

sortment of everyday general merchandise: housewares, toys, food, health and beauty aids, gifts, party goods, stationery, closeouts, and seasonal items. As of 10/29/16 Dollar Tree and Family Dollar (selling variety goods largely for \$10 or less) operated ees. Offs. & dirs. own 4.1% of stock; Four institutional investors own 27.2% (5/16 Proxy). CEO: Bob Sasser. COO: Mike Witynski Inc.: VA. Add.: 500 Volvo Parkway, Chesapeake, VA 23320. Tel.: 757-321-5000. Internet:www. dollartree.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '13-'15 Past to '20-'22 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 18.0% 15.0% 19.0% 15.0% 14.0% 18.0% Earnings Dividends 16.0% 14.0% 18.0% Book Value 12.5% 15.5% 23 0%

94.8

1994.6

433.6

428.0

861.6

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

2017

310.3

3935.9

1251.9

2095.4

108.0

201.8

3938.0

1119.6 152.1

2105.9

Fiscal Year Begins			ALES (\$ m Oct.Per		Full Fiscal Year
2014	2000.3	2031.1	2095.2	2475.6	8602.2
2015	2176.7	3011.2	4945.2	5365.3	15498.4
2016	5085.8	4996.4	5001.7	5635.3	20719.2
2017	5325	5275	5325	6075	22000
2018	5500	5400	5600	6400	22900
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE ABE				Full Fiscal
Year Begins	Apr.Per	Jul.Per	Oct.Per	Jan.Per	Year
2014	.67	.59	.64	1.00	2.90
2015	.34	d.46	.35	.97	1.26
2016	.98	.72	.72	1.36	3.78
2017	.95	.90	.90	1.65	4.40
2018	1.15	1.00	1.05	1.75	4.95
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013					
2014	NO CASH DIVIDENDS				
2015	BEING PAID				
2016					

Dollar Tree is likely to get off to a tough start in fiscal 2017 (began January 29th). Guidance supported this assertion, with management saying that it anticipates earning \$0.91 to \$0.98 a share in the April quarter, the midpoint of which represents a 4% decline. It expects the retail environment to remain difficult, and for flat to low single-digit same-store-sales growth. We are modeling in a 3% share-net decline, on a 4% top-line gain for the April quarter.

Full-year results ought to get a boost from the inclusion of an extra week of business. The 53rd week is expected to add \$400 million to \$430 million to sales and \$0.19 to \$0.22 to share earnings. Including these benefits, we look for sales to improve 6%, on nearly 4% square-footage growth, and for earnings per share to increase 16%, to \$4.40. Meanwhile, a lower interest expense should pitch in, as Dollar Tree has been deleveraging its balance sheet, and will likely continue to do so going forward.

Margin improvement is expected to play a bigger role next year. Family Dollar stores, added to the mix back in

mid-2015, continue to deliver far worse margins than the company's namesake locations. In fact, the operating margin at the former was nearly four times that at the latter in the most recent quarter. That said, management is actively looking to unlock synergies and be more efficient at Family stores. The benefits should really take shape in fiscal 2018, helping to drive a 13% share-net improvement.

This equity has continued to trickle lower in recent months and is trading about 23% off its 2016 high. However, we think the current entry point presents a good opportunity. Dollar Tree shares are favorably ranked (2: Above Average) for Timeliness and offer wide 3- to 5-year rebound potential. The company is better insulated than most others in the retail space thanks to its lower-priced product offerings. Also, the Family Dollar stores should be a catalyst for margin expansion. Dollar Tree generates substantial cash flow and thus has the flexibility to continue paying down debt, begin buying back stock, and perhaps even throw its hat back in the acquisition ring. Andre J. Costanza April 28, 2017

(A) Through 2002, year ended Dec. 31st. Afterward, fiscal year ends on Saturday nearest to Jan 31st. of the following calendar year. (B) Diluted earnings. Excludes acquisition

ings report due late May. (C) Incl. intang. As of outstanding.

costs: Incl. inventory accounting change '10, 1/30/17: \$8128.6 mill., \$34.42 a share. (**D**) In \$0.06; favorable tax benefit '12, \$0.025; All mill., adjusted for stock splits. (**E**) Qtrly egs. numbers are GAAP except 2015. Next earn-may not add to total due to change in shares

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 65 Price Growth Persistence 90 **Earnings Predictability** 45