



McCormick Reports Higher Sales And Profits

January 14, 1999
 SPANISH: S&P 500: 14.4 - McCormick & Company, Incorporated (NASDAQ: MCCO), today reported increased sales and profits for the fourth quarter and fiscal 1998. Earnings per share for the year ended November 30 were \$1.41, an increase of 8% over \$1.30 for 1997. Sales increased 4% to \$1.9 billion. Operating income excluding restructuring increased 10%.
 Earnings per share for the fourth quarter were 66¢ versus 65¢ for the comparable quarter of 1997, an increase of 5%. Sales increased 5% to \$566 million. Operating income for the quarter excluding restructuring increased 9%. The Company's global consumer and foodservice businesses had excellent results, with double-digit sales and profit growth. These gains were partially offset by unfavorable foreign currency exchange rates and lower fourth quarter profit in the Company's industrial food business and packaging businesses. Also in the quarter, the Company recorded net restructuring charges of \$1.5 million (1.3¢ per share) resulting primarily from the discontinuation of manufacturing operations in Venezuela, offset by other restructuring charges and credits relating to the completion of prior year restructuring plans.
 Commercial Rates: 1.44¢, Treasury & CDO: 5.04% (the quarter). The Company's earnings improved over the same quarter of the prior year. We are particularly pleased with the performance of our global consumer and foodservice businesses. Successful consumer marketing initiatives, such as the relaunch of our dry seasoning mix line, along with distribution gains, made an important contribution. Our McCormick and Scudding brand products are performing the category growth, and we expect the success to continue into 1999.
 *Outstanding operating results and distribution gains in Australia and Canada were dampened by unfavorable currency exchange rates. Weak economies in Asia and Latin America continue to negatively impact our results. The fundamentals of our business remain strong. Our programs are working, and we firmly believe we are on the right track for future success.

Consolidated Income Statement
 (in thousands except per share data)

	Three months ended		Year ended	
	11/30/98	11/30/97	11/30/98	11/30/97
NET SALES	\$651,980	\$554,974	\$1,881,196	\$1,880,768
Cost of goods sold	357,509	338,060	1,232,222	1,172,328
Gross profit	294,471	216,914	648,974	708,440
Percentage	39.0%	39.3%	34.5%	37.7%
Selling, general and administrative expenses	143,171	143,146	463,779	461,022
Manufacturing charge (credit)	1,507	113	2,235	(3,227)
Operating income	81,811	72,655	182,958	176,644
Interest expense	9,622	9,281	36,955	36,332
Other (income) expense, net	(2,701)	(3,750)	(8,609)	(2,790)
Income from consolidated continuing operations	69,488	62,624	137,394	137,612
Income taxes	25,999	71,769	152,499	142,356
Income before	27,573	26,915	14,900	52,653
Net income from consolidated continuing operations	49,217	41,624	97,590	89,653
Income from discontinued operations	1,261	2,238	4,278	7,762
Net income from continuing operations	50,078	48,190	101,868	97,415
Income from discontinued operations, net of income taxes	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013
NET INCOME	\$ 51,091	\$ 49,203	\$ 102,881	\$ 98,428
EARNINGS PER SHARE - BASIC:				
Continuing operations	\$0.49	\$0.45	\$1.42	\$1.29
Discontinued operations	-	-	-	-
EARNINGS PER SHARE - BASIC	\$0.49	\$0.45	\$1.42	\$1.29
Average shares outstanding - basic	72,668	74,397	73,269	75,458
EARNINGS PER SHARE - DILUTED:				
Continuing operations	\$0.48	\$0.45	\$1.41	\$1.29
Discontinued operations	-	-	-	-
EARNINGS PER SHARE - DILUTED	\$0.48	\$0.45	\$1.41	\$1.29
Average shares outstanding - diluted	73,242	74,606	73,886	75,322

	11/30/98	11/30/97
Assets		
Receivables	\$ 212,864	\$ 217,198
Inventory	258,893	252,284
Prepaid expenses	143,722	132,943
Property - net	377,022	380,075
Other assets	274,665	276,962
Total assets	\$1,269,953	\$1,256,232
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Short-term debt	\$ 163,679	\$ 127,302
Other current liabilities	264,205	276,947
Long-term debt	205,543	274,489
Other liabilities	107,282	88,384
Shareholders' equity	388,111	389,110
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$1,269,953	\$1,256,232