

and in Canada. Acquired 75% interest in Aikenhead's (renamed Home Depot Canada) in 2/94. Avg. store size: 108,000 sq. ft. indoor plus 22,000 sq. ft. garden center; items stocked: 45,000. Product lines incl. building mat'ls, lumber, floor/wall coverings; plumbing,

employees. Off. & dir. own 1.5% of comm.; FMR Corp., 5.5%; Barclay Global Investors, 5.3% (4/06 Proxy). Chrmn., Pres. & CEO: Frank Blake. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 2455 Paces Ferry Road N.W., Atlanta, GA 30339. Tel.: 770-433-8211. Int.: www.homedepot.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '04-'06 to '10-'12 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 18.5% 23.5% 15.0% 20.0% 8.0% 8.0% Sales "Cash Flow" 19.5% 23.0% 16.0% 23.0% 25.5% Earnings Dividends 8.0% 18.0% Book Value 20.0% 11.0%

5766

4752

10529

Accts_Payable

Debt Due Other

Current Liab.

6032 1413 5456

12901

7356

5557

12931

Fiscal Year Begins			ALES (\$ m Oct.Per	ill.) ^A Jan.Per	Full Fiscal Year
2004 2005 2006 2007 2008	17550 18973 21461 21785 23025	19960 22305 26026 26415 26185	18772 20744 23085 23430 24635	16812 19489 20265 20570 22055	73094 81511 90837 92200 95900
Fiscal Year Begins			R SHARE Oct.Per		Full Fiscal Year
2004 2005 2006 2007 2008	.49 .57 .70 .68 .69	.70 .82 .90 .88 1.00	.60 .72 .73 .76 . 85	.47 .61 .50 .53	2.26 2.72 2.83 2.85 3.20
Cal- endar	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C = Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Full Year
2003 2004 2005 2006 2007	.06 .07 .10 .15 .225	.06 .085 .10 .15	.07 .085 .10 .15	.07 .085 .10 .225	.26 .33 .40 .68

Shares of Home Depot have fallen about three percentage points since our January report. This decline is surprisingly small, given the recent deluge of bad news. First, Home Depot reported fiscal fourth-quarter earnings of \$0.50 a share, slightly below our estimates (ended January 28th). Then, at the investors' conference on February 28th, the company lowered its year-ahead outlook, stating that it expected share net to fall between 3% and 8%, excluding the effects of any stock repurchases. The negative press did not relent with the turning of the calendar page. The subprime mortgage market continued to sour in March. This development should increase the stock of houses for sale over the coming months and drive up borrowing costs, which would, in turn, reduce demand for new home construction. The bottom line for Home Depot's wholesale division will reflect the depressed construction rate. These shares' small price change leads us to believe that they will not fall much farther. The stock price already anticipates the worst.

These shares do not stand out for the year ahead. The housing market is not

likely to rebound in 2007. As mentioned above, this weakness is detrimental to the wholesale business. It also hurts the retail operation, since homeowners are less likely to invest in their property when real estate prices are falling. Home Depot will be hard-pressed to generate impressive earnings in this environment.

However, the long-term outlook is positive. Home Depot is the largest retail building supplier in the country, and it is well positioned to rebound when the housing market does. It is also expanding its store base and revamping existing locations, which should help it compete with rival Lowe's.

Home Depot is considering selling its wholesale arm. The price for Home Depot Supply would likely be over \$9 billion, although the company has not offered an estimate. We believe that this business should not be divested, as it is growing at a faster rate than the rest of the company and serves a segment of the market that Home Depot should pursue. Should a sale occur, it would likely hurt the stock's currently considerable long-term appeal. Christopher Robertson April 6, 2007

(A) Fiscal year ends Sunday closest to January 31st of the following year.
(B) Diluted earnings. Total may not sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due late May.

(C) Dividends historically paid in March, June, Sept., and Dec. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 70 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95