

physicians, managed-care organizations, hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. Also offers substance-abuse tests. At 12/31/11, it had 54 full-service laboratories and over 1,700 service

own 1.8% (4/11 proxy). Chairman, President & CEO: David P. King. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 358 S. Main St., Burlington, NC 27215. Tel.: 336-229-1127. Internet: www.labcorp.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '08-'10 to '15-'17 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales "Cash Flow" 5.5% 15.5% 14.5% 6.5% 14.0% 8.0% Earnings 30.0% 14.5% 9.5% Dividends Book Value 17.0% 7.0% 16.0%

183.1

1018.4

257.8 361.7

1120.5

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

257.8 135.5 404.1

797.4

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	1155.7	1188.8	1185.1	1165.1	4694.7
2010	1193.6	1238.4	1276.5	1295.4	5003.9
2011	1368.4	1403.3	1404.5	1366.1	5542.3
2012	1410	1445	1445	1425	5725
2013	1460	1495	1495	1480	5930
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	1.22	1.30	1.22	1.16	4.89
2010	1.30	1.46	1.47	1.34	5.55
2011	1.52	1.64	1.61	1.56	6.37
2012	1.65	1.80	1.80	1.70	6.95
2013	1.80	1.95	2.00	1.90	7.65
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008			-		
2009	NO CASH DIVIDENDS				
2010	BEING PAID				
2011					
2012					

Timely shares of Laboratory Corporation of America have been on the rise since the onset of 2012. Indeed, thanks to a combination of a solid fourth-quarter performance and the broader market's robust rally, this issue has risen a few percentage points since early January. We think the equity has plenty of room to run, and advise momentum investors to take a

We expect the company to get off on **the right foot this year.** The top line is set to rise about 3%, to just over \$1.4 billion, and share earnings ought to climb almost 9%, to \$1.65. Volumes are likely to inch up, thanks to increasing demand for testing services, and pricing should remain firm. Operating margins will probably widen considerably, though, due to ongoing restructuring and integration efforts. Indeed, we expect the purchase of Genzyme Genetics to turn accretive in 2012, and more synergies associated with the Orchid Cellmark acquisition should surface.

We are introducing our 2013 targets **in this Issue.** For now, we expect the top line will rise another 4% or so, and look for bottom-line growth of about 10%.

More stock repurchases are probably in the cards. The company spent \$644 million buying back 7.4 million shares last year, and the board recently authorized a new plan that gives LabCorp a green light to retire another \$500 million worth of stock. Given the company's long history of boosting shareholder value through repurchases, as well as the likelihood of robust cash flows this year, we think that a good chunk of the plan will be put to use.

This top-quality issue does not really stand out in terms of 3- to 5-year potential, but conservative investors may want to delve deeper. Indeed, the issue's long-term potential is just about on a par with the Value Line median, so there are probably better selections on other pages. However, it is worth noting that the stock receives our Highest Safety rank, has a below-market Beta of .65, and gets excellent marks for Price Stability and Earnings Predictability. Thus, investors with an aversion for risk should be somewhat comfortable making a commitment here.

(A) Based on average shares outstanding thru '96, diluted thereafter. Excludes nonrecurring items: '96, d\$3.40; '97, d\$2.38; '98, 55¢; '00, d3¢; '01, d6¢; '02, d7¢; '05, d9¢; '06, d8¢; '07,

earnings report due late April.

d25¢; '08, d56¢; '09, 9¢; '10, d26¢; '11, d\$1.26. (C) Includes intangibles. In '11: \$4302.5 mill., Figures may not sum due to rounding. Next \$43.99/sh.

Erik M. Manning

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

(B) In millions, adjusted for stock splits. © 2012, Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product March 16, 2012

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