


DIVIDEND SEEKERS:

Proceed with caution

Before falling in love with a stock with a high dividend yield, find out whether the company can afford the dividend. One way to determine that is by looking at the cushion between what a company earns and what it pays out in dividends. Here's a comparison of the dividends paid by a dozen regional companies and their current dividend as a percentage of average quarterly earnings over a two-year period. The yield is based on Friday's closing stock price.



COMPANY	DIVIDEND YIELD	QUARTERLY DIVIDEND (PER SHARE)	PERCENT OF QUARTERLY EARNINGS PAID AS DIVIDENDS
PNC Financial Services	3.0%	35 cents	23%
PPG Industries	3.1%	57 cents	46%
S&T Bancorp	3.7%	15 cents	47%
EQT	1.5%	22 cents	51%
Federated Investors	5.8%	24 cents	55%
American Eagle	4.2%	11 cents	58%
Allegheny Technologies	1.5%	18 cents	64%
Bank of New York Mellon	2.6%	13 cents	65%
H.J. Heinz	3.7%	48 cents	65%
MSA	3.7%	26 cents	68%

Companies falling short

Companies whose average quarterly earnings fall short of their dividend payments:

COMPANY	DIVIDEND YIELD	QUARTERLY DIVIDEND (PER SHARE)	AVERAGE QUARTERLY EARNINGS (LOSS)
First Niagara	6.4%	16 cents	15 cents
U.S. Steel	0.7%	5 cents	(83 cents)