

among the leading manufacturers in many of the markets it serves. The conglomerate currently operates five segments: Industrial (37.4% of 2018 sales); Safety & Graphics (20.8%); Health Care (18.4%); Electronics and Energy (16.7%); Consumer (14.6%).

than 1.0% of common stock; The Vanguard Group, 8.5%; State Street, 7.3%; BlackRock, 6.7% (3/19 proxy). CEO: Michael F. Roman. Chairman: Inge G. Thulin. Inc.: DE. Address: 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55144. Tel.: 651-733-1110. Internet: www.3m.com

Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 3.5% 7.0% 7.5% Sales "Cash Flow" 4.5% 5.5% 6.0% 6.0% Earnings 6.0% 7.0% 9.5% 2.0% 6.5% 8.5% -6.5% **Book Value**

1945

1853

7687

2266 1211

7244

2309 1045

7125

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	7409	7662	7709	7329	30109
2017	7685	7810	8172	7990	31657
2018	8278	8390	8152	7945	32765
2019	7863	8037	8325	8175	32400
2020	8150	8350	8575	8425	33500
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	2.05	2.08	2.15	1.88	8.16
2017	2.16	2.58	2.33	2.10	9.17
2018	2.50	2.59	2.58	2.31	9.98
2019	2.23	2.10	2.65	2.47	9.45
2020	2.50	2.45	2.75	2.65	10.35
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	1.025	1.025	1.025	1.025	4.10
2016	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	4.44
2017	1.175	1.175	1.175	1.175	4.70
2018	1.360	1.360	1.360	1.360	5.44
2019	1.44	1.44			
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3M stock has declined sharply price since our April review and is trading at a multi year low not seen **since early 2016.** Already jittery investors soured further on these shares after the industrial conglomerate released disappointing first-quarter financial results and reined in guidance.

It is shaping up to be a tough year for the multinational. First-quarter earnings came in at \$2.23 a share, 11% off the year-earlier tally and well below our \$2.55 estimate. Worse-than-anticipated troubles at the top line were mostly responsible for the miss, with sales declining 5.0%, year over year, and coming up equally short of expectations. Divestitures and currency translation played a role, but management placed most of the blame on slowing endmarket demand. Organic sales slipped 1.1%. On top of the aforementioned shortfalls, leadership also slashed its full-year top- and bottom-line outlooks. Specifically, it now expects earnings to come in between \$9.25 and \$9.75 a share, roughly \$1.00 lower at both ends. Again, the top line appears to be shouldering most of the burden, with 3M now looking for organic

local-currency sales of minus 1% to plus 2%. It had been forecasting 1%-4% growth. We have tempered our expectations. Our share-net estimate now sits at \$9.45. While top-line concerns such as the ongoing trade war between the United States and China are partly responsible, we are also modeling for continued margin pressures. There has been some favorable news regarding trade talks, but there still remains uncertainty about the future relationship between the two superpowers. For 2020, we see earnings tallying \$10.35 a share, on sales of about \$33.5 billion.

Near-term appeal here is limited, given the difficult operating environment that is likely to persist. In fact, we've lowered this stock's Timeliness rank a notch, to 4 (Below Average). However, the recent price weakness presents a buying opportunity for more-patient accounts with a conservative bent, in our view. Three- to five-year total return potential is worthwhile, especially on a risk-adjusted basis. Meantime, the company's acquisition-rich history and healthy finances augur well for growth prospects. Andre J. Costanza Ĵuly 12, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring losses/(gains): '10, (12¢). Excludes discontinued: '06, 47¢; '07, 60¢; '17, (\$1.24); '18, (\$1.07); '19, (7¢). Earnings may not sum due to

rounding or changes in shares outstanding. Next earnings report due July 25th. (B) Dividends historically paid mid-March, June, September, and December. ■ Dividend

reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100