



Press Release

S&P Increases Indicated Dividend Rate on the S&P 500

Double-Digit Dividend Increases Expected to Continue Throughout 2007

New York, March 20, 2007 – Standard & Poor's, the world's leading index provider, announced today that it is raising the indicated dividend rate on the S&P 500 from \$25.10 to \$26.55, and expects cash dividends for 2007 to set another record, paying out an estimated \$27.85 per share in 2007 versus \$24.88 for 2006 and \$22.22 for 2005. The anticipated 11.9% increase in dividend payments translates into a \$252 billion aggregate payment for S&P 500 companies in 2007, compared to \$222 billion in 2006 and \$202 billion in 2005.

“Historically the first quarter is the busiest time of the year for dividend increases, and while January started out slow, the pace has certainly picked up,” says Howard Silverblatt, Senior Index Analyst at Standard & Poor's. “The companies that have a long history of annual dividend increases have kept up their end of the bargain; however, the issues that increase their rate every few years appear to be lagging.”

In addition, Standard & Poor's data shows that corporate buybacks have continued to far outpace dividends in both aggregate dollars and growth. “We are concerned that the large expenditures on buybacks may be inhibiting dividend growth,” continues Silverblatt. “While Standard & Poor's has yet to see a significant decline in the number of dividend increases, the lack of increases, as well as the absence of new initiations, speaks to the current climate of buyback preference.”

Silverblatt points out that the tendency for index issues to pay and increase cash dividends is much greater than that of the general market as 77% of the S&P 500 constituents pay cash dividends versus just 40% for the non-S&P 500 companies. For 2007, Silverblatt estimates that over 60% of the S&P 500 will increase their dividend payout compared to just 30% for non-S&P 500 companies.

Standard & Poor's has posted a list of 202 issues within the S&P 500, S&P MidCap 400 and S&P SmallCap 600 indices that have increased their dividend payment each year for the last 10 years. To access the list, please visit <http://www.marketattributes.standardandpoors.com>.

S&P 500 COMPARATIVE DIVIDEND ACTIONS

2007: March to date	14 increases	0 initials	0 decrease	0 suspension
2006: March	18	1	1	0
2005: March	16	2	2	0
2004: March	14	1	0	0
2003: March	13	0	1	2
2007: Year to date	95	1	1	1
2006: 1/01 - 3/31	109	2	3	1
2005: 1/01 - 3/31	110	6	3	1
2004: 1/01 - 3/31	88	2	2	1
2003: 1/01 - 3/32	67	5	4	4

S&P 500 DIVIDEND SECTOR ACTION FROM JANUARY 2007

	ACTIONS	INCREASES	INITIAL	DECREASES	SUSPENSIONS
Consumer Discretionary	11	11	0	0	0
Consumer Staples	10	10	0	0	0
Energy	8	8	0	0	0
Financials	22	22	0	0	0
Health Care	5	4	0	0	1
Industrials	16	16	0	0	0
Information Technology	4	4	0	0	0
Materials	10	10	0	0	0
Telecommunication Services	1	1	0	0	0
Utilities	11	9	1	1	0
Total	98	95	1	1	1

HISTORICAL S&P 500 DIVIDEND ACTIONS

PERIOD	INCREASED	INCREASED	DECREASED	DECREASED
	PAYMENT	PAYMENT	PAYMENT	PAYMENT
	S&P 500	Non-S&P 500	S&P 500	Non-S&P 500
		ISSUES		ISSUES
2007: Year to date	19.20%	7.94%	0.40%	1.44%
2006	60.60%	29.90%	5.35%	5.12%
2005	59.00%	28.78%	5.60%	5.05%
2004	54.20%	29.66%	2.80%	4.02%
2003	45.40%	27.96%	7.00%	4.34%
2002	39.40%	21.89%	9.60%	6.40%
2001	40.40%	18.85%	10.20%	6.89%
2000	44.40%	18.38%	5.00%	5.45%
1999	48.40%	19.94%	5.40%	5.35%
1998	54.80%	21.32%	7.40%	4.57%
1997	58.00%	21.45%	5.80%	3.79%
1996	60.00%	22.53%	6.20%	3.64%

About Standard & Poor's Index Services

Standard & Poor's Index Services, the world's leading index provider, maintains a wide variety of investable and benchmark indices to meet an array of investor needs. Its family of indices includes the S&P 500, an index with \$1.26 trillion invested and \$4.45 trillion benchmarked, and the S&P Global 1200, a composite index comprised of seven regional and country headline indices. For more information, please visit www.standardandpoors.com/indices.

About Standard & Poor's

Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE:MHP), is the world's foremost provider of financial market intelligence, including independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data. With approximately 8,500 employees, including wholly owned affiliates, located in 21 countries. Standard & Poor's is an essential part of the world's financial infrastructure and has played a leading role for more than 140 years in providing investors with the independent benchmarks they need to feel more confident about their investment and financial decisions. For more information, visit <http://www.standardandpoors.com>.

For more information contact:

David Guarino
Standard & Poor's
Communications
212 438 1471
dave_guarino@standardandpoors.com

Howard Silverblatt
Standard & Poor's
Senior Index Analyst
212 438 3916
howard_silverblatt@standardandpoors.com