

COCA COLA CO
Form S-3ASR
October 29, 2007

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 29, 2007

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

The Coca-Cola Company

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

58-0628465

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**One Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta, Georgia 30313
(404) 676-2121**

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

**Geoffrey J. Kelly, Esq.
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
The Coca-Cola Company
One Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta, Georgia 30313
(404) 676-2121**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

With a copy to:

**Gabriel Dumitrescu, Esq.
Finance Counsel
The Coca-Cola Company
One Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta, Georgia 30313**

**Richard B. Aftanas, Esq.
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Four Times Square
New York, NY 10036
(212) 735-3000**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement as determined by the Registrant.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. ☐

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. ☐

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. y

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered / Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit / Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Debt Securities		
Common Stock	(1)(2)	(3)
Preferred Stock		
Warrants		
Depositary Shares		
Purchase Contracts		

(1) Not applicable pursuant to Form S-3 General Instruction II(E).

(2) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices, along with an indeterminate number of securities that may be issued upon exercise, settlement, exchange or conversion of securities offered hereunder. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon exercise, settlement, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units with other securities registered hereunder.

(3) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, or the "Securities Act," the Registrant is deferring payment of the entire registration fee.

PROSPECTUS

**DEBT SECURITIES
COMMON STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK
WARRANTS
DEPOSITARY SHARES
PURCHASE CONTRACTS**

The following are types of securities that we may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately:

debt securities;

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

warrants to purchase debt or equity securities;

depository shares; and

purchase contracts.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered will be described in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "KO." Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

You should carefully read and consider the risk factors included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission before your invest in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is October 29, 2007.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

We include cross references to captions elsewhere in this prospectus where you can find related additional information. The following table of contents tells you where to find these captions.

	Page
About this Prospectus	1
Where You Can Find More Information	1
Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	2
Our Company	4
Use of Proceeds	4
Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges	4
Description of Debt Securities	5
Description of Capital Stock	19
Description of Warrants	22
Description of Depositary Shares	23
Description of Purchase Contracts	26
Plan of Distribution	28
Legal Matters	29
Experts	29

In this prospectus, except as otherwise indicated, the terms "Company," "we," "us" or "our" mean The Coca-Cola Company and all entities included in our consolidated financial statements.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the "SEC," using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell:

debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated and may be convertible;

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

warrants to purchase debt or equity securities;

depository shares; and

purchase contracts,

either separately or in units, in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of those securities. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

You may obtain from the SEC, through the SEC's website or at the SEC offices mentioned in the following paragraph, a copy of the registration statement, including exhibits, that we have filed with the SEC to register the securities offered under this prospectus. This prospectus is part of the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement on Form S-3. You will find additional information about us in the registration statement. Any statement made in this prospectus concerning a contract or other document of ours is not necessarily complete, and you should read the documents that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement or otherwise filed with the SEC for a more complete understanding of the document or matter. Each such statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and on our corporate website at <http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com>. Information on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus. You may inspect without charge any documents filed by us at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of all or any part of these materials from the SEC upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available at the office of the New York Stock Exchange located at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

We "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Some information contained in this prospectus updates the information incorporated by reference, and information that we file subsequently with the SEC will automatically update this prospectus. In other words, in the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information set forth in this prospectus and information that we

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

file later and incorporate by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the documents listed below and any filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the "Exchange Act," after the initial filing of the registration statement that contains this prospectus and prior to the time that all the securities offered by this prospectus have been issued as described in this prospectus (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not "filed" in accordance with SEC rules):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 (filed on February 21, 2007);

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 30, 2007 (filed on April 26, 2007), the three months ended June 29, 2007 (filed on July 26, 2007) and the three months ended September 28, 2007 (filed on October 24, 2007);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 19, 2007, February 14, 2007 at 5:12 p.m., March 2, 2007, March 6, 2007, April 2, 2007, April 24, 2007, May 31, 2007, June 13, 2007, October 24, 2007, October 26, 2007 and October 29, 2007; and

the descriptions of the common stock set forth in our registration statements filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating those descriptions.

You may request a copy of the registration statement, the above filings and any future filings that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing, at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address: Office of the Secretary, The Coca-Cola Company, One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia 30313; telephone: (404) 676-2121.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC and any information about the terms of securities offered conveyed to you by us, our underwriters or agents. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with additional or different information. These securities are only being offered in jurisdictions where the offer is permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein may contain statements, estimates or projections that constitute "forward-looking statements" as defined under U.S. federal securities laws. Generally, the words "believe," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "project," "will" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, which generally are not historical in nature. Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from our Company's historical experience and our present expectations or projections. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: obesity concerns; scarcity and quality of water; changes in the nonalcoholic beverages business environment, including changes in consumer preferences based on health and nutrition considerations and obesity concerns; shifting consumer tastes and needs; changes in lifestyles and increased consumer information; increased competition; our ability to expand our operations in developing and emerging markets; foreign currency and interest rate fluctuations; our ability to maintain good relationships with our bottling partners; the financial condition of our bottling partners; our ability to maintain good labor relations, including our ability to renew collective bargaining

agreements on satisfactory terms and avoid strikes or work stoppages; increase in the cost of energy; increase in cost, disruption of supply or shortage of raw materials; changes in laws and regulations relating to beverage containers and packaging, including mandatory deposit, recycling, eco-tax and/or product stewardship laws or regulations; adoption of significant additional labeling or warning requirements; unfavorable economic and political conditions in international markets, including civil unrest, governmental changes and product boycotts; changes in commercial or market practices and business models within the European Union; litigation uncertainties; adverse weather conditions; our ability to maintain brand image and product quality as well as other product issues such as product recalls; changes in legal and regulatory environments; changes in accounting standards and taxation requirements; our ability to achieve overall long-term goals; our ability to protect our information systems; additional impairment charges; our ability to successfully manage Company-owned bottling operations; global or regional catastrophic events; and other risks discussed in our filings with the SEC, including, without limitation, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 and our subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which filings are available from the SEC. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law.

OUR COMPANY

The Coca-Cola Company is the largest manufacturer, distributor and marketer of nonalcoholic beverage concentrates and syrups in the world. Finished beverage products bearing our trademarks, sold in the United States since 1886, are now sold in more than 200 countries. Along with Coca-Cola, which is recognized as the world's most valuable brand, we market four of the world's top five nonalcoholic sparkling brands, including Diet Coke, Fanta and Sprite.

Our business is nonalcoholic beverages principally sparkling beverages, but also a variety of still beverages. We manufacture beverage concentrates and syrups, which we sell to bottling and canning operations, fountain wholesalers and some fountain retailers, as well as some finished beverages, which we sell primarily to distributors. Our Company owns or licenses more than 400 brands, including diet and light beverages, waters, juice and juice drinks, teas, coffees, and energy and sports drinks. In addition, we have ownership interests in numerous bottling and canning operations, although most of these operations are independently owned and managed.

We were incorporated in September 1919 under the laws of the State of Delaware and succeeded to the business of a Georgia corporation with the same name that had been organized in 1892.

Our principal office is located at One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia 30313, and our telephone number at that address is (404) 676-2121.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may be otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities will be used for general corporate purposes, including:

working capital;

capital expenditures;

acquisitions of or investments in businesses or assets;

redemption and repayment of short-term or long-term borrowings; and

purchases of our common stock under our ongoing stock repurchase program.

Pending application of the net proceeds, we may temporarily invest the net proceeds in short-term marketable securities.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the five fiscal years ended December 31, 2006 and the nine months ended September 28, 2007 are set forth below:

Nine Months Ended September 28, 2007	Year Ended December 31,				
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
18.4x	25.7x	23.2x	25.8x	24.6x	23.2x

We computed ratios of earnings to fixed charges on a total enterprise basis by dividing income from continuing operations before income taxes and changes in accounting principles (excluding undistributed equity earnings) and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest) by fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of gross interest incurred and the interest portion of rental expense.

We were contingently liable for guarantees of indebtedness owed by third parties in the amount of \$253 million at September 28, 2007. Fixed charges for these contingent liabilities have not been included in the computation of the above ratios as the amounts are immaterial and, in the opinion of our management, it is not probable that we will be required to satisfy the guarantees. The interest amount in the above table does not include interest expense associated with unrecognized tax benefits.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt securities offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those debt securities.

Any debt securities will be either our senior unsecured obligations issued in one or more series, which we refer to as the "senior debt securities," or our subordinated unsecured obligations issued in one or more series, which we refer to as the "subordinated debt securities." We will issue the senior debt securities under an amended and restated indenture between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company, as trustee, dated as of April 26, 1988, as amended, which we refer to as the "senior indenture." We will issue the subordinated debt securities under an indenture to be entered into between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which we refer to as the "subordinated indenture." We refer to the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture, collectively, as the "indentures." As used in this prospectus, "debt securities" means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that we issue and the trustee authenticates and delivers under the indentures. The indentures and all debt securities issued under the indentures will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. Additionally, the indentures are subject to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

We have summarized selected terms and provisions of the indentures in this section. We have also filed the indentures as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You should read the indentures for additional information before you buy any debt securities. See "Where You Can Find More Information" for information on how to obtain copies of the indentures. The summary that follows includes references to section numbers of the indentures (as supplemented by the first supplemental indenture to the senior indenture, dated as of February 24, 1992, in some instances) so that you can more easily locate these provisions. Unless otherwise indicated, section references are the same for the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this summary have the meanings specified in the indentures.

General

The senior debt securities will rank equally and ratably with our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of our senior debt, including any senior debt securities, as described below under "Subordinated Indenture Provisions Subordination." The debt securities will rank junior to all of our currently existing and future secured debt.

We are not limited as to the amount of debt securities that we can issue under the indentures. We may issue debt securities under the indentures in one or more series, each with different terms, up to the aggregate principal amount which we may authorize from time to time. We also have the right to "reopen" a previous issue of a series of debt securities by issuing additional debt securities of such series. (Section 3.01).

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

A prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to that offering. In addition to stating whether the securities will be senior or subordinated, these terms will include some or all of the following:

the title and type of the debt securities;

the total principal amount of debt securities of that series that are authorized and outstanding as of the most recent date;

any limit on the total principal amount of the debt securities;

the price at which the debt securities will be issued;

the date or dates on which the principal of and premium, if any, on the debt securities will be payable;

the maturity date of the debt securities;

the minimum denominations in which the debt securities will be issued;

if the debt securities will bear interest;

the interest rate on the debt securities or the method of calculating the interest rate;

the date from which interest will accrue;

the record and interest payment dates for the debt securities;

the first interest payment date;

the place or places at which the principal or premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities will be paid;

any optional redemption provisions that would permit us or the holders of the debt securities to elect redemption of the debt securities prior to their final maturity;

any sinking fund or mandatory redemption or retirement provisions that would obligate us to redeem the debt securities prior to their final maturity;

the currency or currencies in which the debt securities will be denominated and payable, if other than U.S. dollars;

any provisions that would permit us or the holders of the debt securities to elect the currency or currencies in which the debt securities are paid;

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable upon declaration or acceleration of maturity of the debt securities (if other than the principal amount of the debt securities);

whether the provisions described under the heading "Defeasance of the Indentures and the Securities" below apply to the debt securities;

whether the provisions of some or all of the covenants described under the heading "Restrictive Covenants" below apply to the debt securities;

any changes to or additional Events of Default (as defined under the heading "Events of Default" below) or covenants;

whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of global securities and, if so, the depositary for those global securities;

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

for the subordinated debt securities, whether the specific subordination provisions applicable to the subordinated debt securities are other than as set forth in the subordinated indenture;

whether the debt securities are convertible or exchangeable into our common stock or other equity securities and the terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange shall be effected; and

any other terms of the debt securities.

If the purchase price of any debt securities is denominated in a foreign currency or composite currency, or if the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or composite currency, we will include the restrictions, elections, tax consequences, specific terms and other information with respect to the debt securities and the applicable foreign currency or composite currency in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities as Original Issue Discount Securities (as defined below) to be offered and sold at a substantial discount from their principal amount and typically bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. An "Original Issue Discount Security" is any debt security which provides for an amount less than its principal amount to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of its maturity. (Section 1.01). We will describe the federal income tax, accounting and other considerations relevant to any such Original Issue Discount Securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The particular terms of a series of debt securities will be set forth in an officers' certificate or supplemental indenture, and described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We urge you to read the applicable indenture as supplemented by any officers' certificate or supplemental indenture that is applicable to you because that indenture, as supplemented, and not this section, defines your rights as a holder of the debt securities.

Restrictive Covenants

The indentures contain certain restrictive covenants that apply, or may apply, to us and all of our Restricted Subsidiaries (as defined below). The covenants described below under "Restrictions on Liens" and "Restrictions on Sale and Leaseback Transactions" will not apply to a series of debt securities unless we specifically so provide in the applicable prospectus supplement. These covenants do not apply to any of our Subsidiaries that are not designated as Restricted Subsidiaries.

You should carefully read the applicable prospectus supplement for the particular provisions of the series of debt securities being offered, including any additional restrictive covenants or Events of Default that may be included in the terms of such debt securities.

Restrictions on Liens. If the applicable prospectus supplement states that the covenant set forth in Section 5.03 of the indentures will be applicable to a series of debt securities, then we will be subject to a covenant providing that we will not, nor will we permit any Restricted Subsidiary (as defined below) to, create, incur, issue, assume or guarantee any debt for money borrowed (as used in this "Restrictive Covenants" section, "Debt") if such Debt is secured by a mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance upon any Principal Property (as defined below) or on any shares of stock or indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary (whether such Principal Property, shares of stock or indebtedness are now owned or acquired in the future), without, in any such case, effectively providing that the debt securities and, at our option, any of our other indebtedness or guarantees or any indebtedness or guarantees of a Restricted Subsidiary ranking equally with the debt securities, will be secured equally and ratably with (or, at our option, prior to) such Debt. The foregoing restrictions do not apply to:

(1) mortgages on property, shares of stock or indebtedness of any corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary;

(2) mortgages on property existing at the time of acquisition of such property and, in some instances, certain purchase money mortgages;

(3) mortgages securing Debt owing by any Restricted Subsidiary to us or another Restricted Subsidiary;

(4) mortgages on property of a corporation existing at the time such corporation is merged into or consolidated with us or a Restricted Subsidiary or at the time of a sale, lease or other disposition of the properties of a corporation or firm as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to us or a Restricted Subsidiary;

(5) mortgages in favor of any country or any political subdivision of any country, or any instrumentality thereof, to secure payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of construction of the property subject to such mortgages; or

(6) any extension, renewal or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements), in whole or in part, of any mortgage referenced in clauses (1) through (5) above, inclusive, or any mortgage existing at the respective date of the applicable indenture, provided that the principal amount of Debt secured at the time of such extension may not be increased, and the collateral which secures the same cannot be expanded.

Notwithstanding these exceptions, we and one or more Restricted Subsidiaries may, without securing the debt securities, create, incur, issue, assume or guarantee secured Debt which would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restrictions, provided that if, after giving effect to such Debt, the aggregate of such secured Debt then outstanding (not including secured Debt permitted under the foregoing exceptions) at such time does not exceed 10% of our consolidated shareowners' equity as of the end of the preceding fiscal year. (Section 5.03).

Restrictions on Sale and Leaseback Transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement states that the covenant set forth in Section 5.04 of the indentures will be applicable to a series of debt securities, then we will be subject to the covenant providing that we will not, and we will not permit any Restricted Subsidiary to, enter into any lease, other than intercompany leases, longer than three years covering any Principal Property that is sold to any other person in connection with such lease unless:

(1) we or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled, pursuant to "Restrictions on Liens" described above, to incur Debt secured by a mortgage on the Principal Property involved in an amount at least equal to the Attributable Debt (as defined below) without equally and ratably securing the debt securities provided that such Attributable Debt shall then be deemed to be Debt subject to the provisions of such restriction on liens;

(2) since the respective date of the applicable indenture and within a period commencing twelve months prior to the consummation of the sale and leaseback transaction and ending twelve months after the consummation of such transaction, we or such Restricted Subsidiary has expended, or will expend, for the Principal Property an amount equal to (a) the net proceeds of such sale and leaseback transaction, and we elect to designate all of such amount as a credit against such transaction or (b) a part of the net proceeds of such sale and leaseback transaction, and we elect to designate such amount as a credit against such transaction and apply an amount equal to the remainder of the net proceeds as provided in clause (3) below; or

(3) an amount equal to such Attributable Debt (less any amount elected under clause (2) above) is applied within 90 days of such lease to the retirement of Debt, other than intercompany Debt, which by its terms matures at, or is prepayable or extendible or renewable at the sole option of the obligor without requiring the consent of the obligee to, a date more than twelve months after the date of the creation of such Debt. (Section 5.04).

Consolidation, Merger and Sale

The indentures generally provide that we may consolidate with or merge into any other corporation, or transfer or lease our properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to any other corporation, if the corporation formed by or resulting from any such consolidation, into which we are merged or which shall have acquired or leased such properties and assets, shall, pursuant to a supplemental indenture, assume payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on the debt securities and the performance and observance of the covenants of the indentures. (Section 11.01).

If upon (1) any consolidation or merger of us, or of us and any Subsidiary, with or into any other corporation or corporations, or upon the merger of another corporation into us, or (2) successive consolidations or mergers to which we or our successors shall be a party or parties, or (3) upon any sale or conveyance of our property, or the property of us and any Subsidiary, as an entirety or substantially as an entirety, any Principal Property or any shares of stock or Debt of any Restricted Subsidiary would then become subject to any mortgage, we will cause the debt securities, and at our option any other indebtedness of or guarantees by us or such Restricted Subsidiary ranking equally with the debt securities, to be secured equally and ratably with (or, at our option, prior to) any Debt secured thereby, unless such Debt could have been incurred without us being required to secure the debt securities equally or ratably with (or prior to) such Debt pursuant to "Restrictions on Liens" described above. (Section 11.01).

Certain Definitions

As used in the indentures and this prospectus, the following definitions apply:

"Attributable Debt" means, in respect of a sale and leaseback transaction, as of any particular time, the present value (discounted at the rate of interest implicit in the terms of the lease involved in such sale and leaseback transaction, as determined in good faith by us) of the obligation of the lessee thereunder for rental payments (excluding, however, any amounts required to be paid by such lessee, whether or not designated as rent or additional rent, on account of maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges or any amounts required to be paid by such lessee thereunder contingent upon the amount of sales, maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges) during the remaining term of such lease (including any period for which such lease has been extended or may, at the option of the lessor, be extended). (Section 1.01).

"Principal Property" means our manufacturing plants or facilities or those of a Restricted Subsidiary located within the United States of America (other than its territories and possessions) or Puerto Rico, except any such manufacturing plant or facility which our board of directors by resolution reasonably determines not to be of material importance to the total business conducted by us and our Restricted Subsidiaries. (Section 1.01).

"Restricted Subsidiary" means any Subsidiary (1) substantially all of the property of which is located, or substantially all of the business of which is carried on, within the United States of America (other than its territories and possessions) or Puerto Rico and (2) which owns or is the lessee of any Principal Property, but does not include any Subsidiary primarily engaged in financing activities, primarily engaged in the leasing of real property to persons other than us and our Subsidiaries, or which is characterized by us as a temporary investment. The terms "Restricted Subsidiary" does not include Coca-Cola Financial Corporation, The Coca-Cola Trading Company LLC, 55th & 5th Avenue Corporation, Bottling Investments Corporation or ACCBC Holding Company, and their respective Subsidiaries. (Section 1.01).

"Subsidiary" means a corporation more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by us or one or more other Subsidiaries, or by us and one or more other Subsidiaries. (Section 1.01).

"Voting Stock" means stock of the class or classes having general voting power under ordinary circumstances to elect at least a majority of the board of directors, managers or trustees of said corporation (irrespective of whether or not at the time stock of any other class or classes shall have or might have voting power by reason of the happening of any contingency). (Section 1.01).

Event of Default

"Event of Default," when used in the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities, means any of the following events:

default for 30 days in payment of any interest on such series;

default in payment of any principal of or premium, if any, on such series;

default in payment of any sinking fund installment for such series;

default for 90 days after written notice in performance of any other covenant in the indentures (other than a covenant or agreement included in the indentures solely for the benefit of holders of debt securities of any series other than that series);

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; or

any other Event of Default provided with respect to that series. (Section 7.01).

The indentures require us to deliver annually to the trustee an officers' certificate, in which certain of our officers certify whether or not they have knowledge of any default in our performance of the covenants described. (Section 5.07).

If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to the debt securities of any series, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding may declare the principal (or, if the debt securities of such series are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for such series) of all the debt securities of such series and the interest accrued thereon to be due and payable. (Section 7.02). The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series (or, in the case of certain Events of Default pertaining to all outstanding debt securities, with the consent of holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all the debt securities then outstanding acting as one class) may waive any Event of Default with respect to a particular series of debt securities, except an Event of Default in the payment of principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities of such series or in respect of a covenant or provision of the indentures which, under the terms thereof, cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security of such series. (Section 7.11). See "Modifications of the Indentures" below.

Subject to the provisions of the indentures relating to the duties of the trustee in case an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the indentures at the request, order or direction of any of the holders of debt securities of any series, unless such securityholders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by such exercise. (Section 8.02). Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee and certain limitations contained in the indentures, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all debt securities of such series at the time outstanding shall have the right to direct the time, method and

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series. (Section 7.10).

If any debt securities are denominated in a foreign currency or composite currency, then for the purposes of determining whether the holders of the requisite principal amount of debt securities have taken any action as herein described, the principal amount of such debt securities shall be deemed to be that amount of United States dollars that could be obtained for such principal amount on the basis of the spot rate of exchange into United States dollars for the currency or composite currency in which such debt securities are denominated (as determined by us or an authorized exchange rate agent and evidenced to the trustee) as of the date the taking of such action by the holders of such requisite principal amount is evidenced to the trustee as provided in the indentures. (Section 14.10).

Modifications of the Indentures

We and the trustee may modify and amend the indentures with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount then outstanding of any series of the debt securities affected by such modification or amendment. However, we may not, without the consent of the holders of each debt security so affected:

extend the fixed maturity of such series of debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of such series of debt securities;

reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest on such series of debt securities;

impair or affect the right of any securityholder to institute suit for payment of principal or interest or change the coin or currency in which the principal of or interest on such series of debt securities is payable; or

reduce the percentage of aggregate principal amount of debt securities of such series from whom consent is required to modify the indentures. (Section 10.02).

In addition, under our subordinated indenture, without the consent of each holder of each debt security so affected, we may not modify the provisions of the subordinated indenture with respect to subordination of the debt securities in a manner adverse to the holders.

We and the trustee may modify and amend the indentures without the consent of any holders of debt securities to:

provide for security for the debt securities;

evidence the assumption of our obligations under the applicable indenture by a successor;

add covenants that would benefit holders of any debt securities;

cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

change or eliminate any of the provisions of the indentures so long as such change or elimination becomes effective only when there are no securities created prior to the execution of the supplemental indenture then outstanding which are entitled to the benefit of such provision;

provide for a successor trustee; or

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

make such provisions as may be necessary or advisable in order to comply with the withholding provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder. (Section 10.01).

Defeasance of the Indentures and Securities

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the indentures provide that we will be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness on the debt securities of any series, and our obligations under the indentures with respect to the debt securities of such series (other than certain specified obligations, such as the obligations to maintain a security register pertaining to transfer of the debt securities, to maintain a paying agency office, and to replace stolen, lost or destroyed debt securities) will cease to be in effect, from and after the date that we deposit with the trustee, in trust:

money in the currency or composite currency in which the debt securities of such series are denominated; or

U.S. Government Obligations, in the case of debt securities denominated in dollars, or obligations issued or guaranteed by the government which issued the currency in which the debt securities of such series are denominated, in the case of debt securities denominated in foreign currencies, which through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms will provide money in the currency in which the debt securities of such series are denominated; or

a combination thereof,

which is sufficient to pay and discharge the principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, to the date of maturity on or the redemption date of, such series of debt securities. (Sections 12.01 and 12.02). In the event of any such defeasance, holders of such debt securities would be able to look only to such trust fund for payment of principal (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on their debt securities until maturity.

Such defeasance may be treated as a taxable exchange of the related debt securities for an issue of obligations of the trust or a direct interest in the money, U.S. Government Obligations or other obligations held in the trust. In that case, holders of such debt securities may recognize gain or loss as if the trust obligations or the money, U.S. Government Obligations or other obligations deposited, as the case may be, had actually been received by them in exchange for their debt securities. Such holders thereafter might be required to include in income a different amount than would be includable in the absence of defeasance. We encourage prospective investors to consult with their own tax advisors as to the specific consequences of defeasance.

Denominations

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the debt securities will be issued only in registered form without coupons, in U.S. dollars in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiples of \$1,000. We will issue a book-entry security equal to the aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of the series represented by such book-entry security. We will specify the denominations of a series of debt securities denominated in a foreign currency or composite currency in the applicable prospectus supplement. (Sections 3.02 and 3.03).

Registration and Transfer

You may exchange any certificated securities of any series for other certificated securities of the same series and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor of different authorized denominations. Upon payment of any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the indentures, you may present certificated securities for registration of transfer (with the form of transfer duly executed), without a service charge, at the office of the securities registrar or at the office of any transfer agent that we designate for such purpose and reference in the applicable prospectus supplement with respect to any series of debt securities. Subject to its satisfaction with the documents of title and identity of the

person making the request, the securities registrar or such transfer agent, as the case may be, will effect such transfer or exchange.

We have initially appointed the trustee as securities registrar under the indentures. (Section 3.05). If the prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agent in addition to the securities registrar initially designated by us with respect to any series of debt securities, we may at any time rescind the designation of any such transfer agent or approve a change in the location through which any such transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in the borough of Manhattan, the city of New York, for such series. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents with respect to any series of debt securities. (Section 5.02).

In the event of any partial redemption in part of a series of debt securities, we will not be required to (1) issue securities of such series, register the transfer of securities of such series or exchange debt securities of such series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the mailing date of a notice of redemption of such debt securities of that series selected to be redeemed and ending at the close of business on such mailing date or (2) register the transfer or exchange of any debt security, or portion of any such debt security, that is called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part. (Section 3.05).

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will pay the principal of and any premium and interest on debt securities at the office of the paying agent or paying agents as we may designate from time to time. However, at our option we may pay any interest by check mailed or delivered to the address of the person entitled to such payment as it appears in the securities register. (Section 2.02). Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will pay any installment of interest on debt securities to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest payment. (Section 3.07). Payments of any interest on the debt securities may be subject to the deduction of applicable withholding taxes. (Section 5.01).

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the principal office of the trustee in the city of New York is designated as our paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities. Any other paying agents that we may designate at the time of the offering and issuance of a series of debt securities will be named in the related prospectus supplement. With regard to any series, we may at any time designate additional paying agents, rescind the designation of any paying agents or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a paying agent in the borough of Manhattan in the city of New York. (Section 5.02).

The trustee or any paying agent for the payment of principal of or interest on any debt security will repay to us all moneys paid by us which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal or interest shall have become due and payable, and, after such repayment occurs, the holder of the applicable debt security will be entitled to look only to us for payment. (Section 12.04).

Concerning the Trustee

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company, New York, New York, is the trustee under the senior indenture and has agreed to act as trustee under the subordinated indenture. We maintain banking relationships in the ordinary course of business with affiliates of Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, and affiliates of Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas have entered into foreign currency transactions with us, serve as fiscal agents for certain of our outstanding obligations and have provided back-up lines of credit for our commercial paper.

Book-Entry Delivery and Settlement

Global Notes

We will issue the notes in the form of one or more global notes in definitive, fully registered, book-entry form. The global notes will be deposited with or on behalf of DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear

Beneficial interests in the global notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may hold interests in the global notes through either DTC (in the United States), Clearstream Banking, societe anonyme, Luxembourg, which we refer to as Clearstream, or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, which we refer to as Euroclear, in Europe, either directly if they are participants in such systems or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Clearstream's and Euroclear's names on the books of their U.S. depositaries, which in turn will hold such interests in customers' securities accounts in the U.S. depositaries' names on the books of DTC.

DTC has advised us that:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC and facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates.

Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations, some of whom, and/or their representatives, own DTC.

DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by The New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly.

The rules applicable to DTC and its direct and indirect participants are on file with the SEC.

Clearstream has advised us that it is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depositary. Clearstream holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its customers through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its customers, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to its customers, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. As a professional depositary, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Section. Clearstream customers are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations and may include the

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

underwriters. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream customer either directly or indirectly.

Euroclear has advised us that it was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear provides various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./ N.V., which we refer to as the Euroclear Operator, under contract with Euroclear Clearance Systems S.C., a Belgian cooperative corporation, which we refer to as the Cooperative. All operations are conducted by the Euroclear Operator, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not the Cooperative. The Cooperative establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks (including central banks), securities brokers and dealers, and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the underwriters. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly.

We understand that the Euroclear Operator is licensed by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission to carry out banking activities on a global basis. As a Belgian bank, it is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission.

We have provided the descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear in this prospectus supplement solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of those organizations and are subject to change by them from time to time. None of us, the underwriters nor the trustee takes any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and you are urged to contact DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear or their participants directly to discuss these matters.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of the global notes with DTC or its custodian, DTC will credit on its internal system the accounts of direct participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amounts of the global notes; and

ownership of the notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, with respect to interests of direct participants, and the records of direct and indirect participants, with respect to interests of persons other than participants.

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Accordingly, the ability to transfer interests in the notes represented by a global note to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in notes represented by a global note to pledge or transfer those interests to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global note, DTC or that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by that global note for all purposes under the indenture and under the notes. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note will not be entitled to have notes represented by that global note registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated notes and will not be

considered the owners or holders thereof under the indenture or under the notes for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee. Accordingly, each holder owning a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that holder is not a direct or indirect participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the indenture or a global note.

Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of notes by DTC, Clearstream or Euroclear, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of those organizations relating to the notes.

Payments on the notes represented by the global notes will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner thereof. We expect that DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment on the notes represented by a global note, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the global note as shown in the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global note held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for such customers. The participants will be responsible for those payments.

Distributions on the notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of its customers in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depositary for Clearstream.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law (collectively, the "Terms and Conditions"). The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear Operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Distributions on the notes held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of its participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depositary for Euroclear.

Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for the notes will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear, as applicable, and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. depositary; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement

requirements, deliver instructions to the U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving the notes in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their U.S. depositories.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of the notes received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in the notes settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of the notes by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of the notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be changed or discontinued at any time.

Certificated Notes

Individual certificates in respect of the notes will not be issued in exchange for the global notes, except in very limited circumstances. We will issue or cause to be issued certificated notes to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the notes represented by a global note upon surrender by DTC of the global note if:

DTC notifies us that it is no longer willing or able to act as a depository for such global note or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and we have not appointed a successor depository within 90 days of that notice or becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered;

an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and DTC requests the issuance of certificated notes; or

we determine not to have the notes of such series represented by a global note.

Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any direct or indirect participant in identifying the beneficial owners of the notes. We and the trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes, including with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the certificated notes to be issued.

Subordinated Indenture Provisions

The subordinated debt securities will be issued under the subordinated indenture. The subordinated debt securities will rank on an equal basis with certain of our other subordinated debt that may be outstanding from time to time and will rank junior to all of our senior debt, as defined below, including any senior debt securities that may be outstanding from time to time.

Subordination. If we issue subordinated debt securities, the aggregate principal amount of senior debt outstanding as of a recent date will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Neither the senior nor the subordinated indenture restricts the amount of senior debt that we may incur.

Holders of subordinated debt securities should recognize that contractual provisions in the subordinated indenture may prohibit us from making payments on those securities. Subordinated debt

securities are subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner stated in the subordinated indenture or any supplement thereto to all of our senior debt, including all debt securities we have issued and will issue under the senior indenture.

As used in the subordinated indenture and this prospectus, the term "senior debt" means the principal, premium, if any, unpaid interest and all fees and other amounts payable in connection with any debt for money borrowed other than (1) debt incurred (a) with respect to certain elections under the federal bankruptcy code, (b) debt to our subsidiaries, (c) debt to our employees, (d) tax liability, and (e) certain trade payables, (2) all obligations under interest rate, currency and commodity swaps, caps, floors, collars, hedge arrangements, forward contracts or similar agreements and (3) renewals, modifications and refunds of any such debt.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may not pay principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any subordinated debt securities or defease, purchase, redeem or otherwise retire such securities if:

a default in the payment of any principal, or premium, if any, or interest on any senior debt, occurs and is continuing or any other amount owing in respect of any senior debt is not paid when due; or

any other default occurs with respect to any senior debt and the maturity of such senior debt is accelerated in accordance with its terms,

unless and until such default in payment or event of default has been cured or waived and any such acceleration is rescinded or such senior debt has been paid in full in cash.

If there is any payment or distribution of our assets to creditors upon a total or partial liquidation or a total or partial dissolution or in a bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding, holders of all present and future senior debt (which will include interest accruing after, or which would accrue but for, the commencement of any bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding) are entitled to receive payment in full before any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, in respect of the subordinated indebtedness. In addition, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in any such event, payments or distributions which would otherwise be made on subordinated debt securities will generally be paid to the holders of senior debt, or their representatives, in accordance with the priorities existing among these creditors at that time until the senior debt is paid in full.

After payment in full of all present and future senior debt, holders of subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of any holders of senior debt to receive any further payments or distributions that are applicable to the senior debt until all the subordinated debt securities are paid in full. The subordinated indenture provides that the foregoing subordination provisions may not be changed in a manner which would be adverse to the holders of senior debt without the consent of the holders of such senior debt.

The prospectus supplement delivered in connection with the offering of a series of subordinated debt securities will set forth a more detailed description of the subordination provisions applicable to any such debt securities.

If the trustee under the subordinated indenture or any holders of the subordinated debt securities receive any payment or distribution that is prohibited under the subordination provisions, then the trustee or the holders will have to repay that money to the holders of the senior debt.

Even if the subordination provisions prevent us from making any payment when due on the subordinated debt securities of any series, we will be in default on our obligations under that series if we do not make the payment when due. This means that the trustee under the subordinated indenture

and the holders of that series can take action against us, but they will not receive any money until the claims of the holders of senior debt have been fully satisfied.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Set forth below is a summary description of the material terms of our capital stock. For more information, please see our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, which is incorporated by reference to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part as Exhibit 3.1.

Description of Common Stock

We may issue shares of our common stock, either separately or together with other securities offered pursuant to this prospectus. Under our restated certificate of incorporation, we are authorized to issue up to 5,600,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$.25 per share, of which 2,310,976,727 shares were issued and outstanding as of October 19, 2007. You should read the applicable prospectus supplement relating to an offering of shares of our common stock, or of securities convertible, exchangeable or exercisable for shares of our common stock, for the terms of such offering, including the number of shares of common stock offered, the initial offering price and market prices and dividend information relating to our common stock.

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters submitted to a vote of shareowners. Each share of our common stock outstanding is entitled to participate equally in any distribution of net assets made to the shareowners in the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our Company and is entitled to participate equally in dividends as and when declared by our board of directors. There are no redemption, sinking fund, conversion or preemptive rights with respect to the shares of our common stock. All shares of our common stock have equal rights and preferences. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of our common stock are subject to and may be adversely affected by the rights of holders of shares of any series of our preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Description of Preferred Stock

Our restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue, from time to time, up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, in one or more series, subject to certain limitations prescribed by law. There are no preferred shares issued and outstanding as of the date of this prospectus. Our board of directors is authorized to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in any series of preferred stock, and to fix the designation, powers, preferences, and rights of the shares of such series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof.

The specific terms of any preferred stock to be sold under this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so indicated in such prospectus supplement, the terms of the preferred stock offered may differ from the general terms set forth below. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the preferred stock offered thereby, each series of preferred stock offered will rank equal in right of payment to all other series of our preferred stock, and holders thereof will have no preemptive rights. The preferred stock offered will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable.

You should read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the preferred stock offered. The terms of the preferred stock set forth in such prospectus supplement may include the following, as applicable to the preferred stock offered thereby:

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

the number of shares of the preferred stock offered;

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

the liquidation preference and the offering price of the preferred stock;

the dividend rates of the preferred stock and/or methods of calculation of such dividends;

periods and/or payment dates for the preferred stock dividends;

whether dividends on the preferred stock are cumulative;

the liquidation rights of the preferred stock;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, of the preferred stock;

the sinking fund provisions, if applicable, for the preferred stock;

the redemption provisions, if applicable, for the preferred stock;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and, if so, the terms and conditions of conversion or exchange, including the conversion price or exchange ratio and the conversion or exchange period or the method of determining the same;

whether the preferred stock will have voting rights and, if so, the terms of such voting rights;

whether the preferred stock will be listed on any securities exchange;

whether the preferred stock will be issued with any other securities and, if so, the amount and terms of such other securities; and

any other specific terms, preferences or rights of, or limitations or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

Our authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock are available for issuance without further action by our shareowners, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of the stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or trade. If the approval of our shareowners is not required for the issuance of shares of our common stock or preferred stock, our board of directors may determine to issue shares without seeking shareowners' approval.

Our board of directors could issue a series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of such series, delay, defer or prevent a change in control of our Company. Our board of directors would make any determination to issue such shares based on its judgment as to the best interests of our Company and our shareowners. Our board of directors, in so acting, could issue preferred stock having terms that could discourage an attempt to acquire our Company, including tender offers or other transactions that some, or a majority, of our shareowners might believe to be in their best interests, or in which our shareowners might receive a premium for their stock over the then current market price of such stock.

Certain Anti-takeover Matters

Our restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain provisions that may make it more difficult for a potential acquirer to acquire us by means of a transaction that is not negotiated with our board of directors. These provisions and General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, or the "DGCL," could delay or prevent entirely a merger or acquisition that our shareowners consider favorable. These provisions may also discourage acquisition proposals or have the effect of delaying or preventing entirely a change in control, which could harm our stock price. Our board of directors is not aware of any current effort to accumulate shares of our common stock or to otherwise obtain control of our

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

Company and does not currently contemplate adopting or recommending the approval of any other action that might have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of our Company.

Following is a description of the anti-takeover effects of certain provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation and of our by-laws.

No cumulative voting. The DGCL provides that stockholders of a Delaware corporation are not entitled to the right to cumulate votes in the election of directors unless its certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Our restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting.

Calling of special meetings of shareowners. Our by-laws provide that special meetings of our shareowners may be called only by or at the direction of our board of directors, the chairman of our board of directors or our president.

Advance notice requirements for shareowner proposals and director nominations. Our by-laws provide that shareowners seeking to nominate candidates for election as directors or to bring business before an annual meeting of shareowners must provide timely notice of their proposal in writing to our corporate secretary.

Generally, to be timely, a shareowner's notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting. Our by-laws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a shareowner's notice. These provisions may impede shareowners' ability to bring matters before an annual meeting of shareowners or make nominations for directors at an annual meeting of shareowners.

Limitations on liability and indemnification of officers and directors. The DGCL authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors to corporations and their stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' fiduciary duties. Our restated certificate of incorporation includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of directors for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty in such capacity, except for liability:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our shareowners;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under Section 174 of the DGCL (providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions); or

for any transaction from which the director derived any improper personal benefit, except to the extent such exemption from liability or limitation thereof is not permitted under the DGCL.

We are also expressly authorized to carry directors' and officers' insurance for the benefit of our directors, officers, employees and agents. We believe that these indemnification provisions and insurance are useful to attract and retain qualified directors and executive officers.

The limitation of liability and indemnification provisions in the restated certificate of incorporation and the by-laws may discourage our shareowners from bringing a lawsuit against directors for breach of their fiduciary duty. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit us and our shareowners. In addition, the shareowner's investment may be adversely affected to the extent we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers pursuant to these indemnification provisions.

Board authority to amend by-laws. Under the by-laws, our board of directors has the authority to adopt, amend or repeal the by-laws without the approval of our shareowners. However, the holders of common stock will also have the right to initiate on their own, with the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares outstanding and without the approval of our board of directors, proposals to adopt, amend or repeal the by-laws.

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. We are a Delaware corporation that is subject to Section 203 of the DGCL. Section 203 provides that, subject to certain exceptions specified in the law, a Delaware corporation shall not engage in certain "business combinations" with any "interested stockholder" for a three-year period following the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless:

prior to such time, the board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the corporation's voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding certain shares; or

at or subsequent to that time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Generally, a "business combination" includes a merger, asset or stock sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. Subject to certain exceptions, an "interested stockholder" is a person who, together with that person's affiliates and associates, owns, or within the previous three years did own, 15% or more of our voting stock.

Under certain circumstances, Section 203 makes it more difficult for a person who would be an "interested stockholder" to effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three year period. The provisions of Section 203 may encourage any entity interested in acquiring our company to negotiate in advance with our board of directors because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if our board of directors approves either the business combination or the transaction that results in such entity becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions also may make it more difficult to accomplish transactions involving our Company that our shareowners may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

Listing

Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "KO."

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A. Its address is P.O. Box 43070, Providence, RI 02940-3070 and its telephone number is (888) 265-3747.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the warrants offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those warrants.

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. Each warrant will entitle the holder of warrants to purchase for cash the amount of debt or equity securities at the exercise price stated or determinable in the prospectus supplement for the warrants. We may issue warrants independently or together with any offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

the title of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued and the currency or composite currency you may use to purchase the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;

if applicable, the principal amount of debt securities you may purchase upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price and currency or composite currency or other consideration (which may include debt securities) you may use to purchase such principal amount of debt securities upon such exercise;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable, if applicable;

a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time;

the terms of any mandatory or option redemption by us;

the identity of the warrant agent;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the depositary shares. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the depositary shares offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those depositary shares.

General

We may, at our option, elect to offer depositary shares, each representing a fraction (to be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock) of a share of a particular class or series of preferred stock as described below. In the event we elect to do so, depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares will be issued to the public.

The shares of any class or series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement among us, a depositary selected by us and the holders of the depositary receipts. The depositary will be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by such depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the shares of preferred stock represented by the depositary share, including dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of the related class or series of preferred shares in accordance with the terms of the offering described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Pending the preparation of definitive depositary receipts the depositary may, upon our written order, issue temporary depositary receipts substantially identical to, and entitling the holders thereof to all the rights pertaining to, the definitive depositary receipts but not in definitive form. Definitive depositary receipts will be prepared without unreasonable delay, and temporary depositary receipts will be exchangeable for definitive depositary receipts without charge to the holder.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received for the preferred stock to the entitled record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the number of depositary shares that the holder owns on the relevant record date, provided, however, that if we or the depositary is required by law to withhold an amount on account of taxes, then the amount distributed to the holders of depositary shares shall be reduced accordingly. The depositary will distribute only an amount that can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent. The depositary will add the undistributed balance to and treat it as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to holders of the depositary shares.

If there is a non-cash distribution, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the entitled record holders of depositary shares, in proportion, insofar as possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by the holders, unless the depositary determines, after consultation with us, that it is not feasible to make such distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the holders. The deposit agreement also will contain provisions relating to how any subscription or similar rights that we may offer to holders of the preferred stock will be available to the holders of the depositary shares.

Withdrawal of Shares

Upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the depositary, unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption, converted or exchanged into our other securities, the holder of the depositary shares evidenced thereby is entitled to delivery of the number of whole shares of the related class or series of preferred stock and any money or other property represented by such depositary shares. Holders of depositary receipts will be entitled to receive whole shares of the related class or series of preferred stock on the basis set forth in the prospectus supplement for such class or series of preferred stock, but holders of such whole shares of preferred stock will not thereafter be entitled to exchange them for depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing such excess number of depositary shares. In no event will fractional shares of preferred stock be delivered upon surrender of depositary receipts to the depositary.

Conversion, Exchange and Redemption

If any class or series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares may be converted or exchanged, each record holder of depositary receipts representing the shares of preferred stock being converted or exchanged will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange the depositary shares represented by the depositary receipts. Whenever we redeem or convert shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem or convert, at the same time, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock to be redeemed or converted. The depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds it receives from the corresponding redemption of the applicable series of preferred stock. The depositary will mail notice of redemption or conversion to the record holders of the depositary shares that are to be redeemed between 30 and 60 days before the date fixed for redemption or conversion. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share on the applicable class or series of preferred stock. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary will select which shares are to be redeemed by lot on a pro rata basis or by any other equitable method as the depositary may decide. After the redemption or conversion date, the depositary shares called for redemption or conversion will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will end, except the right to receive money, securities or other property payable upon redemption or conversion.

Voting the Preferred Stock

When the depositary receives notice of a meeting at which the holders of the particular class or series of preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the particulars of the meeting to the record holders of the depositary shares. Each record holder of depositary shares on the record date may instruct the depositary on how to vote the shares of preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares. The depositary will try, if practical, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares according to the instructions. We will agree to take all reasonable action requested by the depositary to enable it to vote as instructed.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

We and the depositary may agree at any time to amend the deposit agreement and the depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares. Any amendment that (1) imposes or increases certain fees, taxes or other charges payable by the holders of the depositary shares as described in the deposit agreement or (2) otherwise materially adversely affects any substantial existing rights of holders of depositary shares, will not take effect until such amendment is approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. Any holder of depositary shares that continues to hold its shares after such amendment has become effective will be deemed to have agreed to the amendment.

We may direct the depositary to terminate the deposit agreement by mailing a notice of termination to holders of depositary shares at least 30 days prior to termination. The depositary may terminate the deposit agreement if 90 days have elapsed after the depositary delivered written notice of its election to resign and a successor depositary is not appointed. In addition, the deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

the depositary has redeemed all related outstanding depositary shares;

all outstanding shares of preferred stock have been converted into or exchanged for common stock; or

we have liquidated, terminated or wound up our business and the depositary has distributed the preferred stock of the relevant series to the holders of the related depositary shares.

Reports and Obligations

The depositary will forward to the holders of depositary shares all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the depositary and that we are required by law, the rules of an applicable securities exchange or our restated certificate of incorporation, to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if the depositary is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstances beyond its control in performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. The deposit agreement limits our obligations to performance in good faith of the duties stated in the deposit agreement. The depositary assumes no obligation and will not be subject to liability under the deposit agreement except to perform such obligations as are set forth in the deposit agreement without negligence or bad faith. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding connected with any depositary shares or class or series of preferred stock unless the holders of depositary shares requesting us to do so furnish us with a satisfactory indemnity. In performing our obligations, we and the depositary may rely and act upon the advice of our counsel on any information provided to us by a person presenting shares for deposit, any holder of a receipt, or any other document believed by us or the depositary to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

Payment of Fees and Expenses

We will pay all fees, charges and expenses of the depositary, including the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay taxes and governmental charges and any other charges as are stated in the deposit agreement for their accounts.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

At any time, the depositary may resign by delivering notice to us, and we may remove the depositary at any time. Resignations or removals will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed within 90 days after the delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the purchase contracts. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the purchase contracts offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those purchase contracts.

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of:

debt or equity securities issued by us or securities of third parties, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement;

currencies; or

commodities.

Each purchase contract will entitle the holder thereof to purchase or sell, and obligate us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, such securities, currencies or commodities at a specified purchase price, which may be based on a formula, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may, however, satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the cash

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

value of such purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable or, in the case of purchase contracts on underlying currencies, by delivering the underlying currencies, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will also specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities, currencies or commodities and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, which payments may be deferred to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and those payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require the holders thereof to secure their obligations in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued. Our obligation to settle such pre-paid purchase contracts on the relevant settlement date may constitute indebtedness.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to underwriters or dealers for resale to the public or to institutional investors;

directly to institutional investors;

directly to a limited number of purchasers or to a single purchaser;

through agents to the public or to institutional investors; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

If we use underwriters or dealers in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters or dealers for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed from time to time;

in "at the market offerings" within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

For each series of securities, the prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the initial public offering price;

the method of distribution, including the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities;

our net proceeds from the sale of the securities;

any underwriting discounts, agency fees, or other compensation payable to underwriters or agents;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or repaid to dealers; and

the securities exchanges on which the securities will be listed, if any.

If we use underwriters in the sale, they will buy the securities for their own account. The underwriters may then resell the securities in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale or thereafter. The obligations of the

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities offered if they purchase any securities. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. In connection with an offering, underwriters and selling group members and their affiliates may engage in transactions to stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the securities in accordance with applicable law.

If we use dealers in the sale, we will sell securities to such dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealers at the time of resale. If we use agents in the sale, they will use their reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. If we sell directly, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We are not making an offer of securities in any jurisdiction that does not permit such an offer.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the securities distribution may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions or profit they receive when they resell the securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under that Act. We may have agreements with underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that they may be required to make. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of their business.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers from certain institutions whereby the institutions contractually agree to purchase the securities from us on a future date at a specific price. This type of contract may be made only with institutions that we specifically approve. Such institutions could include banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions. The underwriters, dealers or agents will not be responsible for the validity or performance of these contracts.

The securities will be new issues of securities with no established trading market and unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will not list any series of the securities on any exchange. It has not presently been established whether the underwriters, if any, of the securities will make a market in the securities. If the underwriters make a market in the securities, such market making may be discontinued at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York, and for any underwriters or agents by counsel named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2006, included in our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 29, 2007, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Our consolidated financial statements are, and our audited financial statements to be included in subsequently filed documents will be, incorporated by reference in this prospectus in reliance on the reports of Ernst & Young LLP pertaining to such financial statements and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the respective dates (to the extent covered by consents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission), given on the authority of Ernst & Young LLP as experts in accounting and auditing.

PART II**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by us in connection with the sale of the securities being registered hereby. All amounts are estimates:

	Amount to be paid*
SEC Registration Fee	\$ **
Accounting Fees and Expenses	275,000
Legal Fees and Expenses	150,000
Printing Expenses	20,000
Transfer Agent, Registrar and Trustee Fees	50,000
Rating Agency Fees	740,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	90,000
Total	\$ 1,325,000

*

The amounts shown are estimates of expenses payable by us in connection with the filing of this registration statement and one offering of securities hereunder.

**

Because this registration statement covers an indeterminate amount of securities, the SEC registration fee is not currently determinable. Such fee is deferred in accordance with Rules 456(b) and Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Set forth below is a description of certain provisions of the restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws of The Coca-Cola Company (the "registrant") and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL"), as such provisions relate to the indemnification of the directors and officers of the registrant. This description is intended only as a summary and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the restated certificate of incorporation, the by-laws and the DGCL.

Section 145 of the DGCL provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers as well as other employees and individuals against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement in connection with specified actions, suits and proceedings whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, other than a derivative action by or in the right of the corporation, if they acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe their conduct was unlawful. A similar standard is applicable in the case of derivative actions, except that indemnification extends only to expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of such action and the statute requires court approval before there can be any indemnification where the person seeking indemnification has been found liable to the corporation. The statute provides that it is not exclusive of other indemnification that may be granted by a corporation's certificate of incorporation, by-laws, disinterested director vote, stockholder vote, agreement, or otherwise.

As permitted by the DGCL, the registrant's restated certificate of incorporation provides that directors will not be personally liable to the registrant or its shareowners for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the registrant or its shareowners,

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law,

under Section 174 of the DGCL (providing for liability of directors for unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful stock purchases or redemptions), or

for any transaction from which the director derived any improper personal benefit.

If the DGCL is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of the registrant's directors shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as so amended.

Article VII of the registrant's by-laws provides that the registrant shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the registrant) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the registrant, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the registrant, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. Notwithstanding the foregoing, except with respect to a proceeding to enforce rights to indemnification or advancement of expenses under Article VII, the registrant is required to indemnify a person under this Article VII in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized by the board of directors of the registrant.

The registrant will also indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the registrant to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the registrant, as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the registrant and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the registrant unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

Article VII of the by-laws further provides that the registrant may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the registrant. The registrant has purchased directors' and officers' liability insurance covering many of the possible actions and omissions of persons acting or failing to act in such capacities.

Article VII of the by-laws also provides that the registrant shall have the power to enter into indemnification agreements with any director, officer, employee or agent of the registrant in furtherance of the provisions of Article VII.

Item 16. List of Exhibits.

The exhibits to this registration statement are listed in the exhibit index that immediately precedes such exhibits and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of this registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in this registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in

this registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof; *provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of this registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into this registration statement or prospectus that is part of this registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in this registration statement or prospectus that was part of this registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) (a) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question as to whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

II-5

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Atlanta, State of Georgia, on the 29th day of October, 2007.

THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

By: /s/ E. NEVILLE ISDELL

Name: E. Neville Isdell

Title: Chairman, Board of Directors, and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dated indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ E. NEVILLE ISDELL E. Neville Isdell	Chairman, Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and a Director (Principal executive officer)	October 29, 2007
/s/ GARY P. FAYARD Gary P. Fayard	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal financial officer)	October 29, 2007
/s/ HARRY L. ANDERSON Harry L. Anderson	Vice President and Controller (Principal accounting officer)	October 29, 2007
* Herbert A. Allen	Director	October 29, 2007
* Ronald W. Allen	Director	October 29, 2007
* Cathleen P. Black	Director	October 29, 2007
* Barry Diller	Director	October 29, 2007
* Alexis M. Herman	Director	October 29, 2007
* Donald R. Keough	Director	October 29, 2007

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

* Director October 29, 2007

Donald F. McHenry

* Director October 29, 2007

Sam Nunn

* Director October 29, 2007

James D. Robinson III

* Director October 29, 2007

Peter V. Ueberroth

* Director October 29, 2007

James B. Williams

*By: /s/ CAROL CROFOOT
HAYES

Carol Crofoot Hayes
Attorney-in-Fact

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
1.1	Form of underwriting agreement.*
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of the registrant, including Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation, effective May 1, 1996 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3 of the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1996).
3.2	By-Laws of the registrant, as amended and restated through October 19, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006).
4.1	Amended and restated indenture dated as of April 26, 1988 between the registrant and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 33-50743), which was filed with Securities and Exchange Commission on October 25, 1993).
4.2	First supplemental indenture dated as of February 24, 1992 to amended and restated indenture dated as of April 26, 1988 between the registrant and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 33-50743), which was filed with Securities and Exchange Commission on October 25, 1993).
4.3	Form of second supplemental indenture to amended and restated indenture dated as of April 26, 1988, as amended, between the registrant and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as successor to Bankers Trust Company, as trustee.
4.4	Form of subordinated indenture between the registrant and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee.
4.5	Form of warrant agreement for warrants sold attached to debt securities (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-59936), which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 1, 2001).
4.6	Form of warrant sold attached to debt securities (included as part of Exhibit 4.5).
4.7	Form of warrant agreement for warrants sold alone (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-59936), which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 1, 2001).
4.8	Form of warrant sold alone (included as part of Exhibit 4.7).
4.9	Form of stock warrant agreement.*
4.10	Form of stock warrant certificate.*
4.11	Form of deposit agreement, including form of depositary receipt for depositary shares.*
4.12	Form of purchase contract.*
5.1	Opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.
12.1	Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 12.1 of the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

**Exhibit
No.**

Description

September 28, 2007).

23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.

Edgar Filing: COCA COLA CO - Form S-3ASR

- 23.2 Consent of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
 - 24.1 Powers of Attorney.
 - 25.1 Form T-1 statement of eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee for the senior debt securities.
 - 25.2 Form T-1 statement of eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee for the subordinated debt securities.
-

*

To be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.

QuickLinks

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS](#)

[WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION](#)

[CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS](#)

[OUR COMPANY](#)

[USE OF PROCEEDS](#)

[RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS](#)

[PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION](#)

[LEGAL MATTERS](#)

[EXPERTS](#)

[PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS](#)

[SIGNATURES](#)

[EXHIBIT INDEX](#)