

| Cash Assets | 281 | 273 | 290 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receivables | 1454 | 1424 | 1544 |
| Inventory (Avg Cst) | 1365 | 1248 | 1303 |
| Other (Av) | 280 | 322 | 354 |
| Current Assets | 3380 | 3267 | 3491 |
| Accts Payable | 1402 | 1432 | 1462 |
| Debt Due | 1820 | 1028 | 1465 |
| Other | 1301 | 1375 | 1368 |
| Current Liab. | 4523 | 3835 | 4295 |



BUSINESS: Kellogg Company, the world's largest manufacturer of ready-to-eat cereals, also produces convenience foods, including cookies, crackers, frozen waffles, toaster pastries, and snack bars. Brand names include: Kellogg's, Keebler, Pringles, All-Bran, Frosted Flakes, Rice Krispies, Frosted Mini-Wheats, Special K, Froot Loops, Nutri-Grain, Apple Jacks, Raisin Bran, and Pop-Tarts.
We are lowering our 2014 share-net estimate for Kellogg by a nickel, to \$3.95, which sits in the middle of the company's downwardly revised guidance range. Although it has matched expectations so far this year, there are a few troublesome concerns that face the cereal maker. The biggest problem remains Kellogg's struggling ready-to-eat (RTE) line. In addition to the competition it faces from the likes of General Mills, Post Holdings, and several private-label manufacturers, Kellogg must deal with the changing dynamics in the breakfast category. In recent years, many consumers have switched to Greek yogurt and breakfast sandwiches as their morning meal. Kellogg's management recently noted that returning its cereal line to a growth mode will "take some time." It hopes to speed up the recovery by increasing marketing spending and product innovation, as well as by repositioning its key brands to improve the health and wellness attributes of its cereal products.
The sluggish cereal business has offset some positive developments elsewhere. The company has seen recent

Foreign operations: $45 \%$ of sales in 2013, $38 \%$ of operating profit. Adv. costs: $7.6 \%$ of sales. Acquired Keebler, 3/01; Pringles, $5 / 12$. Has about 30,275 emplys. W.K. Kellogg Foundation controls 21.1\% of common ( $3 / 14$ proxy). Chrmn.: James Jenness. CEO \& Pres.: John Bryant. Inc.: DE. Addr.: One Kellogg Square, Battle Creek, MI 49016-3599. Tel.: 269-961-2000. Internet: www.kelloggs.com.
growth in the Pringles business, as well as in its international markets. Whether the growth in the latter is sustainable remains to be seen, given the stronger U.S. dollar and the weakening economies in the euro zone and parts of Asia. Too, the company's snacks business has witnessed some sales erosion in recent quarters.
Meanwhile, Kellogg continues to return money to its shareholders. It pays a competitive dividend, which was raised by $6.5 \%$ with the September payout, and it remains aggressive on the sharerepurchase front, buying back nearly $\$ 330$ million of stock in the first half of 2014. A solid cash flow also should help Kellogg improve its leverage after it took on a sizable amount of debt to finance the Pringles acquisition a few years back
This stock doesn't stand out for the year ahead or the 3- to 5-year pull. We don't see any near-term catalyst to drive this issue higher. That said, in a volatile stock market, high-quality Kellogg shares (note the low Beta and high Price Stability rating) may appeal to risk-averse investors.
William G. Ferguson

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[^0]:    | (A) Based on diluted shares. Excludes non- | Quarterly earnings may not sum to total due to | reinvestment plan available. (C) Includes in- | Company's Financial Strength |
    | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
    | recurring gains (losses): : 98, ( $\$ 0.12$ ); |  |  |  |
    | a change in the share count. Next earnings | tangibles. In ' $13: \$ 7.418$ billion, $\$ 20.55 /$ sh. | Stock's Price Stability |  | recurring gains (losses): '98, ( $\$ 0.12$ ); '99, a change in the share count. Next earnings tangibles. In '13: $\$ 7.418$ billion, $\$ 20.55 / \mathrm{sh}$. (\$0.67, (\$0.16); '01, (\$0.14), '02, \$0.02; report due Oct. 30th. (B) Dividends historically (D) In millions.

    '12, (\$0.09); '13, \$1.17; '14 Q1-Q2, (\$0.11). |paid mid-Mar, June, Sept., and Dec. - Div'd Price Growth Persistenc Price Growth Persistence
    Earnings Predictability

