

parel, equipment, and accessories. Sells products to retail accounts, through NIKE-owned stores and the Internet, and through a mix of independent distributors and licensees in approximately 190 countries. Has 362 domestic and 683 international locations (including factory stores) as of 5/31/16. Has about 70,700 employees (in-

16.0% Cl. B (representing director Travis Knight's holdings); other officers/directors, 3.9% of Cl. B; The Vanguard Group, 6.4%; FMR LLC, 6.2%; BlackRock, 5.9% (7/16 proxy). Chairman & CEO: Mark G. Parker, Inc.: OR. Address: One Bowerman Dr., Beaverton, OR 97005. Tel.: 503-671-6453. Internet: www.nikeinc.com.

5358 Current Liab 6334 5363 Past Est'd '14-'16 **ANNUAL RATES** Past 10 Yrs. 10.5% 12.5% 12.5% 5 Yrs. 11.5% of change (per sh) to '19-'21 13.0% 17.0% 18.5% Sales "Cash Flow" 14.0% 13.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 16.0% 10.0%

15976

2131

4022

181

15025

2191

45 3122 14589

2088

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Fiscal Year Ends	QUA Aug.31	RTERLY S Nov.30	ALES (\$ m Feb.28	ill.) ^A May 31	Full Fiscal Year
2013	6474	5955	6187	6697	25313
2014	6971	6431	6972	7425	27799
2015	7982	7380	7460	7779	30601
2016	8414	7686	8032	8244	32376
2017	9061	8070	8630	9199	34960
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE AB				Full .
Year Ends	Aug.31	Nov.30		May 31	Fiscal Year
2013	.32	.29	.37	.37	1.35
2014	.43	.30	.38	.38	1.49
2015	.54	.37	.45	.49	1.85
2016	.67	.45	.55	.49	2.16
2017	.73	.44	.60	.63	2.40
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.09	.09	.095	.195	.47
2013		.105	.105	.105	.32
2014	.12	.12	.12	.12	.48
2015	.14	.14	.14	.14	.56
2016	.16	.16	.16	.16	

Evidence of competitive pressures at **NIKE continue to mount.** The Augustperiod gross margin declined 200 basis points, year to year, despite higher average selling prices. There were some temporary factors like currency headwinds, an accounting shift of certain expenses from overhead to costs of goods, and the exit from the golf equipment business, but profitability was still below guidance. Also, on August 31st, future orders were up a soft 5% (7% excluding currency changes) from a year earlier. True, orders tend to decline following the Olympics, though this was the fourth-consecutive quarter of slower growth. We note that Adidas is making a comeback, especially in North America, where NIKE's future orders were up a mere 1%. Also, Under Armour is making headway in apparel (casual and fashion, as well as athletic) and basketball Sales at lululemon are even rebounding after some earlier setbacks.

The company is responding with accelerated across-the-board innova**tion.** The latest examples of new products include different apparel silhouettes, which are selling beyond expectations, and

technical advances for running shoes. NIKE is also investing heavily in digital capabilities, and fiscal first-quarter online sales jumped 49%. A new partnership with Apple will offer sports-themed devices, such as watches and apps that direct shoppers to NIKE apparel and footwear. Innovation is also being extended into manufacturing, including computerized design and speed-to-market improvements.

International markets provide a significant growth engine. An advantage for NIKE is its superior supply chain and global distribution. On a currency-neutral basis, August-period sales were up at a double-digit pace in all international markets, and orders were up at least 9%. The Greater China region, where future orders were up 19%, offers a particularly compelling opportunity.

The stock is untimely, but now has good risk-adjusted 3- to 5-year appreciation potential. NIKE has a strong balance sheet, unparalleled resources, and industry-leading returns on invested capital. The company has been repurchasing shares at a good clip, as well.

Craig Sirois October 28, 2016

(A) Fiscal years end May 31st. (B) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring: '03, (25¢); '07, 2¢; '08, 8¢; '09, (13¢); '13, 1¢. Quarterly EPS may not sum due to change in share

count. Next earnings report due late Dec. (C) Dividends historically paid in early January, April, July, and October. ■ Reinvestment plan available

(D) Includes 21¢ dividend paid December 26th. (E) In millions, adjusted for splits.(F) Each share of Class A is convertible to one share of Class B.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 85 Price Growth Persistence 100 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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