



# Watsco, Inc. (WSO)

Updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 by Nathan Parsh

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$307	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	12.1%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$11 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$301	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	10.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	7/14/2022 <sup>1</sup>
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	102%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	-0.4%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	7/29/2022 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	2.9%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$484	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	9
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	F	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	D	<b>Rating:</b>	Buy

## Overview & Current Events

Watsco sells heating, ventilation and air condition equipment to customers in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico. The company's products include residential and commercial air condition as well as gas, electric and oil furnaces. Watsco also provides parts such as compressors, evaporator coils, ductworks, thermostats and insulation materials. The company generated revenue of just over \$6 billion in 2021.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Watsco reported first quarter earnings results for the period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Revenue grew 34% to a company record \$1.52 billion, beating estimates by \$130 million. GAAP earnings-per-share of \$2.90 compared extremely favorably to \$1.39 in the prior year and was \$1.10 better than expected.

Record top-line growth was driven by comparable sales growth of 25% year-over-year. HVAC equipment sales, which represented 67% of total sales, increased 26%. Other HVAC products, which contributed 29% of sales, improved 24% while commercial refrigeration products, which accounted for 4% of sales, was higher by 35%. The operating margin expanded 440 basis points to 11.5% while operating income more than doubled.

Analysts now expect Watsco to earn \$12.03 per share in 2022, down from \$12.31 previously. Achieving the new estimate would represent 11.6% growth year-over-year. We have updated our forecast accordingly.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
<b>EPS</b>	\$3.03	\$3.68	\$4.32	\$4.90	\$5.15	\$5.54	\$6.49	\$6.50	\$7.01	\$10.78	<b>\$12.03</b>	<b>\$19.37</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$2.48	\$1.15	\$2.00	\$2.80	\$3.60	\$4.60	\$5.60	\$6.40	\$6.93	\$7.63	<b>\$8.80</b>	<b>\$14.17</b>
<b>Shares<sup>3</sup></b>	35	35	35	35	36	37	37	38	39	35	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>

Watsco has grown earnings-per-share by at least 15% over both the last five- and 10-year periods of time. The company was able to accomplish this even as it increased its share count over the last decade. We feel an expected earnings-per-share growth rate of 10% is an appropriate starting place given Watsco's earnings history.

Watsco increased its dividend 12.8% for the company's payment in April of 2022. The company did cut its dividend by more than half in 2013, but has raised its every year since. However, the dividend increase doesn't often follow a predictable schedule. Sometimes the dividend is raised after four consecutive payments, sometimes after two consecutive payments.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Now	2027
<b>Avg. P/E</b>	23.9	23.8	22.6	24.8	26.3	27.5	26.3	24.7	28.1	29.0	<b>25.5</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>Avg. Yld.</b>	3.4%	1.3%	2.1%	2.3%	2.7%	3.0%	3.3%	4.0%	3.5%	2.4%	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimated ex-dividend date

<sup>2</sup> Estimated dividend payment date

<sup>3</sup> Share count 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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Shares of Watsco have gained \$37, or 13.7%, since our February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 report. The stock has traded with a premium multiple for much of the last 10 years, as the average price-earnings ratio is more than 25 over this period of time. We feel that this is an appropriate starting point for our target valuation for the stock given the historical earnings multiple and growth expectations going forward. With shares trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 25.5, this implies a slight headwind from multiple reversion. Reverting to our target valuation would lower annual returns by 0.4% through 2027.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

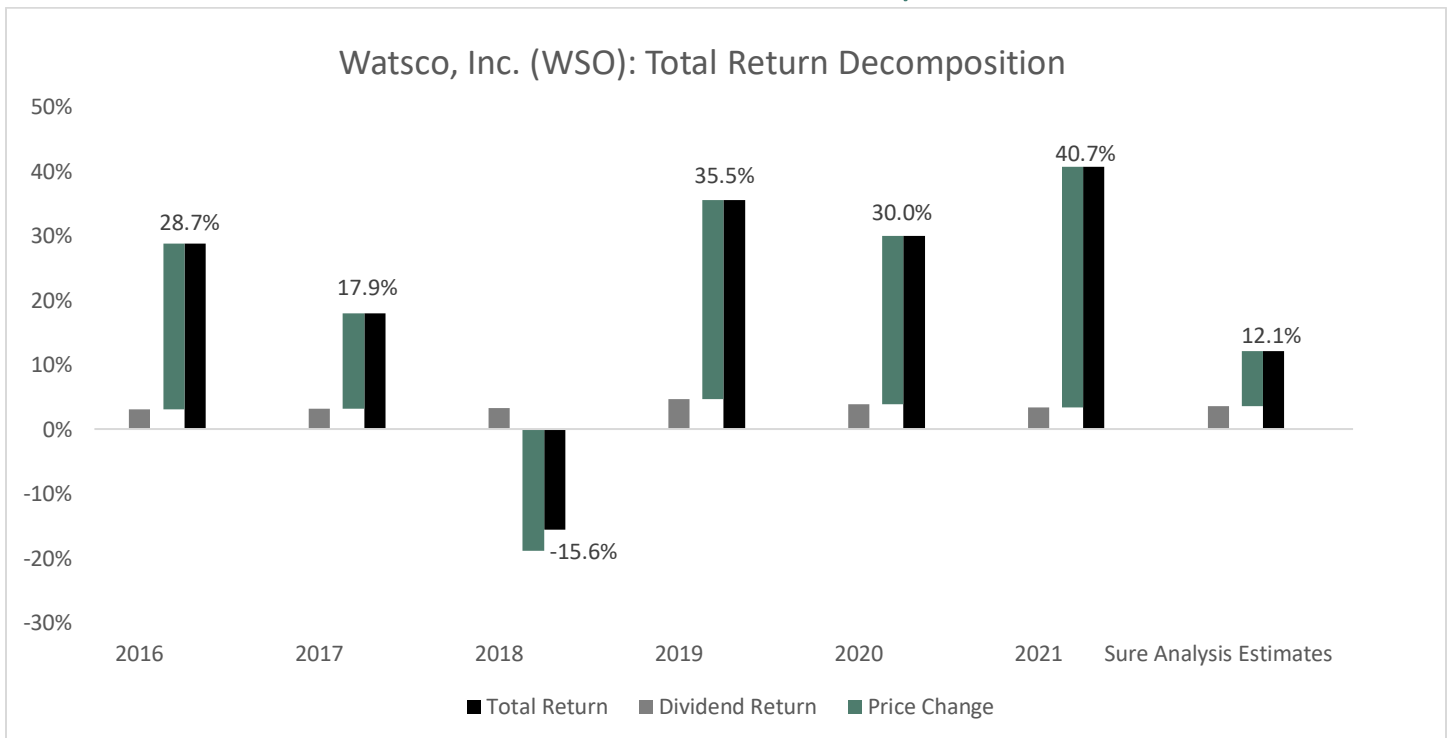
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Payout	82%	31%	46%	57%	70%	83%	86%	98%	99%	71%	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>

As a medium-sized player in its industry, we don't feel that Watsco has significant competitive advantages, though the company rebounded sharply from the last recession. Like many companies in the industry, Watsco was not immune to the impact of the last recession. The company reported earnings-per-share of \$2.43, \$2.18 and \$1.40 for 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively. This resulted in a 42% decline over this period of time. However, the company followed this up with earnings-per-share growth the very next year, a trend that has continued every year since. While we believe that the next recession could have an equally painful impact on the company, Watsco is likely to see an improvement in business following the next economic downturn.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Watsco is expected to return 12.1% annually through 2027, down from our prior estimate of 15.5%. Our projected return stems from a 10% earnings growth rate and a starting yield of 2.9% that are only partially offset by a small headwind from multiple compression. The momentum Watsco experienced at the end of last year continued into 2022 as the company posted record sales results. We have lowered our five-year target price \$12 due to earnings estimates for the year, but maintain our buy rating on shares of the company.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	3,432	3,743	3,945	4,113	4,221	4,342	4,547	4,770	5,055	6,280
Gross Profit	814	899	956	1,007	1,035	1,066	1,120	1,157	1,223	1,668
Gross Margin	23.7%	24.0%	24.2%	24.5%	24.5%	24.5%	24.6%	24.3%	24.2%	26.6%
SG&A Exp.	589	628	651	671	689	716	757	800	833	1,058
Depr. & Amort.	16	18	18	19	20	22	22	25	26	
Operating Profit	225	271	306	337	346	350	363	357	390	629
Op. Margin	6.6%	7.2%	7.8%	8.2%	8.2%	8.1%	8.0%	7.5%	7.7%	10.0%
Net Profit	103	128	151	173	183	208	243	246	270	419
Net Margin	3.0%	3.4%	3.8%	4.2%	4.3%	4.8%	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%	6.7%
Free Cash Flow	161	136	123	199	238	289	153	318	518	325
Income Tax	63	78	92	105	106	90	73	67	77	129

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Assets	1,682	1,670	1,791	1,788	1,875	2,047	2,161	2,556	2,484	3,086
Cash & Equivalents	74	19	24	35	56	80	83	74	146	118
Acc. Receivable	378	400	434	451	476	478	502	534	535	698
Inventories	546	583	678	674	685	761	837	921	781	1,115
Goodwill & Int.	617	596	574	539	538	544	540	583	582	745
Total Liabilities	660	542	659	585	623	496	559	841	705	1,088
Accounts Payable	185	141	173	145	185	230	200	240	252	
Long-Term Debt	316	231	304	246	236	22	136	225	72	174
Total Equity	748	840	884	957	1,006	1,298	1,348	1,435	1,487	1,665
LTD/E Ratio	0.42	0.27	0.34	0.26	0.23	0.02	0.10	0.16	0.05	0.10

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Return on Assets	7.0%	7.6%	8.7%	9.7%	10.0%	10.6%	11.5%	10.4%	10.7%	15.0%
Return on Equity	13.3%	16.1%	17.6%	18.8%	18.6%	18.1%	18.4%	17.7%	18.5%	26.6%
ROIC	8.8%	9.5%	10.8%	12.0%	12.4%	13.6%	14.7%	13.4%	14.2%	20.8%
Shares Out.	35	35	35	35	36	37	37	38	39	35
Revenue/Share	108.10	116.04	121.90	126.64	129.40	132.12	132.27	137.57	143.81	161.97
FCF/Share	5.07	4.21	3.82	6.13	7.30	8.78	4.46	9.17	14.74	8.39

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

### Disclaimer

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