Valuentum Retail Equity Research Visit us at www.valuentum.com Ratings as of 8-Mar-2024 Data as of 6-Mar-2024

Fair Value Range

\$96.00 - \$152.00

# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

**Estimated Fair Value** 

\$124.00

its durable and diversified asset portfolio.

**Economic Castle** 

Attractive

# Buying Index™

**Investment Style** 

LARGE-CAP VALUE

3

Sector

Energy

# Value Rating



Industry

Oil & Gas Complex

ConocoPhillips has a bright free cash flow growth outlook that's supported by



The week with the highest trading volume out of the last 30 weeks was a week of heavy selling, or distribution (red bar)

Company Vitals	
Market Cap (USD)	\$134,592
Avg Weekly Vol (30 wks)	25,020
30-week Range (USD)	105.77 - 127.35
Valuentum Sector	Energy
5-week Return	0.3%
13-week Return	-3.6%
30-week Return	-5.5%
Dividend Yield %	2.1%
Dividends per Share	2.32
Forward Dividend Payout Ratio	o 26.9%
Est. Normal Diluted EPS	11.05
P/E on Est. Normal Diluted EP	S 10.1
Est. Normal EBITDA	26,453
Forward EV/EBITDA	6.6
EV/Est. Normal EBITDA	5.5
Forward Revenue Growth (5-yr	r) 3.2%
Forward EPS Growth (5-yr) NMF = Not Meaningful; Est. = Estimated; FY =	8.3% Fiscal Year

28.0%
14.1%
25.9%
25.9%

# Leverage, Coverage, and Liquidity In Millions of USD Total Debt 17,5

Total Debt	17,808
Net Debt	11,202
Total Debt/EBITDA	0.7
Net Debt/EBITDA	0.5
EBITDA/Interest	31.7
Current Ratio	1.4
Quick Ratio	1.2

NMF = Not Meaningful

#### **Investment Highlights**

- ConocoPhillips is an independent exploration and production (E&P) company. The firm completed the separation of its downstream businesses into an independent, publicly traded company, Phillips 66 (PSX), in April 2012. ConocoPhillips has a large presence in Alaska, the Lower 48 U.S. states, and the LNG export industry in Australia.
- ConocoPhillips increased its stake in the Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG) export facility in February 2022, paying ~\$1.65 billion for an additional 10% interest. The company now owns 47.5% of the equity of the APLNG venture.
- Over the past decade, ConocoPhillips has fundamentally altered its business profile. The firm exited the deepwater exploration space, sold off most of its oil sands assets in Canada, significantly grew its exposure to Alaska and the Lower 48 U.S. states, divested its Indonesian operations, and materially reduced its net debt load.
- We like ConocoPhillips' diversification, scale, and capability. The firm is well-positioned to capitalize on the return of sustained global energy demand growth. Going forward, the company's biggest hurdle will remain the volatile price of raw energy resources, having shed its downstream operations.
- In 2018, ConocoPhillips traded some of its UK assets for some of BP's Alaskan assets. ConocoPhillips has made Alaska a core geographical focus over the past few years, though regulatory and permitting hurdles loom large over its growth ambitions in the region.

<b>Investment Considerations</b>	
DCF Valuation	FAIRLY VALUED
Relative Valuation	NEUTRAL
ValueCreation <sup>TM</sup>	EXCELLENT
ValueRisk™	MEDIUM
ValueTrend <sup>TM</sup>	NEGATIVE
Cash Flow Generation	STRONG
Financial Leverage	LOW
Growth	MODEST
Technical Evaluation	BEARISH
Relative Strength	WEAK
Money Flow Index (MFI)	NEUTRAL
Upside/Downside Volume (U/D)	BULLISH
Near-term Technical Support, 10-week MA	111.00
DCF = Discounted Cash Flow; MFI, U/D = Please see glossary	. MA = Moving Average

<b>Business Quality</b>	ValueCreation <sup>TM</sup>			
ValueRisk <sup>TM</sup>	Very Poor	Poor	Good	Excellent
Low				
Medium				
High				
Very High				

Firms that generate economic profits with little operating variability score near the top right of the matrix.

<b>Relative Valuation</b>	Forward P/E	PEG	Price / FV	
Chevron	11.9	NMF	92.1%	
Enterprise Product Partners	10.4	NMF	87.4%	
Exxon Mobil	11.0	NMF	94.8%	
Schlumberger	19.8	NMF	103.2%	
Peer Median	11.4	NMF	93.5%	
ConocoPhillips	12.9	NMF	90.0%	

Price / FV = Current Stock Price divided by Estimated Fair Value

<b>Financial Summary</b>	Actua	Projected	
Fiscal Year End:	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24
Revenue	80,575	57,861	58,092
Revenue, YoY%	72.7%	-28.2%	0.4%
Operating Income	27,323	16,430	14,096
Operating Margin %	33.9%	28.4%	24.3%
Net Income	18,680	10,957	10,296
Net Income Margin %	23.2%	18.9%	17.7%
Diluted EPS	14.57	9.06	8.63
Diluted EPS, YoY %	140.1%	-37.8%	-4.8%
Free Cash Flow (CFO-capex)	18,155	8,717	7,911
Free Cash Flow Margin % In Millions of USD (except for per share items)	22.5%	15.1%	13.6%

#### Structure of the Oil & Gas (majors) Industry

**NEUTRAL** 

The global oil and gas industry is dominated by state-owned firms, including member nations of OPEC, which have a large influence on pricing. Public constituents are not small, however, as firms in this group make up a large portion of the energy sector's market cap. Oil and gas prices are the key profit driver and largely reflect supply/demand dynamics, though it is not uncommon for speculative/geopolitical price premiums to occur. A firm's estimated reserve life and cost for exploration and development should be monitored closely. We're neutral on the structure of the majors, given their commoditized product.



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

# Buying Index™

Value Rating



Economic Castle Attractive Estimated Fair Value \$124.00 Fair Value Range \$96.00 - \$152.00 Investment Style LARGE-CAP VALUE Sector Energy

3

Industry
Oil & Gas Complex

## **Economic Profit Analysis**

#### ValueCreation<sup>TM</sup> EXCELLENT

The best measure of a firm's ability to create value for shareholders is expressed by comparing its return on invested capital (ROIC) with its weighted average cost of capital (WACC). The gap or difference between ROIC and WACC is called the firm's economic profit spread. ConocoPhillips' 3-year historical return on invested capital (without goodwill) is 25.9%, which is above the estimate of its cost of capital of 10%. As such, we assign the firm a ValueCreation<sup>TM</sup> rating of EXCELLENT. In the chart to the right, we show the probable path of ROIC in the years ahead based on the estimated volatility of key drivers behind the measure. The solid grey line reflects the most likely outcome, in our opinion, and represents the scenario that results in our fair value estimate. We assign the company an attractive Economic Castle rating, however.

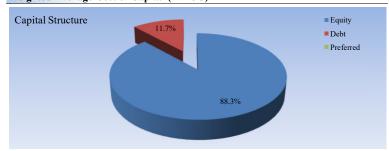
ROIC - WACC Spread, 3-year historical average	15.8%
ROIC - WACC Spread, 5-year projected average	7.6%

These spreads equal the firm's annual average ROIC (excluding goodwill) less its WACC.

ValueTrend<sup>TM</sup> NEGATIVE

ConocoPhillips receives a ValueTrend<sup>TM</sup> rating of NEGATIVE, which is based on the company's trailing three-year performance. The firm's ROIC (excluding goodwill) fell to 19.8% last year from its trailing 3-year average of 25.9%. We expect ROIC (excluding goodwill) to be in the ballpark of about 19% by the end of our discrete forecast period, with downside risk to about 7% over that time period.

#### Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)



#### Cost of Equity

Cost of Equity Assumption	10.8%
Estimated Equity Risk Premium	6.5%
Fundamental Beta (ERP multiplier)	1.0
Risk Free Rate Assumption	4.3%

#### After-tax Cost of Debt

After-tax Cost of Debt Assumption	4.1%
Cash Tax Rate Assumption	25.0%
Cost of Debt Assumption	5.5%
Synthetic Credit Spread	1.18%
Risk Free Rate Assumption	4.3%
Mitti-tax Cost of Debt	

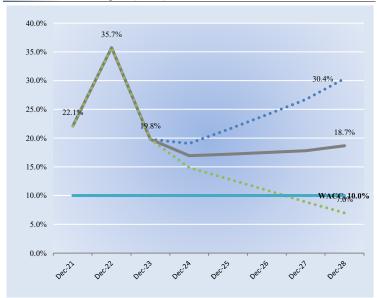
#### Cost of Preferred Stock

Cost of Preferred Stock	
Preferred Dividends	0
Value of Preferred Stock	0
Cost of Preferred Assumption	NA

#### Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)

ERP = Equity Risk Premium

#### Return on Invested Capital (ROIC)



The graph above shows the firm's ROIC (excluding goodwill) compared with historical averages and its WACC

#### **Assessment of Company Dividend Strategy**

#### **Key Strengths**

ConocoPhillips is one of our favorite energy companies. The company is focused on upstream assets, operations that involve extracting raw energy resources (such as natural gas and crude oil) from the ground. In the wake of several energy market downturns over the past decade, ConocoPhillips right-sized its capital expenditure expectations to better enable the firm to generate free cash flows in almost any operating environment. ConocoPhillips has a solid 'A-rated' investment grade credit rating. The company has a base and variable dividend program, with its first variable distribution covering the final quarter of 2021. ConocoPhillips is a well-run enterprise.

#### **Potential Weaknesses**

Having spun off its downstream assets roughly a decade ago, ConocoPhillips is now considered to be an upstream "super-independent." The company's future rests on its ability to maintain and potentially grow its oil & gas production base. ConocoPhillips returned to payout growth only a year after its quarterly dividend was cut in February 2016. We expect that ConocoPhillips will steadily grow its payout going forward. That said, while ConocoPhillips has one of the best upstream asset bases around, its future financial performance is heavily influenced by movements in crude oil prices. ConocoPhillips has a large net debt load which greatly limits its financial flexibility.

Note: Valuentum may provide an adjusted ROIC measure to better reflect the economic substance of a company's operations, as in the case of companies with negative invested capital.



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

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Value Rating

Economic Castle Attractive Estimated Fair Value \$124.00 **Fair Value Range** \$96.00 - \$152.00

Investment Style
LARGE-CAP VALUE

Sector Energy

3

Industry
Oil & Gas Complex

## **Growth Analysis**

<b>Revenue Growth</b>				MODEST
		Last Fiscal		
		Year	3-year Historical	5-year Projected
		Revenue	CAGR	CAGR
ConocoPhillips	USD	57,861	44.4%	3.2%
Chevron	USD	235,916	19.2%	-3.0%
Enterprise Product Partne	USD	58,186	21.1%	-1.4%
Exxon Mobil	USD	402,217	15.7%	-1.9%
Schlumberger	USD	28,091	-5.1%	8.5%
Peer Median			17.5%	-1.7%
Industry Median			16.2%	-1.6%

ConocoPhillips' revenue expansion has been greater than the median of both its peer group and industry group during the past three years. We expect the firm's revenue expansion to outpace the median of its peer group and industry group during the next five years. Our growth assessment of each firm is based on the firm's 5-year forward revenue CAGR. ConocoPhillips' future pace of revenue growth is MODEST, in our opinion.

#### EBITDA Growth

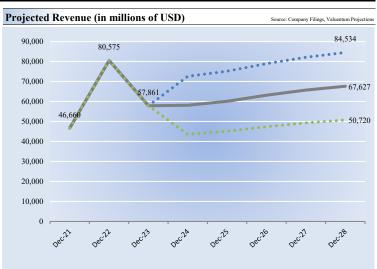
		Last Fiscal		
		Year EBITDA	3-year Historical CAGR	5-year Projected CAGR
ConocoPhillips	USD	24,753	72.8%	4.4%
Chevron	USD	57,374	25.7%	-1.1%
Enterprise Product Partne	USD	8,788	5.2%	0.2%
Exxon Mobil	USD	91,128	38.3%	-1.7%
Schlumberger	USD	5,820	1.5%	12.5%
Peer Median			15.4%	-0.5%
Industry Median			19.4%	-1.0%

ConocoPhillips' EBITDA expansion has been greater than that of both its peer group and industry group during the past three years. We expect the firm's EBITDA expansion to outpace its peer group and industry group during the next five years. Schlumberger sports the highest EBITDA growth rate among peers.

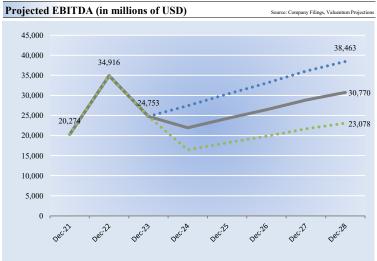
#### Net Income Growth

		Last Fiscal		
		Year Net	3-year Historical	5-year Projected
		Income	CAGR	CAGR
ConocoPhillips	USD	10,957	-259.5%	7.1%
Chevron	USD	35,465	129.8%	-4.9%
Enterprise Product Partne	USD	5,489	6.1%	-2.5%
Exxon Mobil	USD	55,740	57.2%	-5.3%
Schlumberger	USD	3,441	-169.8%	12.8%
Peer Median			31.7%	-3.7%
Industry Median			8.4%	-5.1%

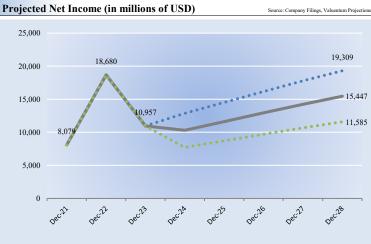
ConocoPhillips' net income expansion has trailed both that of its peer group and its industry group during the past three years. We expect the firm's net income expansion to outpace its peer group and industry group during the next five years. Schlumberger sports the highest net income growth rate among peers.



In the chart above, we show our baseline forecast for revenue as well as potential upside and downside cases.



In the chart above, we show our baseline forecast for EBITDA as well as potential upside and downside cases.



In the chart above, we show our baseline forecast for net income as well as potential upside and downside cases



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

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Value Rating

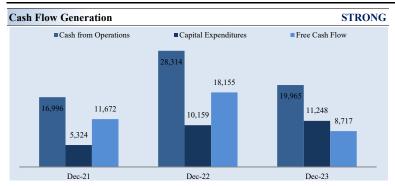


Economic Castle
Attractive

Estimated Fair Value \$124.00 **Fair Value Range** \$96.00 - \$152.00

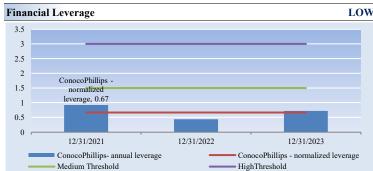
Investment Style LARGE-CAP VALUE Sector Energy Industry
Oil & Gas Complex

## **Cash Flow and Financial Leverage Analysis**



The bars above show the firms operating cash flow, capital expenditures, and free cash flow, respectively

Firms that generate a free cash flow margin (free cash flow divided by total revenue) above 5% are usually considered cash cows. ConocoPhillips' free cash flow margin has averaged about 20.9% during the past 3 years. As such, we think the firm's cash flow generation is relatively STRONG. The free cash flow measure shown above is derived by taking cash flow from operations less capital expenditures and differs from enterprise free cash flow (FCFF), which we use in deriving our fair value estimate for the company. For more information on the differences between these two measures, please visit our website at Valuentum.com. At ConocoPhillips, cash flow from operations increased about 17% from levels registered two years ago, while capital expenditures expanded about 111% over the same time period.



3

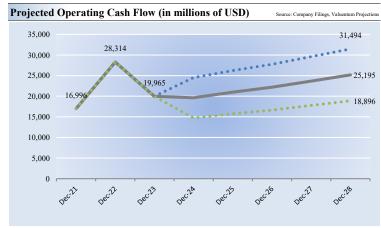
The bars above show the firm's annual debt-to-EBITDA. The red line shows the firm's normalized measure

Firms that exhibit high leverage tend to be more risky than firms with relatively low debt loads, all else equal. We measure financial leverage by taking a firm's current total debt load and dividing it by the firm's trailing average 3-year annual EBITDA. Firms that are over 3 for this metric, we rate as having high leverage. Companies that have less than 1.5 turns of leverage (or a measure below 1.5), we rate as having low leverage. ConocoPhillips' normalized debt-to-EBITDA measure of about 0.67 puts it in the LOW camp.

#### **Cash Flow from Operations**

		Last Fiscal Year CFO	3-year Historical CAGR	5-year Projected CAGR
ConocoPhillips	USD	19,965	60.8%	4.8%
Chevron	USD	49,529	22.1%	-3.2%
Enterprise Product Partne	USD	8,038	7.2%	-0.9%
Exxon Mobil	USD	76,797	37.2%	-4.0%
Schlumberger	USD	3,720	-11.9%	18.9%
Peer Median			14.7%	-2.1%
Industry Median			17.1%	-1.4%

ConocoPhillips' cash flow from operations expansion has been greater than that of both its peer group and industry group during the past three years. We expect the firm's cash flow from operations expansion to outpace its peer group and industry group during the next five years. Schlumberger sports the highest expected cash flow from operations growth rate among peers.

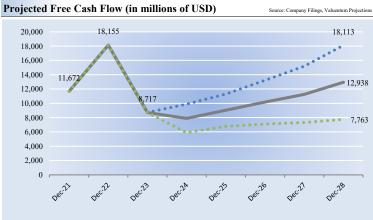


In the chart above, we show our baseline forecast for CFO as well as potential upside and downside cases.

#### Free Cash Flow (CFO-capital expenditures)

		Last Fiscal Year FCF	3-year Historical CAGR	5-year Projected CAGR
ConocoPhillips	USD	8,717	364.5%	8.2%
Chevron	USD	37,555	42.2%	-7.1%
Enterprise Product Partne	USD	7,666	7.4%	-1.1%
Exxon Mobil	USD	58,390	121.7%	-10.2%
Schlumberger	USD	1,515	-19.7%	30.6%
Peer Median			24.8%	-4.1%
Industry Median			37.9%	-4.1%

ConocoPhillips' free cash flow expansion has been greater than that of both its peer group and industry group during the past three years. We expect the firm's free cash flow expansion to outpace its peer group and industry group during the next five years. Schlumberger sports the highest expected free cash flow growth rate among peers.



In the chart above, we show our baseline forecast for free cash flow as well as potential upside and downside cases

# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

# Buying Index™

Value Rating



 Economic Castle
 Estimated Fair Value
 Fair Value Range
 Investment Style
 Sector
 Industry

 Attractive
 \$124.00
 \$96.00 - \$152.00
 LARGE-CAP VALUE
 Energy
 Oil & Gas Complex

#### Valuation Analysis

Valuation Assumptions				
In Millions of USD (except for per share items)	5-year Projections			
Revenue CAGR %	3.2%			
Avg. EBIT Margin %	27.8%			
Avg. Cash Tax Rate %	25.0%			
Earnings Before Interest CAGR %	3.9%			
Earnings Per Share CAGR %	8.3%			
Free Cash Flow to the Firm CAGR %	11.0%			
Earnings before interest = Net operating profits less adjusted taxes	Long-term Projections			
Phase II> III FCFF CAGR %	3.3% (II) 3% (III)			
Cost of Equity %	10.8%			
After-tax Cost of Debt %	4.1%			
Discount Rate (WACC) %	10.0%			
Synthetic credit spread = 1.18%	Results			
Phase I Present Value	39,022			
Phase II Present Value	76,871			
Phase III Present Value	46,391			
Total Firm Value	162,284			
Net Balance Sheet Impact	-12,851			
Total Equity Value	149,433			
Diluted Shares Outstanding	1,205.7			
Fair Value per Share	\$124.00			

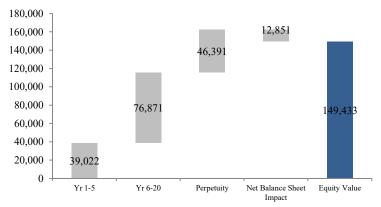
#### **DCF Valuation Summary**

We think ConocoPhillips is worth \$124 per share with a fair value range of \$96.00 - \$152.00. The margin of safety around our fair value estimate is driven by the firm's MEDIUM ValueRisk™ rating, which is derived from an evaluation of the historical volatility of key valuation drivers and a future assessment of them. Our near-term operating forecasts, including revenue and earnings, do not differ much from consensus estimates or management guidance. Our model reflects a compound annual revenue growth rate of 3.2% during the next five years, a pace that is lower than the firm's 3-year historical compound annual growth rate of 44.4%. Our model reflects a 5-year projected average operating margin of 27.8%, which is below ConocoPhillips's trailing 3-year average. Beyond year 5, we assume free cash flow will grow at an annual rate of 3.3% for the next 15 years and 3% in perpetuity. For ConocoPhillips, we use a 10% weighted average cost of capital to discount future free cash flows.

#### Valuation Breakdown

In the chart below, we show the build up to our estimate of total enterprise value for ConocoPhillips and the break down to the firm's total equity value, which we estimate to be about 149.43USD billion. The present value of the enterprise free cash flows generated during each phase of our model and the net balance sheet impact, which considers the firm's pension, is displayed. We divide total equity value by diluted shares outstanding to arrive at our \$124 per share fair value estimate.

3



In addition to the firm's cap structure, the net balance sheet impact considers the funded status of the firm's pension (-1649). In Millions of USD

Enterprise Free Cash Flow								
	Fiscal Year End:	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023				
Earnings before Interest		11,491	22,533	13,008				
+ Depreciation		7,218	7,593	8,323				
- Capital Expenditures		5,324	10,159	11,248				
- Change in Working Capital		1,530	-440	-483				
- Acquisitions		8,290	60	2,724				
Enterprise Free Cash Flow (FCFF	)	3,565	20,347	7,842				
In Millions of USD								

Our future forecasts for key valuation drivers result in a future free enterprise cash flow stream. Above, we show how we calculate enterprise free cash flow and the historical performance of the metric for ConocoPhillips. Over the next five years, we expect the firm's enterprise free cash flow to expand at about a 11% compound annual growth rate. During years 6 through 20, we expect the measure to grow at a 3.3% rate. Beyond year 20 (in perpetuity), we grow the firm's free cash flow at inflation (3%).

Source: Company Filings, Valuentum Projection

#### Company Metrics versus Peer and Industry Medians

Company Name	Valuentum Buying Index <sup>TM</sup>	Forward Price-to- Earnings	P/E on Est. Normal Diluted EPS	Price/Earnings-to- Growth (PEG), 5- year	Forward EV/EBITDA	EV/Est. Normal EBITDA	5-year Forward Earnings per Share CAGR	3-year Hist Avg ROIC, without goodwill	Dividend Yield %	Stock Price / Fair Value Estimate
ConocoPhillips	3	12.9	10.1	NMF	6.6	5.5	8.3%	25.9%	2.1%	90.0%
Chevron	6	11.9	11.2	NMF	6.1	5.8	-5.1%	7.6%	4.0%	92.1%
Enterprise Product Partne	3	10.4	10.7	NMF	9.8	9.4	-2.5%	14.1%	7.6%	87.4%
Exxon Mobil	3	11.0	10.5	NMF	5.7	5.5	-4.8%	13.5%	3.7%	94.8%
Schlumberger	3	19.8	14.9	1.8	12.4	9.7	12.3%	43.2%	1.9%	103.2%
Peer Median	3.0	11.4	10.9	1.8	8.0	7.6	-3.7%	13.8%	3.9%	93.5%
Industry Median	3.0	11.2	10.9	1.7	6.5	5.9	-5.0%	14.2%	3.6%	92.7%

View back of report for a full list of industry constituents covered by Valuentum. VBI: Valuentum's ranking for the attractiveness of this investment at the date of the report.



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

# Buying Index™

Value Rating

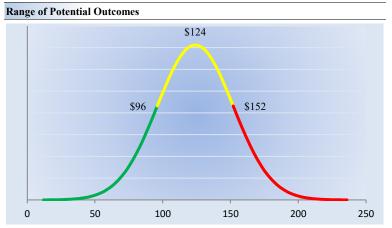
22.5%

Economic Castle
Attractive

Estimated Fair Value \$124.00 **Fair Value Range** \$96.00 - \$152.00

Investment Style LARGE-CAP VALUE Sector Energy Industry
Oil & Gas Complex

# **Margin of Safety Analysis**



Our discounted cash flow process values each firm on the basis of the present value of all future free cash flows. Although we estimate the firm's fair value at about \$124 per share, every company has a range of probable fair values that's created by the uncertainty of key valuation drivers (like future revenue or earnings, for example). After all, if the future were known with certainty, we wouldn't see much volatility in the markets as stocks would trade precisely at their known fair values. Our ValueRisk<sup>TM</sup> rating sets the margin of safety or the fair value range we assign to each stock. In the graph above, we show this probable range of fair values for ConocoPhillips. We think the firm is attractive below \$96 per share (the green line), but quite expensive above \$152 per share (the red line). The prices that fall along the yellow line, which includes our fair value estimate, represent a reasonable valuation for the firm, in our opinion.

## ValueRisk<sup>TM</sup> MEDIUM

3

ConocoPhillips receives a ValueRisk<sup>TM</sup> rating of MEDIUM based of the historical volatility of key drivers of economic value creation. The fair value range sets the margin of safety around our fair value estimate of the firm's shares.

Revenue Volatility44.1%Gross Margin Volatility48.4%Earnings (EBI) VolatilityGreater than 50%Cash Flow (FCFF) VolatilityGreater than 50%

The Fair Value Range sets the premium or discount on our estimate of the firm's fair value

#### **Upside and Downside Probabilities**

Fair Value Range

Probability (fair value < \$0)

Probability (fair value > 2x current share price)

Less than 0.1%

0.02%

We strive to answer a few questions that investors often ask: 1) What are the chances of a total loss of investment in this company? and 2) What is the chance that the company is really worth twice what I paid for it? The probability (fair value < 0) strives to answer the first question. It indicates the chance that the firm may encounter insolvency based on the characteristics of its cash flow stream, capital structure, and risk profile. The probability (fair value > 2x current share price) strives to answer the second question. It is our best estimate of whether investors are participating in a half-off sale by buying the company's shares at current prices.

#### **Future Path of Fair Value**

We estimate ConocoPhillips' fair value at this point in time to be about \$124 per share. As time passes, however, companies generate cash flow and pay out cash to shareholders in the form of dividends. The chart to the right compares the firm's current share price with the path of ConocoPhillips' expected equity value per share over the next three years, assuming our long-term projections prove accurate. The range between the resulting downside fair value and upside fair value in Year 3 represents our best estimate of the value of the firm's shares three years hence. This range of potential outcomes is also subject to change over time, should our views on the firm's future cash flow potential change. The expected fair value of \$159 per share in Year 3 represents our existing fair value per share of \$124 increased at an annual rate of the firm's cost of equity less its dividend yield. The upside and downside ranges are derived in the same way, but from the upper and lower bounds of our fair value estimate range.



The graph above shows the expected future fair value of the firm's shares relative to its current stock price.

# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

# Buying Index™

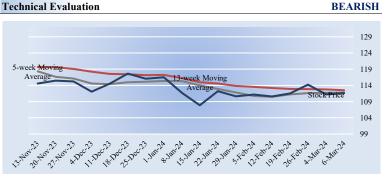
Value Rating

Economic Castle
Attractive

Estimated Fair Value \$124.00 **Fair Value Range** \$96.00 - \$152.00

Investment Style LARGE-CAP VALUE Sector Energy Industry
Oil & Gas Complex

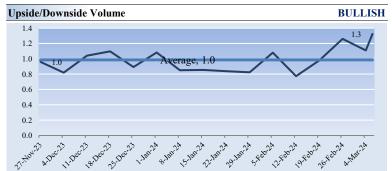
# **Technical Analysis**



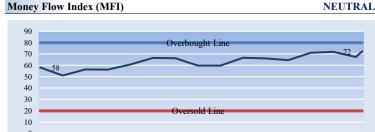
The firm's near-term moving average (5-week, grey line) and medium-term moving average (13-week, red line) are shown in the chart above. Typically, when a shorter-term moving average crosses a medium- or longer-term moving average from below, it represents a bullish signal. If the short-term moving average crosses from above, traders often view this as bearish. ConocoPhillips's 5-week moving average is below its 13-week measure, indicating a BEARISH trend. This activity further confirms the company's 30-week downtrend.



In the chart above, we pinpoint the heaviest accumulation or distribution week of the firm, determined by the week with the highest trading volume during the past 30 weeks. A heavy accumulation (buying) or distribution (selling) week often determines the future near-term direction of the firm's share price, as money managers continue to move in or out of the stock in the days and weeks ahead driving the stock up or down, respectively. For ConocoPhillips, the week with the highest trading volume out of the last 30 weeks was a week of heavy buying, or accumulation (green bar). Such market activity could indicate a reversal of a downtrend or further confirmation of the firm's uptrend.



The level and trend of the Upside/Downside (U/D) volume ratio reveals whether institutional participation has been bullish or bearish as of late. ConocoPhillips' U/D volume ratio of 1.3 is not only greater than 1 but also is better than its trailing average, indicating BULLISH institutional interest during the past several weeks.



3

The Money Flow Index (MFI) is an oscillator that uses price and volume to measure buying and selling pressure. Chartists often look for overbought (above 80) and oversold (below 20) levels to warn of unsustainable near-term price extremes. ConocoPhillips' MFI of 72 is neutral, suggesting the firm's stock is neither overbought nor oversold at this time. However, a score over 50 tends to favor bulls. The MFI can also be used to gauge the strength or weakness of a firm's price trend. In ConocoPhillips' case, its stock has generally declined during the past several weeks, but money flow or momentum has improved, a bullish divergence. We'd keep a close watch for improving technicals.

#### Relative Price Strength WEAK

A firm's relative price strength can be assessed over any number of time horizons. We show the firm's performance over the past 5 weeks, 13 weeks, and 30 weeks below. In arriving at our relative strength rating for each company, we assess the past 13 weeks, which includes the market's reaction to the firm's most recently reported quarter, where applicable, and other more recent economic events. During the past 13 weeks, ConocoPhillips' shares returned -3.6%, while the market benchmark returned 10.4%. We think ConocoPhillips' 13-week relative price performance is WEAK.

5-week Company Performance	0.3%
5-week Market Benchmark Performance	5.1%
5-week Relative Performance vs. Market Benchmark	-4.8%
13-week Company Performance	-3.6%
13-week Market Benchmark Performance	10.4%
13-week Relative Performance vs. Market Benchmark	-14.0%
30-week Company Performance	-5.5%
30-week Market Benchmark Performance	12.2%
30-week Relative Performance vs. Market Benchmark	-17.7%

Timeliness Matrix <sup>TM</sup> Equity Valuation						
Relative Strength	Overvalued	Fairly Valued Undervalu				
Strong						
Neutral						
Weak						

Firms that are undervalued and currently showing near-term pricing strength score near the top right of the matrix

Companies that are undervalued and showing near-term relative price strength could represent timely buys, as the stock may be attractive to both value and momentum investors. A cross section of the firm's equity valuation and its relative share price strength is shown in the matrix above. We tend to prefer undervalued stocks that have strong pricing momentum, also called Valuentum stocks.



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

WALUENTUM . Buying Index™

3

Value Rating

----- Projected -----



Economic Castle **Estimated Fair Value Investment Style** Fair Value Range Sector Industry \$96.00 - \$152.00 LARGE-CAP VALUE Energy Attractive \$124.00 Oil & Gas Complex

----- Historical -----

#### **Pro Forma Income Statement**

T MOTH CHICK ( C )	THISTOTICAL		170)0	.c.ca	
In Millions of USD (except for per share items)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24	Dec-25
Total Revenue	46,660	80,575	57,861	58,092	60,126
Cost of Goods Sold	23,724	40,977	29,668	31,505	31,715
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	503	588	732	777	783
Other Operating Expenses	9,377	11,687	11,031	11,714	11,792
Operating Income	13,056	27,323	16,430	14,096	15,836
Unusual items	0	0	0	0	0
Operating Income, including unusual items	13,056	27,323	16,430	14,096	15,836
Interest Expense	(884)	(805)	(780)	(780)	(780)
Other Non-operating Income	540	1,710	638	412	412
Pre-tax Income	12,712	28,228	16,288	13,728	15,468
Income Taxes	4,633	9,548	5,331	3,432	3,867
Income after tax	8,079	18,680	10,957	10,296	11,601
Minority Interest and Equity Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income, excluding extra items	8,079	18,680	10,957	10,296	11,601
Income Available to Common, excluding extra items	8,060	18,620	10,922	10,296	11,601
Diluted Earnings per Share, excluding extra items	6.07	14.57	9.06	8.63	9.82
Diluted Weighted Shares Outstanding	1,328.2	1,278.2	1,205.7	1,193.6	1,181.7

Source: Company Filings, Xignite, Valuentum Projections, Seeking Alpha

Note: Pro forma data in discounted cash-flow valuation may reflect significant adjustments from GAAP accounting data, including cash (not effective) tax rates and other analytical adjustments on a backward-looking and forward-looking basis. No individual data, by itself, found in this report should be used to make any investment decision.



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

Buying Index<sup>TM</sup>

Value Rating



Economic Castle<br/>AttractiveEstimated Fair Value<br/>\$124.00Fair Value Range<br/>\$96.00 - \$152.00Investment Style<br/>LARGE-CAP VALUESector<br/>EnergyIndustry<br/>Oil & Gas Complex

----- Historical -----

## **Pro Forma Balance Sheet**

In Millians of USD (except for nor share itams)

----- Projected -----

3

In Millions of USD (except for per share items)					
	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24	Dec-25
Assets					
Total Cash (including marketable securities)	6,591	9,243	6,606	10,402	15,225
Inventory	1,208	1,219	1,398	1,500	1,526
Accounts Receivable	6,670	7,088	5,474	5,627	5,960
Other Current Assets	1,581	1,199	852	852	852
Total Current Assets	16,050	18,749	14,330	18,381	23,563
Gross Fixed Assets	130,295	132,032	145,096	156,794	168,726
(Accumulated Depreciation)	(64,735)	(66,630)	(74,361)	(82,203)	(90,621)
Net Property, Plant, and Equipment	65,560	65,402	70,735	74,590	78,105
Goodwill, Net	0	0	0	0	0
Intangibles, Net	0	0	0	0	0
Other Long-term Assets	9,051	9,678	10,859	10,859	10,859
Total Assets	90,661	93,829	95,924	103,831	112,527
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	5,025	6,163	5,083	5,465	5,538
Other Current Liabilities	6,076	6,551	4,139	3,983	4,216
Current Portion of Long-term Debt	920	133	783	783	783
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	12,021	12,847	10,005	10,231	10,537
Long-term Debt	17,753	15,190	17,025	17,025	17,025
Other Long-term Liabilities	15,481	17,789	19,615	19,615	19,615
Total Liabilities	45,255	45,826	46,645	46,871	47,177
Preferred Stock	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholders' Equity					
Common Stock and Additional Paid in Capital	60.602	61,163	61,324	61,324	61.324
Retained Earnings	40,674	53,029	59,268	66,794	75,517
Other Equity	(55,870)	(66,189)	(71,313)	(71,159)	(71,491)
Total Shareholders' Equity	45,406	48,003	49,279	56,959	65,349
- ·					
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	90,661	93,829	95,924	103,831	112,527

ce: Company Filings, Xignite, Valuentum Projections, Seeking Alpha

Note: Pro forma data in discounted cash-flow valuation may reflect significant adjustments from GAAP accounting data, including cash (not effective) tax rates and other analytical adjustments on a backward-looking and forward-looking basis. No individual data, by itself, found in this report should be used to make any investment decision.



Data as of 6-Mar-2024 Valuentum Retail Equity Research (10=best)

# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

Buying Index™

3

Value Rating

----- Projected -----



Estimated Fair Value **Economic Castle** Fair Value Range **Investment Style** Sector Industry \$96.00 - \$152.00 LARGE-CAP VALUE Energy Attractive \$124.00 Oil & Gas Complex

----- Historical -----

# **Pro Forma Cash Flow Statement**

In Millions of USD (except for per share items)					
	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24	Dec-25
Cash from Operations					
Net Income	8,079	18,680	10,957	10,296	11,601
Depreciation and Amortization	7,218	7,593	8,323	7,842	8,418
Deferred Income Taxes	0	0	0	0	0
Operating Gains Or Losses	1,699	2,041	685	1,500	1,000
Changes in Working Capital	0	0	0	(29)	(53)
Cash Flow from Operations	16,996	28,314	19,965	19,609	20,966
Cash from Investing					
Purchase of Property, Plant, Equipment	(5,324)	(10,159)	(11,248)	(11,698)	(11,932)
Other Investing Cash Flows	(3,220)	1,418	(752)	0	0
Cash Flow from Investing	(8,544)	(8,741)	(12,000)	(11,698)	(11,932)
Cash from Financing					
Issuance (Retirement) of Stock	(3,478)	(8,908)	(5,400)	(1,346)	(1,332)
Issuance (Retirement) of Debt	(505)	(3,370)	2,408	0	0
Dividends Paid	(2,359)	(5,726)	(5,583)	(2,769)	(2,879)
Other Financing Cash Flows	7	(49)	(86)	0	0
Cash Flow from Financing	(6,335)	(18,053)	(8,661)	(4,115)	(4,211)
Foreign Exchange	(34)	(224)	(99)	0	0
Net Change in Cash	2,083	1,296	(795)	3,796	4,823

ce: Company Filings, Xignite, Valuentum Projections, Seeking Alpha

Note: Pro forma data in discounted cash-flow valuation may reflect significant adjustments from GAAP accounting data, including cash (not effective) tax rates and other analytical adjustments on a backward-looking and forward-looking basis. No individual data, by itself, found in this report should be used to make any investment decision.



# ConocoPhillips COP FAIRLY VALUED

# Buying Index™

Value Rating



Economic Castle
Attractive

Estimated Fair Value \$124.00 **Fair Value Range** \$96.00 - \$152.00

Investment Style LARGE-CAP VALUE Sector Energy

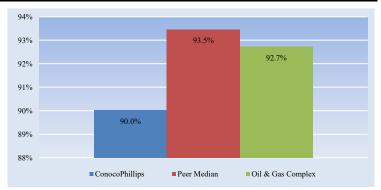
3

Industry
Oil & Gas Complex

## Oil & Gas Complex

#### Oil & Gas Complex FAIRLY VALUED

We think the Oil & Gas Complex industry is fairly valued at this time. The industry's market cap is trading between 80% and 120% of our estimate of its fair value based on our DCF process. Although we use a firm-specific ValueRisk™ measure to determine whether a firm is undervalued or overvalued based on our DCF process, we consider an industry to be undervalued if it is trading below 80% of our estimate of its fair value and overvalued if it is trading at over 120% of our estimate of its fair value. We think these fair value ranges are appropriate given the diversification benefits of holding a basket of stocks. Although there may be individual opportunities within the Oil & Gas Complex industry, we don't find the industry as a whole attractive based solely on valuation.



The above bar chart reveals the price/fair value of the company, its peers, and the industry as a whole.

Shaded blue denotes that the firm has earned the highest rating for that respective category.

Market Cap (USD-

Company Name	Ticker	mil)	Investment Style	DCF Valuation	Relative Valuation	ValueCreation™	ValueRisk™	ValueTrend™	Technicals	Relative Strength
Baker Hughes	BKR	34,328	LARGE-CAP BLEND	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL	WEAK
BP	BP	111,807	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Chevron	CVX	292,940	MEGA-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	POOR	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	VERY BULLISH	WEAK
ConocoPhillips	COP	134,592	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	NEGATIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Coterra Energy	CTRA	21,116	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	GOOD	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Enbridge	ENB	74,567	LARGE-CAP CORE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	GOOD	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BULLISH	STRONG
Energy Transfer	ET	44,352	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	GOOD	HIGH	NEGATIVE	BULLISH	WEAK
Enterprise Product Partners	EPD	57,636	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	GOOD	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
EOG Resources	EOG	72,964	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Exxon Mobil	XOM	428,544	MEGA-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	GOOD	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Halliburton	HAL	33,224	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	LOW	NEGATIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Kinder Morgan	KMI	40,225	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	UNATTRACTIVE	GOOD	MEDIUM	NEGATIVE	BULLISH	WEAK
Occidental Petroleum	OXY	56,583	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	UNATTRACTIVE	POOR	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Phillips 66	PSX	63,504	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BULLISH	STRONG
Pioneer Natural Resources	PXD	58,346	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Royal Dutch Shell	SHEL	245,880	MEGA-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	GOOD	MEDIUM	POSITIVE	VERY BULLISH	WEAK
Schlumberger	SLB	77,138	LARGE-CAP CORE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	MEDIUM	NEGATIVE	BEARISH	WEAK
Total	TTE	174,459	LARGE-CAP VALUE	FAIRLY VALUED	NEUTRAL	EXCELLENT	LOW	POSITIVE	BULLISH	WEAK

# Valuentum's Full Page Stock Report

**DCF Valuation** 

Shows whether the firm is undervalued, fairly valued, or overvalued based on our DCF process and by how much.

### Valuentum Buying Index (VBI)

Provides insight into the timeliness of an investment opportunity. We rank firms from 1 to 10 based on rigorous fiancial, valuation, and technical analysis. A 10 represents one of our top picks.



#### Valuentum Value Rating (VVR)

Indicates whether we think a firm is undervalued, fairly valued, or overvalued on the basis of our DCF process.



#### Investment Considerations

Evaluates firms on 12 different measures, from the firm's growth and cash flow generation to the stock's money flow index and upside/downside volume. We reveal technical support and resistance levels.

**Business Quality** 

for shareholders

operations.

compared wth the

underlying risk of its

**Investment Highlights** 

analysis of its financial

and technical strengths

**Relative Valuation** 

Comparison of the

peers.

firm's PE, PEG, and

Price/FV ratios versus

Our opinion of the

and weaknesses.

company, including

Summary of the firm's

ability to create value

#### 30-week Price and **Volume Action**

Displays the last accumulation or distribution week of the stock and historical price and volume action.

**Company Vitals** 

industry and other

relevant company

Normalized EPS

Estimation of the

firm's normalized

earnings measures

valuation mutliples.

corresponding

and EBITDA

and the

Shows sector.

information.

Visit us at www.valuentum.com Valuentum Retail Equity Research Apple AAPL UNDERVALUED 3 Buying Index™ Value Rating Economic Castle Highest Rated Estimated Fair Value Investment Style MEGA-CAP VALUE Investment Consideration Apple is as much a brand as it is one of the most innovative companies

Stock Chart (weekly) ValueCreation<sup>TM</sup> ValueRisk<sup>TM</sup> 1.800.000.000 ValueTrend<sup>TM</sup> 116.00 Cash Flow Generation 111 1,200,000,000 Technical Evaluatio 800,000,000 Relative Strength Company Vitals

Apple is as much a brand as it is one of the world's

most innovative companies. The firm is no longer

known for its iPods and personal computers, as the

proliferation of the iPhone over the past several years

has been a sight to behold. The company's execution

remains top notch, and we enter it it to continue to out innovative products in technology, its most recent many product launch.

UNDERVALUED Relative Valuation UNATTRACTIVE EXCELLENT LOW POSITIVE STRONG MODEST BULLISH STRONG Money Flow Index (MFI) NEUTRAL Upside/Downside Volume (U/D) BULLISH Near-term Technical Support, 10-week MA 112.00 ited Cash Flow; MFI, U/D = Please see glos

ansimess Saumis				
/alueRisk <sup>TM</sup>	Very Poor	Poor	Good	Excellent
Low				
Medium				
High				
Very High				
irms that generate economic	profits with little oper	eating variability scor	e near the top rigi	at of the matrix.
Relative Valuation	K	Forward P/E	PEG	Price / FV
		220	272.00	00.20/

· Criticism over the firm's dependence on sales of the	Firms that generate economic profits with little ope	postine specialistic score	a near the top riv		
iPhone gained momentum in fiscal 2016, as the second quarter of the fiscal year marked the first	Relative Valuatio	Forward P/E	PEG		
quarterly sales decline in 13 years. High levels of	BlackBerry	-53.0	NMF		
demand for the iPhone 7 and multiple safety issues at	Cray	49.4	0.9		
rival Samsung have eased concerns for the time being.	Hewlett-Packard	9.0	NMF		
· Apple's rollout of future iterations of the iPhone	IBM	11.7	2.6		
should propel its fundamentals higher. Though we're	Peer Median	10.4	1.8		
not embedding another blockbuster hit in our model,	Apple	14.0	2.0		
we wouldn't be surprised if Apple delivers another one	Price / FV = Current Stor vided by Estimated Fair Value				
from its pipeline. Perhaps only a dream five years ago, the popularity of the new Apple Watch is now worth	Financial Summar	Actual			
watching, though it has yet to catch fire in the eyes of	Fiscal Year End:	Sep-14	Sep-1		

I cet teleditiit	10.4	E 140	001010
Apple	14.0	2.0	79.3%
Price / FV = Current Stor vided by I	Estimated Fair Val	lue	
Financial Summar	Actu	Projected	
Fiscal Year End:	Sep-14	Sep-15	Sep-16
Revenue	182,795	233,715	215,485
Revenue, YoY%	7.0%	27.9%	-7.8%
Operating Income	52,503	71,230	63,313
Operating Margin %	28.7%	30.5%	29.4%
Net Income	39,510	53,394	48,329
Net Income Margin %	21.6%	22.8%	22.4%
Diluted EPS	6.45	9.22	8.34
Diluted EPS, YoY %	13.6%	42.8%	-9.5%
Free Cash Flow (CFO-capex)	49,900	69,778	47,138
Free Cash Flow Margin %	27.3%	29.9%	21.9%

#### · Investors should pay close attention to the firm's Return on Equity 36.8% gross margin, which is expected to fall to 37.5%-38% in fiscal 2016 from 40% in fiscal 2015. Pricing and 19.3% Return on Assets ROIC, with goodwill cost pressures may be unavoidable. A slight step back ROIC, without goodwill ROIC = Return on Invested Capital; N

\$675,472

180.295

1.2%

2.28

7.3%

9.55

12.2

89.47 - 118.69

Information Technology

Leverage, Coverage, and Liquidity Total Debt 64,462 Net Debt -141.204 Total Debt/EBITDA 0.8 Net Debt/EBITDA EBITDA/Interest Current Ratio Quick Ratio

Market Cap (USD)

Valuentum Sector

5-week Return

13-week Return

30-week Return

Dividend Yield %

Dividends per Share

Est. Normal Diluted EPS

Est. Normal EBITDA

Forward EV/EBITDA

Returns Summary

EV/Est. Normal EBITDA

Forward Dividend Payout Ratio

P/E on Est. Normal Diluted EPS

Forward Revenue Growth (5-yr)

Forward EPS Growth (5-yr)
NMF = Not Meaningful: Est. = Estimated: FY = Fiscal Year

Avg Weekly Vol (30 wks)

30-week Range (USD)

fiscal 2016 should not be a major conce vestors given Apple's massive cash position and impressive track record

· Apple's cash hoard is more than some of the market capitalizations of the largest companies in the S&P 500. The company retains tremendous flexibility in this regard, and we continue to expect dividend increases and share buybacks.

Structure of the Computer Hardware Industry The computer hardware space, which spans the personal computer to the iPhone and iPad, is highly competitive. The indu is characterized by frequent product introductions and rapid technological advances that can cause dramatic market share shifts. Though some firms benefit from a strong brand, participants often price aggressively, pressuring margins. Firms are also subject to potential component shortages/disruptions, which can punish perform some, and services revenue has become critical for others. We're neutral on the space

VALUENTUM

77.3%

75.9%

#### **Returns Summary**

3-year averages of the firm's key return measures, including return on invested capital, with and without goodwill.



Page 1

#### Leverage, Coverage, and Liquidity

A snapshot of the company's financial health.



#### **Financial Summary**

A summary of the proforma financial statements found in the extended report.

# **About Valuentum**

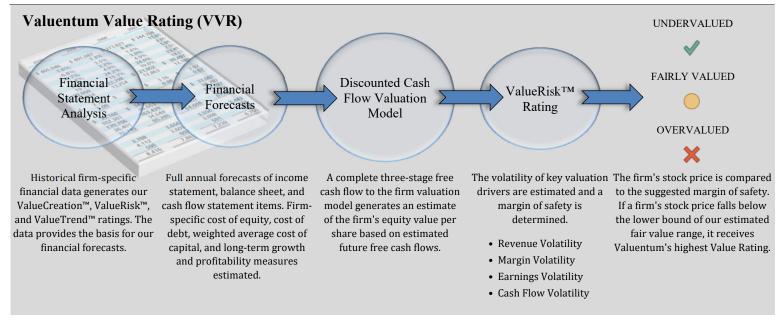
@Valuentum, we strive to stand out from the crowd. Most investment research publishers fall into a few camps, whether it be value, growth, income, momentum, chartist or some variant of the aforementioned. We think each in its own right holds merit, but we think the combination of these approaches can be even more powerful. After all, stock price movements aren't just driven by investors of the value or growth variety, but by all market participants. Therefore, we look at stocks from a variety of investment perspectives in order to better understand and identify ideas. We want to provide relevant information.

The core of our process is grounded in rigorous discounted cash flow analysis and incorporates the concept of a margin of safety. We offer a fair value estimate for each company and provide a relative valuation assessment in the context of a company's industry and closest peers. A cross section of our ValueCreation<sup>TM</sup> and ValueRisk<sup>TM</sup> ratings provides a financial assessment of a company's business quality, while our ValueTrend<sup>TM</sup> rating offers insight into the trajectory of a firm's economic profit creation. The Economic Castle rating measures the magnitude of future economic value generation, and the Dividend Cushion ratio assesses the financial capacity of a company to keep raising its dividend.

Our analysis doesn't stop there. We also offer a technical evaluation of the stock as well as other momentum indicators. We not only want to reveal to readers which firms may be undervalued, in our view, but we also want to provide readers with information to help them assess entry and exit points. Most research publishers focus on arriving at a target price or fair value estimate, but may fall short of providing a technical assessment to bolster buy and sell disciplines. We strive to go the distance and provide readers with answers--not half the story.

An explanation of our approach would not be complete if we didn't describe our ideal stock idea. We're looking for companies that are undervalued--both on a DCF basis and versus peers--have strong growth potential, have a solid track record of creating economic profits for shareholders with reasonable risk, are strong cash flow generators, have manageable financial leverage, and are currently showing bullish technical and momentum indicators. For dividend growth ideas, we look for companies that have both the capacity and willingness to keep raising the dividend.

Can such stock ideas exist? Subscribe to Valuentum to receive our best investment ideas and analysis on hundreds of stocks, dividends, ETFs and more.



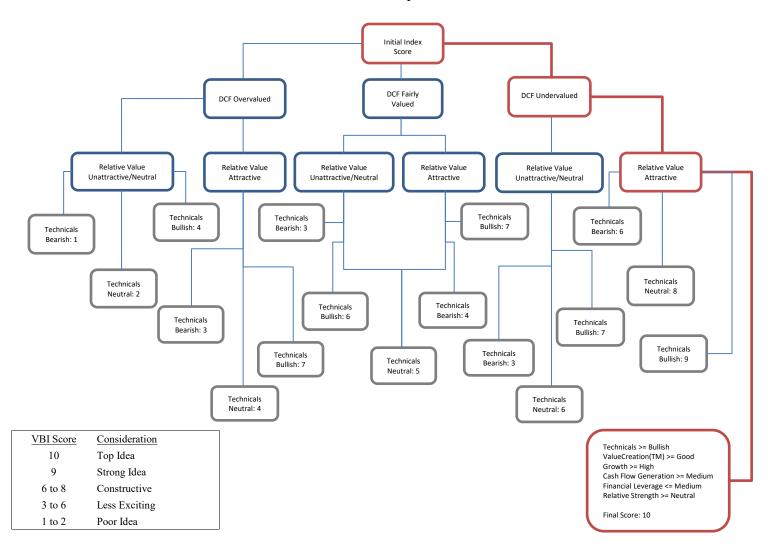
# Methodology for Picking Stocks - Valuentum Buying Index<sup>TM</sup> (VBI)

@ Valuentum, we like to look at companies from a number of different perspectives. The Valuentum Buying Index (VBI) combines rigorous financial and valuation analysis with an evaluation of a stock's technicals to derive a rating between 1 and 10 for each company. The VBI places considerable emphasis on a company's discounted cash-flow (DCF) valuation, its relative valuation versus peers (both forward PE and PEG ratios), and its technicals in order to help readers assess entry and exit points on the most interesting ideas.

Let's follow the red line on the flow chart below to see how a company can score a 10, the best mark on the index. First, the company would need to be 'undervalued' on a DCF basis and 'attractive' on a relative value basis. The stock would also have to be exhibiting 'bullish' technicals. The firm would need a ValueCreation<sup>TM</sup> rating of 'good' or 'excellent', exhibit 'high' or 'aggressive' growth prospects, and generate at least a 'medium' or 'neutral' assessment for cash flow generation, financial leverage, and relative price strength.

This is a tall order for any company. Stocks that don't make the cut for a 10 are ranked accordingly, with the least attractive stocks, in our opinion, garnering a rating of 1. Most of our coverage universe registers ratings between 3 and 7, but at any given time there could be large number of companies garnering either very high or very low scores, especially at market lows or tops, respectively.

The Best Ideas Newsletter portfolio puts the VBI into practice.



# Glossary

**Estimated Fair Value.** This measure is our opinion of the fair equity value per share of the company. If our forecasts prove accurate, which may not always be the case, we may expect a firm's stock price to converge to this value within the next 3 years.

Fair Value Range. The fair value range represents an upper bound and lower bound, between which we would consider the firm to be fairly valued. The range considers our estimate of the firm's fair value and the margin of safety suggested by the volatility of key valuation drivers, including revenue, gross margin, earnings before interest, and enterprise free cash flow (the determinants behind our ValueRisk<sup>TM</sup> rating).

**DCF Valuation.** We opine on the firm's valuation based on our DCF process. Firms that are trading with an appropriate discount to our fair value estimate receive an UNDERVALUED rating. Firms that are trading within our fair value range receive a FAIRLY VALUED rating, while firms that are trading above the upper bound of our fair value range receive an OVERVALUED rating.

Relative Value. We compare the firm's forward price-to earnings (PE) ratio and its price/earnings-to-growth (PEG) ratio to that of its peers. If both measures fall below the peer median, the firm receives an ATTRACTIVE rating. If both are above the peer median, the firm receives an UNATTRACTIVE rating. Any other combination results in a NEUTRAL rating.

ValueCreation™. This is a proprietary Valuentum measure. ValueCreation™ indicates the firm's historical track record in creating economic value for shareholders, taking the average difference between ROIC (without goodwill) and the firm's estimated WACC during the past three years. The firm's performance is measured along the scale of EXCELLENT, GOOD, POOR, and VERY POOR. Those firms with EXCELLENT ratings have a demonstrated track record of creating economic value, while those that register a VERY POOR mark have been destroying economic value.

ValueRisk™. This is a proprietary Valuentum measure. ValueRisk™ indicates the historical volatility of key valuation drivers, including revenue, gross margin, earnings before interest, and enterprise free cash flow. The standard deviation of each measure is calculated and scaled against last year's measure to arrive at a percentage deviation for each item. These percentage deviations are weighted equally to arrive at the corresponding fair value range for each stock, measured in percentage terms. The firm's performance is measured along the scale of LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH, and VERY HIGH. The ValueRisk™ rating for each firm also determines the fundamental beta of each firm along the following scale: LOW (0.85), MEDIUM (1), HIGH (1.15), VERY HIGH (1.3).

ValueTrend™. This is a proprietary Valuentum measure. ValueTrend™ indicates the trajectory of the firm's return on invested capital (ROIC). Firms that earned an ROIC last year that was greater than the 3-year average of the measure earn a POSITIVE rating. Firms that earned an ROIC last year that was less than the 3-year average of the measure earn a NEGATIVE rating.

Cash Flow Generation. Firms' cash flow generation capacity are measured along the scale of STRONG, MEDIUM, and WEAK. A firm with a 3-year historical free cash flow margin (free cash flow divided by sales) greater than 5% receives a STRONG rating, while firms earning less than 1% of sales as free cash flow receive a WEAK rating.

**Financial Leverage.** Based on the firm's normalized debt-to-EBITDA metric, we rank firms on the following scale: LOW, MEDIUM, and HIGH. Companies with a normalized debt-to-EBITDA ratio below 1.5 receive a LOW score, while those with a measure above 3 receive a HIGH score.

**Upside/Downside Volume.** Heavy volume on up days and lower volume on down days suggests that institutions are heavily participating in a stock's upward advance. We use the trailing 14-week average of upside and downside volume to calculate an informative ratio. We rank each firm's U/D volume ratio along the following scale: BULLISH, IMPROVING, DETERIORATING, and BEARISH.

Investment Style. Valuentum uses its own proprietary stock-classification system. Nano-cap: Less than \$50 million; Micro-cap: Between \$50 million and \$200 million; Small-cap: Between \$200 million and \$2 billion; Mid-cap: Between \$2 billion and \$10 billion; Large-cap: Between \$10 billion and \$200 billion; Mega-cap: Over \$200 billion. Blend: Firm's that we think are undervalued and exhibit high growth prospects (growth in excess of three times the rate of assumed inflation). Value: Firm's that we believe are undervalued, but do not exhibit high growth prospects. Growth: Firms that are not undervalued, in our opinion, but exhibit high growth prospects. Core: Firms that are neither undervalued nor exhibit high growth prospects.

Company Vitals. In this section, we list key financial information and the sector and industry that Valuentum assigns to the stock. The P/E-Growth (5-yr), or PEG ratio, divides the current share price by last year's earnings (EPS) and then divides that quotient by our estimate of the firm's 5-year EPS growth rate. The estimated normalized diluted EPS and estimated normalized EBITDA represent the five-year forward average of these measures used in our discounted cash flow model. The P/E on estimated normalized EPS divides the current share price by estimated normalized diluted EPS. The EV/estimated normalized EBITDA considers the current enterprise value of the company and divides it by estimated normalized EBITDA. EV is defined as the firm's market capitalization plus total debt, minority interest, preferred stock less cash and cash equivalents.

Business Quality Matrix. We compare the firm's ValueCreation™ and ValueRisk™ ratings. The box is an easy way for investors to quickly assess the business quality of a company. Firms that generate economic profits with little operating variability score near the top right of the matrix.

**Timeliness Matrix.** We compare the company's recent stock performance relative to the market benchmark with our assessment of its valuation. Firms that are experiencing near-term stock price outperformance and are undervalued by our estimate may represent timely buys.

Range of Potential Outcomes. The firm's margin of safety is shown in the graphic of a normal distribution. We consider a firm to be undervalued if its stock price falls along the green line and overvalued if the stock price falls along the red line. We consider the firm to be fairly valued if its stock price falls along the yellow line.

**Return on Invested Capital.** At Valuentum, we place considerable emphasis on return on invested capital (both with and without goodwill). The measure focuses on the return (earnings) the company is generating on its operating assets and is superior to return on equity and return on assets, which can be skewed by a firm's leverage or excess cash balance, respectively.

**Technical Evaluation.** We evaluate a firm's near-term and medium-term moving averages and money flow index (MFI) to assign each firm a rating along the following scale: VERY BULLISH, BULLISH, NEUTRAL, BEARISH, and VERY BEARISH.

Stock Price Relative Strength. We assess the perfomance of the company's stock during the past quarter, 13 weeks, relative to an ETF that mirrors the aggregate performance of constituents of the stock market. Firms are measured along the scale of STRONG, NEUTRAL, and WEAK. Companies that have outperformed the market index by more than 2.5% during this 13-week period receive a STRONG rating, while firms that trailed the market index by more than 2.5% during this 13-week period receive a WEAK rating.

Money Flow Index (MFI). The MFI is a technical indicator that measures buying and selling pressure based on both price and volume. Traders typically use this measure to identify potential reversals with overbought and oversold levels. We use a 14-week measure to rank firms along the following scale: EXTREMELY OVERBOUGHT (>90), OVERBOUGHT (80-90), NEUTRAL (20-80), OVERSOLD (10-20), EXTREMELY OVERSOLD (0-10).



# Disclosures, Disclaimers & Additional Sources

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COP Rating History	Price	Fair Value	VBI
6-Mar-24	\$111.63	\$124.00	3
8-Dec-23	\$112.07	\$128.00	3
6-Sep-23	\$122.53	\$122.00	6
27-Feb-23	\$104.93	\$128.00	3
14-Oct-22	\$117.96	\$136.00	6
20-May-22	\$105.02	\$98.00	6
14-Jan-22	\$86.74	\$92.00	6
7-May-21	\$57.10	\$50.00	6
23-Oct-20	\$32.50	\$33.00	3
20-Mar-20	\$26.84	\$32.00	5
3-Dec-19	\$59.36	\$58.00	6
8-Oct-19	\$54.56	\$67.00	3
8-Apr-19	\$66.37	\$67.00	3
17-Dec-18	\$61.28	\$64.00	3

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