Abbott Laboratories

S&P Recommendation BUY ★★★★★	**Price** $55.02 (as of Jan 27, 2012)	**12-Mo. Target Price** $61.00	**Investment Style** Large-Cap Growth

UPDATE: PLEASE SEE THE ANALYST'S LATEST RESEARCH NOTE IN THE COMPANY NEWS SECTION

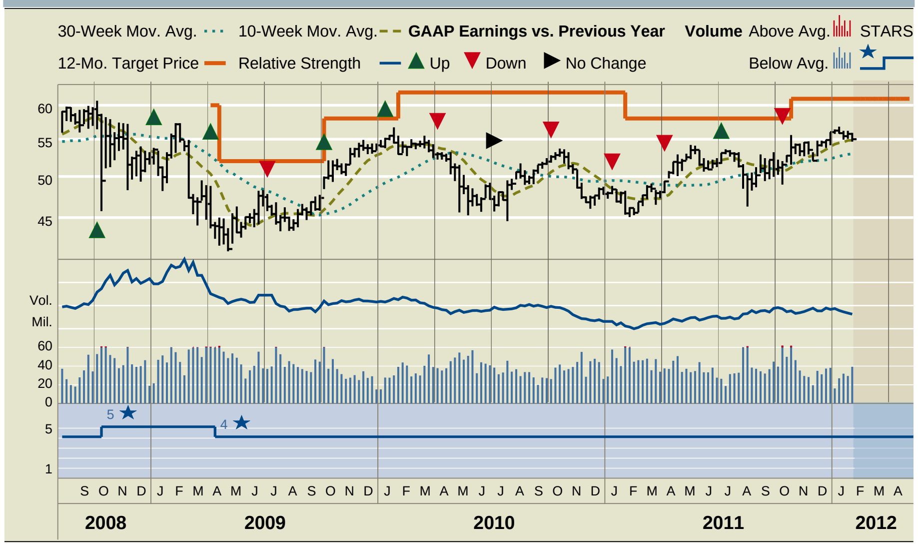
GICS Sector Health Care
Sub-Industry Pharmaceuticals

Summary This diversified life science company is a leading maker of drugs, nutritional products, diabetes monitoring devices, and diagnostics. In mid-October 2011, Abbott announced plans to split the company.

Key Stock Statistics (Source S&P, Vickers, company reports)

52-Wk Range	**$56.84– 45.07**	S&P Oper. EPS 2011**E**	**4.66**	Market Capitalization(B)	**$85.710**	Beta	**0.31**
Trailing 12-Month EPS	**$2.90**	S&P Oper. EPS 2012**E**	**4.95**	Yield (%)	**3.49**	S&P 3-Yr. Proj. EPS CAGR(%)	**10**
Trailing 12-Month P/E	**19.0**	P/E on S&P Oper. EPS 2011**E**	**11.8**	Dividend Rate/Share	**$1.92**	S&P Credit Rating	**AA**
$10K Invested 5 Yrs Ago	**$12,224**	Common Shares Outstg. (M)	**1,557.8**	Institutional Ownership (%)	**64**		

Price Performance



Options: ASE, CBOE, P, Ph

Analysis prepared by Equity Analyst **Herman Saftlas** on Oct 31, 2011, when the stock traded at **$54.14**.

Highlights

- Based on operations as presently constituted, we project 2012 revenues to rise 4% from the $39 billion that we estimate for 2011. The key pharmaceutical driver, in our opinion, should be Humira, which we expect to soon rank as the world's leading biologic for autoimmune diseases. We also see gains in the Solvay vaccines business. However, sales in ABT's cholesterol franchise are expected to decline, impacted by generic competition. In the medical products area, we see new launches and overseas market expansion powering Abbott's drug-eluting stents, and nutritional and diagnostic products.
- We expect adjusted gross margins to expand modestly from the near 60% that we forecast for 2011. Results should also benefit from cost cutting measures, reduced net interest expense and greater accretion from Solvay. These positives should more than offset U.S. healthcare reform and European pricing pressures.
- After a projected adjusted tax rate similar to the 16% that we see for 2011, we forecast operating EPS of $4.95 for 2012, up from the $4.66 that we estimate for 2011.

Investment Rationale/Risk

- In mid-October 2011, ABT announced a planned split-up of the company, to be accomplished through the spinoff to shareholders of the research based pharmaceuticals business (estimated sales of $18 billion) as a separate firm to be named. Abbott will retain its legacy medical products operations (sales of $22 billion), comprising diagnostics, devices, nutritional and generic drug operations. We believe this move will result in higher valuations for each company, with investors better able to focus and appreciate the respective growth potentials of each firm. We expect the planned tax-free spinoff, subject to customary approvals, to be completed by the end of 2012.
- Risks to our recommendation and target price include failure to successfully execute the planned split-up of the company, as well as more intense competitive pressures, and possible pipeline setbacks.
- Our 12-month target price of $61 applies a peer-level multiple of 12.3X to our 2012 EPS estimate. Our discounted cash flow model, which assumes a WACC of about 8.3% and terminal growth of 2%, also implies intrinsic value of $61.

Qualitative Risk Assessment

LOW	**MEDIUM**	HIGH

Our risk assessment reflects Abbott's operations in competitive markets and its exposure to the potential for generic competition. However, we believe the company has a relatively strong new product pipeline, with possible significant launches in medical device and pharmaceutical areas. We see the company financially strong, with a strong balance sheet.

Quantitative Evaluations

S&P Quality Ranking **A**

D	C	B-	B	B+	A-	**A**	A+

Relative Strength Rank **MODERATE**

32

LOWEST = 1 HIGHEST = 99

Revenue/Earnings Data

Revenue (Million $)

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year
2011	9,041	9,616	9,817	--	--
2010	7,698	8,826	8,675	9,968	35,167
2009	6,718	7,495	7,761	8,790	30,765
2008	6,766	7,314	7,498	7,950	29,528
2007	5,290	6,371	6,377	7,221	25,914
2006	5,183	5,501	5,574	6,218	22,476

Earnings Per Share ($)

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year
2011	0.55	1.23	0.19	**E**1.45	**E**4.66
2010	0.64	0.83	0.57	0.92	2.96
2009	0.92	0.83	0.95	0.98	3.69
2008	0.60	0.85	0.69	0.89	3.03
2007	0.41	0.63	0.46	0.77	2.31
2006	0.56	0.40	0.46	-0.31	1.12

Fiscal year ended Dec. 31. Next earnings report expected: NA. EPS Estimates based on S&P Operating Earnings; historical GAAP earnings are as reported.

Dividend Data (Dates: mm/dd Payment Date: mm/dd/yy)

Amount ($)	Date Decl.	Ex-Div. Date	Stk. of Record	Payment Date
0.480	02/18	04/13	04/15	05/16/11
0.480	06/10	07/13	07/15	08/15/11
0.480	09/15	10/12	10/14	11/15/11
0.480	12/09	01/11	01/13	02/15/12

Dividends have been paid since 1926. Source: Company reports.

Abbott Laboratories

Business Summary October 31, 2011

CORPORATE OVERVIEW. Abbott Laboratories is a leading player in several growing health care markets. Through acquisitions, product diversification and R&D programs, ABT offers a wide range of prescription pharmaceuticals, infant and adult nutritionals, diagnostics, and medical devices.

During 2010, pharmaceuticals accounted for 56% of operating revenues, while nutritionals represented 16%, diagnostics contributed 11%, and vascular represented 9%. Sales of other products represented 8% of 2010 sales. Foreign sales accounted for 57% of total sales in 2010.

ABT's Pharmaceutical Products Group markets a wide array of human therapeutics. Major products include: Humira to treat rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis ($6.5 billion in 2010 sales); Kaletra, an anti-HIV medication ($1.3 billion); TriCor/Trilipix, cholesterol treatments ($1.6 billion); Niaspan, a niacin-based cholesterol treatment ($927 million); and Lupron, a treatment for prostate cancer ($748 million). This division was augmented by the $6.2 billion purchase of the Solvay drug business in February 2010.

Nutritionals fall under U.S.-based Ross Products and Abbott Nutrition International. Products include leading infant formulas sold under the Similac and Isomil names, as well as adult nutritionals, such as Ensure and ProSure for patients with special dietary needs, including cancer and diabetes patients. ABT also markets enteral feeding items.

Abbott Diabetes Care markets the Precision and FreeStyle lines of hand-held glucose monitors for diabetes patients. This division also markets data management and point-of-care systems, insulin pumps and syringes, and Glucerna shakes and nutrition bars tailored for diabetics.

Abbott Vascular markets coronary and carotid stents, catheters and guide wires, and products used for surgical closure. The principal product is the new Xience drug-eluting stent (DES), which was launched in July 2008 and is presently the leading product in the domestic DES market. Boston Scientific markets the Xience stent manufactured by Abbott under the Promus name, pursuant to an agreement with ABT.

ABT offers a wide range of tests and diagnostic systems for blood banks, hospitals, and labs. Principal products include screening tests for hepatitis, HIV, and other infectious diseases, and for cancer; clinical chemistry systems; diagnostic instruments and chemical reagents; immunoassay test kits; hematology systems and reagents; and pregnancy tests.

PIPELINE. In 2010, ABT invested some $3.5 billion (10% of sales) in R&D, comprising internally developed and in-licensed and acquired products. The company added four new molecular entities (NMEs) in late stage development, and by the end of 2011, ABT expects to have 20 NMEs in either Phase 2 or Phase 3 clinical trials. Compounds include new treatments for hepatitis C, kidney disease, pain management, cancer and other conditions.

IMPACT OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS. In February 2009, Abbott completed the acquisition of Advanced Medical Optics (AMO) for about $2.8 billion in cash. AMO is a leader in ophthalmic care with the No. 1 position in LASIK surgical devices, the No. 2 position in cataract surgical products, and the No. 3 slot in contact lens care products. AMO's total sales are about $1 billion.

In April 2008, Abbott and Takeda Chemical Industries of Japan terminated their TAP Pharmaceutical Products joint venture. Under the termination terms, Abbott received rights to the oncology treatment, Lupron, including the commercial organization supporting that franchise, and will receive payments based on TAP's other current and certain future products. Takeda received the rights to Prevacid gastrointestinal medication, and other assets.

In December 2006, ABT acquired Kos Pharmaceuticals, a maker of proprietary medications for the treatment of chronic cardiovascular, metabolic and respiratory diseases.

FINANCIAL TRENDS. We think ABT will increase operating EPS at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10% through 2012. Our EPS growth assumptions include expected margin improvement, lower debt levels, and continued strength in sales of Humira and Xience. Abbott generated over $7 billion in operating cash flow in 2009. In February 2011, a federal court overturned a lower court ruling in June 2009 that ordered Abbott to pay $1.67 billion to Johnson & Johnson (JNJ 66, Buy) for alleged infringement by Humira of patents held by JNJ. In mid-October 2011, ABT adjusted its 2011 operating EPS guidance to $4.64-$4.66, from $4.58-$4.68.

Corporate Information

Investor Contact
L. Peepo (847-935-6722)

Office
100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-6400.

Telephone
847-937-6100.

Fax
847-937-1511.

Website
http://www.abbott.com

Officers

Chrmn & CEO
M.D. White

EVP & CFO
T.C. Freyman

EVP, Secy & General Counsel
L.J. Schumacher

Chief Acctg Officer & Cntlr
G.W. Linder

Treas
V. Yien

Board Members
R. J. Alpern
R. S. Austin
S. E. Blount
W. J. Farrell
H. L. Fuller
N. McKinstry
P. N. Novakovic
W. A. Osborn
S. C. Scott, III
G. F. Tilton
M. D. White

Domicile
Illinois

Founded
1888

Employees
90,000

Stockholders
64,413

Abbott Laboratories

STANDARD &POOR'S

Quantitative Evaluations

S&P Fair Value Rank 5

1	2	3	4	5

LOWEST HIGHEST

Based on S&P's proprietary quantitative model, stocks are ranked from most overvalued (1) to most undervalued (5).

Fair Value Calculation $61.10

Analysis of the stock's current worth, based on S&P's proprietary quantitative model suggests that ABT is slightly undervalued by $6.08 or 11.1%.

Investability Quotient Percentile 100

LOWEST = 1 HIGHEST = 100

ABT scored higher than 100% of all companies for which an S&P Report is available.

Volatility LOW AVERAGE HIGH

Technical Evaluation BULLISH

Since November, 2011, the technical indicators for ABT have been BULLISH.

Insider Activity UNFAVORABLE NEUTRAL FAVORABLE

Expanded Ratio Analysis

	2010	2009	2008	2007
Price/Sales	2.12	2.73	2.82	3.38
Price/EBITDA	8.33	9.65	10.02	11.87
Price/Pretax Income	13.05	11.67	14.22	19.56
P/E Ratio	16.12	14.61	17.59	24.29
Avg. Diluted Shares Outstg (M)	1,556.0	1,555.1	1,560.8	1,560.1

Figures based on calendar year-end price

Key Growth Rates and Averages

Past Growth Rate (%)	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	9 Years
Sales	14.31	10.04	10.02	8.63
Net Income	-19.49	9.86	16.94	11.06
Ratio Analysis (Annual Avg.)				
Net Margin (%)	13.15	15.95	13.88	14.49
% LT Debt to Capitalization	33.79	33.42	33.67	29.55

Company Financials Fiscal Year Ended Dec. 31

Per Share Data ($)	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Tangible Book Value	NM	2.17	1.51	1.24	NM	2.89	2.22	2.90	1.93	1.14
Cash Flow	4.66	5.04	4.21	3.50	2.13	3.02	2.84	2.56	2.52	1.74
Earnings	2.96	3.69	3.03	2.31	1.12	2.16	2.02	1.75	1.78	0.99
S&P Core Earnings	3.05	3.61	2.86	2.31	1.16	2.01	1.90	1.95	1.62	0.77
Dividends	1.72	1.56	1.41	1.27	1.16	1.09	1.03	0.97	0.92	0.82
Payout Ratio	58%	42%	46%	55%	104%	50%	51%	55%	51%	83%
Prices:High	56.79	57.39	61.09	59.50	49.87	50.00	47.63	47.15	58.00	57.17
Prices:Low	44.59	41.27	45.75	48.75	39.18	37.50	38.26	33.75	29.80	42.00
P/E Ratio:High	19	16	20	26	45	23	24	27	33	58
P/E Ratio:Low	15	11	15	21	35	17	19	19	17	42

Income Statement Analysis (Million $)	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Revenue	35,167	30,765	29,528	25,914	22,476	22,338	19,680	19,681	17,685	16,285
Operating Income	8,954	8,698	8,316	7,378	6,419	5,738	5,187	4,597	4,815	3,062
Depreciation	2,624	2,090	1,839	1,855	1,559	1,359	1,289	1,274	1,177	1,168
Interest Expense	448	520	528	593	416	241	200	146	239	307
Pretax Income	5,713	7,194	5,856	4,479	2,276	4,620	4,126	3,734	3,673	1,883
Effective Tax Rate	NA	20.1%	19.2%	19.3%	24.6%	27.0%	23.0%	26.3%	23.9%	17.7%
Net Income	4,626	5,746	4,734	3,606	1,717	3,372	3,176	2,753	2,794	1,550
S&P Core Earnings	4,739	5,599	4,473	3,609	1,787	3,158	2,972	2,971	2,561	1,233

Balance Sheet & Other Financial Data (Million $)	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Cash	5,451	9,932	5,080	2,821	521	2,894	1,226	995	704	657
Current Assets	22,318	23,314	17,043	14,043	11,282	11,386	10,734	10,290	9,122	8,419
Total Assets	59,462	52,417	42,419	39,714	36,178	29,141	28,767	26,715	24,259	23,296
Current Liabilities	17,262	13,049	11,592	9,103	11,951	7,416	6,826	7,640	7,002	7,927
Long Term Debt	12,560	11,484	8,713	9,488	7,010	4,572	4,788	3,452	4,274	4,335
Common Equity	22,388	22,856	17,480	17,779	14,054	14,415	14,326	13,072	10,665	9,059
Total Capital	37,169	34,594	26,193	27,266	21,064	19,570	19,334	16,525	14,939	13,395
Capital Expenditures	1,015	1,089	1,288	1,656	1,338	1,207	1,292	1,247	1,296	1,164
Cash Flow	7,250	7,835	6,573	5,461	3,276	4,731	4,465	4,027	3,971	2,718
Current Ratio	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.1
% Long Term Debt of Capitalization	33.8	Nil	33.3	34.8	33.3	23.4	24.8	20.9	28.6	32.4
% Net Income of Revenue	13.2	18.7	16.0	13.9	7.6	15.1	16.1	14.0	15.8	9.5
% Return on Assets	NA	NA	11.5	9.5	5.3	11.6	11.6	10.8	11.7	8.0
% Return on Equity	NA	NA	26.9	22.7	12.1	23.5	23.2	23.2	28.3	17.6

Data as orig reptd.; bef. results of disc opers/spec. items. Per share data adj. for stk. divs.; EPS diluted. E-Estimated. NA-Not Available. NM-Not Meaningful. NR-Not Ranked. UR-Under Review.

Abbott Laboratories

STANDARD & POOR'S

Sub-Industry Outlook

Our fundamental outlook for the pharmaceuticals sub-industry for the next 12 months is neutral. Although the sector faces significant top-line pressure this year from patent expirations on many top-selling drugs, we believe overall industry profits should hold up relatively well, helped by expanding sales of new innovative drug therapies and margin improvements accruing from cost restructurings and merger synergies. EPS comparisons should also benefit from common share buybacks.

While we think recent health care reform legislation will negatively affect industry profitability over the next two years, we see eventual benefits accruing from significant expansion of the market, with new coverage potentially being provided to 32 million currently uninsured Americans. We favor the shares of firms with well defined growth prospects and generous dividend yields, as we believe they should perform relatively well over the coming quarters.

Despite near-term patent expirations and regulatory pressures on drug pricing, we still think long-term prospects for the sector remain favorable. Pharmaceuticals remains one of the widest-margin U.S. industries, with prospects enhanced by demographic growth in the elderly (which account for about 33% of industry sales) and new drugs stemming from discoveries in genomics and biotechnology. We expect FDA approvals of new molecular entities in 2012 to approximate the 30 approved in 2011, which was well above the 21 cleared in 2010.

Year to date through January 20, the S&P Pharmaceuticals Index was flat, versus a 4.7% advance in the S&P 1500 Composite Index. In 2011, the sub-industry index was up 13.9%, while the 1500 fell 0.3%. We expect prospects for the generic/specialty drug sector to remain favorable.

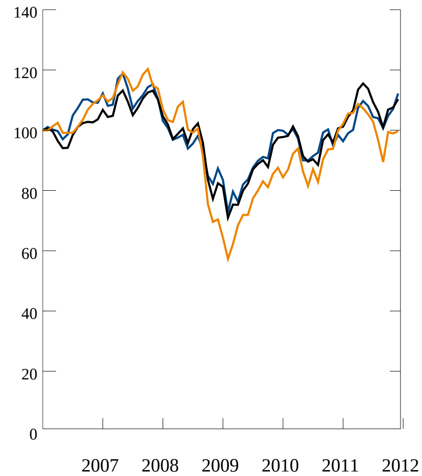
We see a large number of major drugs losing patent protection over the next few years, providing significant opportunities for this group. We also look for generics to benefit from the new health care reform legislation. We favor companies with rich generic pipelines, especially those with first-to-file generics with the potential for 180 days of marketing exclusivity, and competence in litigating complex patent issues.

--Herman B. Saftlas

Stock Performance

GICS Sector: Health Care
Sub-Industry: Pharmaceuticals

Based on S&P 1500 Indexes
Month-end Price Performance as of 12/30/11



NOTE: All Sector & Sub-Industry information is based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)

Sub-Industry : Pharmaceuticals Peer Group*: Health Care Diversified

Peer Group	Stock Symbol	Stk.Mkt. Cap. (Mil. $)	Recent Stock Price($)	52 Week High/Low($)	Beta	Yield (%)	P/E Ratio	Fair Value Calc.($)	Quality Ranking	S&P IQ %ile	Return on Revenue (%)	LTD to Cap (%)
Abbott Laboratories	**ABT**	**85,710**	**55.02**	**56.84/45.07**	**0.31**	**3.5**	**19**	**61.10**	**A**	**100**	**13.2**	**33.8**
Bristol-Myers Squibb	BMY	54,716	32.29	35.44/24.97	0.51	4.2	17	NA	B+	98	15.9	25.5
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	179,034	65.56	68.05/57.50	0.55	3.5	19	63.00	A+	100	14.9	NA

NA-Not Available NM-Not Meaningful NR-Not Rated. *For Peer Groups with more than 15 companies or stocks, selection of issues is based on market capitalization.

S&P Analyst Research Notes and other Company News

January 25, 2012
11:01 am ET ... S&P MAINTAINS BUY OPINION ON SHARES OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES (ABT 54.97****): Q4 adjusted EPS rose 12% to $1.45, matching our estimate. Although sales growth of 4% was below our forecast, gross margins expanded on efficiency initiatives and a better sales mix. Despite generic challenges to the lipid franchise and weakness in the vascular line, we project improved results in '12 for most of ABT's other businesses. We also see shareholder value being enhanced by the planned spin-off of the pharmaceuticals business later this year. We reiterate our target price of $61, applying a near peer P/E of 12.3X to our $4.95 EPS forecast for '12, Dividend yields 3.5%. /H. Saftlas

January 6, 2012
11:02 am ET ... S&P MAINTAINS BUY OPINION ON SHARES OF NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES (NBIX 8.3****): NBIX says it expects an FDA new drug application filing for its endometriosis drug elagolix, partnered with Abbott Labs (ABT 56, Buy), in 2015, a year later than we had assumed. Although we extend our launch forecast, we still anticipate a favorable regulatory path, given robust Phase II data, which we see mitigating some Phase III clinical risk. We are encouraged by progress with NBI-98854 for movement disorder tardive dyskinesia, for which NBIX expects Phase II data in early '12. On revised elagolix launch assumptions, we trim our NPV-based target price by $1 to $11. /S.Silver

December 15, 2011
On December 9, 2011, Sally E. Blount, Ph.D., Dean of the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, and Nancy McKinstry, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Executive Board of Wolters Kluwer N.V., were named to the Abbott Laboratories Board of Directors, effective immediately. On December 9, 2011, the company's Board of Directors amended the first sentence of Article III, Section 2 of Abbott's by-laws to provide that Abbott's Board of Directors shall consist of twelve persons, effective as of December 9, 2011. Abbott's by-laws previously provided that the Board of Directors consisted of ten persons.

November 23, 2011
10:49 am ET ... S&P REITERATES HOLD OPINION ON SHARES OF BOSTON SCIENTIFIC (BSX 5.46***): FDA clears BSX's next generation Promus Element drug-eluting stent several months sooner than we had expected. We see this as a positive development, as margins on BSX manufactured Promus Element should be considerably higher than on the original Promus, which BSX markets under license from Abbott Laboratories (ABT 53, Buy). BSX plans to begin marketing Promus Element immediately, with approval in Japan expected by mid-2012. BSX projects combined U.S. and Japanese launches of Promus Element to add $200M to gross margin after 2012. We reiterate our target price of $6.50. /P.Seligman, /H. Saftlas

October 19, 2011
ABT plans to separate into 2 public cos, one in diversified medical products, other in research-based pharms. Says diversified medical products co. will consist of ABT's existing diversified medical products portfolio, will keep Abbott name; research-based pharm. co. will incl. co.'s proprietary pharmaceuticals and biologics, will be named later. Posts $1.18 vs. $1.05 Q3 EPS (excl. items) on 13% worldwide sales gain. Sees $4.64-$4.66 '11 ongoing EPS (excl. items).

October 19, 2011
11:09 am ET ... S&P REITERATES BUY OPINION ON SHARES OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES (ABT 54.27****): ABT announces plans to spin off to shareholders its research based pharmaceutical business as a separate firm (to be named), with Abbott retaining its diversified medical products operations. We believe this move will result in higher valuations for each company, with investors better able to focus on the respective growth potential of each firm. We expect the planned tax free spinoff, subject to customary approvals, to be completed by the end of '12. We raise our target price by $3 to $61, applying a peer P/E of 13.1X to our revised $4.66 '11 EPS est. (raised by $0.06). /H. Saftlas

September 13, 2011
09:47 am ET ... S&P MAINTAINS BUY OPINION ON SHARES OF NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES (NBIX 6.00****): NBIX's partner Abbott Labs (ABT 50.4, Buy) initiates Phase II study of elagolix for treatment of uterine fibroids, triggering a $10M milestone payment to NBIX. We are encouraged by the progress of the elagolix program, and continue to expect its advance to Phase III study in the more advanced indication of endometriosis before the end of '11. Although we see limited near-term share catalysts, we expect milestone payments to limit NBIX's cash burn enabling the funding of its earlier-stage clinical pipeline, led by Phase II VMAT2 inhibitor for movement disorder tardive dyskinesia. /S.Silver

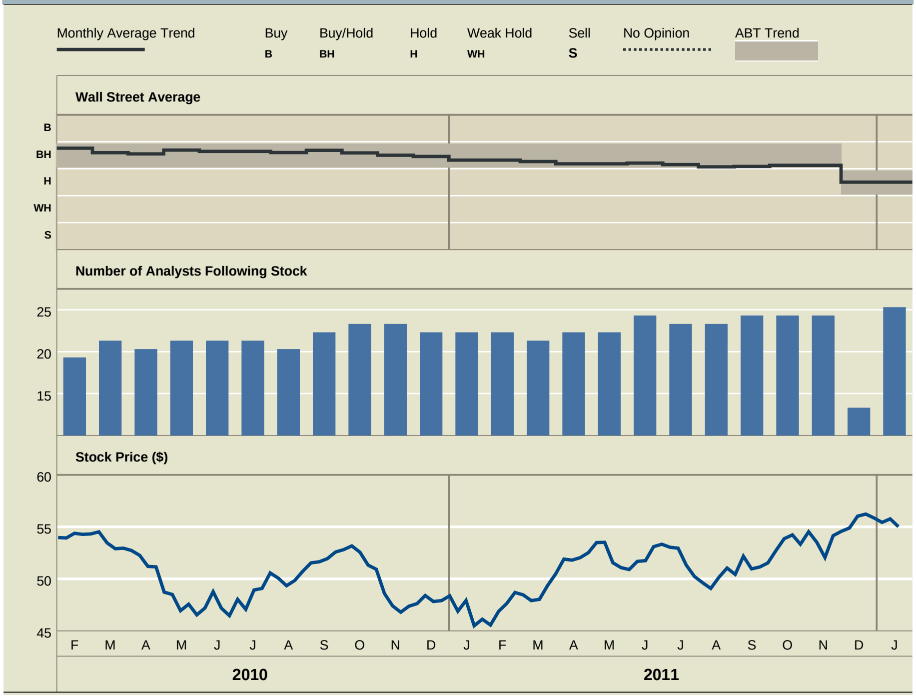
July 20, 2011
10:40 am ET ... S&P REITERATES BUY OPINION ON SHARES OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES (ABT 52.00****): Q2 operating EPS rose 11% to $1.12, $0.02 below our estimate. Sales advanced 9%, lifted by a 4.6% gain from forex, 25% growth in Humira arthritis drug, and 23% expansion in emerging markets sales. Despite a recent unfavorable Niaspan study, and the impact of infant formula recalls, we still see 10% EPS growth this year fueled by gains in key drug and medical device lines, and cost controls. We expect new indications to boost Humira sales by over $1B. We reiterate our $58 target price, applying a near peer P/E of 11.7X to our $4.95 '12 EPS forecast. The dividend yields 3.7%. /H. Saftlas

May 25, 2011
12:16 pm ET ... S&P MAINTAINS HOLD RECOMMENDATION ON SHARES OF BOSTON SCIENTIFIC (BSX 6.89***): We are positive on the FDA's approval for BSX to market in the U.S. its 2.25 mm PROMUS Everolimus-Eluting Coronary Stent System for use in blood vessels as small as 2.25 mm in diameter. The PROMUS is a private-labeled XIENCE V stent manufactured by Abbott Laboratories (ABT 53 Buy) and distributed by BSX. We believe the 2.25 mm PROMUS stent, which joins BSX's 2.25 mm ION Paclitaxel-Eluting Platinum Chromium Stent, strengthens the company's competitive position in the U.S. small-vessel drug-eluting stent market. Nonetheless, our EPS model and $8 target price are unchanged. /P.Seligman

May 4, 2011
12:23 pm ET ... S&P MAINTAINS BUY OPINION ON SHARES OF NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES (NBIX 7.26****): Q1 EPS of $0.05, vs. loss of $0.19, is $0.01 above our estimate. NBIX expects key value driver elagolix to start Phase III study in Q4 '11 for endometriosis, modestly behind our forecast, and Phase II study for uterine fibroids in Q3 '11. With $134M in cash and modest near-term cash burn outlook due to expected elagolix milestone payments from partner Abbott Labs (ABT 53****), we view NBIX as well funded to invest in its VMAT2 program, which could move to Phase IIb study by early '12 for movement disorder tardive dyskinesia. We keep our $11 net present value based target price. /S.Silver

Abbott Laboratories

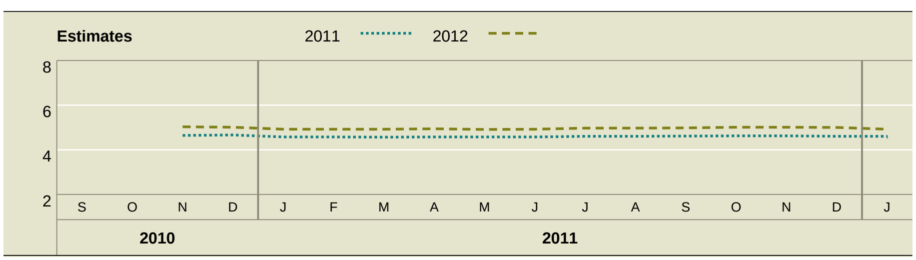
Analysts' Recommendations



Of the total 33 companies following ABT, 25 analysts currently publish recommendations.

	No. of Ratings	% of Total	1 Mo. Prior	3 Mos. Prior
Buy	4	16	0	5
Buy/Hold	6	24	0	7
Hold	14	56	13	11
Weak Hold	0	0	0	0
Sell	1	4	0	1
No Opinion	0	0	0	0
Total	**25**	**100**	**13**	**24**

Wall Street Consensus Estimates



Fiscal Years	Avg Est.	High Est.	Low Est.	# of Est.	Est. P/E
2012	4.95	4.95	4.95	1	11.1
2011	4.63	4.67	4.08	25	11.9
2012 vs. 2011	▲ 7%	▲ 6%	▲ 21%	▼ -96%	▼ -7%
Q4'12	1.53	1.56	1.39	14	36.0
Q4'11	1.44	1.45	1.37	21	38.2
Q4'12 vs. Q4'11	▲ 6%	▲ 8%	▲ 1%	▼ -33%	▼ -6%

A company's earnings outlook plays a major part in any investment decision. Standard & Poor's organizes the earnings estimates of over 2,300 Wall Street analysts, and provides their consensus of earnings over the next two years. This graph shows the trend in analyst estimates over the past 15 months.

Wall Steet Consensus Opinion

HOLD

Companies Offering Coverage

Over 30 firms follow this stock; not all firms are displayed.
Argus Research Company
Atlantic Equities LLP
Axia Financial research
Barclays Capital
BofA Merrill Lynch
Brean Murray, Carret & Co.
Citigroup Inc
Cowen and Company, LLC
Credit Suisse
Daiwa Securities Capital Markets Co. Ltd.
Daiwa Securities America Inc.
Davenport & Company
Day By Day
Deutsche Bank
First Global Stockbroking (P) Ltd.
Goldman Sachs
Hilliard Lyons
JP Morgan
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Leerink Swann LLC
Moody?s
Morgan Keegan & Company
Morgan Stanley
Morningstar Inc.
Noble Financial Group
RBC Capital Markets
Raymond James & Associates
S&P Equity Research
Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., Inc.
Stifel, Nicolaus & Co., Inc.

Wall Street Consensus vs. Performance

For fiscal year 2011, analysts estimate that ABT will earn $4.63. For the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2011, ABT announced earnings per share of $0.19, representing 4% of the total annual estimate. For fiscal year 2012, analysts estimate that ABT's earnings per share will grow by 7% to $4.95.

Source: S&P, Capital IQ Estimates, Inc.

Abbott Laboratories

Glossary

S&P STARS
Since January 1, 1987, Standard and Poor's Equity Research Services has ranked a universe of common stocks based on a given stock's potential for future performance. Under proprietary STARS (STock Appreciation Ranking System), S&P equity analysts rank stocks according to their individual forecast of a stock's future total return potential versus the expected total return of a relevant benchmark (e.g., a regional index (S&P Asia 50 Index, S&P Europe 350 Index or S&P 500 Index)), based on a 12-month time horizon. STARS was designed to meet the needs of investors looking to put their investment decisions in perspective. Data used to assist in determining the STARS ranking may be the result of the analyst's own models as well as internal proprietary models resulting from dynamic data inputs.

S&P 12-Month Target Price
The S&P equity analyst's projection of the market price a given security will command 12 months hence, based on a combination of intrinsic, relative, and private market valuation metrics, including S&P Fair Value.

Investment Style Classification
Characterizes the stock as Growth or Value, and indicates its capitalization level. Growth is evaluated along three dimensions (earnings, sales and internal growth), while Value is evaluated along four dimensions (book-to-price, cash flow-to-price, dividend yield and sale-to-price). Growth stocks score higher than the market average on growth dimensions and lower on value dimensions. The reverse is true for Value stocks. Certain stocks are classified as Blend, indicating a mixture of growth and value characteristics and cannot be classified as purely growth or value.

S&P EPS Estimates
Standard & Poor's earnings per share (EPS) estimates reflect analyst projections of future EPS from continuing operations, and generally exclude various items that are viewed as special, non-recurring, or extraordinary. Also, S&P EPS estimates reflect either forecasts of S&P equity analysts; or, the consensus (average) EPS estimate, which are independently compiled by Capital IQ, a data provider to Standard & Poor's Equity Research. Among the items typically excluded from EPS estimates are asset sale gains; impairment, restructuring or merger-related charges; legal and insurance settlements; in process research and development expenses; gains or losses on the extinguishment of debt; the cumulative effect of accounting changes; and earnings related to operations that have been classified by the company as discontinued. The inclusion of some items, such as stock option expense and recurring types of other charges, may vary, and depend on such factors as industry practice, analyst judgment, and the extent to which some types of data is disclosed by companies.

S&P Core Earnings
Standard & Poor's Core Earnings is a uniform methodology for adjusting operating earnings by focusing on a company's after-tax earnings generated from its principal businesses. Included in the Standard & Poor's definition are employee stock option grant expenses, pension costs, restructuring charges from ongoing operations, write-downs of depreciable or amortizable operating assets, purchased research and development, M&A related expenses and unrealized gains/losses from hedging activities. Excluded from the definition are pension gains, impairment of goodwill charges, gains or losses from asset sales, reversal of prior-year charges and provision from litigation or insurance settlements.

Qualitative Risk Assessment
The S&P equity analyst's view of a given company's operational risk, or the risk of a firm's ability to continue as an ongoing concern. The Qualitative Risk Assessment is a relative ranking to the S&P U.S. STARS universe, and should be reflective of risk factors related to a company's operations, as opposed to risk and volatility measures associated with share prices.

Quantitative Evaluations
In contrast to our qualitative STARS recommendations, which are assigned by S&P analysts, the quantitative evaluations described below are derived from proprietary arithmetic models. These computer-driven evaluations may at times contradict an analyst's qualitative assessment of a stock. One primary reason for this is that different measures are used to determine each. For instance, when designating STARS, S&P analysts assess many factors that cannot be reflected in a model, such as risks and opportunities, management changes, recent competitive shifts, patent expiration, litigation risk, etc.

S&P Quality Ranking
Growth and stability of earnings and dividends are deemed key elements in establishing S&P's Quality Rankings for common stocks, which are designed to capsulize the nature of this record in a single symbol. It should be noted, however, that the process also takes into consideration certain adjustments and modifications deemed desirable in establishing such rankings. The final score for each stock is measured against a scoring matrix determined by analysis of the scores of a large and representative sample of stocks. The range of scores in the array of this sample has been aligned with the following ladder of rankings:

A+	Highest	B	Below Average
A	High	B-	Lower
A-	Above Average	C	Lowest
B+	Average	D	In Reorganization
NR	Not Ranked		

S&P Fair Value Rank
Using S&P's exclusive proprietary quantitative model, stocks are ranked in one of five groups, ranging from Group 5, listing the most undervalued stocks, to Group 1, the most overvalued issues. Group 5 stocks are expected to generally outperform all others. A positive (+) or negative (-) Timing Index is placed next to the Fair Value ranking to further aid the selection process. A stock with a (+) added to the Fair Value Rank simply means that this stock has a somewhat better chance to outperform other stocks with the same Fair Value Rank. A stock with a (-) has a somewhat lesser chance to outperform other stocks with the same Fair Value Rank. The Fair Value rankings imply the following: 5-Stock is significantly undervalued; 4-Stock is moderately undervalued; 3-Stock is fairly valued; 2-Stock is modestly overvalued; 1-Stock is significantly overvalued.

S&P Fair Value Calculation
The price at which a stock should trade at, according to S&P's proprietary quantitative model that incorporates both actual and estimated variables (as opposed to only actual variables in the case of S&P Quality Ranking). Relying heavily on a company's actual return on equity, the S&P Fair Value model places a value on a security based on placing a formula-derived price-to-book multiple on a company's consensus earnings per share estimate.

Insider Activity
Gives an insight as to insider sentiment by showing whether directors, officers and key employees who have proprietary information not available to the general public, are buying or selling the company's stock during the most recent six months.

Funds From Operations FFO
FFO is Funds from Operations and equal to a REIT's net income, excluding gains or losses from sales of property, plus real estate depreciation.

Investability Quotient (IQ)
The IQ is a measure of investment desirability. It serves as an indicator of potential medium-to-long term return and as a caution against downside risk. The measure takes into account variables such as technical indicators, earnings estimates, liquidity, financial ratios and selected S&P proprietary measures.

S&P's IQ Rationale:
Abbott Laboratories

	Raw Score	Max Value
Proprietary S&P Measures	51	115
Technical Indicators	28	40
Liquidity/Volatility Measures	17	20
Quantitative Measures	57	75
IQ Total	**153**	**250**

Volatility
Rates the volatility of the stock's price over the past year.

Technical Evaluation
In researching the past market history of prices and trading volume for each company, S&P's computer models apply special technical methods and formulas to identify and project price trends for the stock.

Relative Strength Rank
Shows, on a scale of 1 to 99, how the stock has performed versus all other companies in S&P's universe on a rolling 13-week basis.

Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)
An industry classification standard, developed by Standard & Poor's in collaboration with Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI). GICS is currently comprised of 10 Sectors, 24 Industry Groups, 68 Industries, and 154 Sub-Industries.

S&P Issuer Credit Rating
A Standard & Poor's Issuer Credit Rating is a current opinion of an obligor's overall financial capacity (its creditworthiness) to pay its financial obligations. This opinion focuses on the obligor's capacity and willingness to meet its financial commitments as they come due. It does not apply to any specific financial obligation, as it does not take into account the nature of and provisions of the obligation, its standing in bankruptcy or liquidation, statutory preferences, or the legality and enforceability of the obligation. In addition, it does not take into account the creditworthiness of the guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation. The Issuer Credit Rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell, or hold a financial obligation issued by an obligor, as it does not comment on market price or suitability for a particular investor. Issuer Credit Ratings are based on current information furnished by obligors or obtained by Standard & Poor's from other sources it considers reliable. Standard & Poor's does not perform an audit in connection with any Issuer Credit Rating and may, on occasion, rely on unaudited financial information. Issuer Credit Ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information, or based on other circumstances.

Exchange Type
ASE - American Stock Exchange; AU - Australia Stock Exchange; BB - Bulletin Board; NGM - Nasdaq Global Market; NNM - Nasdaq Global Select Market; NSC - Nasdaq Capital Markets; NYS - New York Stock Exchange; OTN - Other OTC (Over the Counter); OTC - Over the Counter; QB - OTCQB; QX - OTCQX; TS - Toronto Stock Exchange; TXV - TSX Venture Exchange; NEX - NEX Exchange.

S&P Equity Research Services
Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services U.S. includes Standard & Poor's Investment Advisory Services LLC; Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services Europe includes McGraw-Hill Financial Research Europe Limited trading as Standard & Poor's; Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services Asia includes Standard & Poor's LLC's offices in Singapore,

Standard & Poor's Investment Advisory Services (HK) Limited in Hong Kong, Standard & Poor's Malaysia Sdn Bhd, and Standard & Poor's Information Services (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Abbreviations Used in S&P Equity Research Reports
CAGR- Compound Annual Growth Rate; **CAPEX**- Capital Expenditures; **CY**- Calendar Year; **DCF**- Discounted Cash Flow; **EBIT**- Earnings Before Interest and Taxes; **EBITDA**- Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization; **EPS**- Earnings Per Share; **EV**- Enterprise Value; **FCF**- Free Cash Flow; **FFO**- Funds From Operations; **FY**- Fiscal Year; **P/E**- Price/Earnings ; **PEG Ratio**- P/E-to-Growth Ratio; **PV**- Present Value; **R&D**- Research & Development; **ROE**- Return on Equity; **ROI**- Return on Investment; **ROIC**- Return on Invested Capital; **ROA**- Return on Assets; **SG&A**- Selling, General & Administrative Expenses; **WACC**- Weighted Average Cost of Capital

Dividends on American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and American Depository Shares (ADSs) are net of taxes (paid in the country of origin).

Required Disclosures

In contrast to the qualitative STARS recommendations covered in this report, which are determined and assigned by S&P equity analysts, S&P's quantitative evaluations are derived from S&P's proprietary Fair Value quantitative model. In particular, the Fair Value Ranking methodology is a relative ranking methodology, whereas the STARS methodology is not. Because the Fair Value model and the STARS methodology reflect different criteria, assumptions and analytical methods, quantitative evaluations may at times differ from (or even contradict) an equity analyst's STARS recommendations. As a quantitative model, Fair Value relies on history and consensus estimates and does not introduce an element of subjectivity as can be the case with equity analysts in assigning STARS recommendations.

S&P Global STARS Distribution

In North America: As of December 31, 2011, research analysts at Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services North America recommended 39.1% of issuers with buy recommendations, 57.4% with hold recommendations and 3.5% with sell recommendations.

In Europe: As of December 31, 2011, research analysts at Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services Europe recommended 31.5% of issuers with buy recommendations, 50.6% with hold recommendations and 17.9% with sell recommendations.

In Asia: As of December 31, 2011, research analysts at Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services Asia recommended 43.8% of issuers with buy recommendations, 51.0% with hold recommendations and 5.2% with sell recommendations.

Globally: As of December 31, 2011, research analysts at Standard & Poor's Equity Research Services globally recommended 38.3% of issuers with buy recommendations, 55.7% with hold recommendations and 6.0% with sell recommendations.

★★★★★ **5-STARS (Strong Buy)**: Total return is expected to outperform the total return of a relevant benchmark, by a wide margin over the coming 12 months, with shares rising in price on an absolute basis.

★★★★☆ **4-STARS (Buy)**: Total return is expected to outperform the total return of a relevant benchmark over the coming 12 months, with shares rising in price on an absolute basis.

★★★☆☆ **3-STARS (Hold)**: Total return is expected to closely approximate the total return of a relevant benchmark over the coming 12 months, with shares generally rising in price on an absolute basis.

★★☆☆☆ **2-STARS (Sell)**: Total return is expected to underperform the total return of a relevant benchmark over the coming 12 months, and the share price not anticipated to show a gain.

★☆☆☆☆ **1-STARS (Strong Sell)**: Total return is expected to underperform the total return of a relevant benchmark by a wide margin over the coming 12 months, with shares falling in price on an absolute basis.

Relevant benchmarks: In North America the relevant benchmark is the S&P 500 Index, in Europe and in Asia, the relevant benchmarks are generally the S&P Europe 350 Index and the S&P Asia 50 Index.

For All Regions: All of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect the research analyst's personal views regarding any and all of the subject securities or issuers. No part of analyst compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this research report.

S&P Global Quantitative Recommendations Distribution

In Europe: As of December 31, 2011, Standard & Poor's Quantitative Services Europe recommended 48.0% of issuers with buy recommendations, 20.0% with hold recommendations and 31.0% with sell recommendations.

In Asia: As of December 31, 2011, Standard & Poor's Quantitative Services Asia recommended 43.8% of issuers with buy recommendations, 20.0% with hold recommendations and 31.0% with sell recommendations.

Globally: As of December 31, 2011, Standard & Poor's Quantitative Services globally recommended 45.0% of issuers with buy recommendations, 20.0% with hold recommendations and 34.0% with sell recommendations.

Additional information is available upon request.

Other Disclosures

This report has been prepared and issued by Standard & Poor's and/or one of its affiliates. In the United States, research reports are prepared by Standard & Poor's Investment Advisory Services LLC ("SPIAS"). In the United States, research reports are issued by Standard & Poor's ("S&P"); in the United Kingdom by McGraw-Hill Financial Research Europe Limited, which is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and trades as Standard & Poor's; in Hong Kong by Standard & Poor's Investment Advisory Services (HK) Limited, which is regulated by the Hong Kong Securities Futures Commission; in Singapore by Standard & Poor's LLC, which is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore; in Malaysia by Standard & Poor's Malaysia Sdn Bhd ("S&PM"), which is regulated by the Securities Commission; in Australia by Standard & Poor's Information Services (Australia) Pty Ltd ("SPIS"), which is regulated by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission; and in Korea by SPIAS, which is also registered in Korea as a cross-border investment advisory company.

The research and analytical services performed by SPIAS, McGraw-Hill Financial Research Europe Limited, S&PM, and SPIS are each conducted separately from any other analytical activity of Standard & Poor's.

Standard & Poor's or an affiliate may license certain intellectual property or provide pricing or other services to, or otherwise have a financial interest in, certain issuers of securities, including exchange-traded investments whose investment objective is to substantially replicate the returns of a proprietary Standard & Poor's index, such as the S&P 500. In cases where Standard & Poor's or an affiliate is paid fees that are tied to the amount of assets that are invested in the fund or the volume of trading activity in the fund, investment in the fund will generally result in Standard & Poor's or an affiliate earning compensation in addition to the subscription fees or other compensation for services rendered by Standard & Poor's. A reference to a particular investment or security by Standard & Poor's and one of its affiliates is not a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold such investment or security, nor is it considered to be investment advice.

Indexes are unmanaged, statistical composites and their returns do not include payment of any sales charges or fees an investor would pay to purchase the securities they represent. Such costs would lower performance. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Standard & Poor's and its affiliates provide a wide range of services to, or relating to, many organizations, including issuers of securities, investment advisers, broker-dealers, investment banks, other financial institutions and financial intermediaries, and accordingly may receive fees or other economic benefits from those organizations, including organizations whose securities or services they may recommend, rate, include in model portfolios, evaluate or otherwise address.

S&P Capital IQ and/or one of its affiliates has performed services for and received compensation from this company during the past twelve months.

Disclaimers

With respect to reports issued to clients in Japan and in the case of inconsistencies between the English and Japanese version of a report, the English version prevails. With respect to reports issued to clients in German and in the case of inconsistencies between the English and German version of a report, the English version prevails. Neither S&P nor its affiliates guarantee the accuracy of the translation. Assumptions, opinions and estimates constitute our judgment as of the date of this material and are subject to change without notice. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results.

Standard & Poor's, its affiliates, and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees, or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of this material, and S&P Parties shall have no liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions therein, regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of the information provided by the S&P Parties. S&P PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, SUITABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE. In no event shall S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the information contained in this document even if advised of the possibility of such damages. Capital IQ is a business of Standard & Poor's.

Ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions. Standard & Poor's assumes no obligation to update its opinions following publication in any form or format. Standard & Poor's ratings should not be relied on and are not substitutes for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. Standard & Poor's rating opinions do not address the suitability of any security. Standard & Poor's does not act as a fiduciary. While Standard & Poor's has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, Standard & Poor's does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives.

Standard & Poor's keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of Standard & Poor's may have information that is not available to other Standard & Poor's business units. Standard & Poor's has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process.

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services did not participate in the development of this report. Standard & Poor's may receive compensation for its ratings and certain credit-related analyses, normally from issuers or underwriters of securities or from obligors. Standard & Poor's reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. Standard & Poor's public ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, www.standardandpoors.com (free of charge), and www.ratingsdirect.com and www.globalcreditportal.com (subscription), and may be distributed through other means, including via Standard & Poor's publications and third-party redistributors. Additional information about our ratings fees is available at www.standardandpoors.com/usratingsfees.

This material is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security or other financial instrument. Securities, financial instruments or strategies mentioned herein may not be suitable for all investors. Any opinions expressed herein are given in good faith, are subject to change without notice, and are only current as of the stated date of their issue. Prices, values, or income from any securities or investments mentioned in this report may fall against the interests of the investor and the investor may get back less than the amount invested. Where an investment is described as being likely to yield income, please note that the amount of income that the investor will receive from such an investment may fluctuate. Where an investment or security is denominated in a different currency to the investor's currency of reference, changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of or from that investment to the investor. The information contained in this report does not constitute advice on the tax consequences of making any particular investment decision. This material is not intended for any specific investor and does not take into account your particular investment objectives, financial situations or needs and is not intended as a recommendation of particular securities, financial instruments or strategies to you. Before acting on any recommendation in this material, you should consider whether it is suitable for your particular circumstances and, if necessary, seek professional advice.

This document does not constitute an offer of services in jurisdictions where Standard & Poor's or its affiliates do not have the necessary licenses.

For residents of the U.K. - This report is only directed at and should only be relied on by persons outside of the United Kingdom or persons who are inside the United Kingdom and who have professional experience in matters relating to investments or who are high net worth persons, as defined in Article 19(5) or Article 49(2) (a) to (d) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, respectively.

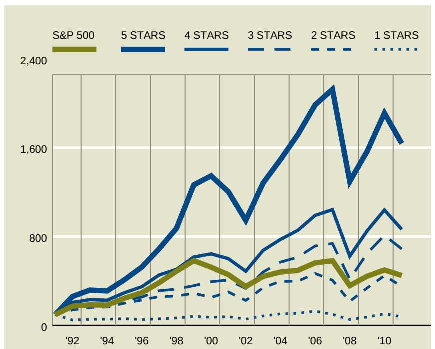
For residents of Singapore - Anything herein that may be construed as a recommendation is intended for general circulation and does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. Advice should be sought from a financial adviser regarding the suitability of an investment, taking into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any person in receipt of the recommendation, before the person makes a commitment to purchase the investment product.

For residents of Malaysia - All queries in relation to this report should be referred to Ching Wah Tam.

For residents of Indonesia - This research report does not constitute an offering document and it should not be construed as an offer of securities in Indonesia, and that any such securities will only be offered or sold through a financial institution.

For residents of the Philippines - The securities being offered or sold have not been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Regulation Code of the Philippines. Any future offer or sale thereof is subject to registration requirements under the Code unless such offer or sale qualifies as an exempt transaction.

U.S. STARS Cumulative Model Performance
Hypothetical Growth Due to Price Appreciation of $100
For the Period 12/31/1986 through 12/31/2011



The performance above represents only the results of Standard & Poor's model portfolios. Model performance has inherent limitations. Standard & Poor's maintains the models and calculates the model performance shown, but does not manage actual assets. The U.S. STARS model performance chart is only an illustration of Standard & Poor's (S&P) research; it shows how U.S. common stocks, ADRs (American Depositary Receipts) and ADSs (American Depositary Shares), collectively "equities", that received particular STARS rankings performed. STARS categories are models only; they are not collective investment funds. The STARS performance does not show how any actual portfolio has performed. STARS model performance does not represent the results of actual trading of investor assets. Thus, the model performance shown does not reflect the impact that material economic and market factors might have had on decision-making if actual investor money had been managed. Performance is calculated using a time-weighted rate of return. While model performance for some or all STARS categories performed better than the S&P 500 for the period shown, the performance during any shorter period may not have, and there is no assurance that they will perform better than the S&P 500 in the future. STARS does not take into account any particular investment objective, financial situation or need and is not intended as an investment recommendation or strategy. Investments based on the STARS methodology may lose money. High returns are not necessarily the norm and there is no assurance that they can be sustained. Past model performance of STARS is no guarantee of future performance.

For model performance calculation purposes, the equities within each STARS category at December 31, 1986 were equally weighted. Thereafter, additions to the composition of the equities in each STARS category are made at the average value of the STARS category at the preceding month end with no rebalancing. Deletions are made at the closing price of the day that the deletion is made. Performance was calculated from inception through March 31, 2003 on a monthly basis. Thereafter, performance is calculated daily. Equities in each STARS category will change over time, and some or all of the equities that received STARS rankings during the time period shown may not have maintained their STARS ranking during the entire period.

The model performance does not consider taxes and brokerage commissions, nor does it reflect the deduction of any advisory or other fees charged by advisors or other parties that investors will incur when their accounts are managed in accordance with the models. The imposition of these fees and charges would cause actual performance to be lower than the performance shown. For example, if a model returned 10 percent on a $100,000 investment for a 12-month period (or $10,000) and an annual asset-based fee of 1.5 percent were imposed at the end of the period (or $1,650), the net return would be 8.35 percent (or $8,350) for the year. Over 3 years, an annual 1.5% fee taken at year end with an assumed 10% return per year would result in a cumulative gross return of 33.1%, a total fee of $5,375 and a cumulative net return of 27.2% (or $27,200). Fees deducted on a frequency other than annual would result in a different cumulative net return in the preceding example.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index is the benchmark for U.S. STARS. The S&P 500 index is calculated in U.S. dollars and does not take into account the reinvestment of dividends. Indexes are unmanaged, statistical composites and their returns do not include payment of any sales charges or fees an investor would pay to purchase the securities they represent. Such costs would lower performance. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 index includes a different number of constituents and has different risk characteristics than the STARS equities. Some of the STARS equities may have been included in the S&P 500 index for some (but not necessarily all) of the period covered in the chart, and some such equities may not have been included at all. The S&P 500 excludes ADRs and ADSs. The methodology for calculating the return of the S&P 500 index differs from the methodology of calculating the return for STARS. Past performance of the S&P 500 index is no guarantee of future performance.

An investment based upon the models should only be made after consulting with a financial advisor and with an understanding of the risks associated with any investment in securities, including, but not limited to, market risk, currency risk, political and credit risks, the risk of economic recession and the risk that issuers of securities or general stock market conditions may worsen, over time. Foreign investing involves certain risks, including currency fluctuations and controls, restrictions on foreign investments, less governmental supervision and regulation, less liquidity and the potential for market volatility and political instability. As with any investment, investment returns and principal value will fluctuate, so that when redeemed, an investor's shares may be worth more or less than their original cost.

For residents of Australia – This report is distributed by Standard & Poor's Information Services (Australia) Pty Ltd ("SPIS") in Australia. The entirety of this report is approved by Mike Fink, who has reviewed and authorised its content as at the date of publication.

Any express or implied opinion contained in this report is limited to "General Advice" and based solely on consideration of the investment merits of the financial product(s) alone. The information in this report has not been prepared for use by retail investors and has been prepared without taking account of any particular person's financial or investment objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any advice, any person using the advice should consider its appropriateness having regard to their own or their clients' objectives, financial situation and needs. You should obtain a Product Disclosure Statement relating to the product and consider the statement before making any decision or recommendation about whether to acquire the product. Each opinion must be weighed solely as one factor in any investment decision made by or on behalf of any adviser and any such adviser must accordingly make their own assessment taking into account an individual's particular circumstances.

SPIS holds an Australian Financial Services Licence Number 258896. Please refer to the SPIS Financial Services Guide for more information at www.fundsinsights.com.au.