

10 Yrs. to '23-'25 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 16.0% 22.0% 15.0% 20.0% 11.5% 13.0% Sales "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends 14.0% 23.5% 21.0% Nil 25.0% -10.0% -20.5% Book Value

Cal- endar	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Full Year
2017	2156	2291	2340	2191	8977.7
2018	2283	2456	2483	2315	9536.4
2019	2411	2590	2666	2483	10150
2020	2476	3092	3208	2774	11550
2021	2730	3025	3175	2820	11750
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017	2.83	3.10	3.22	3.52	12.67
2018	3.61	4.28	4.50	3.72	16.10
2019	4.05	4.51	5.08	4.25	17.88
2020	3.97	7.10	7.07	5.11	23.25
2021	4.95	6.55	6.45	5.25	23.20
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017					
2018	NO CASH DIVIDENDS				
2019	BEING PAID				
2020					

strong start in the December quarter. Indeed, according to management, compstore sales at the retailer and distributor of aftermarket autoparts rose by low double digits (percentagewise) during the first three weeks of October, even as the key for replacement driver of demand autoparts—total miles driven—remained sharply lower, year over year. Assuming that the Missouri-based retailer's comps remained nicely positive for the balance of the period, we look for fourth-quarter sales to come in around \$2.77 billion, up 12% from 2019's \$2.48 billion tally. Earnings, meantime, probably rose 20% or so, to \$5.11 a share.

Economic uncertainty is said to be driving increased spending on auto maintenance. Notably, wage insecurity likely has more people investing in their existing vehicles and putting off buying new ones. To that point, a recent estimate put the total amount of un- and underperformed vehicle maintenance nationwide at roughly \$50 billion. That said .

We look for share net to rise little, if at all, this year, following an es-

ning our cautious stance is a sense that last year's sharp increase in maintenance spending is unsustainable, and that it is likely to take a hit as the economy reopens post-pandemic and as people have more spending options. Management also hinted that margins could come under pressure this year, as the company catches up on investments in stores and employees that were deferred due to COVID-19 and to 2020's unexpected sales strength.

Our generally positive long-term view assumes O'Reilly gains additional market share in the United States. Mexico, where the company established a toehold through the November, 2019 acquisition of Mayasa, and Canada hold

promise, as well.

Shares of O'Reilly Automotive are now ranked 2 (Above Average) for relative year-ahead price performance, having moved up a notch on our Timeliness scale since late October. The high end of our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range suggests that buy-and-hold investors will also do pretty well here. Nils C. Van Liew January 22, 2021

(A) Next earnings report due February 10th. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Excludes nonrecurring charges: '10, \$0.14; '11,

2021

(B) In millions.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 70 Price Growth Persistence 85 **Earnings Predictability** 100