

Last Price	Fair Value	Consider Buy	Consider Sell	Uncertainty	Economic Moat™	Moat Trend™	Stewardship	Industry Group
73.97 USD	85.00 USD	59.50 USD	114.75 USD	Medium	Wide	Positive	Exemplary	Manufacturing - Apparel & Furniture

# VF's fundamentals remain strong despite foreign currency translation headwinds.

Updated Forecasts and Estimates from 17 Feb 2015

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The primary analyst covering this company does not own its stock.

Research as of 17 Feb 2015 Estimates as of 17 Feb 2015 Pricing data through 20 Apr 2015 Rating updated as of 20 Apr 2015

Currency amounts expressed with "\$" are in U.S. dollars (USD) unless otherwise denoted

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#### **Investment Thesis** 17 Feb 2015

VF Corp. has established a broad and growing array of leading lifestyle brands, carefully selected to enhance its presence in high-growth categories and for synergies within existing operating units. We believe management will continue to make acquisitions with an eye toward strengthening its brand leadership and will continue to invest heavily in existing brands through branding campaigns, marketing, product development, and in-store experiences--the basis for our wide moat and positive trend rating.

We think the company is poised to take advantage of three market trends. First, we believe the outdoor and action sports market is a large and guickly growing opportunity, with activewear apparel now often worn in place of casual and weekend attire. Based on NPD data, we think that this enlarged athletic/casual category is a \$46 billion opportunity with a focus on higher-margin performance and comfort products. The North Face is already a leader in the \$25 billion global outdoor market and also provides high-performance sports apparel, an increasingly demanded category thanks to the fitness craze. We expect this category to be a key growth driver for VF and that further acquisitions will be made to increase exposure. We model it growing organically to 61% of revenue from the current 54% penetration over five years. Second, we see VF leveraging its vast global supply chain to support additional international sales and think international markets can grow from 37% of revenue to just under 45% of sales in five years. Finally, we see direct-to-consumer sales growing to 25% of sales from the current 21% penetration, with e-commerce being the fastest-growing, most profitable channel.

Although we think much of the organic growth is priced into the stock, we see acquisitions being a significant value driver. We expect VF to focus M&A activity on the outdoor and action sports space. With a strong dollar, we think international acquisitions are particularly attractive. With a well-oiled integration machine, the ability to drive cost synergies, and a vetting process with an eye for strong brands with slightly broken operations, we think this is a value-enhancing strategy.

Vital	<b>Statistics</b>
vilai	31au31165

Valuation Cummary and Forecasts	
Price/Fair Value	0.87
5-Yr Forward EPS CAGR %	13.0
5-Yr Forward Revenue CAGR %	8.9
Last Fiscal Year End	31 Dec 2014
YTD Total Return %	-0.8
52-Week Total Return %	25.5
52-Week Low (USD)	59.57
52-Week High (USD)	77.83
Market Cap (USD Mil)	31,655

#### Valuation Summary and Forecasts Fiscal Year: 2013 2014 2015(E) 2016(E) Price/Earnings 22.8 24.3 23.1 19.3 EV/EBITDA 14.7 15.6 14.8 12.7 FV/FRIT 17 0 179 17 0 144 Free Cash Flow Yield % 4.5 4.5 3.2 6.0 Dividend Yield % 1.5 1.5 1.8 2.2

#### Financial Summary and Forecasts (USD Mil)

	Fiscal Year:	2013	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Revenue		11,420	12,282	12,654	14,799
Revenue YoY %		5.0	7.6	3.0	17.0
EBIT		1,658	1,834	1,893	2,226
EBIT YoY %		10.8	10.6	3.2	17.6
Net Income, Adjusted		1,219	1,354	1,384	1,624
Net Income YoY %		13.1	11.1	2.2	17.3
Diluted EPS		2.73	3.08	3.20	3.83
Diluted EPS YoY %		13.3	12.8	3.9	19.7
Free Cash Flow		1,134	1,488	1,144	542
Free Cash Flow YoY %		14.0	31.2	-23.1	-52.6

Historical/forecast data sources are Morningstar Estimates and may reflect adjustments.

#### **Profile**

VF owns a large portfolio of leading lifestyle brands including The North Face, Timberland, Vans, Lee, and Wrangler. Consumers are served through multiple distribution channels and geographies, with almost 40% of revenue international and more than 20% direct to consumer. Brands are organized by five coalitions: Outdoor & Action Sports, Jeanswear, Imagewear, Sportswear, and Contemporary Brands. VF has a broad supply chain with 30% of products produced in 32 internal manufacturing facilities, and 70% sourced across an array of countries.



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#### Morningstar Analysis

#### Valuation, Growth and Profitability 17 Feb 2015

We are increasing our fair value estimate to \$85 from \$78, but are lowering our 2015 estimates solely on the basis of foreign exchange headwinds. We note that we see no fundamental weakness and continue to expect high single-digit top-line growth and double-digit earnings growth on a constant currency basis. Our updated fair value estimate reflects a slightly higher gross margin expansion trajectory annually given our belief that mix shift benefits (to Direct-to-Consumer, Outdoor and Action Sports, and International) will continue in the foreseeable future. However, we think increased SG&A spending on Direct-to-Consumer will offset some of this. It also reflects a decrease in the cost of capital to 9% from 10% to reflect a lowered 2.25% long-term inflation outlook.

We model 2015 revenue to grow 3% organically, down from 7% in our previous model, fueled by 11% constant currency growth in the Outdoor & Action Sports category, 2% constant currency Jeanswear growth, and 4% Imagewear and Sportswear constant currency growth, slightly offset by a 1% constant currency decline in Contemporary brands. We now expect foreign currency headwinds to remove five points of the 8% constant currency growth rate. As in the past, we think International and Direct-to-Consumer will fuel constant currency growth in the double-digit range. Our updated model also assumes that operating margin will increase 10 basis points to 15.0% in 2015 versus our prior 14.8% estimate on mix shift benefits.

Over the next five years, we think that VF can increase revenue and operating income at a compound annual growth rate of 9% and 12%, respectively (versus our prior estimates of 10% and 13% growth, respectively). Our 2016 acquisition assumption adds \$1.2 billion in revenue and \$96 million in operating profit. We see growth in Outdoor & Action Sports weighted heavily to the APAC region, which we see growing at a 24% compound annual rate, while we expect EMEA and the Americas to grow in the low teens on average, yielding 11% total compound annual growth. We see the Jeanswear coalition as more mature but still capable of delivering 3% compound annual growth due to innovation and international expansion. We think operating margins can expand from 14.9% (adjusted) in 2014 to 16.8% in 2019. Expansion should be driven by the aforementioned mix shifts as well as a recovery in Outdoor & Action Sports as returns on Timberland are recognized and in Jeanswear as innovations aid gross margin.

#### **Scenario Analysis**

We give VF Corp a medium uncertainty rating and have completed a scenario analysis to account for a margin of error in estimating top-line demand and the margin expansion opportunity.

If Outdoor & Action Sports penetrates international markets and increases direct-to-consumer sales more quickly than expected, both revenue and margin assumptions may underestimate the brands' true potential. Potential acquisitions in higher-margin performance wear could also provide an unexpected benefit. In our bull-case scenario, we model Outdoor & Action Sports revenue growing at a 14% compound annual rate over the next five years, versus 11% in the base case. We also could see slight upside in Jeanswear growth given the positive response to more innovative higher-priced products, and we model 6% compound growth in our bull-case scenario (versus 3% in the base case). Together these two coalitions account for 80% of revenue. The bull-case scenario is dependent on the sale of higher-margin products. As such, we model the operating margin reaching 17.7% by 2019 versus our base-case scenario of 16.8% and the current adjusted margin of 14.9%. Using a 9% weighted average cost of capital, we arrive at our \$113 bull-case fair value estimate.

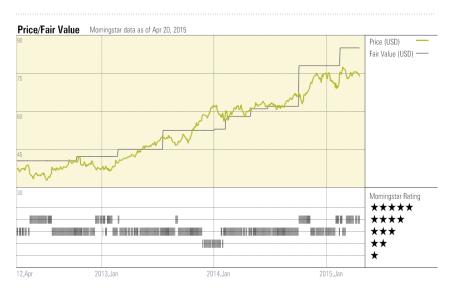
It is also possible that weaker consumer confidence and extended low employment could pressure both volume and pricing. Especially in the Outdoor & Action Sports category,

disclosures at the end of this report.



### VF Corp VFC (NYSE) | ★★★★

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there are plenty of options to which consumers might trade down, albeit also trading on quality, performance, and durability. In our bear-case scenario, we model Outdoor & Action Sports revenue growing only 5% on average over five years, versus 11% in the base case. We also assume Jeanswear will be flat versus 3% in the base case as consumers would trade down to lower-priced products or extend the period of replenishment in this scenario. Margins would suffer, and we model an operating margin of 15.5% in 2019, up from the current 14.9% but below our base-case scenario of 16.8%. Using a 9% weighted average cost of capital, we arrive at our \$60 bear-case fair value estimate.

#### **Economic Moat**

We are maintaining VF Corp's wide moat rating given the pricing power it has attained through its intangible brand assets. We believe that management's ability to cull declining brands, nurture growing brands, and acquire strong brands will continue to support a portfolio of names worthy of a wide moat. We believe that the company bases its acquisition strategy and brand positioning on intense consumer research and reviews its brand portfolio annually to cull any brands that do not make strategic sense for the

overall portfolio. We think that these two practices will ensure that the overall VF brand intangible asset will remain strong over a significant period of time as the brands and products it owns will be adjusted to maintain value. Furthermore, we see sustainable cost advantages through scale, a partially owned manufacturing platform, and a shared supply chain. We expect VF to achieve an average return on invested capital of 24% over the next five years, well above its 9% weighted average cost of capital.

VF has a portfolio of over 30 brands in five categories that drive above market returns. Three of the largest brands are in the Outdoor & Action Sports category. The North Face is the #1 outdoor brand in a \$25 billion market. Vans is a leader in the \$28 billion global action sports and classic/sport inspired category. Finally, Timberland is the largest outdoor lifestyle brand and has a 2% market share of the \$75 billion men's global non-sports footwear category (market share estimates based on NPD global sports market estimates and Euromonitor International data). The Jeanswear category has two long-standing brands in Lee and Wrangler. Lee Jeans has a history that stretches back to 1889 and generates over \$1 billion in sales. Wrangler is an iconic American brand associated with the West. It has a 70% share in Men's bottoms and a 40% share in women's bottoms in the Western Specialty category. According to the company, it has #1 market share in the mass channel with significant opportunity to grow as denim usage expands across occasions.

VF customers have demonstrated a willingness to pay a premium for high performance products, innovations in fit and fabrication, and the consistency of a brand, all attributes of a strong brand intangible asset. At Macy's The North Face hooded puffer parka sells for \$320, versus Laundry by Shelli Segal's parka at \$275, and Guess's coat at \$260. Vans sneakers sell in the \$55 to \$75 range versus Rocket Dog's at \$45. At Wal-Mart, Lee jeans sell for approximately \$20 while Faded Glory sells for approximately \$13 and White



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Stag for \$9.

VF actively manages its brand portfolio. In 2007, the company divested its entire intimate apparel business, including the Vanity Fair brand (its original brand), citing its intent to move to become a higher-growth and higher-margin lifestyle company. The company also shed its John Varvatos ownership in 2012, which we think was wise given its luxury, high-fashion positioning. We think the company's practice of frequently reviewing its portfolio means that investors will be shielded from declining brands or those that are no longer synergistic to the other companies. We also think that management does intense consumer research before buying a company (it spoke to 18,000 consumers in eight countries about their Timberland brand perception), which should lead to a stronger brand portfolio and data-driven product development, marketing, and price positioning.

VF's manufacturing and distribution scale and centralized procurement and logistics are competitive advantages. VF sources or produces about 450 million units annually across 36 brands. It operates 29 manufacturing facilities and utilizes about 1,900 contractor manufacturing facilities in 60 countries. 28% of units are manufactured in VF-operated facilities at a lower cost and shorter lead time than contracted production.

This scale and global network affords synergies across its brands. Operating margin at Timberland has increased from 7.9% in 2011 (the year it was acquired) to an estimated 12.9% by the end of 2014, a 500-basis-point increase. Management believes that it can grow the margin another 500 basis points over the next five years to 18% on increased full-price selling, pricing increases, and growth in the direct-to-consumer channel. We think this target is achievable and more in line with North Face and Vans. We note that the Outdoor & Action Sports Coalition had a 19.9% operating margin in 2010 (the year before the Timberland acquisition). High-teens margins are notable in the apparel manufacturing segment, with PVH (the nearest competitor) having margins only in the low teens. Even more notable is the consistency of its margins. The Outdoor & Action Sports coalition has had an 18.1% average operating margin over the last five years (ranging from 17.3% to 19.9%) despite acquisitions, changes in input costs, and variances in overall economic conditions. We think this supports our belief that VF Corp has significant cost advantages.

#### **Moat Trend**

We are maintaining VF's positive moat trend rating. We think one of the largest strengths of VF is its ability to manage its brands as a portfolio. Management has proved adept at acquiring strong brands that fit synergistically into its portfolio and divesting brands it feels that it is unable to develop. The company's last acquisition was of Timberland in 2011 at an 11 times EV/EBITDA multiple and 18% premium to Timberland's 60-day average. Although a premium, the acquisition was immediately accretive to earnings and increased VF's exposure to lifestyle brands. We expect the company to continue to be acquisitive especially in the categories where consumers have demonstrated a willingness to pay a high premium for a brand, such as Outdoor & Action Sports.

We also see organic investments that we think will strengthen the existing brand portfolio. In its 17x17 strategic plan, VF stated that it hopes to increase direct-to-consumer sales to 25% of revenue from 21% at the end of 2012. We think this added control of the in-store experience or online platform will further clarify the brands and portray them more fully in a lifestyle manner. Finally, the company has demonstrated a willingness to leave the traditional confines of retail and to connect with customers across lifestyles. aspirations, and passions. An example of this can be seen through the geographic expansion of The North Face into



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#### Morningstar Analysis

the Asia Pacific region. VF drove demand for The North Face products by actively developing an outdoor community. The brand participated in building outdoor education programs around China and organizing events for people at all levels.

The increased pricing power of the brands is apparent in gross margin expansion. Gross margin reached 48% in 2013, up from 45.8% in 2011. We expect this trend to continue and see margins reaching north of 50% in five years, which speaks to the positive moat trend of VF, in our view.



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#### Bulls Say/Bears Say

#### **Bulls Say**

- ► The Outdoor & Action Sports coalition represents more than half of VF revenue and is a high-margin, quickly growing category with much room for innovation. At 18.2% in 2014, EBIT margins were about 330 basis points higher than the consolidated VF EBIT margin.
- ► International expansion and direct-to-consumer growth opportunities indicate that most existing brands are not yet mature and can yield above-market growth.
- Mix shifts resulting from the execution of strategic goals should lead to annual margin expansion of about 50 to 60 basis points.

#### **Bears Say**

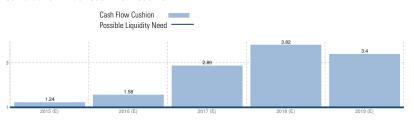
- Many of the businesses including Sportswear and Contemporary Brands carry a high degree of fashion risk and are discretionary.
- A steady rise in labor cost in major manufacturing countries including in Asia could result in cost inflation for VF in the coming years, although the firm is probably better positioned to weather the increase compared with its rivals.
- ► Further acquisitions may be difficult to find or to integrate. Acquisition valuations may be at a premium given recent market levels.



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Five Year Adjusted Cash Flow Forecast (USD Mil)					
	2015(E)	2016(E)	2017(E)	2018(E)	2019(E,
Cash and Equivalents (beginning of period)	972	690	328	874	1,524
Adjusted Available Cash Flow	<i>75</i>	139	1,301	1,460	1,508
Total Cash Available before Debt Service	1,047	828	1,628	2,335	3,032
Principal Payments	-400	0	0	-10	-250
Interest Payments	-76	-95	-95	-95	-95
Other Cash Obligations and Commitments	-368	-430	-469	-506	-546
Total Cash Obligations and Commitments	-844	-525	-564	-611	-891

#### **Cumulative Annual Cash Flow Cushion**



#### **Adjusted Cash Flow Summary**

		/0 01
	USD Millions	Commitments
Beginning Cash Balance	972	28.3
Sum of 5-Year Adjusted Free Cash Flow	4,483	130.5
Sum of Cash and 5-Year Cash Generation	5,455	158.8
Revolver Availability	_	_
Asset Adjusted Borrowings (Repayment)	_	_
Sum of Cash, 5-Year Cash Generation, Revolver and Adjustments	5,455	158.8
Sum of 5-Year Cash Commitments	-3,435	_

#### **Financial Health**

We believe that a strong balance sheet, combined with steady free cash flow generation and disciplined investing, has given VF a solid financial base. After increasing debt to over 1.4 times EBITDA in 2011 to finance the Timberland acquisition, debt levels have fallen to pre-Timberland levels of 0.8 times. Long-term debt maturities are staggered over a 23-year period, and we estimate that EBITDA can cover interest expenses by over 20 times. We do not foresee VF having any problem meeting interest payments or paying back debt.

Free cash flow has grown at a healthy rate, and we expect it to continue to do so from the \$1.2 billion base in fiscal 2013. As such, we think the company is well-positioned to make further acquisitions (Timberland was a \$2 billion acquisition) and achieving its targeted 40% dividend payout ratio (from 34% in 2013) within five years. We believe that cash will not be stockpiled but will be divided between these two activities based on the attractiveness of the potential acquisition pipeline. We have an A issuer credit rating on VF, implying low default risk.

#### **Enterprise Risk**

As a manufacturer and seller of fashion and core fashion merchandise, VF is exposed to the cyclical nature of its category, and we give the stock a medium uncertainty rating. Weak employment, increasing consumer uncertainty, international macroeconomic pressures, or lower-than-expected wage inflation could all affect company performance. Additionally, VF is exposed to changes in raw material prices, labor, and distribution expenses including shipping costs. Any change in these categories could have a noticeable impact on margins. We view VF's brand portfolio as its most valuable asset. Any declines in brand value could negatively affect volume and pricing, and could potentially result in a writedown of goodwill and other intangible assets. With both worldwide sales and sourcing, VF will be



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affected by weather as well as political and economic situations in a broad array of countries, not just in the U.S. Finally, 21% of sales in 2013 were derived from VF's 10 largest customers. We note that any adverse changes with these customers could have a significant impact on revenue and earnings.

**Management Activity** 



### VF Corp VFC (NYSE) | ★★★★

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#### Management & Ownership

#### Report Date\* Shares Held InsiderActivity Director/President/CEO/Chairman ERIC C. WISEMAN 610.179 23 Feb 2015 250.000 of the Board.Director KARL HEINZ SALZBURGER President, Divisional/Vice 460,737 05 Mar 2015 80,000 President ROBERT K. SHEARER 229,568 02 Mar 2015 111,958 President, Divisional/Vice SCOTT H. BAXTER 206,478 16 Feb 2015 President MR. STEVEN E. RENDLE Senior VP, Geographical 142,384 24 Feb 2015 32,400 MR. SCOTT A. ROE Vice President/CFO 58,221 26 Feb 2015 17,460 RAYMOND G VIAULT Director 56,694 18 Feb 2015 MR. RICHARD T. CARUCCI Director 34.751 18 Feb 2015

<sup>\*</sup>Represents the date on which the owner's name, position, and common shares held were reported by the holder or issuer.

Fund Ownership				
Top Owners	% of Shares Held	% of Fund Assets	Change (k)	Portfolio Date
VA CollegeAmerica Washington Mutual	2.41	1.04	-320	31 Mar 2015
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt Idx	1.42	0.11	63	31 Mar 2015
VA CollegeAmerica American Balanced	1.10	0.45	-189	31 Mar 2015
Vanguard Five Hundred Index Fund	0.90	0.14	0	31 Mar 2015
Vanguard Institutional Index Fund	0.84	0.14	6	31 Mar 2015
Concentrated Holders				
STAAR Alternative Categories Fund	_	_	_	31 Dec 2014
SG Actions Luxe	0.06	6.29	-20	28 Feb 2015
IBK Luxury Lifestyle Master Equity	_	6.22	_	31 Dec 2014
Natixis CGM Advisor Targeted Equity Fund	0.08	4.83	330	28 Feb 2015
AB SICAV Concentrated US Eq Portfolio	0.03	4.83	-14	28 Feb 2015

AB SICAV Concentrated US Eq Portfolio	0.03	4.83	-14	28 Feb 2015
Institutional Transactions				
Top 5 Buyers UBS Securities LLC	% of Shares Held 1.38	% of Fund Assets 0.31	Shares Bought/ Sold (k) 5,885	Portfolio Date 31 Dec 2014
Swedbank Robur Fonder AB	0.75	1.87	3,232	31 Dec 2014
Alecta Pensionsforsakring, Omsesidigt	0.49	2.28	2,094	31 Dec 2014
Legg Mason Investment Counsel Inc.	0.33	1.91	1,285	31 Dec 2014
Fidelity Management and Research Company	1.81	0.08	954	31 Dec 2014
Top 5 Sellers				
J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc.	0.98	0.14	-2,197	31 Dec 2014
J P Morgan Asset Management (UK) Ltd	0.03	0.03	-915	31 Dec 2014
Columbia Mangmt Investment Advisers, LLC	1.05	0.22	-827	31 Dec 2014
Capital World Investors	4.67	0.41	-750	31 Dec 2014
BlackRock Advisors LLC	1.02	0.33	-678	31 Dec 2014

#### Management 21 Jul 2014

Given VF's ability to actively manage its brand portfolio to drive shareholder returns and its willingness to return excess cash to shareholders through a growing dividend, we rate management stewardship as Exemplary. Eric Wiseman has been chairman of the board and CEO of VF since 2008. He joined VF in 1995 as executive vice president of JanSport and went on to fill roles including chairman of VF's Sportswear and Outdoor coalitions, executive vice president of Global Brands, and President and Chief Operating Officer of VF. Although he is well-paid, we feel that it is deserved. In 2013, VF revenue and operating income grew 5% and 11%, respectively, and just recently the company announced a 20% increase in its quarterly dividend rate, putting it on the path to achieve the goal of a 40% payout ratio. We see these behaviors as shareholder friendly and sharply focused on driving total shareholder returns. In 2013, Wiseman received a total compensation of \$11.8 million, which included a base salary of \$1.25 million, stock awards of \$4 million, option awards of \$3.8 million, nonequity incentive plan compensation of \$2.3 million, and other compensation of \$0.5 million. The Board of Directors has 11 other members in addition to Wiseman, all of whom are independent. We believe that the Board composition reflects a desirable array of skill sets and independence to drive returns for shareholders.



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#### **Analyst Notes**

#### VF's Fundamental Growth and Margin Expansion Intact; Raising Fair Value Estimate 13 Feb 2015

VF's fourth-quarter performance showed that the company continues to meet or exceed our expectation for long-term average annual high-single-digit revenue growth and lowto mid-double-digit earnings per share growth. Although fiscal 2015 guidance was below our expectations, we believe this was solely due to the foreign exchange rate impact and not to fundamental weakness. On an adjusted constant currency basis, 2015 guidance implies 8% revenue growth and a 12% increase in earnings per share, consistent with our long-term outlook. We continue to believe that VF has brand and cost advantages relative to competitors as evidenced by pricing power, market share gains, and synergies on acquisitions--the basis for our wide moat rating. We also think these advantages are strengthening as the company expands its direct-to-consumer business, giving it more significant control of its brand image and messaging.

Following these 2014 results, we expect to raise our \$78 fair value estimate by 8%-10% as a result of a higher gross margin expansion rate, which we now see growing 60-70 basis points annually through mix shifts, and also from a decrease in our discounted cash flow cost of equity assumption to 9% from 10% as a result of a lowered 2.25% long-term inflation outlook underpinning our capital cost assumptions. We've adjusted our operating forecast to better align with this expectation for backdrop of inflation.

Free cash flow in 2015 is expected to have a few headwinds, but like our growth expectations, we see these as one-time nonfundamental events. In early January, VF contributed \$250 million to its pension plan (versus \$50 million in 2014) and the plan is now fully funded. Additionally, the 53rd week in 2014 was a big week for cash receipts and, as a result, over \$200 million of incremental cash is not expected in 2015. However, free cash flow is still strong enough that

the company plans to return more than \$1.2 billion in cash to shareholders during the year through the annual dividend (raised 22% in the fourth quarter of 2014) and share repurchases. We also continue to believe that an acquisition is likely in the near term and that this would be a positive catalyst for the stock, given VF's record of delivering significant synergies and elevating brands and pricing power on prior acquisitions. With a significantly strong dollar, we think this is a particularly opportunistic moment to acquire an international business. Overall, we think the company is best in class at capital allocation and expect returns on invested capital to move north of 20%.

Fourth-quarter revenue increased 9% year over year, led by 13% growth in outdoor and action sports (up 16% constant currency), 4% growth in sportswear and imagewear, and 3% growth in jeanswear (up 5% constant currency). This was offset by a slight decline in contemporary revenue. We are particularly encouraged by the continued strong double-digit growth across almost every brand in outdoor and action sports, signs of traction of new products and channels in jeanswear, and the strength of direct-to-consumer growth. We also note that demand appears to remain very strong in international markets despite the volatile macroeconomic environment. All weakness in growth rates appears to be due only to the translation impact of currency.

The margin expansion story remained firmly intact during the quarter, with gross margin reaching 49% with 80 basis points of improvement, driven mostly by the continued shift of revenues to higher-margin businesses (outdoor and action sports, direct to consumer, and international) and a small benefit from the retail concession fee accounting. We expect this mix shift trend to continue at roughly the same pace. The company noted that it took a \$396 million pretax noncash impairment charge to its contemporary coalition, which we think reflects the timing of the 7 for All Mankind acquisition at the height of the market in 2007, a shrinking



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### **Analyst Notes**

premium denim market, and general wholesale weakness.



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# Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Financial Summary and Forecasts Fiscal Year Ends in December						Forecast	
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Growth (% YoY)	3-Year Hist, CAGR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-Year Proj. CAGR
Revenue	9.1	15.0	5.0	7.6	3.0	17.0	8.9
EBIT	12.8	17.1	10.8	10.6	3.2	17.6	11.6
EBITDA	12.6	17.4	10.2	10.4	3.1	16.7	10.9
Net Income	14.1	18.1	13.1	11.1	2.2	17.3	11.5
Diluted EPS	14.5	17.5	13.3	12.8	3.9	19.7	13.0
Earnings Before Interest, after Tax	15.2	0.0	23.6	23.6	-4.8	16.5	9.0
Free Cash Flow		-171.2	14.0	31.2	-23.1	-52.6	9.1
	3-Year						5-Year
Profitability	Hist. Avg	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Proj. Avg
Operating Margin %	14.4	13.8	14.5	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.8
EBITDA Margin %	16.6	15.9	16.7	17.2	17.2	17.1	17.9
Net Margin %	10.5	9.9	10.7	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.6
Free Cash Flow Margin %	10.4	9.1	9.9	12.1	9.0	3.7	9.6
ROIC %	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Adjusted ROIC %	20.6	20.2	20.0	21.6	21.9	22.7	23.6
Return on Assets %	11.3	11.5	12.1	10.3	14.0	15.7	16.3
Return on Equity %	20.7	22.5	21.6	17.9	24.4	27.5	27.7
	3-Year						5-Year
Leverage	Hist. Avg	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Proj. Avg
Debt/Capital	0.22	0.26	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.24	0.21
Total Debt/EBITDA	0.84	1.06	0.76	0.69	0.67	0.76	0.65
EBITDA/Interest Expense	22.50	18.52	22.54	26.42	28.60	26.70	31.33

•	2013	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Price/Fair Value	1.19	0.96	_	_
Price/Earnings	22.8	24.3	23.1	19.3
EV/EBITDA	14.7	15.6	14.8	12.7
EV/EBIT	17.0	17.9	17.0	14.4
Free Cash Flow Yield %	4.5	4.5	3.2	6.0
Dividend Yield %	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2
<b>Key Valuation Drivers</b>				
Cost of Equity %				9.0
Pre-Tax Cost of Debt %				5.8
Weighted Average Cost of Cap	oital %			8.8
Long-Run Tax Rate %				23.8
Stage II EBI Growth Rate %				3.9
Stage II Investment Rate %				15.6
Perpetuity Year				20
Aller I et al. I et				

**Valuation Summary and Forecasts** 

Additional estimates and scenarios available for download at http://select.morningstar.com.

Discounted Cash Flow Valuation			
	USD Mil	Firm Value (%)	Per Share Value
Present Value Stage I	13,798	36.8	32.29
Present Value Stage II	11,192	29.8	26.19
Present Value Stage III	12,544	33.4	29.36
Total Firm Value	37,535	100.0	87.84
Cash and Equivalents	972	_	2.27
Debt	-1,449	_	-3.39
Preferred Stock	_	_	_
Other Adjustments	-955	_	-2.23
Equity Value	36,102	_	84.49
Projected Diluted Shares	427		
Fair Value per Share (USD)	_		

The data in the table above represent base-case forecasts in the company's reporting currency as of the beginning of the current year. Our fair value estimate may differ from the equity value per share shown above due to our time value of money adjustment and in cases where probability-weighted scenario analysis is performed.



**Last Price** Fair Value Moat Trend™ **Consider Buy Consider Sell** Uncertainty Economic Moat™ Stewardship **Industry Group** 73.97 USD 85.00 USD 59.50 USD 114.75 USD Medium Wide Positive Exemplary Manufacturing -Apparel & Furniture

### Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Income Statement (USD Mil) Fiscal Year Ends in December				Fore	ecast
Tidal Tali Ellas III Socolisti	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Revenue	10,880	11,420	12,282	12,654	14,799
Cost of Goods Sold	5,818	5,931	6,288	6,433	7,459
Gross Profit	5,062	5,488	5,994	6,221	7,341
Selling, General & Administrative Expenses	3,597	3,841	4,160	4,327	5,115
Other Operating Expense (Income)	-31	-11	_	_	_
Other Operating Expense (Income)	_	_	_	_	_
Depreciation & Amortization (if reported separately)	_	_	_	_	_
Operating Income (ex charges)	1,496	1,658	1,834	1,893	2,226
Restructuring & Other Cash Charges	31	11	_	_	
Impairment Charges (if reported separately)	_	_	396	_	_
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Charges	_	_			_
Operating Income (incl charges)	1,465	1,647	1,438	1,893	2,226
Interest Expense	94	85	80	76	95
Interest Income	50	0	-6	-5	-5
Pre-Tax Income	1,422	1,562	1,352	1,812	2,125
Income Tax Expense	336	352	305	428	502
Other After-Tax Cash Gains (Losses)	_	_	_	_	_
Other After-Tax Non-Cash Gains (Losses)	_	_	_	_	_
(Minority Interest)	0	_	_	_	_
(Preferred Dividends)	_	_	_	_	_
Net Income	1,086	1,210	1,048	1,384	1,624
Weighted Average Diluted Shares Outstanding	448	447	440	433	424
Diluted Earnings Per Share	2.43	2.71	2.38	3.20	3.83
Adjusted Net Income	1,078	1,219	1,354	1,384	1,624
Diluted Earnings Per Share (Adjusted)	2.41	2.73	3.08	3.20	3.83
Dividends Per Common Share	3.03	0.92	1.11	1.34	1.61
EBITDA	1,703	1,900	1,713	2,173	2,536
Adjusted EBITDA	1,734	1,911	2,109	2,173	2,536



Last Price	Fair Value	Consider Buy	Consider Sell	Uncertainty	Economic Moat™	Moat Trend™	Stewardship	Industry Group
73.97 USD	85.00 USD	59.50 USD	114.75 USD	Medium	Wide	Positive	Exemplary	Manufacturing - Apparel & Furniture

# Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Balance Sheet (USD Mil)				_	
Fiscal Year Ends in December	2012	2013	2014	Fore 2015	ecast 2016
Cash and Equivalents	597	776	972	690	328
Investments	_	_	_	_	_
Accounts Receivable	1,222	1,360	1,276	1,491	1.743
Inventory	1,354	1,399	1,483	1,498	1,737
Deferred Tax Assets (Current)	141	· —	_	· —	· —
Other Short Term Assets	135	347	455	455	455
Current Assets	3,450	3,883	4,186	4,134	4,263
Net Property Plant, and Equipment	828	933	942	987	1,189
Goodwill	2,010	2,022	1,825	1,825	2,125
Other Intangibles	2,917	2,960	2,434	2,334	2,684
Deferred Tax Assets (Long-Term)	_	_	_	_	_
Other Long-Term Operating Assets	428	518	594	594	594
Long-Term Non-Operating Assets	_	_		_	_
Total Assets	9,633	10,315	9,980	9,873	10,854
Accounts Payable	563	639	691	758	879
Short-Term Debt	415	24	26	26	26
Deferred Tax Liabilities (Current)	_	_	_	_	_
Other Short-Term Liabilities	754	905	904	654	654
Current Liabilities	1,732	1,568	1,620	1,437	1,558
Long-Term Debt	1,429	1,427	1,424	1,424	1,900
Deferred Tax Liabilities (Long-Term)	_	_	_	_	_
Other Long-Term Operating Liabilities	1,346	1,244	1,305	1,305	1,305
Long-Term Non-Operating Liabilities					
Total Liabilities	4,507	4,238	4,349	4,166	4,764
Preferred Stock	_	_	_	_	_
Common Stock	110	110	110	110	110
Additional Paid-in Capital	2,528	2,747	2,747	2,747	2,747
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	2,941	3,432	4,001	4,803	5,742
(Treasury Stock)	_	_		-727	-1,282
Other Equity	-454	-212	-1,226	-1,226	-1,226
Shareholder's Equity	5,126	6,077	5,631	5,706	6,091
Minority Interest					
Total Equity	5,126	6,077	5,631	5,706	6,091



**Last Price** Fair Value Economic Moat™ Moat Trend™ **Consider Buy Consider Sell** Uncertainty Stewardship **Industry Group** 73.97 USD 85.00 USD 59.50 USD 114.75 USD Medium Wide Positive Exemplary Manufacturing -Apparel & Furniture

### Morningstar Analyst Forecasts

Fiscal Year Ends in December				Fore	ecast
Fiscal Teal Ends III December	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Net Income	1,086	1,210	1,048	1,384	1,624
Depreciation	149	158	175	180	211
Amortization	89	95	100	100	100
Stock-Based Compensation	93	87	_	_	
Impairment of Goodwill	_	_	396	_	_
Impairment of Other Intangibles	_	_	_	_	_
Deferred Taxes	-21	-12	_	_	_
Other Non-Cash Adjustments	-86	2	18	_	_
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts Receivable	-112	-155	84	-214	-253
(Increase) Decrease in Inventory	88	-47	-84	-15	-239
Change in Other Short-Term Assets	32	-9	-108	_	600
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	-74	75	52	67	121
Change in Other Short-Term Liabilities	31	102	16	-250	_
Cash From Operations	1,275	1,506	1,698	1,252	2,164
(Capital Expenditures)	-252	-271	-234	-225	-263
Net (Acquisitions), Asset Sales, and Disposals	71	_	-68	_	-1,500
Net Sales (Purchases) of Investments	_	_	_	_	_
Other Investing Cash Flows	-39	-79	-27	_	_
Cash From Investing	-220	-350	-329	-225	-1,763
Common Stock Issuance (or Repurchase)	-245	-234	-628	-727	-555
Common Stock (Dividends)	-333	-402	-479	<i>-582</i>	-684
Short-Term Debt Issuance (or Retirement)	-269	9	5	_	_
Long-Term Debt Issuance (or Retirement)	-3	-405	-5	_	476
Other Financing Cash Flows	47	48	_	_	_
Cash From Financing	-803	-984	-1,107	-1,309	-763
Exchange Rates, Discontinued Ops, etc. (net)	4	7	-65	_	_
Net Change in Cash	256	179	195	-282	-362



Last Price	Fair Value	Consider Buy	Consider Sell	Uncertainty	Economic Moat™	Moat Trend™	Stewardship	Industry Group
73.97 USD	85.00 USD	59.50 USD	114.75 USD	Medium	Wide	Positive	Exemplary	Manufacturing - Apparel & Furniture

## Comparable Company Analysis

These companies are chosen by the analyst and the data are shown by nearest calendar year in descending market capitalization order.

Valuation Analysis																
	Price/Earnings				EV/EBITD	Α		Price/Fre	ee Cash Flo	w	Price/Bo	ok		Price/Sa	les	
Company/Ticker	Price/Fair Value	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Nike Inc NKE USA	1.22	_	27.8	24.5	14.6	16.4	15.1	31.5	39.4	31.8	6.2	7.1	6.7	2.4	2.8	2.6
Ralph Lauren Corp RL USA	0.84	19.1	17.2	18.2	9.4	8.3	8.5	27.6	18.3	27.5	3.5	2.7	2.6	1.9	1.6	1.5
PVH Corp PVH USA	0.81	17.2	15.1	15.0	10.3	10.5	10.6	56.5	4.6	NM	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.1
Guess? Inc GES USA	0.96	14.6	16.9	20.3	5.8	5.3	6.0	9.4	19.5	12.5	2.1	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.7
Average		17.0	19.3	19.5	10.0	10.1	10.1	31.3	20.5	23.9	3.5	3.4	3.1	1.6	1.6	1.5
VF Corp VFC US	0.87	24.3	23.1	19.3	15.6	14.8	12.7	22.1	30.8	16.7	5.7	5.5	5.2	2.6	2.5	2.1

Returns Analysis																
-		ROIC %			Adjusted	ROIC %		Return o	n Equity %		Return o	n Assets %		Dividend	l Yield %	
Company/Ticker Nike Inc NKE USA	Last Historical Year Total Assets (Mil) — USD	2014 —	2015(E) —	2016(E) —	2014 28.7	2015(E) 26.9	2016(E) 30.1	2014 24.5	2015(E) 28.1	2016(E) 28.7	2014 14.9	2015(E) 17.0	2016(E) 18.0	2014 1.2	2015(E) 1.1	2016(E) 1.2
Ralph Lauren Corp RL USA	— USD	_	_	_	18.2	15.3	13.9	19.9	16.8	14.4	13.5	11.3	9.7	1.0	1.3	1.5
PVH Corp PVH USA	— USD	_	_	_	11.9	10.1	11.6	3.8	10.1	12.4	1.5	3.9	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Guess? Inc GES USA	— USD	_	_	-	9.0	6.7	6.0	13.7	8.5	7.1	8.8	5.6	4.8	2.9	4.8	4.9
Average		_	_	_	17.0	14.8	15.4	15.5	15.9	15.7	9.7	9.5	9.4	1.3	1.8	2.0
VF Corp VFC US	<b>9,980</b> USD	_	_	_	21.6	21.9	<i>22.</i> 7	17.9	24.4	27.5	10.3	14.0	15.7	1.5	1.8	2.2

<b>Growth Analysis</b>																
	Last Historical Year Revenue	Revenue	Revenue Growth %			wth %		EPS Grov	wth %		Free Cas	h Flow Gro	wth %	Dividend	I/Share Gro	wth %
Company/Ticker	(Mil)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Nike Inc NKE USA	27,799 USD	9.8	9.3	10.0	13.1	16.9	10.3	_	_	13.5	-30.6	-1.5	24.4	7.5	-16.3	10.0
Ralph Lauren Corp RL USA	7,450 USD	7.3	2.2	4.0	4.0	-11.9	-6.5	5.3	-5.6	-5.5	-41.3	42.7	-35.4	18.7	11.1	16.0
PVH Corp PVH USA	8,186 USD	35.5	0.7	-4.2	28.7	-4.8	-6.2	6.8	3.8	-5.0	-577.7	-114.7	606.8	_	_	_
Guess? Inc GES USA	2,570 USD	-3.3	-5.9	-8.5	-14.4	-46.4	-23.1	-10.7	-42.0	-19.7	68.4	-64.2	37.4	-75.0	12.5	0.8
Average		12.3	1.6	0.3	7.9	-11.6	-6.4	0.5	-14.6	-4.2	-145.3	-34.4	158.3	-16.3	2.4	8.9
VF Corp VFC US	<b>12,282</b> USD	7.6	3.0	17.0	10.6	3.2	17.6	12.8	3.9	19.7	31.2	-23.1	-52.6	21.0	21.4	20.0



Last Price	Fair Value	Consider Buy	Consider Sell	Uncertainty	Economic Moat™	Moat Trend™	Stewardship	Industry Group
73.97 USD	85.00 USD	<b>59.50</b> USD	114.75 USD	Medium	Wide	Positive	Exemplary	Manufacturing - Apparel & Furniture

## Comparable Company Analysis

These companies are chosen by the analyst and the data are shown by nearest calendar year in descending market capitalization order.

Profitability Analysis																
	Last Historical Year	Gross Margin %			EBITDA N	/largin %		Operatin	g Margin %	•	Net Març	jin %		Free Cas	h Flow Ma	rgin %
Company/Ticker	Net Income (Mil)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Nike Inc NKE USA	2,693 USD	44.8	45.9	45.0	15.5	16.4	16.2	13.2	14.2	14.2	9.7	10.6	10.7	7.6	7.2	8.1
Ralph Lauren Corp RL USA	814 USD	57.9	57.4	57.2	19.4	17.8	16.8	15.9	13.7	12.3	10.9	9.4	8.2	6.9	8.6	5.5
PVH Corp PVH USA	581 USD	51.5	52.5	52.6	15.6	14.1	13.9	11.8	11.2	10.9	7.1	7.4	7.3	2.1	24.0	-0.7
Guess? Inc GES USA	162 USD	38.0	35.9	35.5	12.6	8.7	8.2	9.2	5.2	4.4	6.3	3.9	3.4	9.8	3.4	5.6
Average		48.1	47.9	47.6	15.8	14.3	13.8	12.5	11.1	10.5	8.5	7.8	7.4	6.6	10.8	4.6
VF Corp VFC US	<b>1,354</b> USD	48.8	49.2	49.6	17.2	<i>17.2</i>	17.1	14.9	15.0	15.0	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.9	8.1	12.8

Leverage Analysis																
		Debt/Equ	ity %		Debt/Tota	ıl Cap %		EBITDA/	Interest Ex	p.	Total De	bt/EBITDA		Assets/E	quity	
Company/Ticker	Last Historical Year Total Debt (Mil)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Nike Inc NKE USA	1,373 USD	12.7	9.1	8.6	11.3	8.3	7.9	130.7	155.7	216.8	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.7	1.6	1.6
Ralph Lauren Corp RL USA	300 USD	7.4	6.8	6.5	6.9	6.4	6.1	72.1	60.9	<i>57.2</i>	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.5	1.5
PVH Corp PVH USA	3,970 USD	91.6	81.3	62.9	47.8	44.8	38.6	6.9	8.4	9.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5
Guess? Inc GES USA	4 USD	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	<u> </u>	_	_	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	1.5
Average		28.0	24.3	19.5	16.6	14.9	13.2	69.9	75.0	94.4	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.9	1.8	1.8
VF Corp VFC US	<b>1,449</b> USD	25.7	<i>25.4</i>	31.6	20.5	20.3	24.0	26.4	28.6	26.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.8	1.7	1.8

Liquidity Analysis																
	Market Cap	Cash per	Cash per Share		Current R	latio		Quick Ra	tio		Cash/Sh	ort-Term D	ebt	Payout F	Ratio %	
Company/Ticker	(Mil)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)	2014	2015(E)	2016(E)
Nike Inc NKE USA	85,966 USD	2.45	1.63	0.71	2.72	2.79	2.71	1.94	1.99	1.89	12.76	31.58	4.27	27.2	30.0	29.1
Ralph Lauren Corp RL USA	11,958 USD	8.66	12.02	11.17	3.43	3.63	3.49	2.38	2.55	2.41	_	_	_	19.2	22.6	27.8
PVH Corp PVH USA	8,562 USD	7.18	5.76	19.86	1.93	0.93	1.69	1.11	0.53	1.17	6.46	4.45	16.73	8.6	2.9	2.2
Guess? Inc GES USA	1,559 USD	5.95	5.70	6.28	3.29	3.68	3.90	2.34	2.62	2.87	120.90	312.33	344.57	44.1	80.8	101.3
Average		6.06	6.28	9.51	2.84	2.76	2.95	1.94	1.92	2.09	46.71	116.12	121.86	24.8	34.1	40.1
VF Corp VFC US	<b>31,655</b> USD	2.21	1.59	0.77	2.58	2.88	2.74	1.67	1.83	1.62	37.67	<i>26.74</i>	12.70	46.5	42.0	42.2



### **Research Methodology for Valuing Companies**

#### Components of Our Methodology

- ► Economic Moat<sup>TM</sup> Rating
- ► Moat Trend™ Rating
- ► Moat Valuation
- ► Three-Stage Discounted Cash Flow
- Weighted Average Cost of Capital
- ► Fair Value Estimate
- ► Scenario Analysis
- ► Uncertainty Ratings
- ► Margin of Safety
- ► Consider Buying/Selling
- ► Stewardship Rating

The Morningstar Rating for stocks identifies companies trading at a discount or premium to our analysts' assessment of their fair value. A number of components drive this rating: (1) our assessment of the firm's economic moat, (2) our estimate of the stock's intrinsic value based on a discounted cash-flow model, (3) the margin of safety bands we apply to our Fair Value Estimate, and (4) the current stock price relative to our fair value estimate.

The concept of the Morningstar Economic Moat™ Rating plays a vital role not only in our qualitative assessment of a firm's investment potential, but also in our valuation process. We assign three moat ratings—none, narrow, or wide—as well as the Morningstar Moat Trend™ Rating—positive, stable, or negative—to each company we cover. There are two major requirements for firms to earn either a narrow or wide moat rating: (1) the prospect of earning above-average returns on capital; and (2) some competitive edge that prevents these returns from quickly eroding. The assumptions we make about a firm's moat determine the length of "economic outperformance" that we assume in the latter stages

of our valuation model. We also quantify the value of each firm's moat, which represents the difference between a firm's enterprise value and the value of the firm if no future net investment were to occur. Said differently, moat value identifies the value generated by the firm as a result of any future net new investment. Our Moat Trend Rating reflects our assessment of whether each firm's competitive advantage is either getting stronger or weaker, since we think of moats as dynamic, rather than static.

At the heart of our valuation system is a detailed projection of a company's future cash flows. The first stage of our three-stage discounted cash flow model can last from 5 to 10 years and contains numerous detailed assumptions about various financial and operating items. The second stage of our model—where a firm's return on new invested capital (RONIC) and earnings growth rate implicitly fade until the perpetuity year—can last anywhere from 0 years (for no-moat firms) to 20 years (for wide-moat companies). In our third stage, we assume the firm's RONIC equals its weighted average cost of capital, and we calculate a continuing value using a standard

#### **Morningstar Research Methodology for Valuing Companies**

Fundamental Analysis

Economic Moat™ Rating Company Valuation

Fair Value Estimate Uncertainty Assessment \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*

Analyst conducts company and industry research:

- Financial statement analysis
- ► Channel checks
- ► Trade-show visits
- ► Industry and company reports and journals
- ► Conference calls
- Management and site visits

Strength of competitive advantage is rated: None, Narrow, or Wide

Advantages that confer an economic moat:

High Switching Costs (Microsoft)

Cost advantage (Wal-Mart)

Intangible assets (Johnson & Johnson)

Network Effect (Mastercard)

Efficient Scale (Lockheed Martin)

Analyst considers past financial results and focuses on competitive position and future prospects to forecast future cash flows.

Assumptions are entered into Morningstar's proprietary discounted cash-flow model.

Analyst uses a discounted cash-flow model to develop a Fair Value Estimate, which serves as the foundation for the Morningstar Rating for stocks.

The analyst then evaluates the range of potential intrinsic values for the company and assigns an Uncertainty Rating: Low, Medium, High, Very High, or Extreme.

The Uncertainty Rating determines the margin of safety required before we would recommend the stock. The higher the uncertainty, the wider the margin of safety.

The current stock price relative to Morningstar's Fair Value Estimate, adjusted for uncertainty, determines the Morningstar Rating for stocks.

The Morningstar Rating for stocks is updated each evening after the market closes.



### **Research Methodology for Valuing Companies**

#### Detailed Methodology Documents and Materials\*

- ► Comprehensive Equity Research Methodology
- ► Uncertainty Methodology
- ► Cost of Equity Methodology
- ► Morningstar DCF Valuation Model
- Stewardship Rating Methodology
- Please contact a sales representative for more information.

perpetuity formula. In deciding on the rate at which to discount future cash flows, we ignore stock-price volatility. Instead, we rely on a system that measures the estimated volatility of a firm's underlying future free cash flows, taking into account fundamental factors such as the diversity of revenue sources and the firm's fixed cost structure.

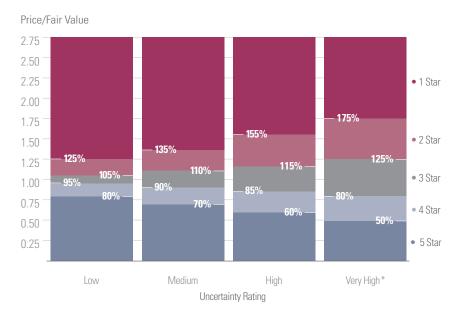
We also employ a number of other tools to augment our valuation process, including scenario analysis, where we assess the likelihood and performance of a business under different economic and firm-specific conditions. Our analysts typically model three to five scenarios for each company we cover, stress-testing the model and examining the distribution of resulting fair values.

The Morningstar Uncertainty Rating captures the range of these potential fair values, based on an assessment of a company's future sales range, the firm's operating and financial leverage, and any other contingent events that may impact the business. Our analysts use this range to assign an appropriate margin of safety—or the discount/premium

to a fair value we apply in setting our consider buying/consider selling prices. Firms trading below our consider-buying prices receive our highest rating of five stars, whereas firms trading above our consider-selling prices receive our lowest rating of one star.

Our corporate Stewardship Rating represents our assessment of management's stewardship of shareholder capital, with particular emphasis on capital allocation decisions. Analysts consider companies' investment strategy and valuation, financial leverage, dividend and share buyback policies, execution, compensation, related party transactions, and accounting practices. Corporate governance practices are only considered if they've had a demonstrated impact on shareholder value. Analysts assign one of three ratings: "Exemplary," "Standard," and "Poor." Analysts judge stewardship from an equity holder's perspective. Ratings are determined on an absolute basis. Most companies will receive a Standard rating, and this is the default rating in the absence of evidence that managers have made exceptionally strong or poor capital allocation decisions.

#### Morningstar Margin of Safety and Star Rating Bands



<sup>\*</sup> Occasionally a stock's uncertainty will be too high for us to estimate, in which case we label it Extreme



Last Price	Fair Value	Consider Buy	Consider Sell	Uncertainty	Economic Moat™	Moat Trend™	Stewardship	Industry Group
73.97 USD	85.00 USD	59.50 USD	114.75 USD	Medium	Wide	Positive	Exemplary	Manufacturing - Apparel & Furniture



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The Morningstar Rating for stocks identifies stocks trading at a discount or premium to their intrinsic value.

Five-star stocks sell for the biggest risk-adjusted discount whereas one-star stocks trade at premiums to their intrinsic value. Based on a fundamentally focused methodology and a robust, standardized set of procedures and core valuation tools used by Morningstar's Equity Analysts, four key components drive the Morningstar Rating: 1. Assessment of the firm's economic moat, 2. Estimate of the stock's fair value, 3. Uncertainty around that fair value estimate and 4. Current market price. Further information on Morningstar's methodology is available from http://global.morningstar.com/equitydisclosures.

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