

factures structural connectors, anchors, and other products for new constr. and retrofitting. It is the leading structural connector manufacturer in the U.S. and Europe. SSD operates in the residential and commercial constrn., remodeling, and DIY markets. Acquired

Vanguard Group, 9.6%; BlackRock, 14.2% (3/20 proxy). Has 2,647 empls. Chrmn.: Perter N. Louras, Jr.. Pres. & CEO: Karen Colonias. Inc.: DE. Address: 5956 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94588. Telephone: 925-560-9000. Internet: www.simpsonmfg.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '17-'19 Past 5 Yrs. 10.0% of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '23-'25 5.0% 8.5% 11.0% Sales "Cash Flow" 8.0% 16.0% 19.0% 11.5% 12.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 10.5%

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599.5

34.4

117.2

151.6

640.9

33.4

125.5

158.9

820.4

42.3

148<u>.9</u>

191.2

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liabilities

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017	219.8	263.0	262.5	231.7	977.0
2018	244.8	308.0	284.2	241.8	1078.8
2019	259.2	304.9	309.9	262.5	1136.5
2020	283.7	326.1	364.3	305.9	1280
2021	315	350	375	335	1375
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017	.48	.59	.59	.27	1.93
2018	.54	.94	.95	.34	2.77
2019	.50	.88	.97	.63	2.98
2020	.83	1.22	1.54	.76	4.35
2021	.95	1.35	1.45	.90	4.65
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.16	.18	.18	.18	.70
2017	.18	.18	.21	.21	.78
2018	.21	.21	.22	.22	.86
2019	.22	.22	.23	.23	.90
2021	.23	.23	.23	.23	

(A) May not sum due to rounding. Next earninas report due in early February.

Simpson Manufacturing offers plenty to get excited about at the moment. For starters, the structural connector manufacturer delivered exceptional thirdquarter financial results. Revenues increased 18% year over year, to \$364 million, supported by noteworthy volume growth. A significant rise in product demand was driven by a broad-based uptick in residential remodeling activity, domestic housing starts, and strong reduced COVID-19 restrictions in parts of Europe. Too, Simpson's top line also benefited from the return of home improvement giant Lowe's as a customer. On the profit front, Simpson handily topped consensus estimates, earning \$1.54 a share in the September period, up 59% from the previous-year tally. The gain can be attributed to healthy gross margin expansion and strict cost control measures.

We are boosting our financial projections, yet again. For the current year, we now look for revenues and earnings of \$1.28 billion and \$4.35 a share, up \$80 million and \$0.60 from our previous calls, respectively. Likewise, we are adding \$90 million to our 2021 top-line outlook, to

\$1.38 billion, and \$0.30 to our share-net forecast, to \$4.65.

Long-term business prospects are encouraging, and should rapidly ac-celerate once the global health crisis is in the rearview mirror. Simpson's European operations hold plenty of promise, as pent-up demand ought to surge in conjunction with recovering global economies. In the U.S., attractive mortgage rates, robust suburban homebuilding, and a resilient renovation market are apt to keep volumes moving in the right direction. Lastly, strategic bolt-on acquisitions should nicely supplement organic growth. But, despite the company's strong operating prospects and our increasingly bullish stance on financial growth, Šimpson stock does not presently **stand out.** The issue is neutrally ranked (Timeliness: 3) for relative year-ahead price peformance. Too, at the recent quotation, capital gains potential three to five years out is underwhelming. That said, interested buy-and-hold subscribers would be wise to keep this one on their watch-

lists should the price decline further.

Nicholas P. Patrikis

payment in Q4 '12, \$0.125 a share.

(B) Dividends historically paid in early January, April. July, and October. Extra regular dividend million, \$3.55 a share.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 70 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 85

December 18, 2020