

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 approximately 137,000 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common stock; Vanguard, 7.7%; BlackRock, 6.8% (1/20 Proxy). CEO: Tim Cook. Inc.: CA. Addr.: One Apple Park Way, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel.: 408-996-1010. Internet: www.apple.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '17-'19 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '23-'25 Sales "Cash Flow" 26.5% 32.5% 14.0% 11.5% 13.5% 13.0% 14.0% 12.0% 13.0% Earnings 31.0% 12.5% Dividends Book Value 16.5% 21.0% 4.0%

OHADTERI V SALES (\$ mill ) A

55888

20748 40230

116866

46236 16240

105718

32421 20421

96094

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fiscal

Year Ends	Dec.Per Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per				Fiscal Year
2017	78351	52896	45408	52579	229234
2018	88293	61137		62900	265595
2019	84310	58015	53809	64040	260174
2020	91819	58313	51868	63000	265000
2021	101000	65000	60000	71000	297000
Fiscal	E/	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	AB	Full
Year Ends	Dec.Pe	r Mar.Pe	r Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Fiscal Year
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	4.99	2.55	2.06	2.90	12.50
2021	5.45	3.15	2.75	3.55	14.90
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
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	3.04
2020	.77	.82			

Apple shares have been riding high of **late.** In fact, the mega-cap Dow component has surged roughly 35% in value since our March review, leading a rebound in the broader equity market, despite a worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted large swaths of the global economy. Part of this is probably due to strength in the wider tech sector, which has been viewed by bulls as fairly coronavirus-proof, particularly with more consumers working from home and seeking new ways to stay connected. But . . .

Apple's business has also shown some welcome resiliency, with results for the second quarter of fiscal 2020 (year ends September 26th) coming in better than feared. For the March stanza, share net clocked in at \$2.55, 4% above the year-earlier tally and nicely ahead of Wall Street's consensus view of \$2.26. Even better, against the challenging backdrop, the company managed to grow its top line by 1%, to \$58.3 billion, with another good showing from the services segment, including iCloud storage, Apple Music, and a host of subscription offerings, leading the charge. And free cash flow remained robust, prompting the tech behemoth to hike the quarterly dividend by 6% (from \$0.77 to \$0.82 a share) and tack on \$50 billion to the existing stock-repurchase authorization. Looking ahead . .

We remain upbeat about prospects here. Results are apt to face modest pressure through the second half of the year, hampered by lingering *iPhone* softness. (iPhone revenue fell 7% in the March period.) We expect the services momentum to persist, however, especially as Apple TV+, the company's new streaming platform, gains traction. We also see the wearables segment, along with its expanded lineup of health-oriented apps, emerging as a more powerful growth engine. This suggests that double-digit top- and bottom-line advances are in the cards for fiscal 2021. And it gives us confidence that profits can reach around \$24.00 a share by 2023-2025. The valuation is getting full at these levels, and the issue is no longer timely. Yet, we think our longer-range sharenet estimates may well prove to be conservative, particularly in light of Apple's aggressive actions on the buyback front. Justin Hellman June 26, 2020

(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 July. (C) In light ruary, May, August, and November. millions, adjusted for splits. (D) Depreciation on accelerated basis. (E) New dividend policy adopted 3/12. Payments typically made in Feb-

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