Organon & Co. (OGN)

Updated May 6th, 2024 by Nathan Parsh

Key Metrics

Current Price:	$20.06	**5 Year CAGR Estimate:**	9.3%	**Market Cap:**	$5 B
Fair Value Price:	$22.20	**5 Year Growth Estimate:**	3.0%	**Ex-Dividend Date:**	05/10/24
% Fair Value:	90%	**5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:**	2.0%	**Dividend Payment Date:**	06/13/24
Dividend Yield:	5.6%	**5 Year Price Target**	$26	**Years Of Dividend Growth:**	N/A
Dividend Risk Score:	B	**Retirement Suitability Score:**	A	**Rating:**	Hold

Overview & Current Events

On June 3rd, 2021, Merck & Company (MKR) completed its spinoff of Organon & Co. Organon is a pharmaceutical company that develops and markets health solutions in a variety of areas. It's established brands portfolio consists of nearly 50 products that have lost patent exclusivity and are used for treatment in the areas of cardiovascular, respiratory and dermatology and non-opioid pain management. Organon's women's health portfolio includes fertility and contraception brands, such as Nexplanon/Implanon and Nuva Ring. The company also has a small portfolio of biosimilars which are used in immunology and oncology. The spinoff has resulted in 15% of revenue, 25% of manufacturing sites and 50% of products being transferred from Merck to Organon.

On May 2nd, 2024, Organon reported first quarter results for the period ending March 31st, 2024. For the quarter, revenue increased 5.2% to $1.62 billion, which topped estimates by $60 million. Adjusted earnings-per-share of $1.22 compared favorably to $1.08 in the prior year and was $0.29 better than expected.

Excluding the impact of currency exchange, revenue improved 7% for the year. For the quarter, revenue for Established Brands, which contributed 62% of revenue, was flat as gains from recent licensing agreements were offset by weaker volumes elsewhere. Women's Health, which contributed 26% of sales, continued to see a return to growth, with sales up 11% year-over-year. Growth was driven by the ongoing higher demand for fertility products. Sales for Biosimilars surged 46% due to strong demand once again for Ontruzant.

Organon provided guidance for 2024 as well, with the company expecting revenue of $6.2 billion to $6.5 billion. We project that the company will earn $4.44 per share in 2024, up from $4.22 previously. We have updated our forecast accordingly.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
EPS	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	$6.20	$5.03	$4.14	***$4.44***	***$5.15***
DPS	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	$0.56	$1.12	$1.12	***$1.12***	***$1.12***
Shares[1]	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	253	255	257	***258***	***258***

Organon's parent company experienced an earnings per share growth rate of more than 5% over the last decade and nearly 12% over the last five years. Given that much of this growth was due to accelerating pharmaceutical sales that remain with Merck, we believe a slightly lower growth rate for Organon is likely to take place. Given the unknowns of the company at this point, we are comfortable forecasting earnings-per-share growth of 3% through 2029.

The company announced its twelve consecutive quarterly dividend of $0.28 per share. We now expect a constant distribution through 2029 given that Organon has yet to raise its dividend since becoming a standalone company.

Organon does have several factors working in its favor for future growth. The established brands business should provide Organon with strong cash flows as the off-patent products do not require much in the way of the research and development expenses. The women's healthcare business has long been a pioneer in its field since its founding in 1923.

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[1] In millions of shares

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The company produced the first-ever hormonal oral contraceptive as well the first-ever lower dose estrogen combined oral contraceptive. More recently, Organon developed the first once-a-month contraceptive ring. Biosimilars are the smallest portion of the new company, but Organon does expect to expand its portfolio, including a biosimilar to Humira for the U.S. market starting in 2023. Organon operates a fairly diverse business, including geographically.

On August 16th, 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was signed into law. The law will, in part, require the federal government to negotiate prices for drugs covered under Medicare starting in 2026. This could reduce the profits pharmaceutical companies could collect, but these costs could be shifted to employer sponsored plans, reducing the negative impact on businesses. As such, we maintain our expected growth rates, but we will monitor the situation as we get closer to the implementation of the law.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Now	2029
Avg. P/E	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.7	5.6	3.5	***4.5***	***5.0***
Avg. Yld.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.8%	4.0%	7.8%	***5.6%***	***4.4%***

Shares of Organon have increased 7.2% since our February 17th, 2024 report. Using the current share price and expected earnings-per-share for 2024, Organon trades with a price-to-earnings ratio of 4.5. This is an incredibly low valuation relative to other healthcare companies. However, we feel that this new company will likely see low, but stable, growth in future years. We reaffirm our target price-to-earnings ratio of 5 from 7 given the weakness in one of the company's key businesses, but this still implies a 2.0% annual tailwind to returns due to multiple expansion. Organon's dividend yield is quite substantial at 5.6%. The high yield could be a warning sign, but the dividend looks very safe.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

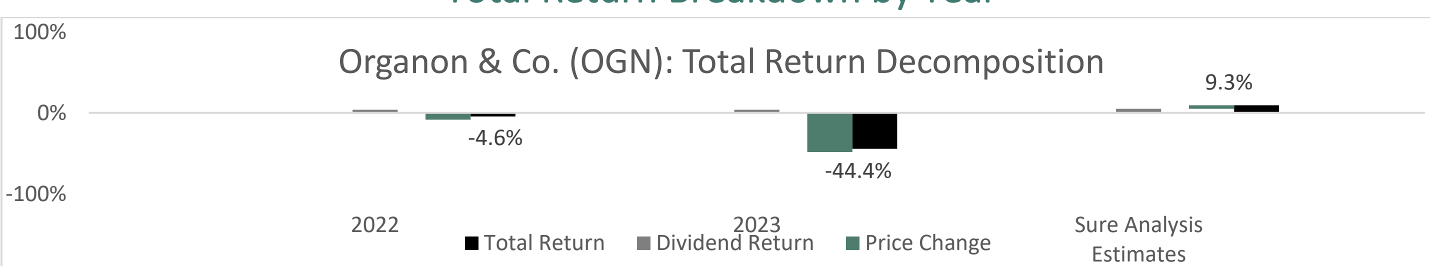
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
Payout	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9%	22%	27%	***25%***	***22%***

Organon has not yet been tested during a recession. Its former parent company generated of earnings-per-share growth of 33% from 2007 through 2009. Including 2006 is this calculation actually results in an earnings-per-share decrease of nearly 11% for this period of time, showing that Merck's business was more unpredictable than its healthcare peers. However, Merck is a vastly different company now then it was during that period, thanks to the explosive growth of its key product *Keytruda*. Nevertheless, we believe that Organon would perform well during a recession as its product portfolio can largely be considered recession resistant. Healthcare companies tend to hold up much better than more cyclical companies in economic downturns as their products are in demand regardless of economic conditions.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Organon is projected to return 9.3% annually through 2029, down from our prior estimate of 9.9%. Our projected return stems from an earnings growth rate of 3%, a 5.6% starting dividend yield, and a small contribution from multiple expansion. Shares are up more than 80% over our last two reports. We rate Organon as a hold due to projected returns.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenue	---	---	---	---	9,777	9,530	8,096	6,304	6,174	6,263
Gross Profit	---	---	---	---	5,084	5,909	4,749	3,922	3,880	3,748
Gross Margin	---	---	---	---	52.0%	62.0%	58.7%	62.2%	62.8%	59.8%
SG&A Exp.	---	---	---	---	2,013	1,922	1,666	1,668	1,704	1,893
D&A Exp.	---	---	---	---	1,673	354	157	195	212	236
Operating Profit	---	---	---	---	2,706	3,655	2,779	1,811	1,705	1,327
Op. Margin	---	---	---	---	27.7%	38.4%	34.3%	28.7%	27.6%	21.2%
Net Profit	---	---	---	---	2,153	3,218	2,160	1,351	917	1,023
Net Margin	---	---	---	---	22.0%	33.8%	26.7%	21.4%	14.9%	16.3%
Free Cash Flow	---	---	---	---	3,586	2,658	1,909	1,970	431	538
Income Tax	---	---	---	---	576	337	520	178	205	(350)

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Assets ($B)	---	---	---	---	10,548	10,548	10,109	10,681	10,955	12,058
Cash & Equivalents	---	---	---	---	319	319	12	737	706	693
Acc. Receivable	---	---	---	---	1,474	1,474	1,038	1,382	1,475	1,744
Inventories	---	---	---	---	1,071	1,071	913	915	1,003	1,315
Goodwill & Int.	---	---	---	---	5,172	5,172	5,106	5,254	5,252	5,136
Total Liabilities	---	---	---	---	3,513	3,513	4,623	12,189	11,847	12,128
Accounts Payable	---	---	---	---	258	258	259	1,382	1,132	1,314
Long-Term Debt	---	---	---	---	---	104	1,339	9,134	8,913	8,760
Total Equity	---	---	---	---	7,035	7,035	5,486	(1,508)	(892)	(70)
LTD/E Ratio	---	---	---	---	---	0.01	0.24	(6.06)	(9.99)	(125.14)

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Return on Assets	---	---	---	---	---	---	20.6%	13.0%	8.5%	8.9%
Return on Equity	---	---	---	---	---	---	69.5%	67.9%		
ROIC	---	---	---	---	---	---	68.4%	18.7%	11.7%	12.2%
Shares Out.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	253	255	257
Revenue/Share	---	---	---	---	38.62	37.65	31.98	24.80	24.20	24.44
FCF/Share	---	---	---	---	14.17	10.50	7.54	7.75	1.69	2.10

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