

sold primarily on the prescription, or recommendation, of physicians; Diagnostic Products (12.1%) diagnostic systems and tests for blood banks, hospitals, labs, physicians' offices, etc.; NutriEmploys about 69,000. Chairman & CEO: Miles D. White. Incorporated: IL. Address: 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064. Telephone: 847-937-6100. Internet: www.abbott.com.

**ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '06-'08 Past 5 Yrs. 8.0% 7.0% 6.5% 7.5% of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '13-'15 8.0% 8.0% 7.5% 7.5% 8.5% 10.0% Sales "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 9.0%

1219.5 2725.9

5157.9

9103.3

23313.9

1280.5

5189 6

6579.4

13049.5

1351.4 2732.0 7508.5

17591.9

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal- endar	QU/ Mar.31	ARTERLY : Jun.30	SALES (\$ Sep.30		Full Year
2007	5945	6371	6377	7221	25914
2008	6766	7314	7498	7950	29528
2009	6718	7495	7761	8790	30765
2010	7680	8700	9020	10100	35500
2011	8400	9400	9750	10650	38200
Cal-	Cal- EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2007	.55	.69	.67	.93	2.84
2008	.60	.85	.69	.89	3.03
2009	.73	.89	.92	1.18	3.72
2010	.80	1.05	1.05	1.30	4.20
2011	.95	1.15	1.20	1.40	4.70
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2006	.275	.295	.295	.295	1.16
2007	.295	.325	.325	.325	1.27
2008	.325	.36	.36	.36	1.41
2009	.36	.40	.40	.40	1.56
2010	40				

Abbott Laboratories finished 2009 on a strong note. Fourth-quarter sales advanced 11%, to \$8.79 billion, ahead of our expectation, while share-net soared 33%. The top-line gain reflected a favorable currency translation, which boosted sales by 2%. Vigorous sales of flagship drug *Humira* (accounted for 19% of total volume) and strong international results continued to drive ABT's performance. International Humira sales surged 48%, helping offset relatively weak U.S. results (the U.S. segment faced a difficult comparison to the 43% gain in 2008). Overall, international sales advanced 22% (17% excluding currency effects).

We are maintaining our 2010 share-net estimate of \$4.20, and look for con-tinued double-digit earnings growth in 2011. Our 2010 estimate falls at the low end of management's guidance range (\$4.20-\$4.25). Although there may actually be upside to the current guidance, we remain cautious due to the numerous moving parts and some uncertainty in the year-ahead outlook. The company has significant exposure to currency fluctuations, and should see a sharp drop in revenue

from Venezuela, as a result of the recent currency devaluation (Venezuela contributed about \$350 million in revenue in 2009). However, earnings accretion from the Solvay acquisition may provide an extra boost to the bottom line.

Recent acquisitions should provide further diversification and a stronger global **presence.** Abbott announced/completed numerous deals in 2009, which allowed it to add new business segments and long-term avenues for growth. Advanced Medical Optics and Visiogen provides ABT with an immediate foothold in the eye care business, while Solvay's \$3 billion pharmaceutical products portfolio adds a significant international presence, with a strong position in key emerging markets. Meanwhile, the additions of Evalve (devices) and Starlims (diagnostics) should help ABT diversify into new business segments.

These high-quality shares meaningful long-term appreciation potential. ABT should continue to post strong earnings gains to 2013-2015, with key acquisitions lifting results. Joel Schwed

April 16, 2010

(A) Primary earnings thru '96, diluted earnings thereafter. Excludes nonrecurring gain/ (losses): '99, (9¢); '01, (89¢); '02, (28¢); '03, (46¢); '04, (21¢); '05, (34¢); '06, (\$1.40); '07,

(53¢); '08, 19¢. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Dividends historically paid in February, May, August, and November. ■ Dividend (D) In millions, adjusted for stock split. reinvestment plan available. (C) Includes in-

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100

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