



The Star-Ledger

Ask the Biz Brain

Friday, April 07, 2006

Is there an online source that lists stocks that pay monthly dividends? I've been lucky with the handful that I own, but am having difficulty trying to find more.

-- Ron Kavchok, Hillsborough

There's nothing like an investment that keeps on paying without your active involvement.

There are a lot of online resources to find dividend-paying stocks. Start with stock screening tools, which enable an investor to filter through a list of stocks based on certain criteria, such as dividend yield, dividend rate, P/E ratios, and so on.

Michael Gibney, a certified financial planner with Highland Financial Advisors in Riverdale, says some screeners are better than others. He says the majority of the screeners offer you no screening choice having to do with dividend frequency.

"One site, www.dividenddetective.com, has some free content, but offers premium services as well, including a specific link on its home page for "Monthly Dividend Payers," which specifically lists monthly paying stocks," he says.

Premium services cost \$5 for the first month and \$15 a month thereafter, with no minimum subscription and you can cancel at any time. Gibney also suggests you check out the screeners at free sites, including Yahoo! Finance (www.finance.yahoo.com), MSN Money (www.moneycentral.msn.com/home.asp) and Market Watch (www.marketwatch.com).

If you're interested in investments other than common stocks which pay monthly, there are also mutual funds, REITs and preferred stocks, he says.

Marnie Aznar, a certified financial planner with Aznar Financial Advisors in Morris Plains, suggests you consider a dividend reinvestment plan, or DRIP. There are several online sources for DRIPS, including DRIP Central (www.dripcentral.com) and DRIP Investor (www.dripinvestor.com). A quick Web search will yield many more for you.

Aznar says when you're considering dividend paying stocks, choose ones with a good track record.

"Consider companies that have consistently increased their dividend payment or companies that typically pay in excess of 3 percent," she says, adding that the S&P 500 index yields about 1.6 percent.

-- Karin Price Mueller