

JPMorgan Chase shares touched an all-time high after the bank, the largest in the United States, turned in better-than-expected earnings in the September quarter. Net interest income inched 2% higher year to year, aided by balance-sheet growth and a better asset mix, which offset higher deposit costs. Feebased revenues rose 14%, powered by higher debt and equity underwriting revenues and strong fixed-income trading income. Management held expenses to a 5% increase, despite hefty technology spending. Modest increases in reserves for credit card loans, reflecting the aging of new card vintages, contributed to the higher credit costs. By business segment, profit increases in Consumer & Community Banking and the Corporate & Investment Bank offset declines in Commercial Banking and Asset & Wealth Management.

The bank faces an increasingly challenging operating climate. Loan growth has slowed in the face of weak global economic activity. Lower interest rates probaexert more will blv pressure JPMorgan's margin in the year ahead. Meantime, JPMorgan expects investment

banking income in the December term to decline sequentially and year to year. Even so, some factors should work in JPMorgan's favor. The company's diversified mix of businesses ought to help it offset weakness in any one area. Significant investments in its businesses (including to hone online banking capabilities) over the years has created a lot of earnings power. JPMorgan's plan to open about 400 offices in the next few years (100 in 2019) in new markets, like Philadelphia and Boston, will entail some expense, but should help fuel loan and deposit growth. The tougher operating environment notwithstanding, we tentatively look for JPMorgan to post modestly higher earnings in 2020.

JPMorgan shares may be of interest **for income.** The company recently raised its quarterly common stock dividend by 12.5%, to \$0.90 a share. But the issue is already trading near the mid-point of our 3- to 5-year price-range projection; has limited total return potential to 2022-2024; and is ranked only 3 (Average) for Timeliness.

Theresa Brophy

November 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-

Loan Loss Resrv.

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

Loans

endar

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Cal-

endar

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Cal-

endar

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

1.35

1.65

2.37

2.65

2.65

.44 .48

.56

.80

Earnings

Dividends

Book Value

13604

10 Yrs.

6.0%

11.0% 4.5%

6.5%

LOANS (\$ mill.) Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

833319 858577 873850 880989

882561 895404 900222 917093

921049 935164 941190 971109

942712 943723 931983 935000

937000 942000 948000 955000

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

.80

1.76

2.34

2.68

2.70

.48

.50

.56

.80

1.76

1.98

2.25

44

.48

.56

.80

.90

1.55

1.70

2.29

2.82

2.75

13445

5 Yrs. 7.5% 12.5% 13.0%

6.0%

Past Est'd '16-'18

13235

to '22-'24

6.0% 6.0%

7.5% 7.5%

Full

Year

6.19

6.87

9.00

10.40

10.55

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-Jan. **(B)** Dividends historilions.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 70