Burlington Stores, Inc.: BURL Michael Capozzi

Sector: Services
Industry: Discount, Variety Stores
Current Price: \$96.05
Target Price: \$110.42

Company Description: Burlington Stores, Inc. is a retailer of branded apparel products in 40 states and Puerto Rico. Their merchandise includes ladies sportswear, menswear, youth apparel, baby furniture, footwear, accessories, home décor and gifts, and coats.

## BUY

| Current Price: | $\$ 96.05$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Target Price: | $\$ 110.42$ |
| Market Cap: | 6.7 B |
| Beta: | 0.18 |
| 52 week range: | $\$ 51.19-\$ 97.94$ |
| Average Volume: | 916,818 |
| WACC: | $9.5 \%$ |
| EBITDA Margin:10.32\% |  |
| D/E Ratio: | 0.2 |



Thesis: Burlington Stores Inc. has been able to create significant value in an industry that has proved otherwise. They have continued to increase revenues for the last 5 fiscal years. 2016 proved to be another successful year for the company, increasing revenues $6 \%$ and increasing EPS $40.4 \%$. Margins have also continued to increase due to the successful strategies the company has taken on in recent years. They have been able to steer customers away from the computer and into the stores. They have done this by offering value that not even Amazon can match. While competitors like Macy's and JC Penney's are closing stores, Burlington is opening more. Within their stores they are able to create more revenue per square foot and increase same store sale percentages. The company has been successful in diversifying its products by rebranding itself as a retailer of various clothing and home products. Burlington has also been able to increase margins by reducing inventories through new inventory strategy. Diversity in products have also allowed Burlington to sell products that have higher markups. Due to these factors BURL should have no trouble reaching their target price of $\$ 110.42$.

## Catalysts:

- Short Term(within the year): Expansion into more diverse products and efficient inventory strategies, will increase revenues and margins
- Medium Term(1-2 years): Introduction of new stores. The company's ability to create more value in their stores than their competitors
- Long Term(3+): Trump's tax benefits can help increase future margins


## Earnings Performance:

Many analysts may consider BURL to be a growth stock because of its recent earning calls and the way they have positioned themselves for growth in future earnings. The company has continued to record increased revenues for the last 5 years. In 2016, BURL posted a $6 \%$ growth in revenues to $\$ 1.3 \mathrm{~B}$, while their EPS grew at $40.4 \%$. Net income and cash flows from operating activities also grew at $128 \%$ and $8 \%$ respectively. These results were due to $4.6 \%$ rise in comparable sales and a gross margin increase in gross margins to $42.02 \%$ for the three months ending $1 / 28 / 17$. BURL has also been able to increase EBITDA margins consistently over the last 5 years. For the 12 months ending $1 / 28 / 2017$, BURL reported EBITDA margins at 10.32. In regards for the upcoming year, forecasters see more growth for BURL. Revenues are estimated $\$ 6.053 B$. EBITDA and Gross margins are both forecasted to rise in the upcoming year. Their success can be attributed to their ability to increase revenues and keep costs low.


## SIENAcollege

Store Growth:
Retail has not proved to be a great industry for investors. Although Burlington has been thriving in a difficult market. They have proved that people are still willing to leave their homes and shop at a physical location. This is because they are able to offer prices on fashionable-focused merchandise that rivals competitors such as Amazon. This value creation attracts customers to turn to Burlington for their fashion needs. While competitors like Macy's, Sears, and JC Penney's continue to close stores, Burlington plans on opening more. The company added 28 stores and plans on opening an additional 25 in 2017. They currently have 592 locations in 40 states and Puerto Rico. Revenues in existing store have increased in their latest earning report as well. Same store sales percentage, which indicates the increase or decrease in revenues in stores that have existed for over a year, have been consistently increasing despite a slight dip in 2016. Their
 same store sales increased $4.5 \%$ for their last fiscal year reported. Sales per retail square footage has also increased $5.6 \%$ since the previous fiscal year. In compassion to competitors, Macy's has seen a $3.5 \%$ decrease and has opened 27 stores, while closing 68. JC Penney's same store sales saw no growth and closed 9 stores,
while only opening 9. And Sears, who has probably seen the most trouble over the last few years, has seen a $9.3 \%$ decrease in same store sales

Burlington is able to provide value for their customers to travel to a physical location in much better way than their competitors. Even online giant, Amazon, cannot compete. Burlington's sale of winter coats at $75 \%$ off was much cheaper than anything Amazon had to offer. And finally, the stores themselves are esthetically pleasing for their customers.


## SIENAcollege

## Revenue by

## Segments:

Burlington Stores provide much more than just coats. Their revenues come from women's ready-to-wear apparel, accessories and footwear, menswear, youth apparel/baby, home, and of course coats. The move to rebrand themselves as more than just coats has been a very successful strategy. The ability to do this has helped them avoid being a cyclical company that is only successful in the
 winter months. In 2010, coats made up $9 \%$ of their revenue, today it only makes up $6 \%$. Majority of their sales come from women's ready-to-wear apparel, accessories and footwear, menswear, and youth apparel/baby. This move to focus on other products has benefited margins because of the coat's added inventory costs.

## Shedding Coats

Burlington offers more home products and women's apparel while relying less on coats and winter sales for annual profits

Store product makeup


Percentage of annual

EPS coming from Q4 100\%


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Inventories:
Due to Burlington current strategies, they are able to reduce inventories, in turn reducing costs associated with inventory. First, the company has focused less on selling coats, this has ultimately led to lower inventory costs and store sizes for the company. The company has also began to use a "pack away" inventory strategy, which is when a company purchases products on a major discount and then sell them at a later date. Over the last few years, Burlington has been able to increase its inventory turnover from 3.71 to 4.44. The company has also been able to decrease it overall inventory $-10.4 \%$ compared to the last fiscal year. In comparison, Macy's inventory turnover has decreased from 3.19 to 2.86 since 2012. Burlington has been able to manage inventories more efficiently than competitors, thus reducing costs.


## Profit Margins:

One of Burlington's most successful strategies, has been to focus on more than just coats. By doing this they have been able to reduce costs, increase revenues, and increase profit margins. Coats have high inventory costs associated with them, as discussed earlier. By reducing the amount of coats in inventory, Burlington has been able to decrease their COGS. They have also been able to offer more products that they can sell at a higher markup. Especially, products like footwear and accessories, which carry huge markups. Gross margins have climbed to $41.02 \%$ and EBITDA margins have also increased to $10.32 \%$. In comparison to their competitors, Burlington has been as profitable as or more profitable than their competitors.

| Name | GM:Y | EBITDA to Net Sales:Y | OPM:Y |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Median | 32.33\% | 9.76\% | 7.25\% |
| 100) BURLINGTON STORES INC | 41.02\% | 10.32\% | 7.16\% |
| 101) ROSS STORES INC | 28.70\% | 16.36\% | 14.01\% |
| 102) TJX COMPANIES INC | 28.98\% | 13.59\% | 11.62\% |
| 103) MACY'S INC | 39.40\% | 9.21\% | 7.34\% |
| 104) J.C. PENNEY CO INC | 35.67\% | 8.00\% | 3.32\% |
| 105) SEARS HOLDINGS CORP | 22.04\% | -7.24\% | -4.76\% |

## Conclusion:

Due to catalysts provided, BURL can continue to create value for investors. More importantly they have been able to create significant value for their customers. Burlington is one of the few companies that can still create value in their stores instead of through e-commerce. This competitive advantage has allowed them open more stores, while their competitors find themselves closing stores. Their consistency in increasing revenues and margins has made this stock a buy for many firms and individual investors. A reasonable target price of around $\$ 110$ is very achievable for BURL.

| Current Price | $\$ 96.05$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Intrinsic Value | $\$ 101.90$ |
| Target Price | $\$ 110.42$ |
| Target 1 Year Return | $14.96 \%$ |
| Probablility of Price Increase | $82.4 \%$ |

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[^0]:    Sources: RBC Capital Markets, company reports

