

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.

The Coca-Cola Company has been Past Est'd '13-'15 turning in mixed results. Foreign curto '19-'21 5 Yrs. rency translation once again provided a 8.0% 6.0% -2.5% 3.0% big headwind in the March quarter, clip-5.5% 8.5% 4.0% 4.0% 7.0% -4.5% ping sales and pre-tax income by 5% and 12%, respectively. Meanwhile, volumes have been climbing at a lackluster pace QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) (2% in the March quarter), though Full Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per Déc.Per stronger pricing and a favorable mix shift 46854 11040 have been working to the company's ad-45998 10872 vantage. Moreover, absent currency effects 44294 10000 and structural changes (e.g., asset sales, 42500 9468 etc.), the picture looks brighter. As it stands, full-year revenues and pre-tax in-7500 33250 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full come ought to climb 4%-5% and 6%-8%, Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per Dec.Per Year respectively, roughly consistent with the 2.08 management's long-term targets.

The business model will look considerably different in a few several **years.** In particular, revenues are set to shrink considerably, as the beverage giant refranchises most of its in-house bottling operations, which currently account for about 18% of total volume, to its independent partners. Coke, though, should emerge from the transition period as a highermargin, less capital intensive business Local legislative initiatives paint the

company's products in a negative light. A tax on sugary drinks was recently passed in Philadelphia, and voters in a number of other cities, such as San Francisco, will be weighing in on similar measures later this year. Any damage to demand in these areas probably won't move the needle much in terms of overall revenues. Still, the publicity resulting from this regulatory scrutiny certainly doesn't help by highlighting the possible role of soft drinks in contributing to obesity and other health problems arising from poor diets.

This stock has a number of defensive qualities. These attributes, including a top mark for Price Stability and an above average dividend yield, would likely take on added appeal should the recent turbulence in global equity markets continue. On the down side, this equity's P/E multiple is at the high end of its historic range. Too, we remain concerned that increased health consciousness will make it more difficult to drive volumes higher. Given these factors, total return potential to 2019-2021 looks unexciting, in our view. Robert M. Greene

July 22, 2016

2013 .28 .28 .56 1.12 2014 - -.305 .305 .61 1.22 2015 - -.33 .33 .66 1.32 2016 - -.35 .35

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

ANNUAL RATES

11035

10576

10711

10282

8000

.46

44

.48

45

.47

of change (per sh)

'Cash Flow"

Earnings

Dividends Book Value

Sales

Cal-

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

Cal-

endar

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

endar

2012

2089

22682

32374

Past

12749

12574

12156

11750

9250

.63

.64

.63

.60

.62

.255

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

8.5% 7.5%

7.0% 9.5% 8.0%

12030

11976

11427

11000

8500

.53 .51

.50

.53

.255

.43 .38

.40

.43

2.04

2.00

1.95

2.05

Year

1.02

2795 15806

26930

2750 19844

30987

(A) Based on diluted shares. Next earnings (27¢); '10, 79¢; '11, (8¢); '13, (18¢); '14, (44¢); report due July 27th. Excludes nonrecurring '15, (\$0.33). (B) Div'ds historically paid about gain/(losses): '00, (30¢); '01, (1¢); '02, (22¢); the first April, July, Oct., Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest-'03, (9¢); '04, (3¢); '05, (7¢); '06, (11¢); '08, ment plan avail. (C) Includes intangibles. In (27¢); '10, 79¢; '11, (8¢); '13, (18¢); '14, (44¢); '15: \$24.1 bill., \$5.58/sh. **(D)** In millions. **(E)** '15, (\$0.33). **(B)** Div'ds historically paid about the first April, July, Oct., Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest-

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

© 2016 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product.