

2014: oil, 2.1 mil. barrels (-4% vs. '13); natural gas, 11.1 billion cubic feet (-5% vs. '13). On an oil-equivalent basis, total production fell 5% in 2014. Daily refinery runs, 4.5 million barrels (-2% vs. '13); product sales, 5.9 mill. bbls (flat vs. '13). Chemical sales, 24.2 mill.

ment rate: 123%. Acq. XTO Energy, 2010. Vanguard owns 5.9% of stock; BlackRock, 5.7% (4/15 Proxy). Employs 83,600. Chrmn. and CEO: Rex Tillerson. Inc.: NJ. Address: 5959 Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039-2298. Tel.: 972-444-1000. www.exxonmobil.com.

71724 54828 Current Liab. 64633 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '12-'14 Past 5 Yrs. 5.0% 4.5% 3.0% to '18-'20 2.0% 3.0% 2.5% 10 Yrs. 10.5% of change (per sh) Sales "Cash Flow" 11.0% 11.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 9.5% 11.5% 10.0% 11.5% 4.5% 5.0%

59308

48085

15808

7831

52910

42227

17468

4938

47234

36681

14473

3674

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Cal- endar	QUA Mar.31		ALES (\$ m Sep.30		Full Year
2012	110696	104718	103417	101883	420714
2013	96336	95301	100508	98102	390247
2014	94344	98287	96047	76085	364763
2015	59228	65395	59866	58511	243000
2016	60000	65000	65000	65000	255000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	2.00	1.80	2.09	2.20	8.09
2013	2.12	1.55	1.79	1.91	7.37
2014	2.10	2.05	1.89	1.56	7.60
2015	1.17	1.00	1.01	.87	4.05
2016	.90	1.05	1.10	1.20	4.25
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=†				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.44	.47	.47	.47	1.85
2012	.47	.57	.57	.57	2.18
2013	.57	.63	.63	.63	2.46
2014	.63	.69	.69	.69	2.70
2015	.69	.73	.73		

The strength of Exxon Mobil's diversified operations is coming through these days. More than half of its 2015 profits have come from the refining and chemicals segments, providing support during a tough period for the pumping division. That is in stark contrast to a year earlier, when oil prices were notably higher, and the oil production division accounted for 80% of earnings. Notwithstanding the hedge provided by the integrated approach, the pumping division over time tends to generate the best margins, and attracts the most capital. But low oil prices have temporarily taken the shine off of earnings and the stock price.

It is now shaping up as another less-than-stellar year in 2016. Crude oil quotations are being weighed down by high global inventories and the overhang of potential added supply from Iran. As such, we have reduced our full-year earningsper-share estimate by about 15%, to \$4.25. The current oil market weakness

aside, the company is making strides toward its long-term goals. Oil production is starting to move higher, helped by major project startups in Canada and

offshore Nigeria. A host of international ventures from 2016 to decade's end also augurs well for moderately higher volume by 2018-2020, which stands to pay off nicely once oil prices recover. Meantime, downstream expansion plans are more modest. Objectives include boosting capacity at Exxon's Singapore plant to produce its flagship synthetic engine oil and adding size to its Beaumont, Texas plant to handle extra domestic oil.

The domestic drilling program is being addressed. Losses at this segment have led to the shut-in of sizable natural gas production, and Exxon may well press for price reductions from its service providers. Too, signs point to a more focused approach, quite possibly in the Permian Basin, where the company has been steadily picking up acreage.

The untimely (Rank: 4) stock is vulnerable in the near term to bearishness towards oil prices. Taking the long view, however, these high-quality shares offer attractive 3- to 5-year risk-adjusted total return possibilities, and are especially suitable for conservative investors Robert Mitkowski, Jr. December 4, 2015

(A) Net of gasoline excise taxes.
(B) Based on diluted shares. Excludes nonrecurring gains (losses): '99, (7¢); '00, 12¢; '01, 3¢; '02, 7¢; '03, 67¢; '05, 36¢; '06, 7¢; '12, ■Dividend reinvestment plan available.

\$1.61. Next earnings report due late January.
(C) Dividends historically paid in the second week of March, June, Sep., and Dec.

† Stock Purchase Plan available w/o broker.
(D) In mill., adjusted for split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 60