



Imperial Oil (IMO)

Updated November 16st, 2020 by Aristofanis Papadatos

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$16	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	10.4%	Market Cap:	\$11.8 B
Fair Value Price:	\$20	5 Year Growth Estimate:	3.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	12/2/2020
% Fair Value:	82%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	4.1%	Dividend Payment Date:	1/1/2021
Dividend Yield:	4.1%	5 Year Price Target	\$23	Years Of Dividend Growth:	5
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Retirement Suitability Score:	D	Last Dividend Increase:	3.1%

Overview & Current Events

Imperial Oil is one of Canada's largest integrated oil businesses. The company operates through three reporting segments: Upstream, Downstream, and Chemical. Imperial Oil is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Exxon Mobil (XOM) owns approximately 70% of Imperial Oil's common equity. Imperial Oil is cross listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange, where it trades with a market capitalization of US\$11.8 billion. Imperial Oil reports financial results in Canadian dollars, but the figures shown in the data tables of this research report have been converted to U.S. dollars and refer to the company's NYSE-listed shares.

Imperial Oil is different from the well-known integrated oil majors, such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron, in one aspect. While the earnings of these companies greatly depend on the prices of WTI and Brent, the earnings of Imperial Oil are affected to a great extent by the prices of WTI and WCS (Western Canada Select). The latter usually trades at a deep discount to WTI, so it differentiates the earnings of Imperial Oil compared to those of the oil majors. In 2018 and 2019, the average discount of WCS to WTI was \$26 and \$13, respectively.

In late October, Imperial Oil reported (10/30/20) financial results for the third quarter of fiscal 2020. The pandemic continued to weigh on the results of the company but conditions in the energy market improved sequentially. The company grew its production 5% sequentially, from 347,000 barrels per day to 365,000 barrels per day and boosted its refinery utilization from 66% in the second quarter to 81%. As a result, it managed to eliminate its losses and posted a marginal profit. Imperial Oil is poised to report a loss this year for the first time in a whole decade due to the pandemic.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
EPS	\$2.48	\$3.77	\$4.35	\$2.98	\$3.30	\$1.17	\$0.56	\$0.86	\$2.20	\$2.16	-\$1.30	\$1.62
DPS	\$0.40	\$0.44	\$0.48	\$0.46	\$0.45	\$0.39	\$0.44	\$0.50	\$0.58	\$0.64	\$0.66	\$0.74
Shares¹	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	831.2	790.0	749.9	736.0	710.0

Imperial Oil's earnings-per-share history has been volatile, largely due to the high volatility of oil prices, particularly during the 2014-2017 downturn, and the volatility of refining margins. Indeed, 2017 earnings-per-share were less than one-fourth of their peak levels. Even worse, the energy market is currently facing an unprecedented downturn due to the pandemic, which has caused a collapse in the demand for oil products. However, we expect the pandemic to subside and the energy market to recover around the second half of next year. In addition, as Canada has the third-highest level of oil reserves worldwide, behind only Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, Imperial Oil has strong growth prospects in the long run. On the other hand, Imperial Oil recently suspended its share repurchases due to the pandemic. While the company will probably resume share repurchases after the pandemic, they are not likely to provide a great boost to the 5-year return of the stock. Overall, we expect Imperial Oil to grow its earnings-per-share by 3.0% per year on average over the next five years off its mid-cycle level (5-year average) of \$1.40.

¹ In millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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Valuation Analysis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Now	2025
Avg. P/E	15.5	11.8	10.3	14.1	14.4	31.5	---	35.6	13.9	12.4	11.4	14.0
Avg. Yld.	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.1%	1.4%	1.6%	1.9%	2.4%	4.1%	3.2%

Imperial Oil is currently trading at 11.4 times its mid-cycle earnings. This valuation level is lower than our assumed fair price-to-earnings ratio of 14.0. If the stock approaches our fair value estimate over the next five years, it will enjoy a 4.1% annualized gain thanks to the expansion of its valuation level.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

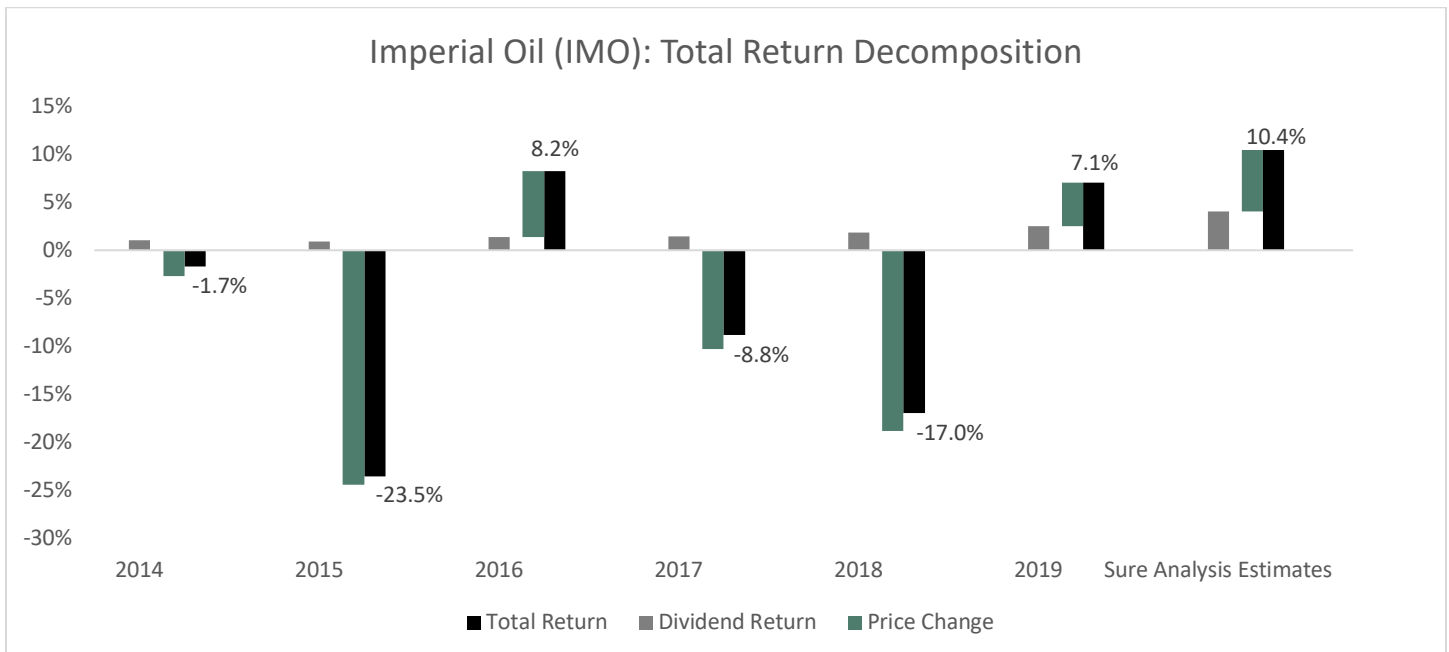
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
Payout	16.1%	11.7%	11.0%	15.4%	13.6%	33.3%	78.6%	58.1%	26.4%	29.6%	47.1%	45.3%

Imperial Oil is one of the highest-quality energy businesses in the Canadian market. The company has a credit rating of AA+ from S&P, which is higher than all of its peers in the Canadian energy space. Moreover, the company has paid 100+ years of consecutive dividends and has increased its dividend (in Canadian dollars) for 25 consecutive years. The company's 10-year average dividend growth rate (again, in Canadian dollars) is 7%. Imperial Oil seems laser-focused on returning capital to shareholders. The company has paid the same dividend for seven consecutive quarters due to the pandemic, but it is likely to maintain its shareholder-friendly character when the pandemic wanes. Furthermore, the company benefits from leveraging the expertise of its major shareholder, Exxon Mobil.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Imperial Oil has been greatly affected by the pandemic but we expect the pandemic to subside and the energy sector to recover from next year. As a result, the stock could offer a 10.4% average annual return over the next five years. We thus rate the stock as a hold but only for investors who can tolerate the pronounced volatility that results from the dramatic swings of the price of oil.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Revenue	22,910	29,484	29,723	30,395	31,403	19,735	17,669	21,182	25,694	24,257
Gross Profit	3,952	5,491	6,023	4,609	4,920	2,366	1,167	1,195	3,148	2,358
Gross Margin	17.2%	18.6%	20.3%	15.2%	15.7%	12.0%	6.6%	5.6%	12.3%	9.7%
SG&A Exp.	1,037	1,181	1,081	1,051	974	875	844	681	701	678
Operating Profit	2,729	4,216	4,858	3,439	3,886	1,434	252	373	2,433	1,645
Op. Margin	11.9%	14.3%	16.3%	11.3%	12.4%	7.3%	1.4%	1.8%	9.5%	6.8%
Net Profit	2,143	3,409	3,767	2,746	3,428	879	1,635	378	1,786	1,658
Net Margin	9.4%	11.6%	12.7%	9.0%	10.9%	4.5%	9.3%	1.8%	6.9%	6.8%
Free Cash Flow	(629)	576	(798)	(2,918)	(802)	(648)	711	1,366	1,876	2,104
Income Tax	721	1,047	1,227	883	1,120	628	211	71	586	(116)

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Assets	20,577	24,908	29,517	34,954	35,172	31,109	30,895	33,082	30,437	32,296
Cash & Equivalents	267	1,177	485	255	185	146	290	950	725	1,315
Acc. Receivable	2,000	2,243	1,986	1,957	1,326	1,139	1,500	2,157	1,857	2,066
Inventories	773	981	1,113	1,289	1,293	1,163	1,051	1,193	1,349	1,464
Goodwill & Int.	267	259	261	262	242	161	138	148	137	142
Total Liabilities	9,401	11,860	13,055	16,618	15,764	14,229	12,337	13,651	12,457	13,712
Accounts Payable	3,469	4,229	4,271	4,243	3,419	2,154	2,368	3,083	2,708	3,261
Long-Term Debt	756	1,160	1,520	5,784	5,792	5,696	3,448	3,697	3,413	3,580
Total Equity	11,175	13,048	16,462	18,336	19,408	16,881	18,558	19,431	17,980	18,584
D/E Ratio	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.32	0.30	0.34	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Return on Assets	11.5%	15.0%	13.8%	8.5%	9.8%	2.7%	5.3%	1.2%	5.6%	5.3%
Return on Equity	21.3%	28.1%	25.5%	15.8%	18.2%	4.8%	9.2%	2.0%	9.5%	9.1%
ROIC	20.4%	26.1%	23.4%	13.0%	13.9%	3.7%	7.3%	1.7%	8.0%	7.6%
Shares Out.	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	847.6	831.2	790.0	749.9
Revenue/Share	26.82	34.54	34.92	35.73	36.92	23.20	20.78	25.05	31.72	31.71
FCF/Share	(0.74)	0.68	(0.94)	(3.43)	(0.94)	(0.76)	0.84	1.61	2.32	2.75

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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