

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 10 Yrs.
 Past 5 Yrs.
 to '19-'21 to '19

11765

1807

5998

106

10986

1694

2044

3380 7118 11436

1650

2450

7254

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	7409	7662	7750	7429	30250
2017	7600	7900	8000	7650	31150
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	2.05	2.08	2.17	1.95	8.25
2017	2.15	2.30	2.40	2.10	8.95
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	1.11	1.11		

Our overall investment perspective of 3M stock remains largely unchanged. It is still favorably ranked for Timeliness and is expected to outpace the broader market averages for the coming six to 12 months. Given the ongoing unevenness of the global economy, we suspect that investors will continue to be attracted to the equity's favorable risk profile and well-covered dividend. To wit, MMM scores very well for Price Stability and Growth Persistence, and posts our highest mark for Financial Strength. Although the current stock price appears a bit rich, and 3to 5-year appreciation potential is below average, things are better on a riskadjusted basis. We think that investors will be willing to pay a premium for the company's steady growth prospects.

However, there are some moving parts here. Management has continued to streamline the business, selling off parts considered to be peripheral in nature in an effort to better focus on core businesses thought to offer more opportunity. To wit, it recently sold the temporary protective films unit and acquired Switzerland-based medical coding technology company Sem-

finder. The healthy balance sheet and strong cash flow should allow for additional bolt-ons.

We have moderately tweaked our financial presentation for the company. Second-quarter results came up a bit short of expectations, with earnings of \$2.08 a share falling a couple of pennies shy of our estimate, despite healthy share repurchases. The top line continued to struggle, with currency headwinds and global economic uneasiness causing sales to dip. Management reined in its top- and bottomline guidance, citing similar concerns. It now looks for the organic local-currency sales comp to be flat to up 1%, down from its previous 1% to 3% outlook, and for share net of \$8.15 to \$8.25, from \$8.10 to \$8.45. We currently look for sales of nearly \$30.3 billion and earnings of \$8.25 for the year, with cost-cutting efforts and share repurchases shouldering the load for topline softness. Meanwhile, a modest topline recovery ought to help 3M maintain high single-digit share-net growth in 2017. Still, we would like to see the company unveil a game-changing product. Andre J. Costanza October 14, 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 out-

standing. Next earnings report due Oct. 25th. (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 100
Price Growth Persistence 90
Earnings Predictability 95