



[^0]Gentex reported softer-than-expected second-quarter results. While sales of $\$ 428$ million far outpaced the poor showing from a year ago, which was hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, they were more than $\$ 60$ million below our estimate. The company was hurt by a $7 \%$ decline in lightvehicle production, largely due to industry wide parts shortages and global supply constraints. North American light-vehicle production was especially soft, falling $15 \%$. Many OEMs that deploy high levels of the company's products were hit particularly hard. Management noted a great deal of volatility in orders, including cancelations, as its customers continue to deal with parts shortages. While share earnings of $\$ 0.36$ for the period were a significant improvement from last year's tally of $\$ 0.02$, they were well below our estimate of $\$ 0.50$. The shortfall was due to the lower-than-anticipated sales, along with higher freight costs.
We are lowering our 2021 top- and bottom-line estimates by $\$ 70$ million and $\$ 0.20$ per share, respectively, to $\$ 1.93$ billion and $\$ 1.85$. While the Juneperiod performance was disappointing, we
counted for $10 \%$ or more of 2020 total sales). Also makes commercial fire protection products. Has approximately 5,305 employees. Vanguard owns $9.4 \%$ of common stock; BlackRock, $8.9 \%$; officers and directors, less than 1.0\% (4/21 proxy). Pres. and CEO: Steve Downing. Inc.: MI. Address: 600 N . Centennial Street, Zeeland, MI 49464. Telephone: 616-772-1800. Internet: www.gentex.com.
think Gentex will post stronger results in the second half of the year. The company is encouraged by the fact that the overall demand for vehicles and Gentex's core auto-dimming rearview mirrors remains firm, and it expects to outperform the underlying market. Management believes sales in the second half to be between $\$ 970$ million and $\$ 1.07$ billion, which would represent a double-digit advance compared to the first half. This is despite the fact that light-vehicle production is forecasted to decrease $4 \%$ in the next six months compared to last year. Supply chain issues that have plagued the company, and the industry in general, should improve in the near term. However, elevated freight expenses and labor costs will likely remain a headwind for the time being.
Shares of Gentex are ranked to track the broader market averages in the coming six to 12 months. The stock, which has a decent dividend yield, offers above-average price appreciation potential over the 3 - to 5 -year haul, as the equity's price has dipped moderately in value since our June report.
Iason Dalavagas
September 10, 2021

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[^0]:    BUSINESS: Gentex Corporation manufactures automatic-dimming automotive rearview mirrors and electronics for the automotive industry. These mirrors use sensors to detect glare from trailing approaching vehicles and darken to protect the driver's vision. It also makes dimmable aircraft windows for the aviation industry. Sells to most of the major automakers (has 3 customers who each ac-

[^1]:    (A) Diluted earnings. Quarterly earnings may

    April, July, and October.
    not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report
    (C) In millions, adjusted for stock spli due in late October
    (B) Payments typically made in late January,

    | Company's Financial Strength | $\mathrm{B}++$ |
    | :--- | ---: |
    | Stock's Price Stability | 90 |
    | Price Growth Persistence | 55 |
    | Earnings Predictability | 80 |

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