D E A R B O R N

P A R T N E R S

On January 23, 2019, Kimberly-Clark Corporation (KMB) announced a 3% increase in its quarterly cash dividend per share to $1.03 ($4.12 annually) from $1.00 ($4.00 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on April 2, 2019 to holders of record of Kimberly-Clark's common stock as of March 8, 2019. This is the 47th consecutive year that Kimberly-Clark has increased its quarterly cash dividend and the 85th straight year the company has paid dividends.

From the press release:

> Chief Executive Officer Mike Hsu said, "In 2018, we returned to delivering organic sales growth and we continued to launch innovations, pursue our growth priorities and invest in our brands. Overall, it was a challenging macro environment and our margins declined, reflecting significant commodity inflation and currency volatility. Nonetheless, I'm encouraged that in response to these headwinds we achieved higher selling prices in the second half of the year. We also achieved $510 million of cost savings, generated strong cash flow and returned $2.2 billion to shareholders through dividends and share repurchases."
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> Hsu continued, "We expect the environment in 2019 will remain challenging, although somewhat better than in 2018. In this environment, our teams will continue to execute our strategies for long-term success. We are targeting to deliver a solid operating plan, with higher organic sales growth compared to 2018 and improved margins despite expectations for significant headwinds from commodities and currencies. We also expect to return substantial cash to shareholders."
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> Kimberly-Clark is introducing K-C Strategy 2022 as the company looks ahead to its 150-year anniversary in 2022. The company will allocate capital in value-creating ways, enabled by strong cash generation. Kimberly-Clark expects to spend capital at an annual rate of 4 to 5 percent of net sales after completing the 2018 Global Restructuring Program. In addition, the company plans to return significant amounts of cash to shareholders through dividends and share repurchases.

Kimberly-Clark and its trusted brands are an indispensable part of life for people in more than 175 countries. Fueled by ingenuity, creativity, and an understanding of people's most essential needs, the company creates products that help individuals experience more of what's important to them. The portfolio of brands, including Huggies, Kleenex, Scott, Kotex, Cottonelle, Poise, Depend, Andrex, Pull-Ups, GoodNites, Intimus, Neve, Plenitud, Viva and WypAll, hold No. 1 or No. 2 share positions in 80 countries. Kimberly-Clark uses sustainable practices that support a healthy planet, build strong communities, and ensure that its business thrives for decades to come.

Kimberly-Clark is in the Consumer Staples sector of both our Dearborn Partners Core Rising Dividend and our High & Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolios. This is the third company in our portfolios to increase its dividend so far this year. The average of these three dividend increases is about 5.9% more than these companies paid a year earlier.

Thank you for your interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.