

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, 9.3%; Vanguard, 6.7%; BlackRock, 5.7% (3/17 Proxy). CEO: James Quincey. Inc.: DE. Address: One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30313. Tel.: 404-676-2121. Web: www.coca-cola.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '14-'16 Past 10 Yrs. 7.5% 6.5% 6.0% 5 Yrs. 4.5% 3.5% 3.0% of change (per sh) to '20-'22 -2.5% 3.5% 4.5% Sales "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 9.0% 6.0% 8.5% -1.0% 6.0%

33395

2795

8329

15806

26930

34010

16025

26532

2682

7825

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

4923

38961

2750 17833

28830

8247

Cal- endar			SALES (\$ r Sep.Per	nill.) Dec.Per	Full Year
2014	10576	12574	11976	10872	45998
2015	10711	12156	11427	10000	44294
2016	10282	11539	10633	9409	41863
2017	9118	9702	8700	7480	35000
2018	7100	8100	7700	7100	30000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full				
endar	Mar.Per	Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Dec.Per	
2014	.44	.64	.53	.43	2.04
2015	.48	.63	.51	.38	2.00
2016	.45	.60	.49	.37	1.91
2017	.43	.59	.49	.39	1.90
2013	.44	.61	.50	.40	1.95
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013		.28	.28	.56	1.12
2014		.305	.305	.61	1.22
2015		.33	.33	.66	1.32
2016		.35	.35	.70	1.40
2017	l	37	37	37	

The near-term profit outlook for The Coca-Cola Company has improved modestly of late. Since our July report, we have added a nickel a share to our fullyear earnings estimate. In particular, currency headwinds figure to be slightly less of a drag on 2017 pretax income (2%) than previously anticipated (3%). Still, the bottom-line performance probably won't be terribly exciting, with asset sales and other structural changes (more below) likely causing earnings to finish at or slightly below 2016's final tally of \$1.91. Operating performance has been

mixed. Notably, unit case volumes have been stuck in neutral for several quarters, with Latin American countries showing particular weakness. This is being offset, however, by favorable changes in price and mix, partly reflecting an emphasis on small pack sizes. With this, revenues should climb about 3% this year (excluding structural changes and currency effects), while pretax profits (on the same basis) ought to advance 7%-8%.

Refranchising efforts in the United States should wrap up before the end of the year. By mid-summer, in fact, the

company had agreements or letters of intent in place covering all of the U.S. territories of its CCR bottling subsidiary. Overall, these and other structural changes around the world figure to reduce revenues and pretax income by 18%-19% and 5%-6%. respectively, in 2017. couragingly, the company indicates it is seeing improved results from refranchised territories in the U.S. Moreover, while the top-line hit will likely be quite pronounced again next year (16%-17%), the bottomline impact should be mild (a 1%-2% drag on pretax income), and set the stage for a modest earnings recovery.

These shares are an untimely selection for the year ahead. Too, the stock's price-to-earnings multiple is rather lofty by historic standards, leaving this issue with below average 3- to 5-year appreciation potential, in our view. This equity, though, still has a number of attributes that will appeal to more-conservative investors, including a top score for Price Stability and a dividend yield that is more than 100 basis points higher than the Value Line median.

Robert M. Greene October 20, 2017

(A) Based on diluted shares. Next earnings report due Oct. 25th. Excludes nonrecurring gain/(losses): '01, (1¢); '02, (22¢); '03, (9¢); about the first April, July, '04, (3¢); '05, (7¢); '06, (11¢); '08, (27¢); '10, reinvestment plan available.

79¢; '11, (8¢); '13, (18¢); '14, (44¢); '15, (C) Includes intangibles. In '16: \$21.1 bill., (\$0.33); '16, (42¢). (B) Div'ds historically paid \$4.93/sh. about the first April, July, Oct., Dec. ■ Div'd (D) In millions, adjusted for stock split.

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

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