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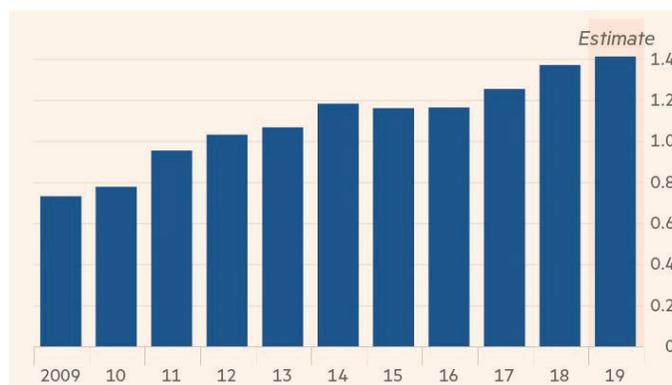
US Breaks Record for Dividends

In the current low interest rate environment, income, or return on one's investment, is highly prized. The current low bond yields have put renewed interest on stocks of companies with attractive and growing streams of dividend income. A dividend is a portion of a company's earnings that are paid out as a reward to shareholders. A stock dividend is much less common, but is a payment made in the form of additional shares rather than a cash payout. The amount of the dividend is determined by the Board of Directors of a company and is paid out in regular distributions, usually quarterly. For example, Johnson & Johnson stock has been paying dividends every year since 1963 and the payout has increased every year for over 50 years.

According to London, UK-based Janus Henderson, worldwide dividends reached a first-quarter 2019 record of \$263.3 billion, rising

7.8%. US dividends totaled a record \$122.5 billion during the period, up 8.3%. The company projects a record \$1.43 trillion in dividend payouts this year, up 4.2% in total, led by North America where growth is the fastest.

It is important to analyze the continued predictability of the dividend. Doing so requires an understanding of the overall health of the company, and its ability to continue to pay out a substantial percentage of total earnings (called the dividend payout ratio) to investors. A well-diversified portfolio of dividend paying stocks can offer an important and growing stream of income, which is especially important to investors close to or in retirement. The dividend yield (dividend per year divided by its current stock price) on many quality companies currently offers attractive income opportunities that will build for years to come. ❖



Source: Janus Henderson Dividend Index

Global companies pay out record dividends in 2018