



### **Dividend Growth: A Sign of Financial Strength in a Volatile Market Environment**

Given the ongoing turbulent conditions in the financial markets, dividends, and specifically the safety and ability of companies to pay dividends, have become important topics of conversation for investors. Of the 500 companies in the S&P 500 Index, 374 (75%) pay dividends and 126 (25%) do not. In the year-to-date period, 37 companies in the S&P 500 have decreased dividends and 21 companies have suspended dividends, for a total of 58 companies, or 11.6% of the Index. However, Godsey & Gibb Associates (Godsey & Gibb) continues to focus on companies with both safe and growing dividends. On the 50 company Godsey & Gibb Approved List, 45 companies (90%) pay dividends. Year-to-date, the companies that comprise the Godsey & Gibb Approved List have announced a total of 24 dividend increases (list below). No Approved List companies have announced decreases or suspensions to dividends. In addition, Standard and Poor's (S&P) defines a list of Dividend Aristocrats that have a record of at least 25 years of consecutive and increasing dividend payouts to shareholders. Twelve companies on the Approved List of companies at Godsey & Gibb rank among the S&P Dividend Aristocrats. The S&P Dividend Aristocrat company's ticker symbols are as follows: AFL, BBT, EMR, XOM, GE, GWW, PEP, PFE, PG, TEG, TGT, and WAG.

### **Godsey & Gibb Associates Approved List Announced Dividend Increases Year-to-Date**

Month	Company	New Annual Dividend	Old Annual Dividend	Percent Increase
December	Stryker	\$0.40	\$0.33	21.0%
November	Emerson	\$1.32	\$1.20	10.8%
October	Aflac	\$1.12	\$0.96	16.7%
	United Technologies	\$1.54	\$1.28	20.3%
September	Microsoft	\$0.52	\$0.44	18.2%
	Texas Instruments	\$0.44	\$0.40	10.0%
July	CVS Caremark	\$0.28	\$0.24	15.0%
	Microchip Technologies	\$1.35	\$1.32	2.4%
	Walgreen's	\$0.45	\$0.38	18.4%
June	BB&T	\$1.88	\$1.84	2.2%
	Medtronic	\$0.75	\$0.50	50.0%
	Target Corp.	\$0.64	\$0.56	14.3%
May	PepsiCo	\$1.70	\$1.50	13.3%
	Valero Energy	\$0.60	\$0.48	25.0%
April	Exxon Mobil	\$1.60	\$1.40	14.3%
	W.W. Grainger	\$1.60	\$1.40	14.3%
	Microchip Technologies	\$1.32	\$1.28	3.2%
	Procter & Gamble	\$1.60	\$1.40	14.3%
	Southern Company	\$1.68	\$1.61	4.4%
February	Integrus Energy Group	\$2.68	\$2.64	1.5%
	LLL Communications	\$1.20	\$1.00	20.0%
January	Aflac	\$0.96	\$0.82	17.1%
	Microchip Technologies	\$1.28	\$1.24	3.2%
	Pepco Holdings	\$1.08	\$1.04	3.8%
	Schlumberger Ltd.	\$0.84	\$0.70	20.0%

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