

561 discount stores, 620 Sam's Clubs, and 286 Neighborhood Markets in the U.S., plus 6,148 foreign stores, mainly in Latin America, with the balance in Asia, Canada, and the U.K. as of 1/31/13. Total store space: 1.072 billion square feet. Retail space is largely

foot in 2012: about \$437. Has 2,200,000 employees. Off./dir. own 49.6% of shares (4/13 proxy). Chairman: S. Robson Walton. CEO and Pres.: Michael Duke. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 702 S.W. 8th St., Bentonville, AR 72716. Tel.: 479-273-4000. Internet: www.walmart.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '10-'12 Past 10 Yrs. to '16-'18 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 10.0% 12.0% 9.0% 10.5% 6.5% 8.0% 9.0% 14.5% 7.5% 9.0% 10.0% 9.0% Earnings Dividends 11.0% 18.0% Book Value

1774

54975

36608

6022 19670

59940 38080

12392 21346 71818

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

1992

60176

36770 12222 24560

Fiscal Year Begins	QUA Apr.30	RTERLY S Jul.31	ALES (\$ m Oct.31	ill.) <sup>A</sup> Jan.31	Full Fiscal Year
2010	99811	103726	101952	116360	421849
2011	104189	109366	110226	123169	446950
2012	113018	114296	113929	127919	469162
2013	114187	119000	119000	141813	494000
2014	122500	123500	123500	145500	515000
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B Full,				
Year Begins	Apr.30	Jul.31	Oct.31	Jan.31	Full Fiscal Year
2010	.87	.97	.90	1.34	4.07
2011	.97	1.09	.99	1.44	4.45
2012	1.09	1.18	1.08	1.67	5.02
2013	1.14	1.26	1.17	1.78	5.35
2014	1.25	1.40	1.28	1.92	5.85
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID = C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.2375	.2725	.2725		.78
2010	.2725	.605	.3025		1.18
2011	.3025	.730	.365		1.40
2012	.365	.795	.3975	.3975	1.96
2013		.940			

Wal-Mart shoppers continue to be cautious with their spending. A large percentage of the company's customer base generates below-average household income and lives paycheck-to-paycheck. Firstquarter results were hurt by the 2% payroll tax increase, and management says this is still affecting customer shopping patterns. Job security and food/gas prices also appear to be weighing heavily on the mind of the average Wal-Mart customer. Fortunately, the unemployment picture has picked up some of late and there has been an uptick in consumer confidence as well. The general trend of eating at home has also benefited the company. Overall, we think it will take some time before Wal-Mart sees resurgence in discretionary spending.

The company remains focused on cutting costs in order to reduce prices, drive traffic, and improve customer **loyalty.** This strategy is being executed in the food and consumables categories mostly. Management recently pointed out that it has widened the gap between its prices and competitors' by 100 basis points over the past 13 months. Some of WMT's costcutting techniques include using local farmers to reduce transportation expenses, better global sourcing, and less incentive pay. Wal-Mart remains on track to achieve its goal of cutting operating costs by 100 basis points between 2012 and 2017.

Growth opportunities abound. convergence of Wal-Mart's online and instore shopping experiences should help fundamentals in coming years. Specific initiatives include shop online and pickup in store (eventually in a locker), ship from store, as well as self scanning/checkout throughout the store. There are two million products now sold online, versus 150,000 in an average supercenter. Importantly, the deployment of small format, Neighborhood Markets and Wal-Mart Express stores should also eventually prove beneficial to the bottom line.

These quality shares may interest long-term investors. Wal-Mart's history of cost cuts and store expansion gives us confidence in its solid risk-adjusted longterm price appreciation potential. Further, WMT boasts top scores for Safety, and Stock Price Stability.

Kevin Downing

August 2, 2013

(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. (losses)

(\$0.03); '08, \$0.04; '09, (\$0.02); Next earn- | **(D)** In millions.

and gains: '01, (\$0.01); '05, \$0.03; '08, (\$0.07); ings report due August 15th. **(C)** Divds. historioses from discontinued operation: '07, Dividend reinvestment plan available.

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

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