

software. It develops and sells software products for a wide range of computing environments in consumer and enterprise markets. Hardware products include the Xbox video game console and Surface laptops. Revenue sources in fiscal 2021: Productivity & Business Processes, 32%; Intelligent Cloud, 36%; More Personal Com-Microsoft shares were not spared in

the recent tech sector rout. Like other

big tech names, MSFT has slipped in

recent months, on fears of persistent infla-

tion and interest rate hikes. The stock is

down some 25% from its all-time high

reached in late 2022, pretty much in line with the drop in the NASDAQ.

That said, despite a disappointing fin-

ish to last year, the software giant

should thrive in fiscal 2023 onward,

with its cloud services a key driver. Revenues and EPS in the fiscal fourth

quarter ended June 30th fell short of our

and consensus expectations. Less-robust growth in its Intelligent Cloud segment, including the Azure platform, as well as

unforeseen events, such as unfavorable foreign-exchange effects, production shut-

downs in China, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and lower ad spending, were

to blame for the miss. Microsoft is none-

theless upbeat about fiscal 2023. Though macroeconomic challenges and foreign-ex-

change rate pressure ought to persist near

term, it expects its core commercial business and cloud services to drive much of

this year's growth, even amid a tough

6/30/21. Stock owners: Offs. & dirs., less than 1%; The Vanguard Group, 8.1%; BlackRock, Inc., 6.8%. (10/21 proxy). Chairman & CEO: Satya Nadella. Incorporated: Washington. Addr.: One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052-6399. Telephone: 425-882-8080. Internet: www.microsoft.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '19-'21 Past 10 Yrs. to '25-'27 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow 10.0% 12.0% 11.0% 17.5% 15.5% 15.0% 16.5% 11.0% 17.0% 11.0% 14.0% Earnings Dividends 18.0% 10.0% Book Value 11.0%

181915

12530

36000 20031

72310

3749

184406

15163

41525 23897

88657

8072

153922

16085 1749

3402

25578

77439

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab

Unearned Revenue Other

Fiscal Year Ends	QUART Sep.30	ERLY REV	ENUES (\$ Mar.31	mill.) A Jun.30	Full Fiscal Year
2019	29084	32471	30571	33717	125843
2020	33055	36906	35021	38033	143015
2021	37154	43076	41706	46152	168088
2022	45317	51728	49360	51865	198270
2023	49800	58200	55500	<i>59500</i>	223000
Fiscal					Full
Year	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB				Fiscal
Ends	Sep.30	Dec.31	Mar.31	Jun.30	Year
2019	1.14	1.10	1.14	1.37	4.75
2020	1.38	1.51	1.40	1.46	5.76
2021	1.82	2.03	2.03	2.17	8.05
2022	2.27	2.48	2.22	2.23	9.21
2023	2.40	2.70	2.60	2.80	10.50
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID E■				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2018	.42	.42	.42	.46	1.72
2019	.46	.46	.46	.51	1.89
2020	.51	.51	.51	.56	2.09
2021	.56	.56	.56	.62	2.30
2022	.62	.62			

(A) Fiscal year ends June 30th.
(B) Diluted earnings. Quarters may not add to

total. Excl. nonrec. items: '05, d4¢; '12, d72¢;

(D) Includes intangibles. In fiscal 2021: \$49.7 billion, \$6.28 a share.

'18, d\$1.75; '19, d33¢; '22, 44¢. Next earnings (E) Dividends historically paid in March, June, report late Oct. (C) In mill. Sept.. and Dec. ■Dividend reinvestment plan

J. Susan Ferrara

macroeconomic backdrop. It also noted recent big wins for Azure. All told, we see top- and bottom-line growth of 10%-15% out to mid-decade, as high-demand cloud services gain more traction.

The acquisition of game publisher Activision Blizzard remains on pace. The all-cash deal of \$68.7 billion is the company's largest to date. The transaction, which is pending regulatory/antitrust and customary shareholder approvals, would greatly enhance Microsoft's position in the gaming market, and allow it to go head-tohead with such competitors as Sony and Tencent. If all goes well, the deal should close in fiscal 2023, with Activision to join

Microsoft's gaming unit.

We still like this blue chip name. The stock remains ranked 1 (Highest) for Timeliness, and has decent risk-adjusted upside potential for the 18-month and 3- to 5-year terms at this price. (MSFT boasts top-notch scores for Safety and other risk indicators). While the company's healthy cash flow and solid balance sheet should help support growth, share buybacks, and dividend hikes, the yield is just modest.

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