



# Berkshire

## DIVIDEND STRATEGY

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"Casual Friday" Commentary

### Casual Friday: Dividend Increase Alert + Guess Who's Cooking T-Day Dinner? - Nov 16, 2018

We are pleased to announce additional dividend increases in the Berkshire Dividend Strategy:

**Merck (NYSE:MRK)** - Oct 25th, 2018 - announced a 15 percent increase to the company's quarterly dividend, raising it to \$0.55 per share from \$0.48 per share. Payment will be made on Jan. 8, 2019, to shareholders of record at the close of business on Dec. 17, 2018. The Board also authorized an additional \$10 billion of treasury stock purchases with no time limit for completion. - [Press Release](#)

**AbbVie (NYSE: ABBV)** - Nov 2nd, 2018 - announced a year-over-year dividend increase of 50 percent. This reflects 2 dividend increases in 2018, an increase in February and this current increase announcement. The new dividend of \$1.07 per share will be payable to shareholders of record as of January 15, 2019. - [Press Release](#)

Rising dividends and investing for cash flow continues to look like a better option than trying to constantly guess which way the market will move, or which broad asset class which will out-perform or under-perform.

#### Near term volatility has increased but:

- We do not believe trade tensions, higher rates or slightly slower earnings growth present broad threats to equities longer term
- The notion that the decline in tech stocks is somehow indicative of the market health is probably misplaced. Yes tech earnings may be slowing, but many stocks are simply coming down from very expensive and unsustainable levels. As such, the relative performance of value vs. growth from the market's high is quite pronounced.

#### *Thanksgiving feedback and ideas wanted!*

Frequent readers know Casual Friday is all about enhancing wealth, health and good living! Prepping our Casual Friday Thanksgiving Edition is always one of our favorites.

***Can you please share any favorite: articles, links, guides, fun facts, traditions, charts that are related to Thanksgiving?***

Here's one that came across our Bloomberg...Snoop Dogg's Thanksgiving Cook Book:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-11-07/snoop-dogg-s-surprisingly-solid-tips-for-thanksgiving-dinner>

Best Regards,  
Gerry

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**Berkshire** is a fee-based, SEC registered advisory firm serving the portfolio management needs of high net worth and institutional clients. Over the past 30 years, we have successfully implemented highly focused equity, fixed income and balanced portfolios. Our guiding principle is a belief that success is achieved by combining rigorous, well-crafted investment processes with an exceptional level of client service and attention to detail. Asset Management with a Difference... Diligence, Integrity, and Focus.

#### Dividend Highlights

- Dividend growth can often provide transparent insight into a company's fundamentals and vitality.
- Dividend growth can provide an attractive stream of increasing cash flow to satisfy many financial objectives.

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