

censed 35,864 fast-food restaurants in the United States, Canada, and overseas, under the McDonald's banner (as of 9/30/14). About 81% are operated by franchisees or affiliates, with the remainder under the control of the company. Foreign operations contributed 69% of systemwide sales and 57% of consolidated operating in-

Spun off Chipotle Mexican Grill in 2006 and Boston Market in 2007. Has about 440,000 employees. Officers/directors own less than 1% of common stock (4/14 Proxy). CEO: Don Thompson. Incorporated: DE. Addr.: One McDonald's Plaza, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523. Telephone: 630-623-3000. Internet: www.mcdonalds.com

Current Liab. **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '11-'13 Past 10 Yrs. 8.0% 12.0% 14.5% 25.5% 6.0% 5 Yrs. 7.0% to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 6.5% 7.0% 7.0% Revenues "Cash Flow" 11.0% 12.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 15.5% 3.5% 8.0% 2.5%

1089.0

4922.1

1141.9

2261.2

3403.1

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

807.9

5210.4

847.3 613.3

4179.6

5050.1

1086.0

2084.0

3170.0

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2011	6112	6905	7166	6823	27006
2012	6546	6915	7152	6952	27567
2013	6605	7084	7324	7093	28106
2014	6700	7182	6987	6881	27750
2015	6750	7285	7315	7250	28600
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	1.15	1.35	1.45	1.32	5.27
2012	1.23	1.32	1.43	1.38	5.36
2013	1.26	1.38	1.52	1.40	5.55
2014	1.21	1.40	1.09	1.25	4.95
2015	1.25	1.45	1.50	1.45	5.65
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010	.55	.55	.55	.61	2.26
2011	.61	.61	.61	.70	2.53
2012	.70	.70	.70	.77	2.87
2013	.77	.77	.77	.81	3.12
2014	.81	.81	.81	.85	

McDonald's third-quarter results were disappointing. The top line fell 5% from a year earlier and was shy of our \$7.27 billion call. Guest traffic was down in all major markets, including declines of 1.4% and 3.3% in Europe and the United States, respectively. But the region comprised of Asia/Pacific, the Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) was by far the worst performer, as concerns about food quality weighed heavily on results. One of the company's suppliers in China was accused of selling expired meat. While the company stopped getting shipments from the plant in question, consumers were already spooked. Too, items like *Chicken McNug*gets and Big Macs were in short supply as management scrambled to find alternate sourcing. This sapped about \$0.15 a share from the bottom line, while an increase in tax reserves related to a number of foreign tax matters pulled away another \$0.26. All told, share net of \$1.09 was well below both our call and the year-earlier figure. Management is working hard to re-

turn to growth mode, but this is no easy task. The sales decline in APMEA appeared to bottom out in August, but

restoring trust in the brand will likely take time. To that end, management is trying to be more transparent, with new marketing initiatives aimed at answering questions and rebuilding brand equity. Remodels to improve the look, feel, and convenience of restaurants are also under way, as is building a more robust online presence and enhanced digital strategy. Creating a flatter, more nimble structure where individual locations can cater to local tastes is also in the works.

McDonald's should be able to find its stride again, but the timing is more uncertain. Indeed, comparable-store sales were down 0.5% in the month of October, and we have cut \$0.55 from our full-year 2014 share-earnings forecast. Likewise, our 2015 estimates moves from \$6.00 to \$5.65. While the above-average dividend yield ought to keep conservative, longterm investors from grumbling too much, we feel that new commitments can be until more clarity emerges regarding management's turnaround initiatives. Indeed, MCD stock is currently ranked 4 (Below Average) for Timeliness.

Matthew Spencer, CFA November 28, 2014

(A) Based on diluted shares. Excl. nonrecur. gain/(loss): '98, (8¢); '01, (11¢); '02, (55¢); '03, (25¢); '04, (6¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 53¢; '07, (93¢); '08, 9¢; '09, 13¢; '10, (2¢). Excl. cum. effect of

accting change: '02, (7¢); '03, (3¢); '04, (8¢). Incl. tax benefit: '04, 7¢. Excl. tax benefit '05, 4¢. Next egs. report due late January. EPS may not sum due to rounding. (B) As of 3/08

div'ds paid mid-Mar., Jun., Sep., Dec. Div'd. reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. intang. At 12/31/13: \$2,872.7 mill. \$2.90/share (D) In mill., adj. for splits.

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

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