

censed 37,011 fast-food restaurants in the United States, Canada, and overseas under the McDonald's banner (as of 6/30/17). About 86% are operated by franchisees or affiliates, with the remainder under the control of the company. Foreign operations contributed 66% of systemwide sales and 51% of consolidated operating in-

Spun off Chipotle Mexican Grill in 2006 and Boston Market in 2007. Has about 375,000 employees. Officers/directors own less than 1% of common stock (4/17 Proxy). CEO: Steve Easterbrook. Inc.: DE. Address: One McDonald's Plaza, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523. Telephone: 630-623-3000. Internet: www.mcdonalds.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '13-'15 Past 10 Yrs. 6.5% 9.5% 11.0% 5 Yrs. 5.5% 5.5% 4.5% of change (per sh) to '20-'22 1.5% 7.5% 9.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 20.0% 10.5% 7.0% -21.0%

558.

9643.0

874.7

2075.7

2950.4

4848.6

756.0 77.2

3468.3

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab

1986.

5892.5

536.0 209.9

1997.4

2743.3

Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31	TERLY RE\ Jun.30	/ENUES (\$ Sep.30	mill.) E Dec.31	Full Year
2014	6700	7181	6987	6572	27441
2015	5958	6497	6615	6341	25413
2016	5904	6265	6424	6029	24622
2017	5676	6050	5724	5200	22650
2018	4750	5075	5150	4875	19850
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE AE				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2014	1.21	1.40	1.09	1.12	4.82
2015	1.01	1.26	1.40	1.30	4.97
2016	1.23	1.45	1.62	1.43	5.71
2017	1.47	1.70	1.77	1.61	6.55
2018	1.55	1.80	1.88	1.77	7.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.77	.77	.77	.81	3.12
2014	.81	.81	.81	.85	3.28
2015	.85	.85	.85	.89	3.44
2016	.89	.89	.89	.94	3.61
2017	.94	.94			

Shares of McDonald's rallied to an alltime high after the company delivered a blow-out performance in the second quarter. Management's strategy below) is clearly working, as McDonald's delivered its best global comparable-store sales and guest counts in more than five years. Specifically, same-store sales rose 6.6%, reflecting positive guest counts in all operating segments. The most vigorous growth was seen in the Foundational Markets and Corporate segment, where comps jumped 13.0%, driven by ongoing recovery in Japan. The metric rose 7.0% in the High Growth segment, with notable strength in China. Turning to the International Lead business, momentum in the United Kingdom, along with strength in Canada and Germany, helped drive a 6.3% increase in same-restaurant sales. Lastly, comps on our shores were up 3.9%. We had expected a more challenging quarter in the United States, partially due to stiff competition, but the cold beverage value promotion and the introduction of Signature Crafted premium sandwiches resulted in the stronger-than-anticipated sales figures. Impressive same-store sales, costcontainment initiatives, refranchisings, and stock repurchases all helped earnings rise 17% from a year earlier, to \$1.70 a share. This easily topped our forecast of \$1.55 a share.

Management's focus has not shifted. Investments in technology (kiosk and mobile ordering/payment), menu innovation, and restaurant remodels are geared toward speeding service and improving the consumer experience. The ultimate goal is to retain existing customers, bring back lost customers, and convert sporadic visitors into regulars. Leadership's focus on the three pillars of value, convenience, and taste is clearly working.

As for this neutrally ranked stock, it is not cheap. However, these are high-quality shares that have a number of attributes prized by conservative accounts, including top scores for Safety and Price Stability; a low Beta; and an attractive dividend yield. Too, the company garners our best mark for Financial Strength. While value investors may balk at the equity's price, the above factors may enough to entice the risk-averse crowd. Matthew E. Spencer, CFA August 25, 2017

(A) Based on diluted shares. Excl. nonrecur. gain/(loss): '02, (55¢); '03, (25¢); '04, (6¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 53¢; '07, (93¢); '08, 9¢; '09, 13¢; '10, (2¢); '15, (17¢); '16, (27¢). 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 10/24/17. **(B)** As of 3/08 div'ds paid mid-Mar., Jun., Sep., Dec.

■ Div'd. reinvestment plan available. **(C)** Incl. intang. At 12/31/16: \$2,336.5 mill., \$2.85/share. **(D)** In mill., adj. for splits. **(E)** May not sum due to rounding.

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