

tradesmen and small businesses. The company provides livestock and pet products (50% of 2022 sales); hardware, tools, truck, and towing (19%); seasonal products (such as snow blowers and mowers), gifts, and toys (21%); clothing and footwear (7%); and ag-

less than 1% of common; The Vangaurd Group, 11.8%; Blackrock, 9.1% (3/23 Proxy). Chrmn: Cynthia Jamison. Pres. & CEO: Hal Lawton. Inc.: Delaware. Addr.: 5401 Virginia Way, Brentwood, TN 37027. Tel.: 615-440-4000. Internet: www.tractorsupply.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 to '26-'28 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 14.5% 18.0% 12.5% 13.0% Sales "Cash Flow" 13.0% 16.5% 18.0% 22.5% 9.5% 19.5% 14.5% 9.5% 13.5% 19.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

1155.6 3.9

905.3

2064.8

Accts_Payable Debt Due Other

Current Liab.

1398.3 3.2 974.7

2376.2

1526.5 2.8

2349.7

820.4

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) A				Full
endar	Mar.Per.Jun.Per.Sep.Per. Dec.Per.				Year
2020 2021 2022 2023 2024	1959 2792 3024 3299 3610	3176 3601 3903 4250 4590		2878 3319 4006 3950	10620 12731 14204 15150 16400
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B				Full
endar	Mar.Per.Jun.Per.Sep.Per. Dec.Per.				Year
2020 2021 2022 2023 2024	.71 1.55 1.65 1.65 2.05	3.80		1.64 1.92 2.43 2.50 2.92	6.87 8.61 9.71 10.45 12.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C				Full
endar	Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Year
2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	.31 .35 .52 .92 1.03	.35 .35 .52 .92 1.03	.35 .40 .52 .92	.35 .40 .52 .92	1.36 1.50 2.08 3.68

Despite a bit of seasonal sluggishness. Tractor Supply started off 2023 on good footing. Year-over-year, sales increased 9%, to \$3.3 billion in the first quarter, with the acquisition of Orscheln Farm and Home adding \$21 million in sales in the period. A 2.8% bump in average ticket prices offset a 0.7% decrease in same-store transaction count, and led to comparable store sales growth of 2.1%. Moderating freight charges reduced input costs slightly, but SG&A expenses saw a meaningful uptick. A step-up in capital spending related to the acquisition, as well as the addition of a new distribution center, led to higher depreciation costs. Despite strong sales growth, earnings finished flat over the year-ago period, at \$1.65 per share.

Operating performance should improve across the remainder of 2023. We're forecasting \$15.15 billion in sales for the full year, prompted by improved seasonality in the warmer summer months. Expansion of the store footprint should continue to be a strong business driver throughout the year. After recently converting 81 Orscheln stores, the company

now plans to open 70 new Tractor Supply and 10+ Petsense stores across 2023. With relatively flat or slightly improved operating margins, we expect full year earnings to finish near \$10.45 per share.

The company has been a consistent buyer of its own shares. Tractor Supply has reduced its share count roughly 10% in the last five years, and 25% in the last decade. In the first quarter of 2023, the repurchased company approximately 870,000 shares of common stock, at around \$228 per share, bringing the total float to 109.5 million. We think long-term shareholders in particular will continue to benefit from the company's buyback program. With a reduced share count and larger store footprint, we see the company delivering earnings above \$16.00 per share in the next three to five years.

Tractor Supply shares look attractive for long-term investors. The stock is also ranked Above-Average (2) for both Timeliness and Safety. Forecasting strong earnings growth through 2026-2028, we've set our target price range over that time frame at \$300 to \$410 per share.

Lucas Vanarthos June 16, 2023

(A) Fiscal year ends on the last Saturday in December. Quarterly figures may not add to to-

(B) Diluted earnings per share. Excludes non-recurring charges: '17, \$0.03; '19, \$0.02; '20, \$0.49. Next earnings report due late July. \$2.30/share.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 90