

priced casual apparel for fashion-conscious young men and women aged 15 to 27. The company operates 393 stores in 40 states mainly in the central, northwestern, and southern regions of the U.S. under the names "Buckle" and "The Buckle". The merchandise mix includes denims, casual tops, sweaters, slacks, outerwear, acces-

39%; shoes, 8%; all other categories, 12%. Has about 8,225 employees. Officers and directors own 46.1% of stock; Royce, 6.1% (4/09 Proxy). Chairman: Daniel J. Hirschfeld. CEO & Pres.: Dennis H. Nelson. Inc.: NE. Address: 2407 W. 24th St., Kearney, NE 68845. Tel.: 308 236-8491. Internet: www.buckle.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '06-'08 Past 10 Yrs. to '12-'14 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 10.0% 13.5% 11.0% 18.5% 11.0% 13.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 13.5% 15.0% 15.0% 14.0% 20.5% 12 0% 5.0%

261.6

25.2

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Other

17.7

287.0

22.5

66.9

89.4

18.4

297.5

39.2

90.2

Fiscal Year Begins			ALES (\$ m Oct.Per		Full Fiscal Year
2006	109.6	102.4	143.1	175.0	530.1
2007	121.1	124.2	167.6	207.0	619.9
2008	160.3	169.7	210.6	251.4	792.0
2009	199.7	195.3	235	280	910
2010	215	215	255	300	985
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B				_Full
Year Begins	Apr.Per	Jul.Per	Oct.Per	Jan.Per	Full Fiscal Year
2006	.21	.15	.40	.48	1.24
2007	.27	.25	.48	.63	1.63
2008	.41	.48	.62	.74	2.24
2009	.58	.54	.72	.86	2.70
2010	.58	.60	.80	.97	2.95
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2005	.053	.053	.067	.075	.25
2006	.075	.075	.075	.089	.31
2007	.133	.133	.133	.167	.57
2008	.167	.167	.167	.20	.70
2009	20	20	20		

The Buckle keeps on recording enviable same-store sales figures. marked the 22nd consecutive month in which comp-store sales increased by over 10%. This streak ended in June when same-store sales rose only 9.6%. We attribute the stellar results to superior service, and a wide selection of on-trend styles and price points. (Note: More than half of the company's merchandise can't be found elsewhere due to the exclusivity of the BKE private-label brand and supply deals with several vendors.) The <sup>-</sup> Buckle's speciality is denim (over 40% of sales). Unique styles, quality, brands, fits, silhouettes, and washes appeal to a wide variety of customers, enabling Buckle to sell denims priced from under \$70 to \$150.

We're boosting The Buckle's fiscal

2009 share-earnings estimate by \$0.15 to \$2.70. Most of this increase comes from the first quarter, as earnings beat our estimate by a dime. We doubt that the company can match the April interim's lofty 41% advance in 2009's final three quarters, but a likely 15% bottom-line improvement is still impressive. We expect slower revenue growth in the July through

January periods due to the weak economy and tough same-store comparisons versus last year. Our preliminary target for fiscal 2010 implies a bottom-line gain of roughly 10%

Lately, women's sales are growing faster than men's sales. This trend started last summer, with the ladies now bringing in 60% of sales. That helps profits since women spend more on the highermargined denim lines. Additionally, more women, including those in their 40s, have become comfortable wearing the company's tops. Slower growth in the men's business reflects softer demand for knit tops following a buoyant Spring 2008 selling season.

This stock has something for everyone. BKE carries our top rating for yearahead performance. Longer-term prospects are about average, but we think that our projections have little downside risk. Dividend-oriented shareholders should like the rising quarterly payout and the prospect of periodic special dividends. High margins and a debt-free balance sheet round out BKE's appeal. Jerome H. Kaplan August 7, 2009

(A) Fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to January 31st of the following year.

(B) Primary earnings through '96, diluted thereafter. Quarterly earnings may not sum to total

report due August 20th.
(C) Dividend historically paid in late January,

due to change in share count. Next earnings | div'd paid 1/07, and \$2.00 paid 10/08. report due August 20th. | (D) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 55 Price Growth Persistence 85 **Earnings Predictability** 90