

ANNUAL RATES Sales "Cash F "Cash Flow"
Earnings
Dividends Book Value

| Cash Assets | 3076.2 | 2669.5 | 3010.6 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Receivables | 896.6 | 1016.2 | 1231.1 |  |  |  |  |
| Inventory (FIFO) | 593.4 | 935.6 | 883.5 |  |  |  |  |
| InnsinESS: Monster Beverage Corporation develops, markets, |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Inventory (FIFO) Other

Current Assets
Accts Payable

Debt Due Other Current Liab.$\begin{array}{rrr}896.6 & 1016.2 & 1231.1 \\ 593.4 & 935.6 & 883.5 \\ 115.9 & 143.5 & 18.3\end{array} \quad$,\begin{tabular}{lll}
115.9 \& 143.5 \& 186.3 \\
\hline \&


\hline 4682.1 \& $\overline{4764.8}$ \& $\overline{5311.5}$ \\
404.2 \& 444.2 \& 539.9
\end{tabular}

$560.8 \quad 557.7 \quad 638.9$ $\begin{array}{lll}965.0 & 1001.9 & 1178.8\end{array}$ sells, and distributes a line of all-natural beverages. The company's product line includes bottled juices, natural sodas, energy drinks, iced teas, lemonades, cocktails, and functional beverages. Functional beverages are intended to have added health benefits, as they are fortified with vitamins, minerals and herbs. Markets prod-
Monster Beverage recorded stellar third-quarter 2023 financial results. Heightened demand was realized in all beverage categories that include both energy drink and alcohol beverages. A favorable product mix helped drive a $14 \%$ year-over-year increase in sales, to $\$ 1.85$ billion. For 2023, we have left intact our fullyear sales forecast of $\$ 7.10$ billion and 2024's estimate of $\$ 7.75$ billion. These advances of $12.5 \%$ and $9.1 \%$, respectively, are predicated on the assumption that the company's pricing initiatives, a favorable product mix, and improved economic conditions converge over the near term to create solid beverage demand. The healthy top-line performance ought to continue to drive admirable share-earnings advances as well. During the third quarter, Monster's profit registered at $\$ 0.43$ a share, well above our $\$ 0.35$ estimate and 43.3\% above last year's comparable period. A cost-disciplined approach to operations helped offset higher manufacturing costs. Continued conservative spending practices likely drove double-digit bottom-line progress in 2023, which ought to follow through to 2024.
ucts through retail chains, club stores, and specialty stores. Has 5,296 employees. Officers \& directors own about $9.4 \%$ of common shares, The Coca-Cola Company, 19.5\%, The Vanguard Group, $6.0 \%$. (4/23 Proxy). '22 depreciation rate: $9.1 \%$. Chrmn. \& CEO: Rodney C. Sacks. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92879. Tel.: 951-739-6200. Internet: www.monsterbevcorp.com.
Innovation is a key expansion strategy. Monster's core energy drink lineup should continue to gain in popularity. The company spends ample amounts of money on product-line extensions, which have resonated with consumers. Also, acquisitions, such as Bang Energy in July, 2023, and the purchase of certain energy drinks from The Coca-Cola Company further strengthen Monster's reach in the highmargined energy-drink beverage arena. Moreover, the efficient distribution channels both at home and abroad are likely to enhance top- and bottom-line prospects over the near and long terms.
Broader market improvements should work in the company's favor. In recent times, consumers have reined-in spending habits, particularly those related to discretionary purchases. However, with anticipated better conditions, individuals may once again loosen their purse strings. This stock is an untimely selection for the year ahead. On the bright side, patient investors may be well rewarded since capital appreciation potential over the 2026-2028 haul is above average. Nira Maharaj

January 12, 2024

