

largest makers of PCs and peripheral and consumer products, such as the iPhone smartphone, the Apple Watch, the iPad tablet, and its Mac line of personal computers, for sale primarily to the business, creative, education, government, and consumer markets. It also sells operating systems, services like iCloud storage and Apple Apple closed out fiscal 2023 on an up

note (ended September 30th). Although

fourth-period sales were down slightly

versus the year before, they improved

9.4% on a sequential basis. Notably, the

flagship iPhone set a quarterly record of

other portals. Research and development: 7.8% of '23 sales. Has approximately 161,000 employees. Off./dir. own less than 1.0% of common stock; Vanguard, 8.0%; BlackRock, 6.4% (1/23 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 Est'd '20-'22 Past 10 Yrs. 17.5% 17.5% 5 Yrs. 14.5% to '26-'28 9.5% of change (per sh) Sales "Cash Flow" 15.5% 17.5% 8.5% 8.5% 17.0% Earnings Dividends 11.5%

6580

134836

54763

15613

55105

125481

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

4946

135405

64115 21110

68757

153982

6331

143566

62611

72875

145308

9822

| BOOK V                 | alue                       | 1.5    | % -9.                 | 5%     | 8.0%                   |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Fiscal<br>Year<br>Ends |                            |        | ALES (\$ m<br>Jun.Per |        | Full<br>Fiscal<br>Year |
| 2020                   | 91819                      | 58313  | 59685                 | 64698  | 274515                 |
| 2021                   | 111439                     | 89584  | 81434                 | 83360  | 365817                 |
| 2022                   | 123945                     | 97278  | 82959                 | 90146  | 394328                 |
| 2023                   | 117154                     | 94836  | 81797                 | 89498  | 383285                 |
| 2024                   | 117850                     | 96500  | 87000                 | 95000  | 396350                 |
| Fiscal<br>Year         |                            |        | R SHARE<br>Jun.Per    |        | Full<br>Fiscal         |
| Ends                   |                            |        |                       | •      |                        |
| 2020                   | 1.25                       | .64    | .65                   | .73    | 3.28                   |
| 2021                   | 1.67                       | 1.40   | 1.30                  | 1.24   | 5.61                   |
| 2022                   | 2.10                       | 1.52   | 1.20                  | 1.29   | 6.11                   |
| 2023                   | 1.88                       | 1.52   | 1.26                  | 1.46   | 6.13                   |
| 2024                   | 2.10                       | 1.60   | 1.30                  | 1.50   | 6.50                   |
| Cal-                   | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID E |        |                       |        | Full                   |
| endar                  | Mar.31                     | Jun.30 | Sep.30                | Dec.31 | Year                   |
| 2019                   | .183                       | .193   | .193                  | .193   | .76                    |
| 2020                   | .193                       | .205   | .205                  | .205   | .81                    |
| 2021                   | .205                       | .22    | .22                   | .22    | .87                    |
| 2022                   | .22                        | .23    | .23                   | .23    | .91                    |
| 2023                   | .23                        | .24    | .24                   | .24    |                        |

\$43.8 billion (up 2.8%), fueled by strength in emerging markets. Meanwhile, Services revenue hit an all-time high of \$22.3 billion (+16.3%), with new records in every category. Altogether, these helped fuel a 13% rebound in profits, to \$1.46 a share. We look for the positive momentum to carry into the current year. To be sure, ber of ongoing challenges, including an uneven macroeconomic environment, unholiday season, which has historically ac-

Apple heads into fiscal 2024 with a numderscored by inflation and higher interest rates. On the plus side, the company had a strong product lineup heading into the key counted for about 30% of full-year sales. These included the iPhone 15 lineup, the new MacBook Pro, and the Apple Watch Series 9 and Ultra 2. Also, the company continues to win over more fans, with more than half of recent Apple Watch, iPad, and Mac computer sales going to

customers new to the product. These positives, in addition to ongoing expansion growth in the Services segment (see below) support our call for mid-single-digit earnings growth in fiscal 2024, to a record \$6.50 a share.

Continued growth in higher-margin services revenues augurs well for the long-term profit outlook. Apple's installed base of active devices clocks in at over two billion, with well over one billion in paid subscriptions, almost double the tally from three years ago. As noted, the company continues to set revenue records across a number of categories, including advertising, the App Store, AppleCare, iCloud, and Apple Music. Altogether, Services accounted for 25% of the top line in the September quarter, up from 21% the year before.

So what about Apple stock? These shares have enjoyed an impressive run in 2023, rising nearly 50% for the year to date. As a result, appreciation potential out to 2026-2028 is considerably less compelling, and most investors will want to wait for a more appealing entry point.

Mario Ferro December 22, 2023

(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 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 Stock's Price Stability A++ 80 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85