

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* smarthone, 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*Apple shares have continued to per-

form strongly. The stock is up 18% since

our last update in late September, and

more than 30% for the year to date. Inves-

tors have likely been impressed with the

company's solid financial results, particu-

larly given the ongoing global supply-chain

constrictions. Apple generated a 71% bottom-line advance in fiscal 2021, off of a

33% increase in sales (period ended Sep-

tember 25th). Growth was broad based,

Pay, and a host of digital content from the popular *iTunes* store and other portals. Research and development: 5.9% of '21 sales. Has approximately 154,000 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common stock; Vanguard, 7.8%; BlackRock, 6.6% (1/21 Proxy). CEO: Tim Cook. Inc.: CA. Addr.: One Apple Park Way, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel.: 408-996-1010. Internet: www.apple.com.

launched at the end of September and has

been well received. So, too, have the latest

iterations of the Apple Watch Series 7,

iPads, and *Mac* computers. Altogether, we are maintaining our fiscal 2022 earnings

estimate at \$6.15 a share, which would be

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '19-'21 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '24-'26 20.5% 22.0% Sales "Cash Flow" 13.0% 13.5% 10.5% 12.5% Earnings 21.0% 14 5% 13.0% 10.0% -4.5% 14.5% 13.0% Dividends Book Value 8.0%

162819

46236

16240 43242

105718

143713

42296 13769

105392

134836

54763 15613

125481

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Full Fisca Year QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) A **Fiscal** Year Ends Dec.Per Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per 88293 61137 53265 2018 62900 265595 84310 58015 260174 2019 53809 64040 91819 58313 59685 64698 274515 2020 365817 2021 111439 89584 81434 83360 380800 2022 117000 92000 84300 87500 Fiscal Year Ends Full Fisca Year **FARNINGS PER SHARE A B** Dec.Per Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per .97 .68 .59 .74 2018 2.98 .55 .75 2.97 2019 1.05 62 .65 2020 1.25 .64 .73 3.28 2021 1 67 1 40 1.30 5.61 1 24 2022 1.85 1.45 1.35 1.50 6.15 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID E Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2017 .143 .158 .158 .158 .62 .183 .183 .183 2018 .158 .71 2019 .183 .193 .193 .76 .193 2020 193 .205 .205 .205 .81 .22 2021 .205 .22

with record sales in every product category and geographic region. **Prospects for the current year remain favorable.** Chip shortages and other pandemic-related disruptions took a \$6 billion bite out of September-period revenues, and management expects the impact to be even greater in the December quarter. However this should be more than offset by continued strength across Apple's multiple businesses. In particular, the company's flagship *iPhone* remains in high demand. Sales of the mobile devices vaulted 39% higher in fiscal 2021, to \$192 billion. The *iPhone 13* lineup, which fea-

camera systems, and battery life, was

to

performance,

close to a 10% increase over 2021. Growth in the higher-margin services business should continue at a solid pace. The pandemic-induced lockdowns lifted demand not only for the company's electronics, but its services as well. The division reached record revenues of \$68 billion in fiscal 2021. Apple now has more then 745 million paid subscriptions for its cloud, music, payment, and other services, up more than 160 million versus the year before, and nearly five times the total it had less than five years ago.

This issue remains a timely (1) selec-

This issue remains a timely (1) selection for the year ahead. Over the long term, we continue to look for double-digit average annual sales and earnings increases to 2024-2026. However, following the strong rise in the stock price, the current quotation does not present a favorable entry point for buy-and-hold accounts.

Mario Ferro

December 24, 2021

(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. Next earnings report due in early

February. (C) In millions, adjusted for splits. (D) vember. Depreciation on accelerated basis. (E) New dividend policy adopted 3/12. Payments typically made in February, May, August, and No-

enhancements

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

tures