

cines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and animal health products. Operations comprised of two segments: Pharmaceutical (89% of total sales) and Animal Health (11%). Top-grossing franchises in 2024: Keytruda (oncology), Gardasil (vaccine), ProQuad (vaccine)

employees. Officers and directors own less than 1% of common stock; Vanguard, 10.0%; BlackRock, 8.0% (4/25 proxy). Chairman & CEO: Robert M. Davis. Inc.: NJ. Addr.: 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07033. Tel.: 908-740-4000. Internet: www.merck.com.

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '22-'24 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '28-'30 5.0% 1.5% 4.5% Sales "Cash Flow" 8.0% 3.0% 5.5% 11.5% Earnings 4.5% 13 0% 8.0% 9.0% 6.0% 7.0% Dividends Book Value 5.5%

32168

3922

1372

25694

38782

4079 2649

21692

28420

37065

3892

1434 20711

26037

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

| | | | | Full |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---|
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 15901 | 14593 | 14959 | 13830 | 59283 |
| 14487 | 15035 | 15962 | 14631 | 60115 |
| 15775 | 16112 | 16657 | 15624 | 64168 |
| 15529 | 15806 | 17200 | 16565 | 65100 |
| 16500 | 17000 | 18000 | 17400 | 68900 |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE A | | | | Full |
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2.14 | 1.87 | 1.85 | 1.62 | 7.48 |
| 1.40 | d2.06 | 2.13 | .03 | 1.51 |
| 2.07 | 2.28 | 1.57 | 1.72 | 7.65 |
| 2.22 | 2.13 | 2.38 | 2.22 | 8.95 |
| 2.25 | 2.30 | 2.65 | 2.55 | 9.75 |
| QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B= | | | Full | |
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| .65 | .65 | .65 | .65 | 2.60 |
| .69 | .69 | .69 | .69 | 2.76 |
| .73 | .73 | .73 | .73 | 2.92 |
| .77 | .77 | .77 | .77 | 3.08 |
| .81 | .81 | .81 | | |
| | Mar.31 15901 14487 15775 15529 16500 EA Mar.31 2.14 1.40 2.07 2.22 2.25 QUAR Mar.31 .65 .69 .73 | Mar.31 Jun.30 15901 | Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 15901 14593 14959 14487 15035 15962 15775 16112 16657 15529 15806 17200 18000 18000 EARNINGS PER SHARE Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 2.14 1.87 1.85 1.40 d2.06 2.13 2.07 2.28 1.57 2.22 2.13 2.38 2.25 2.30 2.65 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS P. Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 65 65 65 69 69 69 73 73 73 77 77 | 15901 14593 14959 13830 14487 15035 15962 14631 15775 16112 16657 15624 15529 15806 17200 16565 16500 17000 18000 17400 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2.14 1.87 1.85 1.62 1.40 d2.06 2.13 .03 2.07 2.28 1.57 1.72 2.22 2.13 2.38 2.22 2.25 2.30 2.65 2.55 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID □ Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 6.5 6.5 6.5 6.5 6.9 6.9 6.9 6.9 7.3 7.3 7.3 7.3 7.77 7.77 |

Merck reported mixed second-quarter **results.** Adjusted earnings declined 7% on a year-over-year basis, to \$2.13 a share, due in large part to continued pressure on the *Gardasil* franchise (more below). On a positive note, the performance surpassed our estimate of \$2.06, with much of the upside coming from cost-reduction initiatives. Meantime, total sales retreated 2% versus the comparable quarter of 2024, to \$15.81 billion, missing our target by about \$200 million. MRK shares took a bit of a hit on the day of the release (July 29th).

Gardasil is creating a significant drag on top-line comparisons. The drug-maker paused shipments of its popular HPV vaccine to China earlier this year, a decision that was motivated by persistent weakness in market demand. Initially, the pause was expected to last until mid-2025, but leadership recently extended this time line to the end of the year. Furthermore, the company acknowledged that softer dynamics in Japan were taking a toll on Gardasil, as well. Total product sales plummeted 55% during the first half. This will likely contribute to a substantial deceleration in top-line growth this year.

Our 2025 adjusted earnings call is unchanged at \$8.95 a share. We have lowered our sales estimates due to the extended pause in Gardasil shipments, but we look for much of the impact to be absorbed by an enhanced focus on expense discipline. In July, the company announced a new round of cost cuts that it anticipates will save \$3 billion annually by 2027. We believe this will be supportive of earnings reaching \$9.75 a share in 2026 and \$11.70 by 2028-2030. Continued momentum in Merck's blockbuster Keytruda franchise, which is slated to maintain exclusivity until 2028, is another catalyst.

The company is investing in its U.S. manufacturing capabilities. This includes a new \$1 billion facility in Delaware, which will serve as the top manufacturing site for *Keytruda*. It also announced an \$895 million expansion of its Animal Health facility in Kansas to increase ca-

pacity of vaccines/biologic products.
The stock holds an Above Average (2) rank for Timeliness. Our projections also show attractive upside potential over the 18-month and 2028-2030 time frames. Michael Ratty September 26, 2025

(A) Diluted earnings (adjusted). Quarters may not sum due to rounding. Excludes nonrecurring gains/(losses): '09, \$2.40; '10, (\$3.16); '11,

(\$2.03); '16, (\$2.37); '17, (\$3.11); '18, (\$2.02); '19, (\$1.38); '20, (\$3.16); '21, (88¢); '22, (\$1.77); '23, (\$1.37); '24, (91¢). Next egs. (\$1.75); '12, (\$1.66); '13, (\$2.02); '14, 58¢; '15, report due October 30th. (B) Dividends histori-

cally paid in early January, April, July, and October. Dividend reinvestment plan available.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 40

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