

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-

cial fire protection products. Has approximately 5,705 employees. BlackRock owns 9.3% of common stock; Vanguard, 9.1%; officers and directors, less than 1.0% (3/19 proxy). Pres. and CEO: Steve Downing. Incorp.: Ml. Address: 600 N. Centennial Street, Zeeland, MI 49464. Telephone: 616-772-1800. Internet: www.gentex.com

Past Est'd '16-'18 **ANNUAL RATES** Past 10 Yrs. 11.5% 5 Yrs. 11.0% of change (per sh) to '22-'24 Sales "Cash Flow" 7.0% 14.5% 15.0% 7.0% 10.5% 8.0% 8.5% 16.5% 16.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 8.5% 12.0% 8.5% 5.5%

1184.5

89.9

78.0

243.6

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab

195.1

850.9

92.8

76.4

169.2

987.5

95.3

87.0

182.3

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	405.6	423.8	429.6	419.9	1678.9
2017	453.5	443.2	438.6	459.6	1794.9
2018	465.4	455.0	460.3	453.4	1834.1
2019	468.6	468.7	477.8	444.9	1860
2020	490	480	480	480	1930
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.25	.31	.32	.31	1.19
2017	.33	.31	.31	.33	1.28
2018	.40	.40	.41	.41	1.62
2019	.40	.42	.44	.39	1.65
2020	.40	.40	.45	.50	1.75
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.08	.085	.085	.085	.335
2016	.085	.09	.09	.09	.355
2017	.09	.10	.10	.10	.39
2018	.11	.11	.11	.11	.44
2019	.11	.115	.115	.115	

**Gentex posted decent third-quarter results.** Sales of \$478 million increased 4% compared to the previous-year tally, a stellar performance considering the roughly 3% decline in global light-vehicle production volumes during the period. Automotive mirror unit shipments rose 6%, to 10.84 million. Demand for exterior mirrors was particularly strong, rising 18%, to 3.51 million units. Partially offsetting these gains was the General Motors strike, which began in mid-September, that tempered volumes. Domestic demand continued to be strong, particularly for exterior mirrors, but international volumes were solid, as well. Margins widened, thanks to the higher volumes, along with a favorable product mix and better-thanexpected purchasing reductions. cost which more than offset tariff-related expenses. This allowed share earnings for the period to increase 7% compared to the previous-year tally.

. We anticipate a slowdown to finish the year. Management expects a 5% reduction in total light-vehicle production in the fourth quarter, to 19.39 million units. It also thinks the General Motors strike

will decrease sales by between \$7 million and \$8 million per week of the strike. As a result, Gentex estimates that Decemberquarter sales will be between \$430 million and \$455 million. We have therefore reduced our 2019 top-line forecast by \$40 million, to \$1.86 billion. Management also lowered the top end of its gross margin guidance. All told, we have reduced our 2019 share-net estimate by a nickel, to \$1.65.

We anticipate decent 2020 top- and **bottom-line growth.** While management noted that 2020 light-vehicle production forecasts have continued to worsen over the past few months, it still expects sales to rise 3%-8% compared to the 2019 estimate. Ongoing trade tensions remain a wild card, however. But continued stock repurchases should provide a boost to share earnings.

Shares of Gentex are ranked to outperform the broader market averages in the coming six to 12 months. The equity, which has a dividend yield of 1.6%, offers about-average price appreciation potential over the 3- to 5-year haul. Iason Dalavagas December 13, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Quarterly earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due in late January. (B) Payments typically made in late January,

April, July, and October. **(C)** In millions, adjusted for stock splits.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 90