

voice, and video across geographically dispersed local-areanetworks, metropolitan-area networks, and wide-area networks. Devices are primarily integrated by Cisco IOS Software and include Routers, Switches, New Products, and Other. Provides services as-

66,129 employees. Officers/Directors hold less than 1.0% of stock;. (9/11 proxy). Chairman & CEO: John T. Chambers. Incorporated: California. Address: 170 W. Tasman Drive, San Jose, CA 95134-1706. Telephone: 408-526-4000. Web: www.cisco.com

ANNUAL RATES Est'd '09-'11 Past of change (per sh) Revenues 10 Yrs. 11.0% **5 Yrs.** 12.0% to '14-'16 6.5% 6.5% 7.5% 'Cash Flow 12.0% 8.5% 7.0% 12.0% Earnings Dividends Nil Book Value 9.5% 15.0% 6.0%

51421

3096

19233

895 15242 57231

16042

17506

588 876

57267

589 908

15964

17461

Current Assets

Accts Payable Other

Current Liab.

Debt Due

Fiscal Year Ends			VENUES (S Apr.Per	mill.) A Jul.Per	Full Fiscal Year
2008	9554	9831	9791	10364	39540
2009	10331	9089	8162	8535	36117
2010	9021	9815	10368	10836	40040
2011	10750	10407	10866	11195	43218
2012	11256	11200	11500	11844	45800
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB				_Full _
Year Ends	Oct.Per	Jan.Per	Apr.Per	Jul.Per	Fiscal Year
2008	.35	.33	.29	.34	1.31
2009	.37	.26	.23	.19	1.05
2010	.30	.32	.37	.34	1.33
2011	.34	.27	.35	.22	1.17
2012	.33	.35	.37	.40	1.45
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID F				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2007					
2008					
2009					
2010					
2011	.06		.06	.06	

Cisco Systems is gaining traction in its turnaround efforts. The company has made significant progress rightsizing its business since early April, when CEO John Chambers admitted that its operational execution needed to be streamlined. Business divestitures and downsizing, headcount reductions, an early retirement program, a more concentrated management hierarchy, and a more efficient product approval process have all contributed to the much-needed stabilization of its core operations during the October period.

improvement ĥas **broad-based.** First-quarter orders in the Americas, Europe, and Asia all rose in the low teens. Further, bookings from enterprises, commercial, and service providers were up 11%, 12% and 16%, respectively. The surprising result was public sector orders, which advanced 10%, as solid demand from federal defense, state governments, and higher education institutions was enough to offset weakness from local governments and K-12 customers.

Near-term visibility has improved. Management expects revenues to rise 7% to 8% year over year in the January

quarter. This narrow guidance range reflects a stronger backlog and decent customer demand commentary. This outlook may prove conservative since Cisco is facing relatively easy fiscal second-quarter comparisons.

The company is taking steps to combat margin erosion. The lower-margined Unified Computing System may well hinder profitability as it makes up a greater portion of the product mix. Meanwhile, sales of highly profitable premium routers are being cannibalized by certain lower-cost switches into which Cisco is incorporating more routing functionality in an attempt to fend off low-priced competitors. The company is also making a big push into China where it is engaging in an aggressive price war with Huawei. In order to offset these trends, CSCO is stepping up its "value engineering" efforts and is working with its sales team to more effectively respond to low-priced wares of competitors.

These neutrally ranked shares offer solid risk-adjusted total return potential out to mid-decade.

Kevin Downing December 23, 2011

(A) Fiscal year ends on last Saturday in July (four 13-week quarters). (B) Diluted earnings. (17¢); '01, (38¢); '02, (14¢); '03, (9¢); '04,

for stock splits. (D) Long- and short-term in-

(14¢). '01 includes \$0.15 inventory writeoff. Way not sum due to rounding. Next earnings beginning in fiscal 2006. **(E)** Dividend comreport due early Feb. **(C)** In millions, adjusted menced March 29, 2011.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 80 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85