

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.

146,200 employees. Directors and Officers own 5.7% of stock; Berkshire Hathaway, 8.8% (3/12 Proxy). Chairman and CEO: Muhtar Kent. Inc.: DE. Address: One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia 30313. Tel.: 404-676-2121. Internet: www.coca-cola.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 of change (per sh) Sales 8.0% 9.0% 11.0% 10.0% 'Cash Flow" 10.0% 9.0% 9.0% 9.5% 13.0% Earnings 9.0% 9.0% 8.5% 6.5% 10.0% 12.0% **Book Value** QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) Cal-

9376

18508

9009 14912 362

24283

9803 16549

27008

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

endar			Sep.Per	Dec.Per	Year
2009	7169	8267	8044	7510	30990
2010	7525	8674	8426	10498	35123
2011	10545	12729	12243	11037	46554
2012	11137	13085	12340	11438	48000
2013	11750	13500	13250	12000	50500
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.Per	Jun.Per	Sep.Per	Dec.Per	Year
2009	.29	.44	.41	.33	1.47
2010	.40	.53	.46	.36	1.75
2011	.42	.59	.52	.39	1.92
2012	.45	.61	.50	.44	2.00
2013	.48	.65	.59	.48	2.20
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B ■				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008		.19	.19	.38	.76
2009		.205	.205	.41	.82
2010		.22	.22	.44	.88
2011		.235	.235	.47	.94
2012		.255	.255	.255	
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The September quarter was something of a mixed bag for The Coca-Cola Company. The headline numbers for the world's largest beverage company were relatively unexciting, with revenues inching ahead 1%, to \$12.3 billion, while share net came in at \$0.50, \$0.02 below the tally in the prior-year period and \$0.05short of our estimate. Currency headwinds had a big influence on the quarter, dragging down sales and operating income by 5% and 7%, respectively. Otherwise,

Volumes continue to push ahead at a solid clip. The September interim increase of 4% was just below the first-half rate (up 5%), as each geographic operating group contributed to the advance in the latest three months. Progress in the developed world was respectable (up 2%), with trends in Europe showing nice improvement. Volumes there shifted from a 4% decline in the June period to a 1% improvement year over year in the latest three months. Still, emerging markets remain the big growth story, with big gains in Thailand (+19%) and India (15%) driving volumes up 7%, overall, in these parts of the world. Results from China,

though, were rather lackluster, as growth slowed to 2% from 7% in the June period. Coke figures to finish 2012 on a posi**tive note.** Third-quarter operating profit rose just 1%, but the company should fare much better in the December interim, with two extra days in the quarter and a variety of other factors helping to drive a double-digit increase over the prior-year period. In view of this, we are keeping our earnings estimate for the final three months of 2012 at \$0.44 a share, up 13% from the prior-year period. For 2013, we expect growth to approach 10%, lifting earnings to \$2.20.

This timely stock offers good, riskadjusted total return potential to 2015-2017. Efforts to further penetrate emerging markets (including stepped-up investments in India) should help to keep sales and earnings moving forward at a respectable clip in the 3 to 5 years ahead. In the meantime, this equity carries our top rank (1) for Safety, and and its quarterly payout, which should rise roughly in line with profits, provides a yield in excess of the Value Line median.

Robert M. Greene, CFA October 26, 2012

(A) Based on primary shs. through '96, diluted shs. thereafter. Next earnings report due early February. Excludes nonrecurring gain/(losses): '99, (16¢); '00, (30¢); '01, (1¢); '02, (22¢); '03,

(B) Div'ds historically paid about April 1, July 1,

Oct. 1, Dec.1. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail.

(9¢); '04, (3¢); '05, (7¢); '06, (11¢); '08, (27¢); (C) Incl. intangibles. In '11: \$27.7 bill., '10, 79¢; '11, (8¢). (E) Reflects reclas-

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