

nue, reflecting market volatility.

Otherwise, underlying business fundamentals remained mostly favorable. Net interest income advanced 10%, supported by healthy loan growth and higher interest rates. Credit card fees rose 23%, buoyed by strong consumer spending. Loan losses fell slightly, but JPMorgan added about \$300 million to its reserves for losses on card and selected commercial loans. Expenses increased 6%, including significant investments in JPMorgan's businesses and market expansion.

JPMorgan believes it is entering 2019 with good momentum across most of its businesses, which should help lift revenues. Credit card lending should remain strong. JPMorgan also sees opportunities to expand business lending in new markets. It looks for net interest income in the March quarter to match the 2018 December-period tally owing to a lower day count in the March term. Loan growth ought to help lift net interest inseasonally strong period for noninterest revenues and we expect this pattern to repeat in 2019. Market conditions may remain challenging. But a number of investment banking deals that had been expected to close in late 2018 were pushed into 2019.

Management remains constructive regarding the outlook for the new year. We look for revenues to increase moderately, and for the company to lower the expense-to-revenue ratio modestly, in spite of the costs of entering new markets. Too, we don't see any material change in credit-quality trends. Although we've trimmed our full-year 2019 share-net estimate for the company, from \$9.65 to \$9.40, we look for JPMorgan to begin 2019 on a stronger note than it ended 2018.

JPMorgan shares are mostly of inter**est for income.** The quarterly dividend was increased 43% in 2018. The stock is also ranked favorably for Timeliness. But the issue doesn't stand out for total return potential to 2021-2023.

Theresa Brophy February 8, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Quarterly earnings per share in '18 do not sum due to rounding. Excludes unusual expenses: '04, \$1.31; '05, \$0.57; '17. \$0.56. Excludes income from dis-

6.5% 3.5%

6.5%

LOANS (\$ mill.)

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

833319 858577 873850 880989 882561 895404 900222 917093

921049 935164 941190 971109

975000 990000 9950001020000

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B=

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

.44

.50

.56

1.58

1.76

.48

.50

.56

1.71

1.76

.48

.56

.80

750120 777332 795991

1.54

1.55

1.70

2.40

Book Value

endar

2015

2016

2018

2019

Cal-

endar

2015

2016

2017

Cal-

endar

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

1.45

1.35

1.65

2.30

.44 .48

.56

7.0% 7.0%

Full

Year

6.00

6.19

6.87

Full

Year

1.68

1.84

2.04

2.48

cally paid late Jan., Apr., July, Oct. ■ Div'd rein-

continued operations: '06, \$0.17. Excl. extraordinary gain: '08, \$0.53; '09, \$0.02. Next earnings report mid-April. **(B)** Dividends historilions.

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