04, (\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02); '06, \$0.05; '14. (\$3.65). Quarters may not sum due reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions. (D)

to change in shs. Next earnings report mid-Oct. Incl. Intangibles. As of 6/30/16, \$40.7 billion, (B) Dividends historically paid in early March, \$43.67/sh. (E) In '08, incl. \$15.2 bill. retirement June, September, and December. Dividend benefit plan loss.

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

© 2017 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product.