



For Immediate Release

**D.R. Horton, H&R Block become 2008 Dividend Achievers™
Credit Crunch plays minimal role in removal of Index constituents**

New York, NY, January 31, 2008 – Mergent, Inc., a leading provider of business and financial information on publicly listed companies, today named companies that have been added and removed from its 2008 Dividend Achievers™ Indices. These changes, which went into effect after close of trading on January 31st 2008, come as part of Mergent’s annual reconstitution of the indices and are based on a stringent set of criteria.

Mergent’s Broad Dividend Achievers Index (DAA) saw a net decrease of 9 constituents in 2008 with 21 new companies being added and 30 being removed as a result of being acquired or showing a decline or no change in their dividends.

Despite the housing market meltdown, new additions to the 2008 Mergent Dividend Achievers™ Index include D.R. Horton, “America’s Largest Homebuilder”, which operates in 27 states and 83 cities. H&R Block, a leading Tax Preparation Company; with over 12,500 retail offices and over 20 million customers is another notable new addition. Other significant new members to Mergent’s Dividend Achievers™ Index include Owens & Minor and C.H. Robinson, both Fortune 500 companies.

“This scenario is reminiscent of the burst of the ‘internet bubble’”, says Jonathan Worrall, CEO of Mergent. “And, once again, the key strengths of the Dividend Achievers™ bear fruit for the long term investor.”

The credit crisis that plagued many companies in 2007 had a minimal effect on the removal of constituents from the Dividend Achievers™ Indices. Freddie Mac (FRE), however, became an Index casualty as it cut its dividend by 50% in November 2007 to conserve cash and “maintain financial flexibility”. Progressive Insurance and SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae) were two other companies that were dropped from the 2008 Dividend Achievers™ Index due to changes in their dividend policy.

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For a complete listing of Mergent's 2008 Dividend Achievers™, go to www.dividendachievers.com

INDEX ADDITIONS FOR 2008 (21 Companies)	
Ticker	Official Name
ARE	Alexandria Real Estate EQ Inc
ACAS	American Capital Strategies
OZRK	Bank of the Ozarks Inc.
HRB	H&R Block Inc.
CHRW	C H Robinson Worldwide Inc.
CTR	Cato Corporation
OFC	Corporate Office Property Trust
DHI	D R Horton Inc.
DDR	Developers Diversified Realty
EAS	Energy East Corporation
NFS	Nationwide Financial Services Inc.
NWN	Northwest Natural Gas
OMI	Owens and Minor Inc. New
RBPA	Royal Bancshares PA Inc
SBKC	Security Bank Corporation
SHEN	Shenandoah Telecommunications
SCL	Stepan Co
SUBK	Suffolk Bancorp
TMP	Tompkins Financial Corporation
TSS	Total System Services Inc.
UVSP	Univest Corporation PA
INDEX DELETIONS FOR 2008 (15 Companies)	
Ticker	Official Name
BGG	Briggs & Stratton Corporation
CLP	Colonial Properties Trust
FCF	First Commonwealth Financial Corporation
FRE	Freddie Mac
HVT	Haverty Furniture Cos., Inc.
HR	Healthcare Realty Trust, Inc.
OMEF	Omega Financial Corporation
PCBC	Pacific Capital Bancorp
PBCT	People's United Financial, Inc. - FKA- People's Bank
PGR	Progressive Corporation
SLM	SLM Corporation
STL	Sterling Bancorp
SLFI	Sterling Financial Corporation
SUI	Sun Communities, Inc.
SUP	Superior Industries International, Inc.

Additions to and deletions from a Mergent index do not in any way reflect an opinion on the investment merits of the company.

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About Mergent Dividend Achievers™

Mergent's Dividend Achievers™ are companies that have increased annual regular dividends for at least the past 10 consecutive years and have met specific liquidity screening criteria. Dividend Achievers™ are typically companies with strong cash reserves, solid balance sheets and a proven record of consistent earnings growth. Mergent has been identifying these strong dividend-paying companies for more than 25 years.

The complete list of 2008 Dividend Achievers™ is available at www.dividendachievers.com. Mergent's Dividend Achievers™ Handbook, published quarterly by John Wiley & Sons, provides corporate information and financial data on all of the US Dividend Achievers™ companies, as well as a wide range of supplementary rankings.

About Mergent

Mergent, Inc., a Xinhua Finance company (TSE Mothers: 9399; OTC ADRs: XHFNY), is the preferred provider of business and financial data on global publicly listed companies. Headquartered in Fort Mill, SC and New York City with sales offices in key North American cities, Mergent also has a strong global presence with offices in London, Shanghai, Tokyo, Toronto and Sydney. Mergent's databases contain detailed equity, debt and corporate action information on over 15,000 U.S. public companies, 20,000 non-U.S. public companies and all U.S. municipal bonds.

For more than a century, Mergent has been providing solutions to clients in the investment management, academic, research and corporate information fields. Today, that unique experience is combined with leading-edge technology to form a robust, diverse product line that operates under Mergent's umbrella. These include Mergent's Dividend Achievers Indices – the premier benchmark for long-term returns; Ford Equity Research – a leading independent investment research firm; Mergent Online – a powerful web-based research portal that provides critical business information to support daily research and analysis; Mergent Manuals, Handbooks and Investment Guides; in-depth municipal and corporate fixed-income data, as well as end-of-day evaluation pricing; EventsData – providing real-time information on corporate actions, dividend payouts, news and updates directly to client desktops. For more information, please visit www.mergent.com and www.dividendachievers.com.

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Xinhua Finance Limited (“XFL”) is China’s premier financial information and media service provider and is listed on the Mothers Board of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (symbol: 9399) (OTC ADRs: XHFNY). Bridging China’s financial markets and the world, Xinhua Finance’s proprietary content platform, comprising Indices, Ratings, Financial News, and Investor Relations, serves financial institutions, corporations and re-distributors worldwide. Through its subsidiary Xinhua Finance Media Limited (NASDAQ: XFML), XFL leverages its content across multiple distribution channels in China including television, radio, newspaper, magazine and outdoor media. Founded in November 1999, XFL is headquartered in Shanghai, with offices and news bureaus spanning 11 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit www.xinhuafinance.com.

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