

| ( (\$MILLL.) | 22201 | 20675 | 15964 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receivables | 3856 | 3667 | 3396 |
| Inventory (Avg Cst) | 2675 | 2655 | 2766 |
| Other | 5278 | 9548 | 8508 |
| Current Assets | 34010 | 36545 | 30634 |
| Accts Payable | 2682 | 2288 | 2498 |
| Debt Due | 16025 | 16503 | 18191 |
| Other | 7825 | 8403 | 8534 |
| Current Liab. | 26532 | 27194 | 29223 |


| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '16-'18 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to '22.24 |
| Sales | $3.5 \%$ | $-4.0 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | $4.0 \%$ | $-1.5 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |
| Earnings | $4.0 \%$ | -- | $6.5 \%$ |
| Dividends | $8.0 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ | $5.0 \%$ |
| Book Value | $.5 \%$ | $-9.5 \%$ | $2.0 \%$ |


| Cal- <br> endar | QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) <br> Mar.Per Jun.Per Sep.Per Dec.Per |  |  |  | Full <br> Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2016 | 10282 | 11539 | 10633 | 9409 | 41863 |
| 2017 | 9118 | 9702 | 9078 | 7512 | 35410 |
| 2018 | 7626 | 8927 | 8245 | 7058 | 31856 |
| 2019 | 7950 | 9450 | 9000 | 8100 | 34500 |
| 2020 | 8300 | 9800 | 9400 | 8500 | 36000 |
| Cal- <br> endar | EARNINGS PER SHARE A |  |  |  | Full |
| 2016 | .45 | .60 | .49 | .37 | 1.91 |
| 2017 | .43 | .59 | .50 | .39 | 1.91 |
| 2018 | .46 | .61 | .58 | .43 | 2.08 |
| 2019 | .45 | .60 | .59 | .46 | 2.10 |
| 2020 | .50 | .64 | .62 | .49 | 2.25 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B | Full |  |  |  |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2015 | -- | .33 | .33 | .66 | 1.32 |
| 2016 | -- | .35 | .35 | .70 | 1.40 |
| 2017 | -- | .37 | .37 | .74 | 1.48 |
| 2018 | -- | .39 | .39 | .78 | 1.56 |
| 2019 | -- | .40 |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest nonalcoholic beverage company. Markets over 500 beverage 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
Coca-Cola shares got off to a slow start in 2019. Most notably, the stock slumped $8 \%$ in price when Decemberquarter results were released in midFebruary, its worst one-day performance in more than a decade. The market was likely most troubled by the company's fullyear earnings guidance, which calls for share net to finish between $\$ 2.06$ and \$2.10, essentially unchanged from 2018 and below our earlier estimate of $\$ 2.25$. On the positive side, the top line should take a nice step forward (more below), but foreign currency headwinds, increased interest expense, and a higher tax rate figure to largely offset these gains.
The top line looks set to advance for the first time since 2012. While foreign currency headwinds will likely continue to limit progress, the drag from the refranchising of bottling operations is set to ease. In all, revenues figure to advance 10\%$12 \%$ this year, with the J anuary acquisition of Costa providing the biggest jolt. The operator of coffee shops and selfservice coffee machines currently generates most of its revenues in the U.K., but figures to spearhead Coke's efforts to

Int'l markets accounted for 64\% of 2018 net sales; Advertising expenses, $12.9 \%$ of 2018 revenues. Has about 62,500 employees. Directors and officers own 1.3\% of stock; Berkshire Hathaway, 9.4\%; Vanguard, 7.0\%; BlackRock, 5.9\% (3/19 Proxy). CEO: James Quincey. Inc.: DE. Address: One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30313. Tel.: 404-676-2121. Web: www.coca-cola.com.
make a bigger dent in the fast-growing coffee category around the world.
Organic growth is likely to proceed at a decent clip. Given the indications of slowing economic growth in various global markets, the rate of progress probably won't measure up to last year's 5\% advance. Still, management expects organic revenues to climb at a solid $4 \%$, with rising contributions from Coca-Cola Zero Sugar and Fuze Tea, as well as the introduction of revenue growth management strategies to more markets, helping to maintain the positive momentum.
These shares are best suited for riskaverse investors. The stock held up nicely during the December-quarter selloff in the broader market and, even with last winter's uncharacteristic volatility, it still has a lot to offer conservative accounts (Safety: 1, Highest). F or instance, the company has increased the dividend each year for more than half a century. The most recent hike of $2.6 \%$ was a bit on the light side compared to recent years, but the dividend yield of $3.4 \%$ is still more than 100 basis higher than the Value Line median Robert M. Grene

April 19, 2019

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[^0]:    (A) Based on diluted shares. Next earnings 14 , (44C); 15, (33¢); 16, (42¢); 17, (\$1.64); (C) Inclu report due April 23rd. Excludes nonrecurring '18, (51c). (B) Div'ds historically paid about the $\$ 4.05 /$ sh gain/(losses): '03, (9\$); '04, (3¢); '05, (7¢); '06, first April, July, Oct., Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment (D) In millions, adjusted for stock split (11¢); '08, (27¢); '10, 79¢; '11, (8¢); '13, (18¢); $\quad$ plan available.
    Company's Financial Strength
    Stock's Price Stability
    Price Growth Persistence
    Earnings Predictability

