

BUSINESS: 3M Company is a diversified manufacturer and technology company with operations in more than 70 countries. It is among the leading manufacturers in many of the markets it serves. The conglomerate currently operates five segments: Industrial (34.1% of 2015 sales); Safety & Graphics (18.2%); Health Care (17.9%); Electronics and Energy (17.2%); Consumer (14.6%).

Elimination of dual credit was a 2% drag. 2015 R&D: \$1.8 billion, 5.8% of sales. Employs about 89,446. Officers & directors own less than 1.0% of common stock; State Street 7.4%; The Vanguard Group, 6.6%; BlackRock, 5.7% (3/16 proxy). Chairman, President & CEO: Inge G. Thulin. Incorporated: DE. Address: 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55144. Telephone: 651-733-1110. Internet: www.3m.com.

 ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Sales
 Past of change (per sh)
 Past of change (per sh)
 5 Yrs. to '19-'21 to '19-'21 so '19-'2

12733

1799

1683

7498

11765

1807 106

4085

5998

10986

1694

2044

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	7634	7752	7916	7569	30871
2014	7831	8134	8137	7719	31821
2015	7578	7686	7712	7298	30274
2016	7325	7675	7800	7500	30300
2017	7625	7875	7950	7650	31100
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	1.61	1.71	1.78	1.62	6.72
2014	1.79	1.91	1.98	1.81	7.49
2015	1.85	2.02	2.05	1.66	7.58
2016	1.95	2.15	2.25	1.95	8.30
2017	2.15	2.35	2.40	2.10	9.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.59	.59	.59	.59	2.36
2013	.635	.635	.635	.635	2.54
2014	.855	.855	.855	.855	3.42
2015	1.025	1.025	1.025	1.025	4.10
2016	1.11				
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3M has gotten back on track. The stock, which had pulled back greatly toward the end of last year, is up about 12% since our January review and seems on the verge of retesting its all-time high. Investors began piling back into the equity as a means to avoid the broader market's turbulence. The company's fourth-quarter earnings results further swayed sentiment. Indeed, although sales and earnings came up short of year-earlier levels, both metrics exceeded the expectations of us and Wall Street. Perhaps just as appreciated by the investment community, management held steady and reiterated its 2016 guidance. This was welcomed news for a company that had made a number of downward revisions last year.

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we now sit a little horth of the middle of management's guidance. Currently, it is calling for share earnings of \$8.10 to \$8.45 for 2016, on organic sales growth of 1% to 3%. Although currency pressures and global economic pressures have posed a problem, we think that both will abate as the year unfolds. Meantime, margin expansion should accelerate as earlier acquisitions are further integrated and cost-

containment efforts pan out. Also, we see no reason that aggressive repurchases will slow. All told, we've bumped up our fullyear earnings estimate and look for a double-digit advance.

We are introducing a similar sharenet growth rate estimate for next year. Although margin expansion may slow a bit, we look for an improved operating backdrop to offset the slowdown, and for share buybacks to remain a catalyst.

The stock should pique the interests of momentum accounts. We've raised the Timeliness rank two notches since our January review, to 1 (Highest). Things get better on a risk-adjusted basis, as each of MMM's stability indicators are superb. The above-average and well-covered dividend adds further appeal. That said, those looking further out will want to exercise some caution here following the equity's above-mentioned share-price strength. Indeed, investors who did not take our advice last time around missed out on a fair amount of the upside we envision out to late decade. MMM offers below-average 3to 5-year price appreciation potential. Andře J. Costanza April 15, 2016

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring: '00, (10¢): '01, (5¢); '10, (12¢). Excludes discontinued: '06, 47¢; '07, 60¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding or changes in shares outsum due to rounding or changes in shares outsum due to rounding or changes in shares outsum due to rounding or changes in shares outsuch that the change is the change of the changes in the change of the change

standing. 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
Price Growth Persistence
Earnings Predictability
95