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3M's Profit Off 6.3%

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ST. PAUL, April 18 -- The Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company said today that its first- quarter profit fell 6.3 percent from a year earlier.

The 3M Company is engaged in a variety of businesses, including coated abrasives, photographic films, pharmaceuticals, optics, electronics, imaging and safety products. Net income fell to \$164 million, or \$1.42 a share, from \$175 million, or \$1.50 a share. Sales inched up to \$1.91 billion, from \$1.89 billion. The company said the slowing American economy and the dollar's strength contributed to the earnings decline.

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