

erating 3,288 supercenters (includes sizable grocery departments), 508 discount stores, 632 Sam's Clubs, and 407 Neighborhood Markets in the U.S., plus 6,107 foreign stores, mainly in Latin America, with the balance in Asia, Canada, and the U.K. as of 1/31/14. Total store space: 1.101 billion square feet. Retail space is largely

ter. Groceries accounted for 55% of U.S. sales; sales per square foot in 2013: about \$433. Has 2,200,000 employees. Off./dir. own 50.6% of shares (4/14 proxy). Chairman: S. Robson Walton. CEO and Pres.: Doug McMillon. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 702 S.W. 8th St., Bentonville, AR 72716. Tel.: 479-273-4000. Internet: www.walmart.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 Past to '17-'19 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 10.0% 11.0% 8.0% 9.5% 5.0% 6.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.5% 6.0% 9.0% 10.5% 9.0% 14.5% 7.0%

1588

59940

38080

12392 21346

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

2014 .48

Other

2369

59632

36828

4659 25665

61185

37415

4412 27518

69345

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Fiscal Year Begins	QUA Apr.30	RTERLY S Jul.31	ALES (\$ m Oct.31	ill.) ^A Jan.31	Full Fiscal Year
2011	104189	109366	110226	123169	446950
2012	113018	114296	113929	127919	469162
2013	114071	116829	115688	129706	476294
2014	114960	120125	118500	133915	487500
2015	119000	123300	124400	143300	510000
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B Full Fiscal				
Year Begins	Apr.30	Jul.31	Oct.31	Jan.31	Year
2011	.97	1.09	.99	1.44	4.45
2012	1.09	1.18	1.08	1.67	5.02
2013	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.60	5.11
2014	1.10	1.21	1.15	1.59	5.05
2015	1.20	1.30	1.27	1.73	5.50
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID = C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010	.2725	.605	.3025		1.18
2011	.3025	.730	.365		1.40
2012	.365	.795	.3975	.3975	1.96
2013	.47	.47	.47	.47	1.88

Wal-Mart should continue reporting lackluster results. As expected, domestic same-store sales came in flat for the July quarter. Management was not pleased and looks to gain an edge in the market with innovative mobile-based promotional tactics like the Savings Catcher price-match program, more-localized merchandise selections, and a new opening price point private-label line, Price First. We are skeptical that these maneuvers will be enough to fully offset reserved spending by Wal-Mart's continuously cash-strapped and increasingly bargain-savvy core customer base of low- and middle-income consumers. Further, cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program stamps), have had a negative impact on sales for the past three quarters. The legislation change will be anniversaried this November, but ought to hurt results in the meantime.

The company is adjusting priorities. During the recent analyst meeting management laid out a plan to slow its supercenter footprint expansion. After nearly a year of pressure from investors, WMT finally appears ready to focus

more on improving stock availability and customer service via a significant increase in labor hours. Surprisingly, the expansion of small format Neighborhood Market and Wal-Mart Express stores is being put on hold as the company analyzes which regions to compete in as well as the product mix. This is likely a response to competition with dollar stores in urban markets as well as cannibalization from supercenters. Operating income may suffer over the **near term.** The aforementioned labor costs coupled with heightened investment in the e-commerce platform will likely squeeze margins for several quarters. We find these shares suitable for long term investors. The challenging retail environment will likely keep comps flat over the near term. This, combined with a slowing footprint and increased investment in customer satisfaction and the omnichannel shopping experience, puts a damper on our near-term outlook. Eventually, we expect these investments to pay off in the form of increased samestore sales and earnings. Also, WMT shares receive our Highest Safety rank (1). Kevin Downing October 31, 2014

(A) Fiscal year ends Jan. 31st of following calendar year. Sales exclude rentals from licensed depts. (B) Based on diluted shares. May not sum due to rounding. Excls. n/r

.48

.48

(losses)/gains: '01, (\$0.01); '05, \$0.03; '08, Aug., and Dec.■ Dividend reinvestment plan (\$0.07); '09, \$0.04; '10, \$0.40; '11, \$0.03; '13, available. (\$0.23). Next earnings report due Nov. 13th. (**D**) In millions.

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