

barrels (+2% vs. '14); natural gas, 5.3 bill. cubic feet (+2% vs. '14). Daily refinery runs, 2.7 million barrels (+0.7% vs. '14); product sales, 2.7 mill. barrels (+1% vs. '14). Reserves at 12/31/15: 11.2 billion barrels of oil equivalent, 56% liquids, 44% gas. (Affiliated

Dir. own 0.8% of stock; Vanguard, 6.3%; BlackRock, 6.0%; State Street, 5.8% (4/16 proxy). Chairman and CEO: John S. Watson. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 6001 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon, CA 94583. Tel.: 925-842-1000. Internet:www.chevron.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 to '19-'21 of change (per sh) -1.0% 3.0% -2.0% 3.5% 8.0% Sales "Cash Flow" -1.0%4.5% Earnings 4 0% 3.5% 9.0% 11.5% 2.5% 1.0% Dividends Book Value 14.0%

42232

19000

31926

35347

13516

4928

8020

26464

28873

12205

24744

6057

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	56818	57369	58503	56158	228848
2014	53265	57938	54679	46088	211970
2015	34558	40357	34315	29247	138477
2016	21418	26060	27387	28135	103000
2017	28500	30500	32500	33500	125000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	3.18	2.77	2.57	2.57	11.09
2014	2.36	2.98	2.95	1.85	10.14
2015	1.37	.30	1.09	d.31	2.45
2016	d.39	d.78	.68	.69	.20
2017	.90	.95	1.05	1.10	4.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.81	.90	.90	.90	3.51
2013	.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.90
2014	1.00	1.07	1.07	1.07	4.21
2015	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	4.28
2016	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.08	

Chevron's return to profitability is en**couraging.** The company's first positive bottom-line results in a year during the September quarter have raised the confidence level on Wall Street that better times are ahead. Some reinforcement from buoyant oil prices and the delivery of promised modestly higher combined oil and gas production may be necessary to seal the deal, of course. But prospects are clearly improving. We figure earnings per share will reach \$4.00 in 2017, up from an estimated \$0.20 in 2016.

Reduced project spending remains a key feature in planning for the future. Capital expenditures were down 36% through the first nine months of the year. The company likely will keep the budget on a tight string in 2017, as well. Importantly, big overseas ventures either recently concluded or nearly completed should be generating cash instead of consuming funds in the months ahead. That is a plus in a world of tame energy prices.

The first increase in the quarterly

dividend in more than two years affirms the brighter outlook. The boost was only by a penny, but it nevertheless

pushes the company's string of annual dividend hikes to 29 years.

Valuable Permian Basin assets underpin Chevron's financial and operating position. The company's 1.5 millionplus acres in Texas and New Mexico's prime oil fields could theoretically fetch as much as \$50 billion, if sold. In contrast to costly multiyear overseas projects, a sizable percentage of the properties can probably be profitably developed within a year at \$50-a-barrel oil. The substantial implied value of these close-to-home resources provides support for the stock even as earnings remain well below peak.

These high-quality shares are now timely (Rank: 2). Assuming oil prices hold near current levels and slowly improve, our projections point to a sizable earnings recovery out to 2019-2021. Part of the expected comeback is already reflected in the shares. But the high dividend yield is enticing for income-oriented investors, with better earnings coverage of the payout starting to develop. The stock's decent risk-adjusted total return potential has appeal for conservative accounts, too. Robert Mitkowski December 2, 2016

(A) Net of excise taxes, beginning in 2016.
(B) Based on diluted shares. Includes nonrecurring loss of \$1.41 in '01. Next earnings report due late January.

(C) Dividends historically paid on or about 10th of March, June, September, and December. Dividend reinvestment plan available

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 15