

communication systems, services, and program products. 2011 revenue breakdown: Global Technology Services, 38%; Global Business Services, 18%; Systems and Technology, 18%; Software, 23%; Global Financing, 2%; Other, 1%. Foreign business: 65% of

BlackRock, 5.2%; State Street, 5.4%; Berkshire Hathaway, 5.5% (3/12 proxy). Chairman: Samuel J. Palmisano. Pres. & CEO: Virginia M. Rometty. Inc.: NY. Add.: New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504. Tel.: 914-499-1900. Internet: www.ibm.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '09-'11 Past 10 Yrs. 5.0% 8.0% 10.5% 5 Yrs. 7.0% 12.5% 16.5% of change (per sh) to '15-'17 8.0% 8.5% 9.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 17.5% 4.0% 24.0% -1.5% 9.5% 21.0%

48935

7436

4168

24398

36002

48116

7804

6778

40562

50928

8517

8463

25143

42123

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	21711	23250	23566	27231	95758
2010	22857	23724	24271	29018	99870
2011	24607	26666	26157	29486	106916
2012	24800	26800	26400	30000	108000
2013	25200	27500	27100	31200	111000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	1.70	2.32	2.40	3.59	10.01
2010	1.97	2.61	2.82	4.18	11.52
2011	2.31	3.00	3.19	4.62	13.06
2012	2.55	3.25	3.50	4.90	14.20
2013	2.65	3.35	3.75	5.25	15.00
Cal-	Cal- QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B■				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.40	.50	.50	.50	1.90
2009	.50	.55	.55	.55	2.15
2010	.55	.65	.65	.65	2.50
2011	.65	.75	.75	.75	2.90
2012	.75				

Two of IBM's three product groups probably will enjoy decent revenue growth in 2012, as in the final period of 2011. The company expects technology and business services revenues together to rise 3% this year, following a nearly 7% advance in 2011. It entered 2012 with a healthy services backlog, and continues to expand its services offerings in both rapidly growing nations and in emerging fields, like business analytics. Meanwhile, management looks for software revenues, which advanced 9% in the December quarter, to grow at a similar pace in 2012, aided by a strong new business pipeline.

But systems revenues may face tough comparisons in the first half, after falling 8% in the December period, when a new product (the launch of a System z server in late 2010) anniversaried.

Nonetheless, the company expects reported earnings of at least \$14.16 a share in 2012, and we look for the beat to pick up a bit in 2013. The \$14.16 a share includes an estimated of acquisition and retirement charges. Concerns have arisen that information technology spending might mod-

erate in 2012. But new products should boost systems revenues. And software offerings, like IBM's Smarter Commerce, which aims to help companies sell and service their products, seem to be gaining traction and have attractive margins. Productivity improvements and a better services mix also ought to support wider margins. Stock repurchases should enhance earnings per share.

to IBM's Excluding debt related financing arm, the debt-to-equity ratio was 32% at the end of 2011, up from 23% a year earlier, due to a reduction in shareholders' equity related to the retirement plan and rise in nonfinancing debt, from \$5.8 billion to \$8 billion. IBM says it is comfortable maintaining this ratio in the 30%-40% range.

IBM's goal is to earn \$20 a share by mid-decade, which still seems achievable. But the stock, ranked favorably for Timeliness, has nearly tripled in price since late 2008, and discounts a good portion of the earnings growth that we project to 2015-

2017. Nonetheless, the blue chip remains a core inclusion in conservative portfolios. Theresa Brophy April 6, 2012

(A) Based on average shares until '97, then diluted. Excludes nonrecurring gains (losses): '96, (\$0.20); '99, \$0.40; '02, (\$1.89); '04, (\$0.11); '05, (\$0.34); gain (losses) from discon-

mid-April. (B) Dividends historically paid in ear- \$29.6 billion, \$25.45/sh.

tinued operations; '03, (\$0.02); '04, (\$0.01); Iy March, June, September, and December.

'05, (\$0.02); '06, \$0.05. Quarters may not sum due to change in shares. Next earnings report mill., adj. for split. (**D**) Incl. Intangibles. In '11,

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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