

J&J hikes 2014 forecast for a third time

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Johnson & Johnson lifted its 2014 earnings forecast a third time after pharmaceutical sales helped the world's biggest maker of health care products trump analyst expectations for its recently concluded quarter.

J&J booked an 18 percent jump in worldwide [pharmaceutical sales](#) in the third quarter, which helped it counter revenue declines in both its medical device and consumer segments. The New Brunswick, New Jersey, company also recorded a \$1.1 billion gain in the quarter from the sale of its Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics business.

The maker of Band-Aids and baby shampoo said it now expects [earnings](#) adjusted for one-time items to range between \$5.92 and \$5.97 per share this year. That's up from a forecast it made in July for \$5.85 to \$5.92 per share.

Analysts have been projecting earnings of \$5.92 per share, according to Zacks Investment Research.

In the third quarter, J&J saw earnings jump 59 percent to \$4.75 billion even though revenue only rose 5 percent to \$18.47 billion. Earnings adjusted for one-time items totaled \$1.50 per share.

Analysts forecast \$1.42 per share.

J&J also booked a 21 percent revenue gain from prescription drugs in its second quarter. The strong performance has helped it regain the lead among J&J's segments over its device business and offset the lagging

consumer segment, which is still recovering from dozens of product recalls since 2009.

The company's stock climbed \$1.19 to \$100.31 in premarket trading about 30 minutes before the market open. The shares topped \$108 late last month, their highest price in more than a decade.

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