

Boston Beer Reports Second Quarter 2015 Results

July 30, 2015

BOSTON, July 30, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- The Boston Beer Company, Inc. (NYSE: SAM) reported second quarter 2015 net revenue of \$252.2 million, an increase of \$20.6 million or 9%, over the same period last year, mainly due to core shipment growth of 7%. Net income for the second quarter increased 16% to \$29.9 million, or \$2.18 per diluted share, an increase of \$4.5 million or \$0.30 per diluted share, from the second quarter of 2014. This increase was primarily due to shipment increases, improved gross margins and a slightly lower income tax rate, partially offset by increased investments in advertising, promotional and selling expenses.

Earnings per diluted share for the 26-week period ended June 27, 2015 were \$3.18, an increase of \$0.69 from the comparable 26-week period in 2014. Net revenue for the 26-week period ended June 27, 2015 was \$451.7 million, an increase of \$36.3 million, or 9%, from the comparable 26-week period in 2014.

Highlights of this release include:

- Depletions grew 6% and 7% from the comparable 13 and 26 week periods in the prior year.
- Gross margin was 54% for the second quarter and 52% for first half of the year, with the Company maintaining its full year gross margin target of between 51% and 53%.
- Advertising, promotional and selling expenses increased by \$5.4 million or 8% in the quarter, primarily due to planned increased investments behind the Company's brands.
- Full year 2015 depletions growth is now estimated to be between 6% and 9%, a decrease from the previously communicated estimate of 8% to 12%.
- Full year 2015 estimated earnings per diluted share remain unchanged at \$7.10 to \$7.50.
- Full year 2015 capital spending is now estimated to be between \$70 million to \$100 million, a decrease from the previously communicated estimated range of \$80 million to \$110 million.

Jim Koch, Chairman and Founder of the Company, commented, "Our total company depletion trends of 6% in the second quarter of 2015 have slowed in comparison to prior quarters due to some developing weakness in our Samuel Adams brand. While our total growth is testament to our strategy of a diversified brand portfolio, our Samuel Adams trends appear to represent a very competitive category where drinkers are facing greatly increased choices and established brands are being impacted. We believe that quality, freshness, innovation and variety will be the basic requirements for success in this environment. We believe that craft beer will continue to grow and that we are positioned to share in that growth through the quality of our brands and beers, our innovation and speed to market capability and our sales execution, along with our strong financial position and ability to invest in growing our brands. We were delighted to learn that, for the seventh year in a row, our distributors ranked us the number one beer supplier in the industry, in the annual poll of beer distributors conducted by Tamarron Consulting, a consulting firm specializing in the alcohol beverage distribution industry. This is a testament to the efforts of all Boston Beer employees to service and support our distributors' businesses and to the relationships we have built with them."

Martin Roper, the Company's President and CEO stated, "In the second quarter, our depletions growth benefited from strength in our Angry Orchard, Twisted Tea and Traveler brands that offset declines in some of our Samuel Adams styles. The decline in some of our Samuel Adams styles is due to increased competition, which particularly impacted Boston Lager and some of our seasonal beers. Accordingly, we have decreased our expectations for full-year depletions growth to between 6% and 9% to reflect the most recent trends. We are working hard to improve the Sam Adams brand trends and in the second half of the year we expect to introduce new packaging and advertising to support our planned promotional activity. The national rollout of our Traveler brand is currently in progress supported by national media and in mid-July we began our national rollout of Coney Island Hard Root Beer. Both these rollouts are being well-supported by distributors, retailers and drinkers. We are pleased with Traveler's progress this year, but it is too early to tell how successful the Coney Island Hard Root Beer introduction will be. We are planning continued investments in advertising, promotional and selling expenses, as well as in innovation, commensurate with the opportunities and the increased competition that we see."

Mr. Roper went on to say, "We continue to focus on our supply chain with ongoing investments in improved training, stable scheduling, and operating efficiency and reliability improvements. While we have made progress, we believe we still have capacity and cost improvement opportunities. We also continue to make supply chain improvements intended to further increase the freshness of our beers and enhance our customer service. This includes piloting one wholesaler on a pure replenishment service model within our Freshest Beer Program, which if successful would further reduce wholesaler inventories. Looking forward, we expect to maintain a high level of brand investment, as we pursue sustainable growth and innovation. We remain prepared to forsake the earnings that may be lost as a result of these investments in the short term, as we pursue long term profitable growth."

2nd Quarter 2015 Summary of Results

Depletions grew 6% from the comparable 13-week period in the prior year, primarily due to depletion increases across our Angry Orchard®, Twisted Tea® and Traveler brands, partially offset by declines in Samuel Adams® brand.

Core shipment volume was approximately 1.1 million barrels, a 7% increase compared to the second quarter of 2014.

The Company believes distributor inventory levels at June 27, 2015 were appropriate. Inventory at distributors participating in the Freshest Beer Program at June 27, 2015 was equal in terms of days of inventory on hand when compared to June 28, 2014. The Company has over 69% of its volume in the Freshest Beer Program and it believes participation in the Program could reach 75% of its volume by the end of 2015.

Gross margin increased to 54% compared to 53% in the second quarter of 2014. The margin increase was a result of price increases and lower ingredient costs partially offset by product mix effects.

Advertising, promotional and selling expenses were \$5.4 million higher than costs incurred in the second quarter of 2014. The increase was primarily a result of increased investments in media advertising, increased costs for additional sales personnel and commissions, point of sale, and increased freight to distributors due to higher volumes.

General and administrative expenses increased \$1.4 million compared to the second quarter of 2014, primarily due to increases in salary and benefit costs and consulting costs.

The Company's effective tax rate decreased to 36.2% from 37.5% in the second quarter of 2014. The 2015 rate was a result of the favorable impact of lower state tax rates.

Year-to-Date 2015 Summary of Results

Depletions grew by 7% from the comparable 26-week period in 2014, primarily due to depletion increases across our Angry Orchard, Twisted Tea and Traveler brands, partially offset by declines in Samuel Adams brand.

Core shipment volume was approximately 2.0 million barrels, a 6% increase from the comparable 26-week period in 2014.

Advertising, promotional and selling expenses were \$4.4 million higher than costs incurred in the comparable 26-week period in 2014. The increase was primarily a result of increased investments in media advertising, increased costs for additional sales personnel and commissions, and increased freight to distributors due to higher volumes.

General and administrative expenses increased by \$2.7 million from the comparable 26-week period in 2014, due to increases in salary and benefit costs and consulting costs.

The Company's effective tax rate decreased to 36.4% from 37.4% in the first half of 2014. The 2015 rate was a result of the favorable impact of lower state tax rates.

The Company expects that its June 27, 2015 cash balance of \$147.0 million, together with its future operating cash flows and its \$150.0 million line of credit, will be sufficient to fund future cash requirements.

During the 26-week period ended June 27, 2015 and the period from June 28, 2015 through July 24, 2015, the Company repurchased approximately 170,000 shares of its Class A Common Stock for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$41.4 million. As of July 24, 2015 the Company had approximately \$51.2 million remaining on the \$400.0 million share buyback expenditure limit set by the Board of Directors. On July 29, 2015 the Board of Directors approved an increase of \$75.0 million to the previously approved \$400.0 million share buyback expenditure limit, for a new limit of \$475.0 million.

Depletion estimates

Year-to-date depletions through the 29-week period ended July 18, 2015 are estimated by the Company to be up approximately 6% from the comparable period in 2014.

Outlook

The Company has left unchanged its projected 2015 earnings per diluted share of between \$7.10 and \$7.50. The Company's actual 2015 earnings per share could vary significantly from the current projection. Underlying the Company's current projection are the following estimates and targets:

- Depletions and shipments growth of between 6% and 9%.
- National price increases of between 1% and 2%.
- Gross margins of between 51% and 53%.
- Increased investment in advertising, promotional and selling expenses of between \$25 million and \$35 million. This does not include any increases in freight costs for the shipment of products to the Company's distributors.
- Increased expenditures of between \$10 million to \$15 million for continued investment in Traveler and other existing brands developed by Alchemy & Science, which are included in the full year estimated increases in advertising, promotional and selling expenses. These estimates could change significantly and 2015 volume from these brands is unlikely to cover these and other potential Alchemy & Science brand investments.
- Effective tax rate of approximately 37%, a decrease from the previously communicated estimate of 38% due to the favorable impact of lower state tax rates.
- Capital spending of between \$70 million and \$100 million, which could be significantly higher, dependent on capital required to meet future growth. These estimates include capital investments for existing Alchemy & Science projects of between \$3 million and \$5 million.

About the Company

The Boston Beer Company, Inc. (NYSE: SAM) began in 1984 and today brews more than 60 styles of Samuel Adams beer. Our portfolio of brands also includes Angry Orchard Hard Cider and Twisted Tea, as well as several other craft beer brands brewed by Alchemy & Science, our craft beer incubator. For more information, please visit our investor relations website at www.bostonbeer.com, which includes links to all of our respective brand websites.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements made in this press release that state the Company's or management's intentions, hopes, beliefs, expectations or predictions of the future are forward-looking statements. It is important to note that the Company's actual results could differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements. Additional information concerning factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking

statements is contained from time to time in the Company's SEC filings, including, but not limited to, the Company's report on Form 10-K for the years ended December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013. Copies of these documents may be found on the Company's website, www.bostonbeer.com, or obtained by contacting the Company or the SEC.

THE BOSTON BEER COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(in thousands, except per share data)
(unaudited)

	Thirteen weeks ended		Twenty-six weeks ended	
	June 27, 2015	June 28, 2014	June 27, 2015	June 28, 2014
Barrels sold	1,125	1,054	2,014	1,892
Revenue	\$ 268,721	\$ 247,365	\$ 481,555	\$ 444,735
Less excise taxes	16,517	15,754	29,848	29,279
Net revenue	252,204	231,611	451,707	415,456
Cost of goods sold	115,979	108,515	215,866	201,841
Gross profit	136,225	123,096	235,841	213,615
Operating expenses:				
Advertising, promotional and selling expenses	71,370	65,922	131,618	127,179
General and administrative expenses	18,036	16,681	35,265	32,552
Total operating expenses	89,406	82,603	166,883	159,731
Operating income	46,819	40,493	68,958	53,884
Other income (expense), net:				
Interest income (expense), net	11	(5)	7	(9)
Other income (expense), net	54	201	(271)	65
Total other income (expense), net	65	196	(264)	56
Income before income tax provision	46,884	40,689	68,694	53,940
Provision for income taxes	16,952	15,261	25,019	20,197
Net income	\$ 29,932	\$ 25,428	\$ 43,675	\$ 33,743
Net income per common share - basic	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.95	\$ 3.28	\$ 2.59
Net income per common share - diluted	\$ 2.18	\$ 1.88	\$ 3.18	\$ 2.49
Weighted-average number of common shares - Class A basic	9,748	9,196	9,673	9,097
Weighted-average number of common shares - Class B basic	3,532	3,770	3,575	3,837
Weighted-average number of common shares - diluted	13,667	13,486	13,650	13,461
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:				
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(5)	-	1	-
Comprehensive income	\$ 29,927	\$ 25,428	\$ 43,676	\$ 33,743

THE BOSTON BEER COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except share data)
(unaudited)

	June 27, 2015	December 27, 2014
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 146,983	\$ 76,402
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$30 and \$144 as of June 27, 2015 and December 27, 2014, respectively	52,575	36,860
Inventories	57,119	51,307
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	13,776	12,887
Income tax receivable	3,517	21,321
Deferred income taxes	7,288	8,685
Total current assets	281,258	207,462
Property, plant and equipment, net	397,853	381,569
Other assets	9,719	12,447
Goodwill	3,683	3,683
Total assets	\$ 692,513	\$ 605,161

Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 46,012	\$ 35,576
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	72,356	74,594
Total current liabilities	118,368	110,170
Deferred income taxes	51,182	50,717
Debt and capital lease obligations, less current portion	471	528
Other liabilities	7,810	7,606
Total liabilities	177,831	169,021
Commitments and Contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Class A Common Stock, \$.01 par value; 22,700,000 shares authorized; 9,783,399 and 9,452,375 issued and outstanding as of June 27, 2015 and December 27, 2014, respectively	98	95
Class B Common Stock, \$.01 par value; 4,200,000 shares authorized; 3,467,355 and 3,617,355 issued and outstanding as of June 27, 2015 and December 27, 2014	35	36
Additional paid-in capital	282,554	224,909
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(1,132)	(1,133)
Retained earnings	233,127	212,233
Total stockholders' equity	514,682	436,140
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 692,513	\$ 605,161

THE BOSTON BEER COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASHFLOWS

(in thousands)
(unaudited)

	Twenty-six weeks ended	
	June 27, 2015	June 28, 2014
Cash flows provided by operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 43,675	\$ 33,743
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	20,455	15,391
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	339	71
Bad debt (recovery) expense	(49)	120
Stock-based compensation expense	3,632	3,937
Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation arrangements	(12,847)	(8,131)
Deferred income taxes	1,862	(101)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(15,666)	(15,881)
Inventories	(5,812)	(7,935)
Prepaid expenses, income tax receivable and other assets	33,201	(3,500)
Accounts payable	11,570	2,724
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	(2,430)	17,766
Other liabilities	424	116
Net cash provided by operating activities	78,354	38,320
Cash flows used in investing activities:		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(38,880)	(88,451)
Cash paid for other intangible assets	(100)	-
Decrease in restricted cash	57	55
Net cash used in investing activities	(38,923)	(88,396)
Cash flows provided by financing activities:		
Repurchase of Class A Common Stock	(22,782)	-
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	40,332	23,126
Cash paid on note payable	(54)	(53)
Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation arrangements	12,847	8,131
Net proceeds from sale of investment shares	807	630
Net cash provided by financing activities	31,150	31,834
Change in cash and cash equivalents	70,581	(18,242)

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>76,402</u>	<u>49,524</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 146,983</u>	<u>\$ 31,282</u>
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Income taxes paid	<u>\$ 9,738</u>	<u>\$ 7,605</u>
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable for purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>\$ (1,134)</u>	<u>\$ 7,950</u>

<p><i>Copies of The Boston Beer Company's press releases, including quarterly financial results, are available on the Internet at www.bostonbeer.com</i></p>
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To view the original version on PR Newswire, visit: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/boston-beer-reports-second-quarter-2015-results-300121454.html>

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