

| Cash Assets | 8527 | 12580 | 13155 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receivables | 29245 | 31630 | 29229 |
| Inventory (Avg Cst) | 1553 | 1583 | 2413 |
| Other | 4563 | 3942 | 4325 |
| Current Assets | 43888 | 49735 | 49122 |
| Accts Payable | 6209 | 6451 | 5736 |
| Debt Due | 7513 | 6987 | 5977 |
| Other | 22553 | 23925 | 24020 |
| Current Liab. | 36275 | 37363 | 35733 |


| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '15-'17 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to '21-'23 |
| Revenues | $3.0 \%$ | $-1.0 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | $6.0 \%$ | $-.5 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ |
| Earnings | $7.5 \%$ | $-.5 \%$ | $.5 \%$ |
| Dividends | $17.0 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| Book Value | $-1.5 \%$ | -- | $13.0 \%$ |


| Cal- <br> endar | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) <br> Mar.31 |  |  |  | Fun. 30 <br> Yull |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2015 | 19590 | 20813 | 19280 | 22059 | 81741 |
| 2016 | 18684 | 20238 | 19226 | 21771 | 79919 |
| 2017 | 18155 | 19289 | 19153 | 22542 | 79139 |
| 2018 | 19072 | 19425 | 19250 | 22753 | 80500 |
| 2019 | 19000 | 19700 | 19550 | 23250 | 81500 |
| Cal- <br> endar | EARNINGS PER SHARE A |  |  |  | Full |
| 2015 | 2.44 | 3.58 | 3.02 | 4.59 | 13.60 |
| 2016 | 2.09 | 2.61 | 2.98 | 4.73 | 12.39 |
| 2017 | 1.85 | 2.48 | 2.92 | 4.79 | 12.04 |
| 2018 | 1.81 | 2.35 | 2.75 | 4.69 | 11.60 |
| 2019 | 1.85 | 2.40 | 2.80 | 4.80 | 11.85 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID | Ba | Full |  |  |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 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 | 1.50 | 5.90 |
| 2018 | 1.50 | 1.57 |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: International Business Machines Corporation is a worldwide supplier of technology and business services, software, and systems hardware. 2017 revenue breakdown: Technology Services \& Cloud Platforms, 43\%; Global Business Services, 21\%; Systems, $10 \%$; Cognitive Solutions, 23\%; Financing \& Other, $3 \%$. Geographic mix: Americas region, $48 \%$ of revenue; EMEA, $31 \%$;

## It's unclear whether International

 Business Machines has reached an inflection point with regard to revenues. In the March period (for the secondconsecutive quarter), reported revenues rose. Since a positive currency climate accounted for nearly all of the 5\% year-toyear top-line increase, the revenue improvement may not be sustainable. Performance by business segment was mixed with increases in Cognitive Solutions (software, powered by growth in strategic markets, like cloud computing and analytics) and Systems (aided by sales of IBM's new z14 systems and Power systems) offseting declines in Application Management and Process Services, and Technical Support.Efforts to raise the contribution of strategic markets to the revenue mix (47\% in the last 12 months) ought to pay off gradually. The Systems business is rolling out a new $z$ system for cloud environments and a new Power supercomputer, but demand for new systems usually falls off after an initial period of favorable reception. Services that help clients adopt cloud computing should enjoy healthy demand, and recent growth in

Asia, $21 \%$. R\&D, $7.3 \%$ of ' 17 revenue. ' 17 depreciation rate: $14.0 \%$. About 380,000 employees. Officers \& directors control less than $1 \%$ of stock; The Vanguard Group, 6.88\%; BlackRock, $6.2 \%$; State Street, $5.6 \%$ (3/18 proxy). Chairman, Pres. \& CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Address.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com.
technology services signings augurs well for services revenues. Still, competition is intense, and currency may not continue to provide a revenue tailwind.
Operating profit margins should improve absent repositioning costs. In the March term, IBM took measures to align the skills of its workforce to highvalue markets, and shift the expense mix to more variable (rather than fixed) costs. These items and currency changes boosted operating expenses, but were offset on the bottom line by tax benefits from the settlement of audits. We assume the repositioning costs will decline, but tax credits may not continue to offset tax expense. Too, spending to build up strategic businesses is likely to remain high. We've lowered our share-net estimates for 2018 and 2019, by $\$ 0.15$ and $\$ 0.40$, respectively.
IBM shares may be of interest for income. The dividend yield exceeds the Value Line median. But the stock is ranked 4 (Below Average) for Timeliness, and doesn't stand out for the pull to 20212023. The company's turnaround appears likely to be a protracted process.
Theresa Brophy

[^0]Company's Financial Strength
Stock's Price Stability
Price Growth Persistence
Earnings Predictability


[^0]:    e. (C) In millions.

    | A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. gains (losses) | reform. Quarters may not sum due to |
    | :--- | :--- |
    | from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, | shs. Next earnings report mid-July. |

    (B) Next earnings report mid-July. $\quad$ (D) Incl. Intangibles. As of 3/31/18, $\$ 40.3$ bil(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, (D) lion, \$43.85/sh. (E) In '08, incl. \$15.2 bill. retire-

