

the healthcare field. Has three business segments: Consumer (baby care, skin care, oral care, wound care, etc.), Pharmaceutical (antiinfective, antipsychotic, contraceptive, dermatology, gastrointestinal, etc.), and Medical Devices & Diagnostics (electrophysiol-Johnson & Johnson's stock sold off

sharply following a negative news

report regarding its talc products. In

1.0% of common stock; Vanguard Group, 7.6%; BlackRock, 6.2% State Street, 5.8%. (3/18 Proxy). Chairman & CEO: Alex Gorsky. Inc.: NJ. Address: One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933. Telephone: 732-524-0400. Internet: www.jnj.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '15-'17 Past 10 Yrs. 3.5% 4.5% 4.0% 5 Yrs. 2.5% 3.5% 2.5% of change (per sh) to '22-'24 5.5% 8.5% 9.0% Sales "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 8.0% 6.0% 7.0% 2.5% 8.0% 8.0%

65032

6918

4684 14685

26287

43088

7310 3906

19321

30537

47194

7000

18664

27437

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

2001. Value 01070 21070 07070					
Cal- endar			ALES (\$ m Sep.Per	ill.) ^A Dec.Per	Full Year
2016	17482	18482	17820	18106	71890
2017	17766	18839	19650	20195	76450
2018	20009	20831	20348	20393	81581
2019	20000	20500	20100	20200	80800
2020	20500	21000	20600	20700	82800
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB				Full
endar				Dec.Per	
2016	1.54	1.48	1.53	1.38	5.93
2017	1.61	1.40	1.45	1.74	6.20
2018	1.60	1.45	1.44	1.12	5.61
2019	1.70	1.70			7.00
2020	1.90	1.90	1.85	2.15	7.80
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.70	.75	.75	.75	2.95
2016	.75	.80	.80	.80	3.15
2017	.80	.84	.84	.84	3.32
2018	.84	.90	.90	.90	3.54
2019					

(A) Years end on the last Sunday in December. (B) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring: '03, d30¢; '04, d26¢; '05, d4¢; '06, d3¢; '07, d\$1.24; '13, d71¢; 4th qtr.'17, d\$5.73 (due to tax reform.). GAAP as of 2015. Next earnings report due late April. (C) Dividends historically d52¢; '09, d23¢; '10, 2¢; '11, d\$1.51; '12, paid: March, June, September, and December.

James A. Flood ■ Dividend reinvestment plan available. (**D**) Includes intangibles. On 12/31/18: \$ billion, \$29.57 a share. (**E**) In millions.

mid-December, Reuters news service published an article claiming that J&J executives were aware of the presence of asbestos in its talc products since the 1970s. The company is facing thousands of lawsuits that allege that the talc has caused ovarian cancer. Of the more than 10 cases brought so far, the plaintiffs have won three, most notably a \$4.7 billion verdict last July brought by multiple plaintiffs. J&J has filed appeals on the losses and vehemently denies that there was asbestos in the talc. Investors should be aware that this controversy will remain an overhang on the company for possibly years to come, as jury verdicts are hard to predict. It

Meanwhile, the company's operational performance in the fourth quarter was decent. Total sales rose only 1%, but on an apple-to-apples basis, the top line increased by 5.3%. However, much of this was offset the negative im-

should be noted that the stock price has

since recovered, and J&J has done well

getting jury awards lowered on appeal.

pact of currency translations. Adjusted share earnings were up 13%, but on a GAAP basis they fell 35% due to amortization charges and unusual expenses.

Management's guidance for 2019 was **muted.** Sales are estimated to be \$80.8 billion, a decline of 1% owing to some business divestitures. Adjusted earnings per share were forecast to be \$8.60, with operational sales rising 6.7%. All told, the company may well earn \$7.00 a share, on a GAAP basis.

We also expect to see further improvement in 2020. On the negative side, revenues will probably continue to slide for key drugs such as REMICADE (inflammatoryrelated diseases) and ZYTIGA (prostate cancer) due to competition from biosimilars. Nevertheless, the company has a solid pipleine of new drugs, especially in the oncology sector. We think one or two of these will emerge as new blockbusters and compensate for lost sales.

These shares are timely. And while the talc-related lawsuits add some uncertainty, JNJ carries a 1 Safety rank (Highest).

February 15, 2019

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95