

oil, 1.8 mill. barrels (+3% vs. '17); natural gas, 6.9 bill. cubic feet (+14% vs. '17). Daily refinery input, 1.7 million barrels (flat vs. '17). Daily sales of refinery products, 2.7 million barrels (flat vs. '17). Proved reserves at 12/31/18: 12.1 billion barrels of oil equivalent,

Has approx. 51,900 employees. Vanguard owns 8.1% of stock; BlackRock, 6.8%; State Street, 6.0% (4/19 proxy). Chairman and CEO: Michael K. Wirth. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 6001 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon, CA 94583. Tel.: 925-842-1000. www.chevron.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) to '22-'24 5.5% 7.5% Sales "Cash Flow" -4.0%-10.0% 0.5% -6.5% -21.5% -9.0% 7.0% 8.0% Earnings 16.5% Dividends Book Value 4.5% 2.5% 3.5% 3.5%

28560

14565 5192

27737

7980

34021

13953 5726

27171

33988

13230 7795

30233

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	23553	29282	30140	31497	114472
2017	33421	34480	36205	37616	141722
2018	37764	42236	43987	42352	166339
2019	35200	38850	36116	39834	150000
2020	38000	39000	39000	40000	156000
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	d.39	d.78	.68	.22	d.27
2017	1.41	.77	1.03	.58	3.79
2018	1.90	1.78	2.11	1.95	7.74
2019	1.39	1.78	1.36	1.57	6.10
2020	1.65	1.75	1.80	1.85	7.05
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	4.28
2016	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.08	4.29
2017	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	4.32
2018	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	4.48
2019	1.19	1.19	1.19		
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Chevron is delivering solid, if unspectacular, results these days, with prospects for more of the same in the new year. Performance in 2019 has been hampered by a falloff in oil prices, even as the company has succeeded in pumping 3% more volume. Still, in terms of free cash flow, the company is in a good position in that moderate capital spending requirements are allowing for stock repur-chase and annual dividend increases.

We look for bottom-line improvement in 2020, assuming oil prices at least hold steady. Chevron should be able to continue its drilling momentum and generate a low to mid-single-digit gain in combined oil and natural gas production. Most of the increase is set to arise from holdings in the Permian Basin of Texas, where the company is scaling up its enviable, lowcost legacy position. Given modest economic growth and oil prices near current levels, we estimate 15% higher profits next year. But even if that scenario materializes, earnings per share would still be notably lower than in the earlier part of the decade. Consequently, the stock is showing few signs of breaking out of its long-term trading range.

Plans for moderately higher spending out to 2022-2024 should pay off on the **bottom line.** Beginning in 2021, Chevron will probably boost annual spending by 10% to develop top projects, including Permian Basin acreage, deepwater Gulf of anď Mexico wells. a venture Kazakhstan. The strategy should keep production and reserves pushing forward modestly, and put the company on a path to benefit once prices finally rise.

Further acquisitions may be in the cards. Chevron bought a refinery earlier this year, adding capabilities that fit in nicely with its Gulf Coast network. The company is still looking to build on its Permian Basin position, too, after drop-ping its bid for Anadarko. More attractive prices for companies based in that region

could well result in a bid.

This top-quality stock is best suited for conservative investors with a preference for income and dividend growth. The Average-ranked (Timeliness: 3) shares could also benefit from a bounce in oil prices.

Robert Mitkowski

November 29, 2019

(A) Based on diluted shares. Excludes non-recurring gain of \$1.06 in '17. Next earnings report due mid- to late January. (B) Dividends historically paid on or about 10th of March, June, September, and December. • Dividend reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions, adj. for stock split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability** 10