



Shell Midstream Partners L.P. (SHLX)

Published January 25th, 2021 by Aristofanis Papadatos

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$11	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	19.2%	Market Cap:	\$4.8 B
Fair Value Price:	\$14	5 Year Growth Estimate:	5.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	2/1/2021
% Fair Value:	81%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	4.2%	Dividend Payment Date:	2/12/2021
Dividend Yield:	16.7%	5 Year Price Target	\$17	Years Of Dividend Growth:	5
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Retirement Suitability Score:	C	Last Dividend Increase:	8.9%

Overview & Current Events

Shell Midstream Partners L.P. (SHLX) is a Master Limited Partnership (MLP) that was founded in 2014 and is headquartered in Houston, Texas. It owns, operates, develops and acquires pipelines and other midstream assets in the U.S. Its network of pipelines and terminals is used in the transportation and storage of crude oil, refined products and natural gas in the Gulf Coast and in the Midwest refining markets.

SHLX is currently facing a strong headwind due to the coronavirus crisis, which has caused a severe downturn in the energy market. Due to the collapse in the demand for refined products, U.S. oil production decreased -7.4%, from 12.2 million barrels per day in 2019 to 11.3 million barrels per day in 2020, while the utilization of U.S. refineries plunged from 91% in 2019 to 79% in 2020. These are strong headwinds for SHLX, whose cash flows depend on the volumes of crude oil and refined products transported and stored through its network.

In late October, SHLX reported (10/30/20) financial results for the third quarter of fiscal 2020. The results of the MLP were affected, not only by the pandemic, but also from the most active hurricane season in the U.S. since 2005, which caused multiple shutdowns oil production in the Gulf of Mexico. However, thanks to increased distributions from some of its investments, SHLX reported cash available for distribution of \$163 million, which was the same as in the previous quarter and resulted in a (marginal) distribution coverage ratio of 1.0. Management maintained the generous distribution for the first quarter of 2021 but stated that future distributions will depend on the outlook based on the pandemic. We applaud SHLX for having a remarkably strong balance sheet, which makes it much easier to endure the pandemic and maintain a generous distribution throughout the downturn.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Now	2025
CAFDPS¹	---	---	---	---	\$0.12	\$1.30	\$1.61	\$2.00	\$2.43	\$2.70	\$1.50	\$1.91
DPS	---	---	---	---	---	\$0.67	\$0.97	\$1.18	\$1.43	\$1.69	\$1.84	\$1.84
Shares²	---	---	---	---	135.0	140.9	169.4	180.4	220.3	229.2	444.1	500.0

SHLX greatly benefited from the booming U.S. oil production, which climbed to new all-time highs every year in the last decade, until the pandemic struck. The MLP has been greatly hurt by the pandemic, which has caused a severe downturn in the energy sector. However, thanks to the massive distribution of vaccines worldwide, we expect the pandemic to subside in the second half of this year. We thus expect SHLX to grow its cash available for distribution per share by 5.0% per year on average over the next five years.

We have not assumed a full recovery to the pre-COVID level of cash flows in order to be on the safe side in the adverse scenario of a prolonged pandemic. This scenario would severely hurt the cash flows of SHLX and would cause a distribution cut if it materializes. Such an adverse scenario may also accelerate the secular shift from oil to renewable energy, which should not be a concern for the next decade under normal conditions, in the absence of the pandemic.

¹ CAFDPS stands for Cash Available For Distribution Per Share.

² 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
P/CAFD	---	---	---	---	---	30.2	20.0	14.8	9.3	7.5	7.3	9.0
Avg. Yld.	---	---	---	---	---	1.7%	3.0%	4.0%	6.3%	8.4%	16.7%	10.7%

Excluding the first two years of SHLX, which were marked by abnormally high price-to-cash flow ratios, SHLX has traded at an average price-to-cash flow ratio of 12.9. Given the cyclical nature and the vulnerability of the stock to downturns, we assume a fair cash flow multiple of 9.0. If the stock reaches our fair value estimate over the next five years, it will enjoy a 4.2% annualized gain thanks to the expansion of its valuation level.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

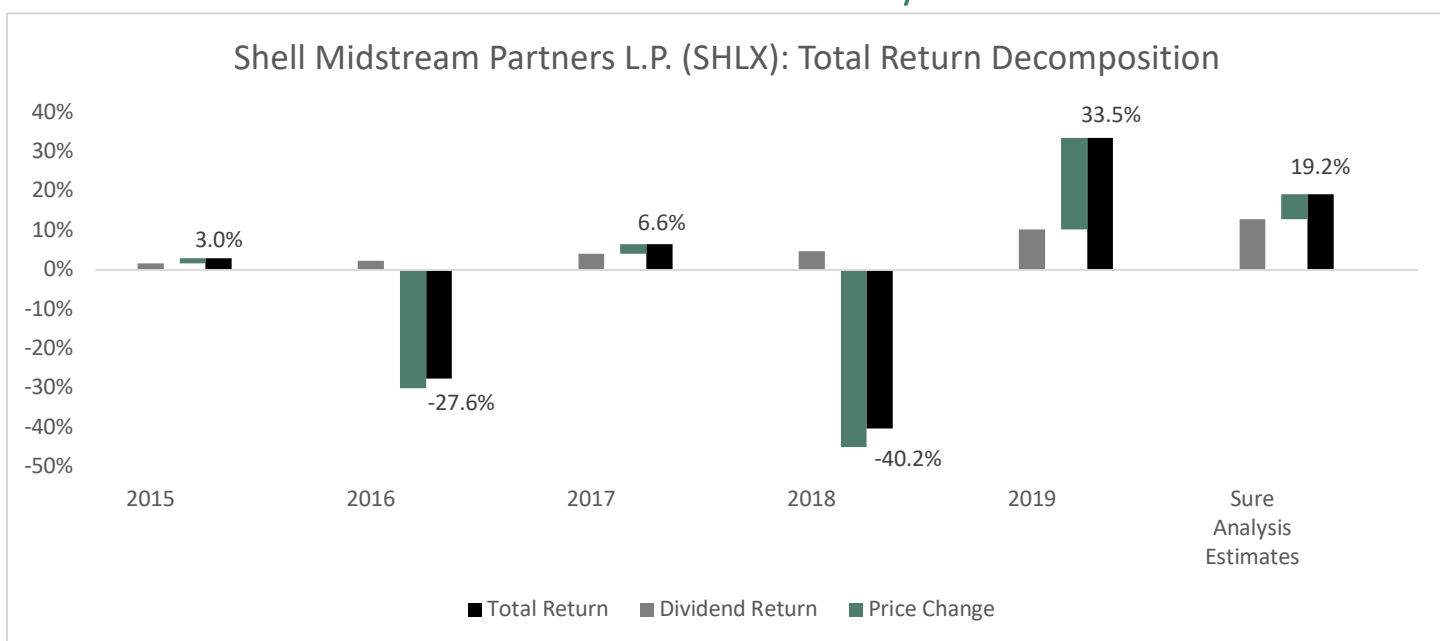
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
Payout	---	---	---	---	0.0%	52%	60%	59%	59%	63%	123%	96%

SHLX is less cyclical and more resilient to downturns in the energy sector than most oil stocks thanks to the secular growth of U.S. oil production in the absence of the pandemic. The results of SHLX are greatly affected by the pandemic but SHLX has one of the strongest balance sheets in the MLP universe, with net debt of \$2.4 billion, which is only 50% of the market cap and less than four times the annual cash flow available for distribution. As a result, SHLX can endure the pandemic even if it lasts longer than expected. In the unlikely event of a prolonged pandemic, SHLX will likely cut its exceptionally high 16.7% distribution but it will still offer an attractive yield. Overall, this MLP is certainly attractive for income-oriented investors.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

The pandemic has taken its toll on the results of SHLX but the MLP should endure the ongoing downturn thanks to its rock-solid balance sheet. We expect SHLX to offer a 19.2% average annual return over the next five years, assuming the distribution is maintained. Thus, we rate it as a buy, particularly for investors who are confident in a recovery from the pandemic and the return of U.S. oil production to its long-term growth trajectory.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Revenue	---	---	115	148	250	486	453	470	525	503
Gross Profit	---	---	109	134	232	448	410	425	447	418
Gross Margin	---	---	94.9%	90.7%	92.6%	92.2%	90.5%	90.4%	85.1%	83.1%
SG&A Exp.	---	---	10	15	20	56	53	58	60	60
D&A Exp.	---	---	6	14	18	38	43	45	46	49
Operating Profit	---	---	48	50	142	253	224	200	212	215
Operating Margin	---	---	42.1%	33.7%	56.7%	52.1%	49.3%	42.6%	40.4%	42.7%
Net Profit	---	---	47	71	13	167	245	295	464	528
Net Margin	---	---	40.9%	47.7%	5.4%	34.4%	54.1%	62.8%	88.4%	105%
Free Cash Flow	---	---	47	(34)	98	344	383	374	458	559
Income Tax	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Assets	---	---	135	252	730	715	1,304	1,367	1,914	2,019
Cash & Equivalents	---	---	---	---	150	93	122	138	208	290
Accounts Receivable	---	---	21	17	34	29	42	41	48	41
Total Liabilities	---	---	17	38	48	508	770	1,932	2,171	2,768
Accounts Payable	---	---	4	8	12	10	13	16	13	15
Long-Term Debt	---	---	---	---	---	458	686	1,844	2,091	2,692
Shareholder's Equity	---	---	119	215	520	99	513	(589)	(282)	(775)

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Return on Assets	---	---	---	36.4%	2.7%	23.1%	24.3%	22.1%	28.3%	26.8%
Return on Equity	---	---	---	42.3%	3.6%	54.0%	80.1%	---	---	---
Shares Out.	---	---	---	---	16.6%	45.9%	38.5%	22.9%	23.3%	21.8%
Revenue/Share	---	---	---	---	135.0	140.9	169.4	180.4	220.3	229.2
FCF/Share	---	---	0.85	1.10	1.85	3.45	2.67	2.61	2.38	2.19

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

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