



Press Release

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

Dividend Increases Expected to Continue Throughout 2008

New York, December 27, 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 \$26.55 to \$28.75, and that cash dividends set another record paying out \$27.73 per share in 2007 versus \$24.88 in 2006. The 11.5% increase in dividend payments translates into a \$246.6 billion aggregate payment for the S&P 500 companies in 2007 compared to \$224.8 billion in 2006.

“While we have concern over the deterioration within the Financials sector, we believe that the vast majority of S&P 500 companies will continue their long history of dividend increases in 2008,” says Howard Silverblatt, Senior Index Analyst at Standard & Poor's. “As a result, we are expecting a 9.3% gain in the actual cash dividends paid in 2008 over that of 2007 which equates to \$30.30 per share.”

Standard & Poor's data also shows that corporate buybacks have continued to far outpace dividends in both aggregate dollars and growth. “The growth in dividends appears to be negatively impacted by the large expenditures on buybacks in 2007,” continues Silverblatt. “However, we are encouraged that 11 companies in the S&P 500 chose to initiate a dividend payment in 2007, bringing the total to 389, a level not seen in seven years.”

Silverblatt points out that the tendency for index issues to pay and increase cash dividends is much greater than that of the general market with 77.8% of the S&P 500 constituents paying cash dividends versus just 38.7% for the non-S&P 500 companies. For 2007, Silverblatt calculates that over 60% of the S&P 500 increased their dividend payout compared to less than 28% for the non-S&P 500 companies.

Standard & Poor's also announced its annual update of the S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats. The list consists of S&P 500 members that have increased their actual dividend payments in each of the last 25 years. For 2008, five issues were added (AFLAC Inc, Avery Dennison Corp, Exxon Mobil, Integrys Energy Group, and Pitney Bowes) to the current list of 58, while three (Altria Group, First Horizon National, and SLM Corp) were deleted.

For information on S&P 500 dividends, visit: www.marketattributes.standardandpoors.com.

For information on S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats, visit: www.dividendaristocrats.standardandpoors.com.

STANDARD & POOR'S INDEX SERVICES
S&P 500 Dividend Actions for 2007 (through 12/26/07)

SECTOR	ACTIONS	INCREASES	INITIATIONS	DECREASES	SUSPENSIONS
Consumer Discretionary	46	45	1	0	0
Consumer Staples	36	35	0	1	0
Energy	19	19	0	0	0
Financials	75	68	1	4	2
Health Care	20	16	1	0	3
Industrials	45	43	0	2	0
Information Technology	21	16	5	0	0
Materials	20	19	1	0	0
Telecommunications Services	5	4	1	0	0
Utilities	22	20	1	1	0
S&P 500	309	285	11	8	5
UNIQUE ISSUES	283	263	11	8	5

S&P 500 Dividend Actions

	INCREASE	INITIAL	DECREASE	SUSPENSION
2007	285	11	8	5
2006	299	6	7	3
2005	306	10	9	2
2004	272	10	3	2

S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats for 2008:

3M Co	Emerson Electric	Pfizer, Inc
Abbott Laboratories	Exxon Mobil	Pitney Bowes
AFLAC Inc	Family Dollar Stores	PPG Indus
Anheuser-Busch Cos	Fifth Third Bancorp	Procter & Gamble
Archer-Daniels-Midland	Gannett Co	Progressive Corp,Ohio
Automatic Data Proc	Genl Electric	Questar Corp
Avery Dennison Corp	Grainger (W.W.)	Regions Financial
Avery Dennison Corp	Integrys Energy Group	Rohm & Haas
Bank of America	Johnson & Johnson	Sherwin-Williams
Bard (C.R.)	Johnson Controls	Sigma-Aldrich
BB&T Corp	KeyCorp	Stanley Works
Becton, Dickinson	Kimberly-Clark	State Street Corp
CenturyTel Inc	Leggett & Platt	Supervalu Inc
Chubb Corp	Lilly (Eli)	Synovus Financial
Cincinnati Financial	Lowe's Cos	Target Corp
Clorox Co	M&T Bank	U.S. Bancorp
Coca-Cola Co	McDonald's Corp	VF Corp
Comerica Inc	McGraw-Hill Companies	Wal-Mart Stores
Consolidated Edison	Nucor Corp	Walgreen Co
Dover Corp	PepsiCo Inc	Wrigley, (Wm) Jr

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 \$1.3 trillion invested and \$4.8 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>.

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