

brands through a network of company-owned and independent bottlers/distributors, wholesalers, and retailers. Leading company/licensed brands include Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Sprite, Fanta, Fresca, Dasani, glaceau vitaminwater, Powerade, and Minute Maid.

Directors and Officers own 1.5% of stock; Berkshire Hathaway, 9.2%; Vanguard, 6.1%; BlackRock, 5.4% (3/16 Proxy). Chairman and CEO: Muhtar Kent. Inc.: DE. Address: One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30313. Tel.: 404-676-2121. Web: www.coca-cola.com.

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '13-'15 to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 8.0% 6.0% Sales 8.5% 7.5% -2.5% 3.0% 'Cash Flow" 5.5% 8.5% 4.0% 4.0% 7.0% -5.0% Earnings 7.0% 9.5% 8.0% Dividends Book Value

2089

22682

32374

2795 15806

26930

2750 18796

29544

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per Déc.Per 46854 2013 11035 12749 12030 11040 45998 2014 10576 12574 11976 10872 44294 2015 110711 12156 11427 10000 41250 2016 10282 11539 10429 9000 2017 8000 9250 8500 7500 33250 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per Dec.Per endar Year 2013 .46 2.08 .63 .53 .51 .43 .38 2.04 2014 44 .64 .48 .63 2.00 2015 2016 45 47 .38 1.90 .60 .46 2.00 2017 .61 .52 .41 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .255 .255 1.02 2013 .28 .28 .56 1.12 2014 - -.305 .305 .61 1.22 2015 - -.33 .33 .66 1.32 2016 - -.35 .35 .35

Earnings at The Coca-Cola Company remain under pressure. The biggest headwinds are foreign currency translation and structural changes (more below), which are likely to reduce pretax profits by 8%-9% and 4%, respectively, this year. The former has been particularly pronounced in Latin America, where the company generates about 20% of its operating profits. Absent these factors, the beverage giant's performance would look more encouraging, with pretax profits likely advancing at a

mid-single-digit rate in 2016. China has been a trouble spot this year. The June period was particularly weak, as case volumes there fell at a high single-digit pace year over year. This decline, as well as softness in Argentina and Venezuela, caused overall volumes to come in flat with the prior-year period, a slowdown from the 2%-3% growth registered in the previous five quarters. The sluggishness in China is likely to carry through the second half of 2016, as the rapid rate of economic growth in that country slows. On the positive side, favorable price/mix changes companywide are supporting overall revenues.

Coca-Cola continues to slim down. The company is putting more of its bottling operations, including all of those in North America, in the hands of independent partners. This refranchising effort, which is slated to wrap up by the end of 2017, will cause sales to shrink, but Coke should emerge as a higher-margin, less capitalintensive business. Too, incremental savings from productivity initiatives, as well as a continued emphasis on pricing and mix, ought to support wider margins. In all, we look for earnings climb 5% in 2017, to \$2.00 a share.

Conservative investors will likely want to take a closer look here. These shares have endured a rough stretch, declining 7% since the release of Junequarter earnings, but still possess a number of appealing attributes. This equity carries our Highest rank (1) for Safety, and offers a dividend that is more than 100 basis points above the Value Line median. In addition, this equity has climbed a notch in our Timeliness Ranking System, which now pegs it to outperform the broader market in the year ahead. Robert M. Greene October 21, 2016

(A) Based on diluted shares. Next earnings report due Oct. 26th. Excludes nonrecurring gain/(losses): '00, (30¢); '01, (1¢); '02, (22¢); '03, (9¢); '04, (3¢); '05, (7¢); '06, (11¢); '08, |

Div'd reinvestment plan available.

(27¢); '10, 79¢; '11, (8¢); '13, (18¢); '14, (44¢); (C) Includes intangibles. In '15: \$24.1 bill., '15, (\$0.33); '16 H1, (8¢). (B) Div'ds historically paid about the first April, July, Oct., Dec. ification of sales and expenses.

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