

BUSINESS: Apple Inc., established in 1977, is one of the world's largest makers of PCs 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, services like *iCloud* storage and *Apple*

Pay, and a host of digital content from the popular *iTunes* store and other portals. Research and development: 5.1% of '17 sales. Has approximately 123,000 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common stock; Vanguard, 6.6%; BlackRock, 6.3% (12/17 Proxy). CEO: Tim Cook. Inc.: CA. Addr.: 1 Infinite Loop, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel.: 408-996-1010. Internet: www.apple.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '15-'17 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '21-'23 29.5% 39.0% 20.0% 20.0% Sales "Cash Flow" 9.5% 11.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 37.5% 16.5% 13.0% 12.5% 14.0% 29.5% 14.0%

106869

37294 11605

79006

128645

49049

18473

100814

130053

34311 20478

3453

89320

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fiscal Year Ends		ARTERLY S er Mar.Per		ill.) ^A Sep.Per	Full Fiscal Year
2015	74599	58010	49605	51501	233715
2016	75872	50557	42358	46852	215639
2017	78351	52896	45408	52579	229234
2018	88293	61137	51970	58600	260000
2019	92000	63700	54200	61100	271000
Fiscal	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	АВ	<u>F</u> ull .
Year Ends	Dec.Pe	r Mar.Per	Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Fiscal Year
2015	3.08	2.33	1.85	1.96	9.22
2016	3.28	1.90	1.42	1.67	8.31
2017	3.36	2.10	1.67	2.07	9.21
2018	3.89	2.73	2.18	2.60	11.40
2019	4.40	3.10	2.45	2.90	12.85
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID F				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.436	.47	.47	.47	1.85
2015	.47	.52	.52	.52	2.03
2016	.52	.57	.57	.57	2.23
2017	.57	.63	.63	.63	2.46
2018	.63	.73			

Apple shares, briefly touching a fresh 52-week high in the mid-\$190s, have been solid relative performers since our last full-page review in March. The company got another vote of confidence from legendary investor Warren Buffett, who announced that Berkshire Hathaway had acquired 75 million more AAPL shares during the first three months of the year. (Berkshire had already amassed approximately 165 million shares as of the end of 2017.) In addition, the fundamental picture at the tech giant remains bright, despite lingering investor fears of a slowdown in the global smartphone market. Notably . . .

Recent results have been better than anticipated. For the second quarter of fiscal 2018 (year ends September 29th), share net came in at \$2.73, topping our \$2.69 estimate and Wall Street's consensus view of \$2.67. Even better, *iPhone* unit sales of 52.2 million were surprisingly healthy, led by brisk demand for the toptier *iPhone X* model (that was released back in November). And the total smartphone installed base continued to expand at an impressive, double-digit clip. This

augurs well for future upgrade cycles, as well as for the broader *iPhone* "halo effect." Indeed, the huge user base means that the company should have an easier time selling its other products, from wireless *AirPods* and the *Apple Watch* to the new *HomePod* smart speaker, in the coming periods. In the meantime . . .

The high-margined services business, which often appears to be overlooked by the Street, continues to chug along. This segment, including offerings like *Apple Pay* and *iCloud* storage, registered a 31% year-over-year revenue advance during the second quarter. And it will probably remain a key part of the growth story here, especially as Apple further leverages its brand in China and other large emerging markets. All in all, given the strong prospects, we now envision share net climbing 24% in fiscal 2018 (to \$11.40) and another 13% next year (to \$12.85).

This quality Dow component is timely (2) and, as currently valued, still offers good upside potential to 2021-2023. Stock buybacks and steady dividend growth ought to sweeten the pot.

Justin Hellman

June 29, 2018

(A) Fiscal year ends last Saturday in September. (B) Diluted earnings. Quarters may not add to total due to rounding. Excludes non-recurring gain: '05, 2¢; loss: '02, 1¢. Next earn-

ings report due late July. **(C)** In mill., adjusted for splits. **(D)** Depreciation on accelerated basis. **(E)** Includes intangibles. In 2017, \$8015 mill., \$1.56 a share. **(F)** New dividend policy

adopted 3/12. Payments typically made in February, May, August, and November.

Company's Financial Strength A++
Stock's Price Stability 70
Price Growth Persistence 85
Earnings Predictability 65