

Three Top Stocks That Should be Safe from the Chaos

Markets are a disaster.

Right now, inflation is high. Russia's invasion of Ukraine doesn't look like its ending soon. NATO is massing troops and warships on the border of Russia. There's fear of a potential recession. Oil prices are gushing higher, etc. And investors are terrified.

So, it just makes sense for investors to get far more defensive.

That doesn't mean you should sell everything, and run from the market.

Instead, what you want to do is find companies that aren't greatly impacted by war, and can weather inflationary threats.

Look at Costco Wholesale (COST), for example.

With a dividend yield of 0.61%, COST sells needed products that consumers must have no matter how well or how poorly the economy is doing. In fact, no matter how steep of a downturn, consumers still need soap, detergent, toothpaste, toilet paper, food, etc. All can help provide a steadier and far more predictable cash flow for COST.

Even better, earnings are solid.

For its second quarter, the company saw EPS of \$2.92 on sales of \$51.9 billion. That was better than expectations for EPS of \$2.76 on sales of \$51.53 billion. Same store sales were up 11.1%.

In addition, as reported by Barron's: "Near-term, the market may be underestimating the strength of Costco's position with higher inflation' wrote Jefferies analyst Stephanie Wissink, given that the overall results confirmed the company's ability to handle this and other supply-chain related headwinds. She has a Buy rating and \$650 target on the stock."

Or, take a look at Waste Management (WM).

The trash collection and recycling company is another safe stock to consider.

For one, garbage hauling is a necessary service. Two, it's also recession resistant. Three, Waste Management does more than pick up trash. It also sorts, transfers, stores, and recycles, giving it access to multiple income streams. Four, the company's market share of landfill volume in the U.S. is now up to about 30%, which is the industry's highest.

Even better, the company carries a dividend yield of 1.7%. In March, Waste Management declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.65 per share payable March 31, 2022 to stockholders of record on March 17, 2022.

Investors were just as happy with earnings.

"In 2021, we delivered on each of our strategic priorities, including successfully integrating the acquisition of Advanced Disposal, driving disciplined organic revenue growth, advancing technology investments focused on customer retention and growth, and cultivating our people-first culture," said Jim Fish, Waste Management's President and Chief Executive Officer. Execution on each of these priorities came together to produce record growth in full-year adjusted operating EBITDA and net cash provided by operating activities."

Even better, the company plans to continue raising its dividend, and buying back stock.

Or, look at NextEra Energy (NEE).

Demand for utility services will always remain intact, even in the worst of times.

Look at NextEra Energy, for example.

For one, the company provides a basic need service –electricity. Two, since demand for electricity doesn't change a lot from one year to the next, the company is insulated. Two, the company has generated a positive total for investors in 19 of the last 20 years. Three, the company carries a dividend yield of 2.03%.