## Industry Analysis Tiffany \& Co.NYSE: TIF Retail (Hardlines)Rank: 56

The Retail Hardlines Industry was on the upswing for most of the fourth quarter, fueled by a largely better-than-expected holiday shopping season and optimism surrounding the recently passed tax legislation (more below). A strengthening U.S. economy, growing consumer confidence, and still solid employment metrics provided further support to the rally. Although certain sectors continued to be hit hard by weak in-store traffic and increased competitive pressures, others did better in adapting to the rapidly evolving retail environment and the gainers outnumbered the laggards in 2017. For the full year, U.S. retail sales rose $4.2 \%$, the largest increase since 2014. Excluding the auto component, purchases grew $4.3 \%$, the strongest since 2011.The ETF that tracks the performance of the S\&P Retail Select Industry (ticker: XRT) increased $10 \%$ in value during the fourth quarter. In comparison, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was also up $10 \%$ and the S\&P 500 advanced $7 \%$.

In the following report, we touch on recent U.S. retail trends, the potential impact of tax reform, our suspension of VMS coverage, and the ongoing transformation of traditional retail.
U.S. Retail Trends According to the government's recent report, U.S. retail sales increased $0.4 \%$ in December, a hair below expectations of $0.5 \%$ growth. This followed a revised $0.9 \%$ gain in November and a $0.5 \%$ uptick in October, capping off a robust holiday shopping season. Key highlights from last month's report included continued strength at non-store retailers, furniture stores, and building supply outlets, which helped to offset lingering weakness at department stores and in the electronics and appliance segment. Receipts at sporting goods and hobby stores plummeted $1.6 \%$, representing its biggest decline since November, 2016. In total, nine of the 13 major retail categories exhibited improvement. The recently passed, Republican-inspired tax legislation is expected to yield significant benefits to the Retail Hardlines Industry in 2018. In fact, we believe tax reform speculation was a primary driver of the sharp increase in U.S. retail equities seen in the back half of 2017. Many companies in this sector have had effective tax rates in the mid- to high-30s in past years, and with 10 to 15 percentage points projected to be shaved off, it should offer some increased financial flexibility for retailers beginning in 2018. The question is how management will use this cash and how much will trickle down to companies' bottom lines. There remains a lot of uncertainty in terms of the potential benefit and we expect to gain further visibility on the upcoming fourth-quarter conference calls.

Shying Away From VMS The Vitamin, Mineral, and Supplement space, also referred to as Health and Wellness, has struggled mightily in recent years. Sluggish demand trends, weak comp sales, and intense competition from online retailers have taken a toll on operating results and decimated the stock prices of former industry leaders GNC Holdings and Vitamin Shoppe. Due to their low market capitalizations and lackluster growth prospects, we have dropped coverage on these two companies to focus on equities of greater interest to our subscribers.

Retail Transformation The rapid adoption of online shopping has drastically changed the overall retail landscape. Consumers simply aren't going to physical locations like they used to and retailers are being forced to adapt. For most operating in the brick-and-mortar space, this includes store rationalization and increased investment in e-commerce platforms. Improving
digital capabilities is also likely to be a popular theme in 2018. The big problem with the B\&M model is the high cost of operating and maintaining physical locations. This gives non-store retailers a huge advantage when it comes to other aspects like shipping and pricing. Indeed, this is part of the reason Amazon.com has been so successful in recent years. The undisputed king of online shopping continues to put pressure on seemingly all areas of retail. Based on our Timeliness Ranking System, the Retail Hardlines Industry has been in decline in recent months, falling 21 spots since our October report. The group now ranks well outside the upper half of sectors under Value Line's coverage (74th out of 97). While certain areas of retail have started to show signs of life, others continue to be dragged down by stiff online competition and significant challenges in the brick-and-mortar model. At this juncture, the majority of equities in the Retail Hardlines Industry are either ranked 3 (Average) or 4 (Below Average) for year-ahead relative price performance. As always, we recommend investors review each stock individually to find which best fits their respective strategies.

- Compare Companies
- List of Companies


| Name | Safety $^{\text {TM }}$ | Timeliness $^{\text {TM }}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Insight Enterp... | 3 | 1 |
| Best Buy Compa... | 3 | 2 |
| Ulta Beauty | 3 | 2 |
| Avis Budget Gr... | 4 | 2 |
| MarineMax Inc | 4 | 2 |
| Tiffany and Co | 2 | 3 |
| Williams Sonoma | 2 | 3 |
| Sothebys | 3 | 3 |
| Liberty Intera... | 3 | 3 |
| Tapestry Inc. | 3 | 3 |
| Michaels Cos. ... | 3 | 3 |
| Haverty Furnit... | 3 | 3 |
| Movado Group | 3 | 3 |
| PC Connection ... | 3 | 3 |
| Weight Watchers | 4 | 3 |
| Conns Inc | 4 | 3 |
| Party City Hol... | 4 | 3 |
| Nautilus Inc | 4 | 3 |
| Barnes and Nob... | 4 | 3 |
| Murphy USA Inc | 3 | 4 |
| GameStop Corp ... | 3 | 4 |
| Signet Jeweler... | 3 | 4 |
| Dicks Sporting... | 3 | 4 |
| Bed Bath and B... | 3 | 4 |
| Big 5 Sporting... | 4 | 4 |
| Hibbett Sports... | 3 | 5 |
| Fossil Group I... | 4 | 5 |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { © } \\ & \underset{\text { n }}{n} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Insight Enterp... | 3 | 1 | Technology | Information Technology Services | Technology | Electronics (Wholesale) |
| Best Buy Compa... | 3 | 2 | Consumer Cyclical | Specialty Retail | Discretionary | Retail Special |
| Ulta Beauty | 3 | 2 | Consumer Cyclical | Specialty Retail | Discretionary | Retail Special |
| Avis Budget Gr... | 4 | 2 | Industrials | Rental \& Leasing Services | Industrial | Diversified |
| MarineMax Inc | 4 | 2 | Consumer Cyclical | Specialty Retail | Discretionary | Retail Special (Sporting Goods) |


| High: Low: | $\begin{aligned} & 22.9 \\ & 16.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 28.4 \\ 17.3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LEGENDS <br> L- $8.0 \times$ "Cash Flow" p sh .... Relative Price Strength Options: Yes Shaded area indicates recession |  |  |  |


|  | 117 | 116 | 95 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| to Buy | 191 | 95 | 109 |
| to Sell | 91 |  |  |
| Hld's(000) | 39661 | 39400 | 40260 | |  | 91 | 95 | 109 | Shares | 30 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| traded | 15 |  |  |  |  |
| Hld's(000) | 39661 | 39400 | 40260 |  |  | Insight Enterprises, Inc. was incorporated on June 30,1994 in Delaware. The compa-

ny's initial public offering of 3.38 million shares, at $\$ 4.00$ per share (adjusted for subsequent stock splits), occurred on January 24, 1995. The net proceeds totaled approximately $\$ 13.5$ million. The lead underwriters were Pennsylvania Merchant Group Ltd., and Principal Financial Securities, Inc.

## CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of $9 / 30 / 17$

Total Debt $\$ 549.7$ mill. Due in 5 Yrs $\$ 40.0$ mill. LT Debt $\$ 534.4$ mill. LT Interest $\$ 22.0 \mathrm{mi}$ (39\% of Cap'l)

Leases, Uncapitalized: Annual rentals $\$ 14.6$ mill.
No Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Pfd Stock None
Common Stock 35,792,243 shs.
as of $11 / 3 / 17$
MARKET CAP: $\$ 1.4$ billion (Mid Cap)

| CURRENT POSITION | 2015 | 2016 | $9 / 30 / 17$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | Cash Asset Cash Assets

Receivables Receivables
Inventory (Avg Cst) Other Current Assets Accts Payabl Debt Due Current Liab.


|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | yr. $120.4 \quad 92.5$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | © VALUE LINE PUB. LLC | 20-22 |
| 99.06 | 105.83 | 90.02 | 103.83 | 120.39 | 118.88 | 122.42 | 132.42 | 144.80 | 154.59 | 194.10 | 214.05 | Sales per sh | 258.35 |
| 2.20 | 1.96 | 1.57 | 2.45 | 3.17 | 3.00 | 2.68 | 2.90 | 3.07 | 3.46 | 4.40 | 5.30 | "Cash Flow" per sh | 7.35 |
| 1.44 | 1.16 | . 67 | 1.61 | 2.18 | 2.07 | 1.64 | 1.83 | 1.98 | 2.32 | 2.90 | 3.40 | Earnings per sh ${ }^{\text {A }}$ | 4.70 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Nil | Div'ds Decl'd per sh | Nil |
| . 74 | . 58 | 32 | . 39 | . 62 | . 69 | . 45 | . 25 | . 36 | . 35 | . 60 | . 70 | Cap'I Spending per s | 1.15 |
| 16.00 | 9.25 | 10.17 | 11.76 | 13.59 | 15.82 | 17.06 | 17.96 | 18.48 | 20.11 | 25.00 | 28.15 | Book Value per sh ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | 38.35 |
| 48.46 | 45.60 | 45.96 | 46.33 | 43.92 | 44.59 | 42.02 | 40.15 | 37.11 | 35.48 | 34.00 | 32.00 | Common Shs Outst'g ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 30.00 |
| 14.8 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 8.8 | 7.5 | 8.7 | 12.3 | 13.9 | 13.7 | 12.4 | 14.2 |  | Avg Ann'I P/E Ratio | 14.0 |
| . 79 | . 67 | . 83 | . 56 | . 47 | . 55 | . 69 | . 73 | . 69 | . 65 | . 69 |  | Relative P/E Ratio | 90 |
|  |  |  |  | .- | .- |  |  |  |  |  |  | Avg Ann'I Div'd Yield | Nil |
| 4800.4 | 4825.5 | 4136.9 | 4809.9 | 5287.2 | 5301.4 | 5144.3 | 5316.2 | 5373.1 | 5485.5 | 6600 | 850 | Sales (\$mill) | 7750 |
| 3.4\% | 3.0\% | 2.3\% | 3.4\% | 3.5\% | 3.6\% | 3.2\% | 3.2\% | 3.1\% | 3.4\% | 3.5\% | 4.0\% | Operating Margin | 4.0\% |
| 34.5 | 41.2 | 41.2 | 38.0 | 39.1 | 41.2 | 41.5 | 40.6 | 38.0 | 38.1 | 40.0 | 50.0 | Depreciation (\$mill) | 80.0 |
| 72.0 | 48.2 | 30.8 | 75.5 | 100.2 | 92.8 | 71.0 | 75.7 | 75.9 | 84.7 | 110 | 120 | Net Profit (\$mill) | 140 |
| 38.5\% | 39.6\% | 26.3\% | 34.5\% | 29.3\% | 35.9\% | 38.0\% | 39.1\% | 36.4\% | 39.3\% | 37.0\% | 32.0\% | Income Tax Rate | 32.0\% |
| 1.5\% | 1.0\% | .7\% | 1.6\% | 1.9\% | 1.7\% | 1.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.4\% | 1.5\% | 1.7\% | 1.8\% | Net Profit Margin | 1.8\% |
| 453.2 | 317.5 | 297.5 | 352.2 | 426.5 | 519.5 | 542.9 | 579.0 | 543.6 | 544.9 | 800 | 950 | Working Cap'I (\$mill) | 1000 |
| 187.3 | 228.0 | 149.3 | 91.6 | 115.6 | 80.0 | 66.9 | 62.5 | 89.0 | 40.3 | 550 | 450 | Long-Term Debt (\$mill) | 400 |
| 775.2 | 422.0 | 467.6 | 545.0 | 596.8 | 705.3 | 716.9 | 721.2 | 685.7 | 713.4 | 850 | 900 | Shr. Equity (\$mill) | 1150 |
| 8.2\% | 8.4\% | 5.9\% | 12.5\% | 14.6\% | 12.2\% | 9.5\% | 10.0\% | 10.3\% | 11.8\% | 10.0\% | 10.0\% | Return on Total Cap'l | 10.0\% |
| 9.3\% | 11.4\% | 6.6\% | 13.9\% | 16.8\% | 13.2\% | 9.9\% | 10.5\% | 11.1\% | 11.9\% | 13.0\% | 13.5\% | Return on Shr. Equity | 12.0\% |
| 9.3\% | 11.4\% | 6.6\% | 13.9\% | 16.8\% | 13.2\% | 9.9\% | 10.5\% | 11.1\% | 11.9\% | 13.0\% | 13.5\% | Retained to Com Eq | 12.0\% |
|  |  | .- | .- | .- | - |  | - | -- | -- | -- | Nil | All Div'ds to Net Prof | Nil |

BUSINESS: Insight Enterprises, Inc. sells computer hardware, software, and related products to small businesses, educational institutions, government organizations, and home users. Sales are generated via catalog, telemarketing, and the Internet. Acquired Treasure Chest Computers (9/98), German marketer (12/98), Action UK (10/01), Comark (4/02), Software Spectrum (9/06). International op-
Insight Enterprises has likely been benefiting from recent acquisitions. Specifically, the purchase of Datalink, completed about a year ago, seems to have worked out reasonably well. For the full year 2017, which just ended, we think Insight's top line reached $\$ 6.6$ billion, representing a roughly $20 \%$ increase. Meanwhile, profits will likely settle at $\$ 2.90$ per share, representing respectable progress. Looking ahead to 2018, Insight Enterprises' results ought to benefit from ongoing demand for hardware and software, as customers embrace cloud computing platforms.
Business in North America should remain healthy. Here, Insight has been adding new customers at a solid clip, and may realize further synergies from the Datalink purchase. Of note, business with some big enterprise customers in North America may slightly pressure operating margins, but this should be largely offset by top-line additions.

## Insight's international operations

 may be somewhat choppier. In the greater Europe segment, business, which has been a bit slow lately, should benefiterations accounted for $27 \%$ of 2016 sales. Has about 5,930 employees. Off./dir. own 1.4\% of stock; BlackRock, Inc., 12.3\%; Dimensional Fund Advisors, 8.8\%; FMR, LLC. 8.4\% (4/17 proxy). President \& CEO: Kenneth T. Lamneck. Chairman: Timothy A. Crown. Inc.: DE. Address: 6820 South Harl Avenue, Tempe, Ari-
zona 85283. Telephone: 480-902-1001. Internet: www.insight.com.
from recent transactions. Specifically, in the third quarter, Insight sold its struggling Russia business, after a complete strategic review. Too, Insight has expanded its cloud and services capabilities by acquiring Caase, a consulting and services company in the Netherlands. While Caase is a small company, the purchase should give Insight access to new markets. Elsewhere, sales in the Asia/Pacific should make progress, thanks to the acquisition of Ignia, based in Australia.
The company is in sound financial shape. At the end of September, Insight had cash of $\$ 366$ million on its balance sheet. Long-term debt edged up to \$534 million, reflecting the capital needed for business purchases. Of note, Insight did not spend much on share repurchases in 2017, but this may change in 2018.
These timely shares have pulled back in price since our October report. Given the gains logged over the past couple of years, this may be understandable. Meanwhile, our projections suggest that this stock offers good appreciation potential for the next 3 to 5 years. Adam Rosner


| Cash Assets | 3281 | 3921 | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receivables | 1162 | 1347 | 971 |
| Inventory | 5051 | 4864 | 6663 |
| Other | 392 | 384 | 431 |
| Current Assets | 9886 | 10516 | 11405 |
| Accts Payable | 4450 | 4984 | 6587 |
| Debt Due | 395 | 44 | 545 |
| Other | 2080 | 2094 | 2020 |
| Current Liab. | 6925 | 7122 | 9152 |


| ANNUAL RATES <br> of change (per sh) Sales <br> "Cash Flow" <br> Earnings <br> Dividends <br> Book Value |  | Past P <br> 10 Yrs. 5 <br> $6.5 \%$  <br> $4.5 \%$  <br> $2.5 \%$ - <br> $11.5 \%$  <br> $2.5 \%$  |  | Past Est'd '14-'16 <br> Yrs. to '20.'22 <br> $-1.5 \%$ $7.0 \%$ <br> $3.5 \%$ $9.5 \%$ <br> $-2.5 \%$ $10.0 \%$ <br> $9.5 \%$ $10.0 \%$ <br> - $4.5 \%$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Fiscal } \\ \text { Year } \\ \text { Begins } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) A Apr.Per Jul.Per Oct.Per Jan.Per |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Full } \\ & \text { Fiscal } \\ & \text { Year } \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 2014 \\ 2015 \\ 2016 \\ 2017 \\ 2018 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 8639 | 8459 | 9032 | 14209 | 40339 |
|  | 8558 | 8528 | 8819 | 13623 | 39528 |
|  | 8443 | 8533 | 8945 | 13482 | 39403 |
|  | 8528 | 8940 | 9320 | 14412 | 41200 |
|  | 8650 | 8950 | 9375 | 13825 | 40800 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Fiscal } \\ \text { Year } \\ \text { Begins } \end{gathered}$ | EARNINGS PER SHARE ABApril PerJuly Per Oct.Per Jan.Per |  |  |  | Full |
|  |  |  |  |  | Year |
| 2014 | . 35 | . 42 | . 34 | 1.49 | 2.60 |
| 2015 | . 37 | . 49 | . 41 | 1.53 | 2.78 |
| 2016 | . 44 | . 57 | . 62 | 1.95 | 3.56 |
| 2017 | . 60 | . 69 | . 78 | 1.98 | 4.05 |
| 2018 | . 71 | . 78 | . 88 | 2.13 | 4.50 |
| Calendar | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID D |  |  |  | 1 |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2014 | . 17 | . 17 | . 19 | . 19 | 72 |
| 2015 | . 23 | . 23 | . 23 | . 23 | 92 |
| 2016 | . 28 | . 28 | . 28 | . 28 | 1.12 |
| 2017 | . 34 | . 34 | . 34 | . 34 | 1.36 |
| 2018 |  |  |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: Best Buy Company, Inc. sells consumer electronics, personal computers, software, and appliances. Operates 1,026 Best Buy stores in all 50 States, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico; 309 Best Buy Mobile; 28 Pacific Sales; 134 Best Buy Canada; 53 Best Buy Mobile Canada; five Best Buy Express, and 20 Best Buy stores in Mexico. 2016 sales: consumer electronics, 34\%; comput-

## Best Buy's third-quarter results met

 expectations. Earnings per share of $\$ 0.78$ matched Wall Street's consensus forecast and grew $26 \%$ year over year. Revenue in the October period increased $4.2 \%$, and would have been an additional 110 basis points higher were it not for markedly lower mobile revenue. This was caused by shoppers delaying phone purchases in anticipation of the earlyNovember release of Apple's iPhone X. Too, natural disasters caused a $15-20$ basis point headwind. Online sales grew 22\% to $\$ 1.1$ billion, or $13 \%$ of domestic revenue.
## Investors are assuming Best Buy had

 a banner holiday season. The company laid out its strategy for the 2017 holidays during its most recent earnings call. The plan focused on new ways to engage customers in store and online. Specifics included beefed up smart-home departments, enhanced product demonstrations, more floor space dedicated to Amazon (Alexa virtual assistant) and Google hardware, adjustments to the promotional calendar, free shipping on all online orders, and same-day shipping in 40 markets. Interestingly, the shares didn't moveing and mobile, 45\%; entertainment software, 7\%; appliances, 9\%; services, $5 \%$, other, Sony, HP, Samsung, LG, and Apple supply about $53 \%$ of goods sold. Offs. own less than $1 \%$ of stock; Richard M. Schulze, 13.5\%; FMR LLC, 10.9\%; Vanguard, 10.2\% (5/17 proxy). CEO: Hubert Joly. Inc.: MN. Addr.: 7601 Penn Ave. S, Richfield, MN 55423. Tel.: 612-291-1000. Web: www.bestbuy.com.
much immediately following the conference call, but have risen $33 \%$ in the weeks since then. Investors likely became more optimistic as key holiday sales indicators came in largely positive. The National Retail Federation's recent report that electronics sales grew 6.7\% in November reinforces earlier optimism about peak season sales. Investors will have to wait until fiscal fourth-quarter earnings come in early March to learn BBY's results. Although we are optimistic that they will be solid, recent price gains are at risk of being erased if the report ends up disappointing.
The long-term growth outlook for these neutrally ranked shares is decent. Best Buy expects the top line to grow at a rate of $2 \%$ over the next three years, while earnings are forecast to advance between 8\% and 9\% annually, partially due to share repurchases. The earnings forecast would be higher if not for investment in things like an in-home advisory service and tech support for any electronic device regardless of where it was purchased.
The shares are appropriately valued.
Kevin Downing
anuary 26, 2018

[^0]

| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '14-'16 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to '20-'22 |
| Sales | -- | $21.0 \%$ | $18.0 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | -- | $27.5 \%$ | $18.0 \%$ |
| Earnings | -- | $33.0 \%$ | $20.0 \%$ |
| Dividends | -- | $-\%$ | Nil |
| Book Value | -- | $26.0 \%$ | $21.0 \%$ |


|  | QUARTERLY SALES ( $\$$ mill.) ${ }^{A}$ Apr.Per Jul.Per Oct.Per Jan.Per |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2014 | 713.9 | 734 | 745 | 1047.6 | 324 |
|  |  | 877. | 910.7 |  |  |
|  | , 3.7 | 1069. | 1131.2 |  |  |
|  | 14. | 1289 | 1342 |  |  |
| 2018 | 152 | 1525 | 1550 |  |  |
|  | EARNINGS PER SHARE AB Apr.Per Jul.Per Oct.Per Jan.Per |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 94 | 91 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1.4 | 1.40 |  |  |
|  |  | 1.83 | 1.70 |  |  |
|  | 2.50 | 235 | 24 |  |  |
|  | Mar. 31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

NO CASH DIVIDENDS
BEING PAID BEING PAID

Shares of Ulta have recently retraced some of their earlier losses, but are still a ways off from the $\$ 315$ range they traded at before last summer. Investors seemed to be pleased with the company's third-quarter results, (fiscal 2017 ends J anuary 27, 2018), as the beauty supplier announced an $18.6 \%$ ( $19.0 \%$ sans lost business due to hurricanes Irma and Harvey) top-line advance and a better-thanexpected $21 \%$ share-earnings gain. We think that support for the stock would've been even better if not for the ongoing slowdown in same-store sales growth. Indeed, the metric increased 10.3\%, compared to the $16.7 \%$ advance registered in the like-2016 quarter and the $11.7 \%$ gain inked in the J uly quarter.
Guidance appeared to appease Wall Street as well as us. Management said that it expected to report fourth-quarter earnings-per-share growth in the high$20 \%$ range, thanks to $10 \%-11 \%$ comparable-store sales growth, contributions from new stores, and a $50 \%-60 \%$ increase in ecommerce business. We have tweaked our estimates for the J anuary pe riod, calling for a $26 \%$ share-net advance
with a $24 \%$ sales increase more than offsetting the uptick in expenses associated with the company's store rollout plan and other growth initiatives.
Earnings growth should remain in the 25\%-30\% range for fiscal 2018. Although sales growth is likely to slow to mid-double-digit territory amid a still less-than-ideal retail environment, the benefits from the recent tax reform are expected to pick up the slack.
These shares still have room to run, long term. We think that the earlier pullback in price was largely due to concerns about the increasing competitive pressures, specifically from Amazon.com, that brick-and-mortar stores are facing. However, ULTA, via the rollout of its salon business and increased e-commerce presence, has done a decent job insulating itself. And, it has the financial wherewithal to remain aggressive on the expansion front. That said, the stock has slipped a notch in our Timeliness Ranking System, and is now an average selection for relative price performance over the coming six to 12 months.
AndreJ. Costanza
J anuary 26, 2018

[^1]

| CURRENT POSITION (\$MILL.) | 2015 | 2016 | 9/30/17 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash Assets | 452 | 490 | 4 |
| Receivables | 668 507 | 808 | 855 |
| Current Assets | 1627 | 1817 | 2419 |
| Accts Payable | 1485 | 1488 | 1866 |
| Debt Due | 26 | 279 | 26 |
| Other |  |  |  |
| Current Liab. | 1511 | 1767 | 1892 |




#### Abstract

BUSINESS: Avis Budget Group, Inc. is a global provider of vehicle rental and car sharing services, operating primarily through its Avis, Budget, and Zipcar brands. Car rental business serves 180 countries throughout the world. Key markets include North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Also operates truck rental business in the United States. Acquired Avis Europe 10/11. Has


It has been an up-and-down couple of months for Avis Budget Group's stock. CAR shares fell sharply after the company reported third-quarter results, as hurricane-related concerns and reduced guidance largely overshadowed a solid bottom-line beat (posted adjusted share earnings of $\$ 3.10$ versus the consensus \$2.97). Encouragingly, the fallout proved to be short-lived and the stock rebounded strongly from mid-November through the balance of the year, fueled by a strengthening U.S. economy and optimism surrounding new tax legislation (more below). However, on J anuary 16th, the company released preliminary Q4 results that didn't quite match up to consensus targets, which led to another sharp sell off.
Tax reform should provide a boost in 2018. The recently passed, Republicaninspired tax legislation should yield significant benefits to Avis' operations beginning in 2018. With the company's 2017 ef fective tax rate projected to come in at $35 \%$ (results due out next month), shaving 10 to 15 percentage points off this figure will surely offer some increased financial flexibility in the year ahead. The question

30,000 employees. Off/dirs own $2.8 \%$ of common stock; SRS Investment Mgmt., 9.9\%; Glenview, 9.7\%; Morgan Stanley, 8.8\%; BlackRock, 8.5\%; Vanguard Group, 7.3\%; UBS Group, 6.7\%; Diamond Hill, $6.0 \%$ (3/17 proxy). Chrmn.: Ronald L. Nelson. CEO: Larry D. De Shon Addr.: 6 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054. Tel.: 973-496-4700. Internet: www.avisbudgetgroup.com.
is how management will use this cash and how much will trickle down to the bottom line. We have tentatively lowered our forward-looking tax assumptions to 25\%, but expect to gain further visibility on the upcoming fourth-quarter conference call.
Improved pricing in the Americas and cost reduction globally should offer further bottom-line support. Weaker pricing in the Americas segment had been a significant drag on earnings in the first half of 2017. However, third-quarter results highlighted some decent improvement on this front and management expressed optimism when discussing the 2018 outlook, though lingering weakness on the international stage has tempered overall pricing expectations somewhat. A continued focus on cost-reduction initiatives will also be key for earnings growth.
The stock is ranked 3 (Average) for Timeliness. Based on our system, shares of CAR are currently pegged to mirror the broader market over the next six to 12 months. For longer-term investors, our projections reflect above-average capital gains potential out to 2020-2022. Michad Ratty

J anuary 26, 2018
(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes losses from dis- '14, (\$0.74); '15, (\$0.19); '16, (\$1.18). Next (C) In millions, adjusted for stock split. continued operations and nonrecurring earnings report due mid-February charges: '07, (\$10.32); '09, (\$0.42); '10, (B) Includes intangibles: In '16, $\$ 1.88$ bill., (\$0.35); '11 (\$1.89); '12, (\$0.01); '13, (\$2.05); $\$ 21.83 /$ sh.
(D) Quarterlies may not sum due to rounding.

Company's Financial Strength
Stock's Price Stability
Price Growth Persistence
Earnings Predictability


| (\$MILL.) |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Cash Assets | 32.6 | 38.6 | 58.9 |
| Receivables | 18.5 | 24.6 | 41.7 |
| Inventory (LIFO) | 273.9 | 32.0 | 385.3 |
| Other | 20.1 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| Current Assets | 345.1 | 391.1 | 491.8 |
| Accts Payable | 13.5 | 9.6 | 25.6 |
| Debt Due | 137.2 | 166.6 | 241.6 |
| Other | $\frac{32.7}{}$ | 55.7 | 56.1 |
| Current Liab. | 183.4 | 231.9 | 323.3 |


| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Past } \\ 10 \text { Yrs. } \end{gathered}$ | Past Est'd '15-'17 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | -4.5\% |  | 13.0\% | 9.0\% |
| "Cash Flow" |  | -4.5\% | 19.0\% |  |  |
| Earnings |  | -5.5\% |  |  |  |
| Dividen |  |  |  |  | Nil |
| Book Value |  | -3.5\% |  | 7.5\% | 0.0\% |
| Fiscal Year Ends | QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) ${ }^{\text {A }}$ |  |  |  | Full Fiscal Year |
|  | Dec. 31 Mar. 31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 |  |  |  |  |
| 2014 | 109.6 | 136.6 | 214.4 | 4164.1 | 624.7 |
| 2015 | 158.1 | 172.1 | 231.8 | 8189.4 | 751.4 |
| 2016 | 169.5 | 199.7 | 345.6 | . 227.3 | 942.1 |
| 2017 | 226.9 | 245.0 | 329.8 | . 250.6 | 1052.3 |
| 2018 | 245 | 265 | 367 | 273 | 1150 |
| Fiscal Year Ends | EARNINGS PER SHARE AB |  |  |  | FullFiscalYear |
|  | Dec. 31 | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | . 30 Sep. 30 |  |
| 2014 | d. 14 | d. 08 |  | 47 . $21{ }^{\text {D }}$ | 46 |
| 2015 | . 01 | . 02 | . 52 | 52.22 | . 77 |
| 2016 | . 03 | . 10 | . 56 | 56 . 18 | . 87 |
| 2017 | . 11 | . 11 | . 57 | 57.22 | 1.00 |
| 2018 | d. 01 | . 22 | . 80 | 80.49 | 1.50 |
| Calendar | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID |  |  |  | Full Year |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | . 30 Dec. 31 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 2014 \\ & 2015 \\ & 2016 \\ & 2017 \\ & 2018 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | NO CASH DIVIDENDS being PAld |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: MarineMax, Inc. sells new \& used recreational boats, as well as related marine products, through a network of 62 retail locations in 17 states. Also provides or arranges boat financing/insurance, yacht brokerage, repair/maintenance services, and slip and storage accomodations. Sales of new boats manufactured by the Brunswick Corp. (including the Sea Ray and Boston Whaler
We have raised our fiscal 2018 sharenet estimate for MarineMax by \$0.35. (Year ends September 30th.) At \$1.50, our new call represents an increase of 50\% over the $\$ 1.00$ that the Florida-based boat dealer earned last year. Key assumptions include revenue of $\$ 1.15$ bilion (up 9.3\%, year over year) and a 70-basis-point improvement in the net margin.
Tax reform should give the company a nice boost. Indeed, most of our currentyear earnings revision reflects the reduction in the U.S. corporate tax rate that was signed into law in late December. It's also worth noting that the primary driver of MarineMax's sales, demographically speaking, are small-business owners, who should most benefit from a lower assessment on the earnings of enterprises.
MarineMax could also enjoy some storm-related replacement demand. It has been estimated that hurricanes Harvey and Irma damaged or destroyed more than 63,000 boats and that the cost to fix or replace them could approach $\$ 660$ million. With that in mind, the company is on record saying that in the past it has experienced replacement demand six to 12
brands) represented $42 \%$ of MarineMax's '17 revenues. Average selling price of new boats: approx. $\$ 195,000$ in '17 (up 1.5\% yoy). Has 1,516 employees. Chrmn., CEO \& Pres.: William McGill, Jr. Offs./dirs. own $4.4 \%$ of common stock (1/18 proxy). Inc.: Delaware Address: 2600 McCormick Dr, Suite 200, Clearwater, Florida 33759. Telephone: 727-531-1700. Internet: www.marinemax.com.
months after a major storm event (as insurers finally pay out claims and boaters re-enter the market). That would put the start of the Harvey/lrma replacement cycle in mid-March or so.
Over the long run, MarineMax should continue its role as consolidator of what is still a fragmented industry. The company has been pretty active on the deal front over the past year, bringing both Massachusetts-based Russo Marine and South Carolina's Hall Marine Group on board. What's more, management recently conceded that it was in discussions with several other potential takeover targets. Importantly, additional acquisitions should enable MarineMax to better leverage centralized costs and give it access to a broader inventory network, thus reducing the risk of lost sales.
Shares of MarineMax are ranked 3 (Average) for relative year-ahead price performance. At the stock's recent quotation, we think buy-and-hold investors will do well here, though the issue's high Beta score suggests that the ride is likely to be rough.
Nils C. Van Liew
J anuary 26, 2018

Insight Enterprises (NSIT) a


Equity Anolysis Guide

| Compary | Tloker | Beotor \| Industry | Qusllty | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Inaight Entorpriaes | NSIT | Tachnology \| Eloctronics (Wholesalo) | 52 | 12.1\% |
| Ourrent Price (0402) |  |  |  | \$34.55 |
| CAPS Rasing (Rate this stock on CAPS) |  |  |  |  |

## Expeoted Inoome statement

| Ourrant Sales | 6.865.6 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Salos Growth Formesst | 4.208 |
| Not Proft Morgin | 1.8\% |
| Projocted Snares Outatanding | 29.79 |
| EPS - Fira your Forncast | 55.10 |
| Avorago PIE Ratio | 12.0 |
| Projactod Avaraga Price | 551.23 |
| Prico Apprediation (Annualzoc) | 12.15 |
| Amusl Derdeone Yeld | 0.0\%s |
| Projoctod Anrual Raturn | 12.1\% |

## Qusility

| Financial Strongth | 31 | 7.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EPS Stablly | 91 | 22.7 |
| Indutry Salos Orowth Rate | 5.0\% | 10.6 |
| Incustry Not Proft Margin | 3000 | 75 |
| Calounted Ounlty Rakng |  | 48.6 |

## Fool CAPA

Total Players
102 Oufporforms 20 Unciurperforms.

All-Starn (29)
29 Cutperforms (1007) OUnturperforms


Funcomental Data Updatod: 01/26/2018



| Symbd or name - | Go |
| :--- | :--- |

Topln Electrorics (Wholesale)

| Tioker | Quallty | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AVT | 79 | 8.085 |
| ARW | 31 | 5.85 |
| NSIT | 52 | 12.15 |
| AXE | 48 | $7.65 \%$ |


| Top in Technalogy |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: |
| Tloker | Quallty |  |
| PAR |  |  |
| MMT | 88 |  |
| MCHP | 87 |  |
| MDS | 88 |  |
| LRCX | 38 |  |
| IPGP | $18.2 \%$ |  |

Best Buy (BBY) a
a
Equity Malysia Gulda

| Company | Tloker | 80stor \| Inductry | Guslly | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beas Buy | BBY | Discrotonary \| Rotall Spocial | 41 | 3.15 |
| Ourrent Price (0402) |  |  |  | \$68.92 |
| CAPS Ratng (Rate ths stock on CAPS) |  |  |  | **** |
| Expeoted inoome statoment |  |  |  |  |
| Ourrent Sales |  |  |  | 41,484.6 |
| Sales Growth Forncsat |  |  |  | 2\%\% |
| Not Protit Margin |  |  |  | 2.\% |
| Projectod Shares Oustanding |  |  |  | 224.30 |
| EPS - Fleo yoar Forncast |  |  |  | \$5.56 |
| Avorage PIE Raso |  |  |  | 13.0 |
| Projocted Avarage Price |  |  |  | \$72.24 |
| Prico Approciation (Annuatzod) |  |  |  | 0.95 |
| Annual Dividand Yiold |  |  |  | 22\% |
| Projoctod Annual Raturn |  |  |  | 3.18 |

## Quallty

| Finanolal Strongth | 52 | 12.9 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| EPS Stabily | 79 | 19.6 |
| Incuasry Salca Growen Rate | 6.05 | 4.5 |
| Incustry Not Prote Margin | $6.5 \%$ | 5.2 |
| Caloulatod Quality Rating |  | 42.2 |

## Fool CAP 8

## Total Players

2570 Otpurforms B06 Unberperforers:

## All-Stars (887)

734 Ouparforms (837)
(13\%)
153 UnSerperforms

Funsomental Data Updatod: 01/26/2018


| Nuse | $83 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Swest Spst | $13.35-183 \%$ |

Bymbd or nama - Go

| Top In Retail Special |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Tloker | Quallty |
| PLTA | 88 |
| PTRI | 83 |
| FIVE | 85 |
| TJX | 87 |
| LULU | 88 |


| Top ln Discretionary |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Thoker | Quallty |  |
| PBUX | 88 |  |
| ULTA | 88 |  |
| LCII | 81 |  |
| WPP | 38 |  |
| BKOVG | 88 |  |

Ulta Beauty (ULTA) a
Equily Malysis Guido

| Company | Tloker | Seotor \| Industry | Quallty | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Uta Bosuty | ULTA | Diacrofionary \| Rotall Spocial | 88 | 21.1\% |
| Ourrant Price (04102) |  |  |  | \$203.13 |
| CApS Raving (Rate the stock on CAPS) |  |  |  |  |

## Expected inoome statement

| Ourrent Sales | $6,065.5$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Salos Growth Formesst | 47808 |
| Not Proft Mergin | 9.8\% |
| Projocted Shares Outstanding | 58.46 |
| EPS - Flva your Formezet | 523.04 |
| Avorago PIE Ratio | 23.0 |
| Projactec Avarage Prico | \$529.84 |
| Price Approciation (Annualzed) | 21.15 |
| Amunal Chidane Yield | 0.005 |
| Projocted Annual Return | 21.1\% |

## Quallty

| Financial Strongth | 89 | 22.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EPS Stablly | m | 20.0 |
| Incustry Salea Growh Rato | 6.0\% | 25.0 |
| Incustry Not Proft Margin | 6ses | 18.8 |
| Calcintod Ounlty Raking |  | 36.1 |

## Fool CAPs

| Total Players |
| :--- |
| 509 Oukporforms |
| All-Stars $(145)$ |
| 142 Ouspirforms $(98 \%)$ |

Funciamontal Data Updatod: 02/23/2018


| Wise | 535 |
| ---: | ---: |
| Swest Ypot | $13.3 \%-18.35$ |



| Top in Retail Special |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: |
| Tioker | Quallty |  |
| PAR |  |  |
| ULTA | 88 |  |
| NTRI | 83 |  |
| FIVE | 85 |  |
| TJX | 89 |  |
| LULU | 88 |  |


| Top ln Discretionary |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Tloker | Quallty |
| PAR |  |
| SEUX | 88 |
| ULTA | 88 |
| LCII | 81 |
| WPP | 38 |
| BKNG | 88 |

## Avis Budget Group (CAR) a

A Ads hant -

| Company | Tloker | 3eotor\| Inductry | Qually | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| fois Budgot Group | CAR | Industriala \| Divorsifiod | 31 | 6.8\% |
| Ourrant Price [0402) |  |  |  | 546.29 |
| CApS Roving (Rate this stock on CAPS) |  |  |  | a $\begin{gathered}\text { a } \\ \text { a }\end{gathered}$ |

## Expeoted inoome statement

| Ourrant Sales | 8,895.5 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Salos Growth Foracsest | 52\% |
| Nat Proft Marg'n | 3.6\% |
| Projectod Shares Outstanding | 70.45 |
| EPS - Fire your Forecest | 55.85 |
| Avorago PIE Rato | 11.0 |
| Projectod Noraga Prica | \$64.35 |
| Price Approciation (Annualzoc) | 6.8\% |
| Amual Dividand Yeld | 0 ON |
| Projectod Anmual Return | 6.85 |

## Quallty

| Financlal Strongth | 16 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| EpS Stabily | 3.9 |  |
| Incuatry Salos Growth Rato | 63 |  |
| Incuatry Not Protz Margin | 5.8 |  |
| Caloulatad Oually Rating | 11.8 |  |

FOOI CAP8

## Total Players

274 Ouspurforms
148 Undurperforms

All-Stars (105)
68 Oulperforms ( $65 \%$ )
37 Uncierperforms

Fundamental Data Updatod: 01/26/2018



| My Dashboards: Hardlines |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | dit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 04/21/2018 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Company | Symbol | Shares | Price | Value | \% of Total | Growth ${ }^{-}$ | Proj P/E | Proj Yield | Fin Str | EPS Stab | Qity | PAR |
| Ulita Beauty | ULTA | 4.92 | \$235.05 | \$1,157.14 | 22.3\% | 17.8\% | 23.0 | 0.0\% | 89\% | 80 | 99 | 17.9\% |
| MarineMax | HZO | 52.77 | \$17.75 | \$936.68 | 18.1\% | 12.1\% | 15.0 | 0.0\% | 24\% | 31 | 41 | 19.1\% |
| Avis Budget Group | CAR | 21.60 | \$47.12 | \$1,017.93 | 19.6\% | 5.2\% | 13.0 | 0.0\% | 16\% | 64 | 32 | 10.1\% |
| Insight Enterprises | NSIT | 28.94 | \$35.37 | \$1,023.73 | 19.7\% | 4.2\% | 12.0 | 0.0\% | 31\% | 91 | 53 | 11.8\% |
| Best Buy | BBY | 14.51 | \$72.30 | \$1,048.04 | 20.2\% | 2.2\% | 14.0 | 2.2\% | 52\% | 79 | 42 | 3.7\% |
| Averages |  |  |  | \$5,184.52 |  | 8.4\% | 15.6 | 0.4\% | 44\% | 70 | 54.6 | 12.5\% |

Sector Diversification



[^0]:    A) Fiscal year ends on the Saturday nearest January 31st. (B) Diluted egs. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Excludes nonrecurring loss: '08, \$0.48; '10, \$0.35; '11, \$0.28; '12,

[^1]:    (A) Fiscal year ends last Saturday in January $\quad$ report due early March. Quarterly egs. may not (D) Paid $\$ 93.0$ million special div. in 2007. of the following calendar year. Quarterly egs. may not add due to rounding.

