

| Cash Assets | 8527 | 12580 | 11926 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Receivables | 29245 | 31630 | 28340 |
| Inventory (Avg Cst) | 1553 | 1583 | 1742 |
| Other | 4563 | 3942 | 4787 |
| Current Assets | 43888 | 49735 | 46795 |
| Accts Payable | 6209 | 6451 | 5518 |
| Debt Due | 7513 | 6987 | 7646 |
| Other | 22553 | 23925 | 22278 |
| Current Liab. | 36275 | 37363 | 35442 |


| ANNUAL RATES <br> of change (per sh) <br> Revenues <br> "Cash Flow" <br> Earnings <br> Dividends <br> Book Value |  | Past P <br> 10 Yrs. 5 <br> $3.0 \%$  <br> $6.0 \%$  <br> $7.5 \%$  <br> $17.0 \%$ 13. <br> $-1.5 \%$  |  | Past Est'd '15-'17 <br> Yrs. to '21.23 <br> $-1.0 \%$ $2.5 \%$ <br> $-.5 \%$ $1.5 \%$ <br> $-.5 \%$ $.5 \%$ <br> $13.5 \%$ $4.5 \%$ <br> - $13.5 \%$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{Ma}$ |  |  |  |  |
| 2015 | 19590 | 20813 | 928 | 22059 | 81741 |
| 2016 | 18684 | 20238 | 19226 | 21771 |  |
| 17 | 18155 | 19289 | 19153 | 22542 | 79139 |
| 18 | 19072 | 20003 | 19315 | 22610 | 81000 |
|  | 19200 | 19900 | 19600 | 23 |  |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} \mathrm{E} \\ \mathrm{Mar} .31 \end{array}$ |  |  | $\text { Dec. } 31$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2016 | 2.09 | . | . 9 | 4.7 | . |
| 17 | 85 | 2.48 | 2.92 | 4.79 | 2.04 |
| 2018 |  | 2.61 | 2.70 | 4.4 | 11.60 |
|  | 1.85 | 2.65 | 2.7 | 4.6 |  |
|  | $\text { Mar. } 31$ |  | Sep. 30 | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{n}} \\ & \text { Dec. } 31 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 14 | 95 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | . 25 |
| 2015 | 1.10 | 1.30 | 1.30 | 1.30 | . 0 |
| 201 | 1.30 | 1.40 | 1.40 | 1.40 | 5.50 |
|  | 1.40 | 1.50 | 1.50 |  |  |
| 2018 | . 50 | 1.57 | 15 |  |  |

## 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, $31 \%$;

## The renewed growth in International

Business Machines' revenues in the past three quarters was a positive development, but the top-line momentum looks likely to slow. Revenues in the last nine months benefited from a favorable currency situation as well as the introduction of the z14 mainframe computer in September, 2017 and rollout of the POWER9 system in 2018. But management expected currency to shift from a tailwind to a headwind in the back half of this year. Moreover, revenues generated by new systems usually moderate after a period of initial good reception (although IBM indicated that z14 adoption is tracking ahead of prior systems). The top-line comparison in the final period of 2018 may be especially tough.
On an encouraging note, however, strategic market revenues (from cloud computing, analytics, and information security) have risen at a mid-teens pace in the past year. The as-a-service business is growing nicely. And services signings, a forerunner of the services revenues, rose 6\% in the J une term, auguring well for revenues farther down the road.

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.

The company expects expense reductions from initiatives undertaken earlier in 2018 to ramp up in the second half. These measures included implementing new ways of working and shifting the expense mix to more variable (rather than fixed) costs. Although spending on growth initiatives is likely to remain high, services margins should expand.
Management still looks to report earnings per share of at least $\$ 11.60$ in 2018. This indudes an estimated $\$ 2.20$ a share of acquisition/retirement costs. Fullyear results in 2018 are likely to be held back by a higher tax rate, even excluding the $\$ 5.5$ billion charge recorded in late 2017 associated with tax reform in the U.S. At present, we tentatively expect IBM to make slight share-net progress in 2019, supported by modest revenue growth, the expense-reduction initiatives, and stock repurchases.
IBM's dividend yield is more than double the Value Line median. But the stock is ranked only 3 (Average) for Timeliness. Too, long-term investors may need to be very patient.
Theresa Brophy

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[^0]:    (A) Based on diluted shs. Excl. gains (losses) reform. Quarters may not sum due to change in reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions. from discontinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, shs. Next earnings report mid-October shs. Next earnings report mid-October. $\quad$ (D) Incl. Intangibles. As of 6/30/18, \$39.8 bil(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, (D) Incl. Intangibles. As of $6 / 30 / 18, \$ 39.8$ bil(\$0.01); '05, (\$0.02); '06, \$0.05; '14. (\$3.65). In (B) Dividends historically paid in early March, lion, \$43.63/sh. (E) In '08, incl. \$15.2 bill. retire'17, excludes $\$ 5.90$ charge related to tax June, September, and December. ■ Dividend ment benefit plan loss.

