

BUSINESS: 3M Company is a diversified manufacturer and technology company with operations in more than 65 countries. It is a leader in many of the geographic markets it serves. The conglomerate currently operates six segments: Industrial & Transportation (33.5% of 2011 sales); Health Care (16.7%); Display & Graphics (12.2%); Consumer & Office (13.8%); Safety, Security &

Protection (12.7%); and Electro & Communications (11.0%). 2011 R&D: \$1.6 billion, 5.3% of sales. Employs about 84,200. Officers & directors own less than 1.0% of common stock; State Street 7.5%; BlackRock, 5.3% (3/12 proxy). Chairman, President & CEO: George W. Buckley. Incorporated: DE. Address: 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55144. Telephone: 651-733-1110. Internet: www.3m.com.

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '09-'11 to '15-'17 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Sales 6.5% 8.0% 6.0% 4.5% 10.5% 'Cash Flow" 10.5% 4.5% 5.0% 9.0% Earnings 10.0% 12 0% 6.0% 10.0% 16.5% Dividends Book Value

10795

1453

613

4897

12215

1662 1269

6089

12240

1643

5441

682

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Déc.31 endar Year 2009 5089 5719 6193 6122 23123 2010 6348 6731 6874 6709 26662 7311 2011 7680 7531 7089 29611 2012 7480 7780 7830 7530 30620 2013 7875 8190 8245 7930 32240 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal Full Mar.31 Dec.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 endar Year 2009 4.52 .73 1.12 1.30 1.40 2010 1.53 1.28 5.75 1.54 1.49 1.60 1.52 2011 1.35 5.96 2012 1.49 1.69 1.47 6.30 1.65 2013 1.61 1.87 1.87 1.60 6.95 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B. Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.3 Year 2.00 2008 .50 .50 .50 50 2009 .51 .51 .51 .51 2.04 2010 .525 .525 .525 .525 2.10 2011 .55 .55 .55 .55 2.20 2012 .59

3M Company is set to post decent earnings growth this year. The economic domestic recovery is struggling to gain traction, and conditions in Europe appear to be worsening. Too, the robust growth experienced in emerging markets appears to be waning. As a result, we think the top line will only expand 3% this year. Costmanagement and productivity-improvement efforts, as well as ongoing buybacks, should help spur share earnings growth, but, at this point, it seems an advance of just 6% is in the cards.

The board significantly increased the dividend, adding to this issue's appeal as a top holding for conservative, incomeoriented investors. We were looking for a hike of 5%, which we thought was aggressive given the lackluster bottom-line performances turned in of late. Management decided to raise the quarterly payout by 7%, to \$0.59 a share, however, citing "confidence in the company's future" and strong cash flow generation. It is also worth noting that 3M has a long track record of boosting the dividend and returning cash to shareholders through share repurchases. Indeed, the company, which has

raised the annual payout 54 years in a row now and has paid dividends without interruption for more than 95 years, has returned more \$14.8 billion to shareholders over the past five years.

This issue is untimely. Recent shareprice momentum has been weak, especially when compared to the broader market average. Moreover, earnings advances have been lackluster over the past few quarters. All told, we recommend that momentum chasers look elsewhere for now.

The stock is a solid long-term holding, though. We are looking for robust annual profit growth over the 3- to 5-year haul. This, coupled with the average-average dividend yield, translates into good (and well-defined) total-return potential.

This blue chip is also a solid pick for the conservative crowd. 3M's Financial Strength is A++, thanks to its solid balance sheet and its ability to generate lots of cash. The equity's Beta coefficient is .80, which implies below-average volatility. When taking both of these qualities into account, it is easy to see why MMM stock is ranked 1 (Highest) for Safety.

Erik A. Antonson

April 20, 2012

(A) Primary earnings thru '96, then diluted. Excludes nonrecurring: '95, (6¢); '97, 59¢; '98, (43¢); '99, 7¢; '00, (10¢); '01, (5¢); '10, (12¢). Excludes discontinued: '95, (40¢); '96, 1¢; '06,

47¢; '07, 60¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding or changes in shares outstanding. Next earnings report due late April.

(B) Dividends historically paid mid-March,

June, September, and December. Dividend reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions, adjusted for stock split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95
Price Growth Persistence 45
Earnings Predictability 80