

erating 3,570 supercenters (includes grocery departments), 386 discount stores, 599 Sam's Clubs, and 813 Neighborhood Markets in the U.S., plus 5,993 foreign stores, many in Latin America, with the rest in Asia, Canada, and the U.K. as of 1/31/19. Total store space: 1.129 billion square feet. Retail space is largely owned, and

accounted for 56% of U.S. sales; sales per square foot in 2018: about \$455. Has 2,200,000 employees. Off./dir. own 51.6% of shares (4/18 proxy). Chairman: Gregory B. Penner. CEO and Pres.: Doug McMillon. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 702 S.W. 8th St., Bentonville, AR 72716. Tel.: 479-273-4000. Internet: www.walmart.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '16-'18 Past 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 6.5% 6.0% 4.0% 2.0% 4.5% 6.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value -.5% 7.0% 4.0% 7.0% 7.5% 3.5% 4 5%

1941

57689

41433

21575

66928

3920

59664

46092

78521

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

**2019** .53

Other

3623 61897

47060 2605 27812

77477

DOOK Value		0.070 4.		0 /0 .	3.070
Fiscal Year Begins	QUA Apr.30	RTERLY S Jul.31	ALES (\$ m Oct.31	ill.) <sup>A</sup> Jan.31	Full Fiscal Year
2016	115904	120854	118179	130936	485873
2017	117542	123355	123179	136267	500343
2018	122690	128028	124894	138793	514405
2019	125000	130750	129000	144175	528925
2020	129180	134800	132875	149965	546820
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B Full				
Year Begins	Apr.30	Jul.31	Oct.31	Jan.31	Year
2016	.98	1.07	.98	1.30	4.32
2017	1.00	1.08	1.00	1.33	4.42
2018	1.14	1.29	1.08	1.41	4.91
2019	1.02	1.23	1.07	1.43	4.75
2020	1.06	1.27	1.12	1.50	4.95
Cal-	Cal- QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID = C Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.49	.49	.49	.49	1.96
2016	.50	.50	.50	.50	2.00
2017	.51	.51	.51	.51	2.04
2018	.52	.52	.52	.52	2.08

Walmart closed out fiscal 2018 in good **form.** January-quarter revenue grew 1.9% year over year and 3.1% on a constantcurrency basis. Domestic same-store sales excluding the impact of fuel deflation rose 4.2% on a 90-basis-point increase in traffic and a 3.3% rise in the average transaction amount. Strong grocery sales, a better-than-expected holiday period, and the early release of government SNAP benefits (food stamps) helped drive results. For the full year, U.S. comp sales rose 3.6%, the highest annual growth rate in a decade. The gross profit margin fell 21 basis points, owing to a mix shift toward less lucrative e-commerce, and price investment in some U.S. markets. Adjusted earnings per share rose 6% year over year, a little more than half of which stemmed from new federal tax regulations.

The e-commerce business is booming, but it should continue to lose money over the intermediate term. Online sales were up 43% in the quarter and 40% for the year. Management admitted that it needs to improve profitability by increasing sales of lucrative home and apparel products. Walmart expects losses in e-

commerce to increase in 2019, owing to investments in infrastructure, staffing, and online grocery pickup and delivery.

Fiscal 2019 guidance was reiterated. Net sales are expected to rise 3% on a constant-currency basis. The back half of the year should be stronger than the first six months, as the Brazil business winds down and the Indian e-commerce subsidiary, Flipkart, starts picking up steam. Walmart U.S. should experience comp sales growth of 2.5% to 3%, and the cadence from quarter to quarter should be fairly consistent. Quarterly earnings are expected to fall 10% in the first period, and then get progressively better throughout the year. Still, full-year profits will likely decline a low single-digit percentage, owing to a higher tax rate. We are leaving intact our full-year earnings estimate of \$4.75 per share.

This stock is timely. The company continues to execute well in a favorable demand environment. Initiatives to improve the customer shopping experience are paying off. We continue to recommend the shares to conservative investors. Kevin Downing April 26, 2019

(A) Fiscal year ends Jan. 31st of following calendar year. Sales exclude rentals from licensed depts. (B) Based on diluted shares. May not sum due to rounding. Excls. n/r

(\$0.08). Next earnings report due mid-May.

(losses)/gains: '05, \$0.03; '08, (\$0.07); '09, Aug., and Dec.■ Dividend reinvestment plan \$0.04; '10, \$0.40; '11, \$0.03; '13, (\$0.23); '15 available.

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

A++ 95 95