


| $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { Cal- } \\ \text { endar } \end{array}$ | QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.) ${ }^{\text {A }}$ |  |  |  | Full <br> Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 |  |
| 2016 | 48707 | 57694 | 58677 | 61016 | 226094 |
| 2017 | 58522 | 58142 | 61184 | 66515 | 244363 |
| 2018 | 68211 | 73501 | 76605 | 71895 | 290212 |
| 2019 | 63625 | 69091 | 65049 | 65235 | 263000 |
| 2020 | 67000 | 70000 | 71000 | 72000 | 280000 |
| Calendar | EARNINGS PER SHARE B |  |  |  | Full <br> Year |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 |  |
| 2016 | . 43 | . 41 | . 63 | . 41 | 1.88 |
| 2017 | . 95 | . 78 | . 93 | . 58 | 3.24 |
| 2018 | 1.09 | . 92 | 1.46 | 1.41 | 4.88 |
| 2019 | . 55 | . 73 | . 75 | . 77 | 2.80 |
| 2020 | . 80 | . 95 | 1.05 | 1.10 | 3.90 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C $\dagger$ |  |  |  | 11 |
| endar | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2015 | . 69 | . 73 | . 73 | . 73 | 2.88 |
| 2016 | . 73 | . 75 | . 75 | . 75 | 2.98 |
| 2017 | . 75 | . 77 | . 77 | . 77 | 3.06 |
| 2018 | . 77 | . 82 | . 82 | . 82 | 3.23 |
| 2019 | 82 | 87 | 87 |  |  |

BUSINESS: Exxon Mobil Corp. is a large integrated oil company. Daily production in 2018: oil, 2.3 mil. barrels (flat vs.'17); natural gas, 9.4 billion cubic feet ( $-4 \%$ vs. '17). On an oil-equivalent basis, total production fell $4 \%$ in '18. Daily refinery runs, 4.3 million barrels (flat vs. '17); product sales, 5.5 mill. bbls (flat vs. '17). Chemical sales, 26.9 mill. tonnes ( $+6 \%$ vs. '17). Proved reserves (12/31/18):
Exxon Mobil is set to close out a down year on the bottom line, and its stock price reflects that prospect. Notably lower average oil prices are the culprit, of course, as the market for crude has not fully bounced back after a selloff late last year. In 2020, we look for a partial profit recovery on the strength of higher oil production, the potential for slightly higher price realizations, and stable-to-somewhat improved refining margins. But the level of returns being generated these days is not exciting investors.
Meanwhile, Exxon is taking full advantage of once-in-a-generation opportunities, but with an unwelcome twist. The company is ramping up oil drilling in the Permian Basin of Texas in major fashion. The goal is to pump 800,000, or more, barrels a day from the region by 2024, up sharply from current levels. The buildup stands in contrast to the pullback by smaller operators, owing to low prices, and is contributing to an oversupplied market as the new year approaches. From Exxon Mobil's point of view, though, it is scaling up regardless of the short-view, and will benefit once oil
24.3 bill. barrels of oil equivalent, $64 \%$ oil, $36 \%$ gas. Equity companies account for $17 \%$ of reserves. Owns $69.6 \%$ of Imperial Oil (Canada). Vanguard owns $8.0 \%$ of stock; BlackRock, 6.7\% (4/19 Proxy). Employs 71,100. Chrmn., Pres., and CEO: Darren Woods. Inc.: NJ. Addr.: 5959 Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039-2298. Tel.: 972-444-1000. Internet: www.exxonmobil.com.
prices recover more strongly. The company's size and financial muscle dictate that it replenish oil reserves and boost production whenever feasible.
Growth elsewhere is more incremental. Exxon has an attractive project in Guyana set to start up next month and ramp up in the years ahead. Ventures in Brazil, Papua New Guinea, and Mozambique also offer promise into the next decade. In refining, possibilities are modest, with the focus on adding capabilities to process more of the regional oil coming to market. The expansion and construction of chemicals manufacturing plants offer more upside, however, as low natural gas prices make U.S. facilities among the world's most competitive, Overall, volume gains seem assured here, although the pricing backdrop is less certain.
These top-quality shares offer good income and three-to-five year total return potential. But earnings may remain subdued until oil prices pick up, and the stock is not timely (Rank: 3). Meantime, asset sales will help cover ambitious spending and the dividend for a while. Robert Mitkowski

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[^0]:    (A) Net of gasoline excise taxes through 2015. (B) Based on diluted shares. Excludes nonrecurring gains (losses): ' $03,67 ¢$; ' $05,36 ¢$;' '06, 7¢; '12, \$1.61; '17, \$1.29.

    Next earnings report due mid-January. (C) Dividends historically paid in the second week of March, June, Sep., and Dec. week of March, June, Sep., and
    -Dividend reinvestment plan available.
    † Stock Purchase Plan available w/o broker
    (D) In mill., adjusted for split.

