

BUSINESS: Apple Inc., established in 1977, is one of the world's largest makers of PCs and peripheral and consumer products, such as the *iPod* digital music player, the *iPad* tablet, the *iPhone* smartphone, and the *Apple Watch*, for sale primarily to the business, creative, education, government, and consumer markets. It also sells operating systems, services like *iCloud* storage and *Apple*

Pay, and a host of digital content from the popular *iTunes* store and other portals. Research and development: 6.2% of '19 sales. Has approximately 137,000 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common stock; Vanguard, 7.4%; BlackRock, 6.8% (1/19 Proxy). CEO: Tim Cook. Inc.: CA. Addr.: One Apple Park Way, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel.: 408-996-1010. Internet: www.apple.com.

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '17-'19 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Sales 27.5% 16.0% 15.5% 8.5% 'Cash Flow" 35.0% 11.5% Earnings 33.5% 13.0% 12 5% 12.0% 16.0% Dividends Book Value 25.5% 8.0%

128645

49049

18473

100814

131339

55888

20748

116866

162819

46236 16240

105718

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fiscal Year Ends		RTERLY S er Mar.Per		nill.) A Sep.Per	Full Fiscal Year
2016	75872		42358	46852	215639
2017	78351		45408	52579	229234
2018	88293	61137	53265	62900	265595
2019	84310	58015	53809	64040	260174
2020	87500	62500	58500	70000	278500
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B Full				
Year Ends	Dec.Pe	r Mar.Per	Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Fiscal Year
2016	3.28	1.90	1.42	1.67	8.31
2017	3.36	2.10	1.67	2.07	9.21
2018	3.89	2.73	2.34	2.91	11.91
2019	4.18	2.46	2.18	3.03	11.89
2020	4.55	2.95	2.45	3.35	13.30
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID F				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.47	.52	.52	.52	2.03
2016	.52	.57	.57	.57	2.23
2017	.57	.63	.63	.63	2.46
2018	.63	.73	.73	.73	2.82
2019	.73	.77	.77	.77	
l	1				1

Apple shares, up almost 80% in value in 2019, remain on a major roll. There was a lot for investors to worry about this past year, from the maturing smartphone space to tariff threats and a softening economic backdrop in China. But the tech giant, behind the leadership of CEO Tim Cook, has managed its business very well in a challenging environment. And, after a tough first half of fiscal 2019 (year ended September 28th), trends showed welcome improvement, and Apple now looks to have returned to a sustainable growth mode.

Results for the September quarter came in notably better than anticipated. Indeed, share net of \$3.03 clocked in nicely ahead of our \$2.83 call and Wall Street's consensus view of \$2.84. While iPhone sales dropped 9% during the period, strides in the services and wearables segments acted as an offset. Services revenue advanced 18%, to a record \$12.5 billion, buoyed by brisk demand for highmargined subscriptions, like iCloud storage packages. And the wearables category experienced a 54% revenue jump, as the AirPods and Apple Watch mobile platforms continued to gain traction.

These favorable trends ought to persist through fiscal 2020. This is especially likely given recent forays into gaming and streaming TV, as well as stepped-up investments in new healthoriented applications for the Apple Watch. In the meantime, prospects for the cashcow smartphone franchise appear decent, with the competitively priced iPhone 11 series (it debuted in September) scoring high marks with consumers thus far. The expected rollout of a 5G iPhone in the latter half of 2020 should be a significant catalyst, too, with many users waiting for the new super-fast devices before upgrading. All in all, we currently see the bottom line climbing 12% in the fiscal year ahead, to the \$13.30-a-share level. And we remain optimistic that share earnings can reach \$20.00 by the 2022-2024 horizon, as the company further diversifies away from the iPhone and uses stock buybacks to enhance shareholder value.

This neutrally ranked (3) Dow component looks fairly valued here, but we would be long-term buyers on any material share-price weakness.

Justin Hellman December 27, 2019

(A) Fiscal year ends last Saturday in September. (B) Diluted earnings. Quarters may not add to total due to rounding/changes in the share count. Excludes nonrecurring gain: '05,

2¢. Next earnings report due in late January. (C) In millions, adjusted for splits. (D) Depreciation on accelerated basis. (E) New dividend policy adopted 3/12. Payments typically made

in February, May, August, and November.

Company's Financial Strength A++
Stock's Price Stability 70
Price Growth Persistence 85
Earnings Predictability 75