

Marathon Petroleum (MPC)

\$26.30 (As of 04/14/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$29.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 04/13/20)

Prior Recommendation: Underperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: B

Growth: B

Momentum: F

Summary

Marathon Petroleum's 2018 acquisition with Andeavor bodes well for its future growth and revenue prospects. Apart from making Marathon Petroleum the top independent refiner in the U.S., the \$23.3 billion deal has created a nationwide refining giant in terms of geographic foothold with an enviable retail and marketing portfolio. Recently, the Ohio-based company gave investors another reason to cheer after it announced an increase to its dividend payout. However, the refiner is experiencing an upswing in product cost that is reflected in higher total expenditures, which may dent its overall profits in the near-term. Further, Marathon Petroleum is also grappling with weak refined products demand on account of the worldwide coronavirus-induced lockdown. As such, the stock warrants a cautious stance from the investors at the moment.

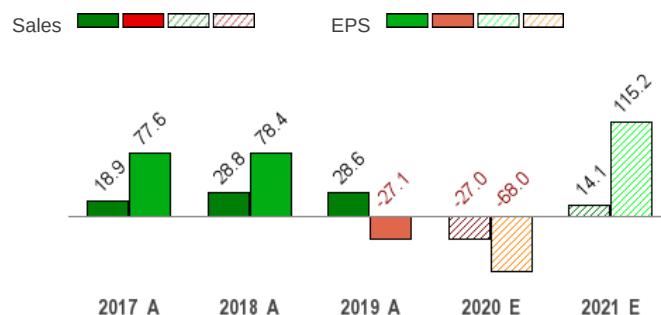
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$69.65 - \$15.26
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	13,430,346
Market Cap	\$17.1 B
YTD Price Change	-56.4%
Beta	2.07
Dividend / Div Yld	\$2.32 / 8.8%
Industry	Oil and Gas - Refining and Marketing
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 36% (163 out of 253)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	83.5%
Last Sales Surprise	5.7%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	-72.4%
Expected Report Date	05/05/2020
Earnings ESP	-670.4%
P/E TTM	5.5
P/E F1	16.7
PEG F1	1.9
P/S TTM	0.1

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	26,730 E	27,671 E	31,822 E	30,935 E	104,042 E
2020	21,197 E	18,651 E	24,562 E	23,745 E	91,156 E
2019	28,615 A	33,688 A	31,202 A	31,375 A	124,880 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	\$0.22 E	\$1.43 E	\$1.65 E	\$0.62 E	\$3.40 E
2020	-\$0.01 E	\$0.13 E	\$0.82 E	\$0.22 E	\$1.58 E
2019	-\$0.09 A	\$1.73 A	\$1.63 A	\$1.56 A	\$4.94 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 04/14/2020. The reports text is as of 04/15/2020.

Overview

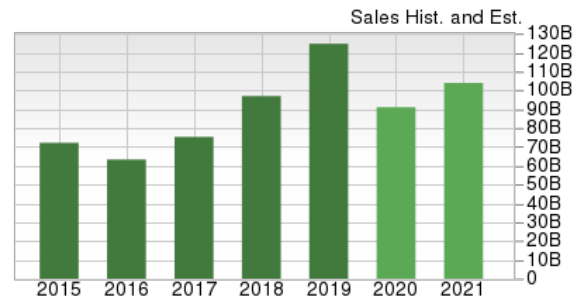
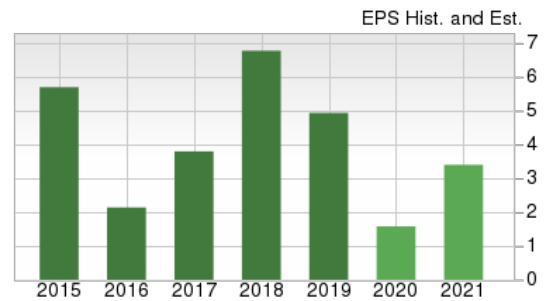
Findlay, OH-based Marathon Petroleum Corporation is a leading independent refiner, transporter and marketer of petroleum products. The company, in its current form, came into existence following the 2011 spin-off of Houston, TX-based Marathon Oil Corporation's refining/sales business into a separate, independent and publicly-traded entity. In October 2018, Marathon Oil completed the acquisition of its rival Andeavor in a \$23.3 billion deal, thereby becoming the nationwide largest refining company by market capitalization. The deal also made the company the largest U.S. refiner and the fifth largest in the world by capacity.

Marathon Petroleum operates in three segments: Refining and Marketing, Retail, and Pipeline Transportation.

Refining and Marketing: The unit's operations include 16 refineries, located in the West Coast, Gulf Coast and the Mid-Continent regions of the United States, having a combined crude processing capacity of more than 3 million barrels per day. Additionally, Marathon Petroleum – through its marketing organization – sells transportation fuels, asphalt and specialty products throughout the country to support commercial, industrial and retail operations. This segment contributed 31% of the company's 2019 earnings.

Retail: Marathon Petroleum has a retail footprint in Enon, OH, known as Speedway LLC, which is the second largest chain of company-owned and -operated gasoline and convenience stations in the United States. The retail segment consists of approximately 3,923 stores in the United States. The unit also includes contribution from the acquired retail assets of Andeavor. The 'Retail' segment contributed around 21% of the company's total earnings in 2019.

Midstream: This unit mainly reflects Marathon Petroleum's general partner and majority limited partner interests in MPLX LP and Andeavor Logistics LP - publicly-traded master limited partnerships that own and operate gathering and processing assets along with crude transportation and logistics infrastructure. As of Dec 31, Marathon Petroleum owned 63.6% each of MPLX's and ANDX's common units. The 'Midstream' segment contributed around 48% of the company's 2019 earnings.



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ Marathon Petroleum's \$23.3 billion acquisition of Andeavor has integrated the premier assets of both the companies, bolstering the scale and leadership position of the combined entity in the United States. As it is, Marathon Petroleum's access to lower cost crude in the Permian, Bakken, and Canada helps it to benefit from the large differentials.
- ▲ Marathon Petroleum's diversified portfolio of refining, retail and midstream operations bode well, somewhat reducing its exposure to volatile commodity price fluctuations. While the company's refining profitability continue to be adversely affected amid lowering crack spreads, Marathon Petroleum's midstream arm MPLX did provide the necessary cushion. MPLX's robust portfolio of projects in the Permian, Marcellus and STACK shale plays offers significant growth opportunities along with fee-based stable revenue stream which is reflected in the parent's company overall results.
- ▲ Marathon Petroleum's financial flexibility and a strong balance sheet are real assets. Importantly, Marathon Petroleum is known for raising dividends and has an active share repurchase program. These highlight the company's commitment to return more value to shareholders. Notably, the company returned \$3.3 billion capital to its shareholders in 2019. As a show of confidence in its cash flow generating abilities going forward, Marathon Petroleum recently announced a 9.4% hike in its quarterly dividend.

Marathon Petroleum's acquisition of Andeavor has expanded its foothold in the Permian Basin, thereby creating an enviable retail and marketing portfolio.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ Over the past few months, U.S. inventory data has shown healthy supply build for gasoline and distillate inventories, signaling plenty of oil products available in the market. Therefore, margins continue to remain depressed despite robust demand. Further, the deadly novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has weakened demand from the world's largest energy consumers. In particular, with major cities under lock-down and travel restrictions in place, the consumption of jet fuel (a derivative of distillates) is set to drop substantially. This will not only affect refining profitability but also result in increased price volatility, affecting the likes of Marathon Petroleum.
- ▼ Marathon Petroleum has been constantly bearing the brunt of increasing costs and expenses over the past few quarters, adversely affecting the income. In 2019, the total costs rose to \$119.3 billion, more than 30% higher than the year ago.
- ▼ Moreover, turnaround activities in certain projects might also hamper the company's revenues in the near term. During 2020, Marathon Petroleum is likely to incur around \$1.1-\$1.2 billion as planned turnaround costs, which apart from elevating the operating expense per throughput barrel, also affects volumes.

Elevated expenses, together with turnaround costs, are likely to weigh on the earnings of Marathon Petroleum.

Last Earnings Report

Marathon Petroleum Q4 Earnings and Revenue Beat Estimates

Marathon Petroleum reported adjusted earnings per share of \$1.56, above the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 85 cents.

The beat was driven by higher-than-expected throughput and refined product sales volume, which helped the 'Refining & Marketing' segment income to blow away estimates. Operating income from the unit totaled \$912 million, significantly ahead of the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$218 million. Total refined product sales volumes and throughput of 3,750 thousand barrels per day (mbpd) and 3,069 mbpd came ahead of the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 3,619 mbpd and 3,052 mbpd, respectively.

However, the bottom line was 35.3% below the year-earlier quarter's earnings due to weak showing from the Midstream segment.

Marathon Petroleum, which recently announced a 9.4% increase in its quarterly dividend to 58 cents, reported revenues of \$31.4 billion that beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$29.7 billion but declined 3.6% year over year.

Y/Y Segmental Performance

Refining & Marketing: The Refining & Marketing segment reported operating income of \$912 million, slightly lower than \$923 million in the year-ago quarter. The decline reflects lower y/y refining margins and throughputs.

Specifically, refining margin of \$15.55 per barrel decreased versus \$15.70 a year ago. Total refined product sales volumes were 3,750 mbpd, down from the 3,764 mbpd in the year-ago quarter. Moreover, throughput fell from 3,111 mbpd in the year-ago quarter to 3,069 mbpd. Capacity utilization during the quarter was 94%.

Retail: Income from the Retail segment totaled \$477 million, down 22.2% from the year-ago period. The Retail segment was dragged down by lower fuel margins, partly offset by higher merchandise sales. In particular, the company's retail fuel margin fell from 32.35 cents per gallon in the fourth quarter of 2018 to 28.65 cents per gallon in the quarter under review. However, same-store merchandise sales were up by 4.7% year over year.

Midstream: Segment profitability was \$889 million, same as the fourth quarter of 2018. Earnings were buoyed by strong overall growth across MPLX's businesses.

Costs, Capex & Balance Sheet

Marathon Petroleum reported expenses of \$30.5 billion in fourth-quarter 2019, essentially unchanged from the year-ago quarter.

In the reported quarter, Marathon Petroleum spent \$1.8 billion on capital programs (48% on the Midstream segment). As of Dec 31, the company had cash and cash equivalents of \$1.5 billion and a total debt of \$28.8 billion, with a debt-to-capitalization ratio of 40.6%.

During the fourth quarter, Marathon Petroleum returned \$409 million of capital to shareholders.

Quarter Ending 12/2019

Report Date	Jan 29, 2020
Sales Surprise	5.66%
EPS Surprise	83.53%
Quarterly EPS	1.56
Annual EPS (TTM)	4.83

Recent News

Marathon Decides Against Separating Midstream, Appoints CEO

On **Mar 18**, Marathon Petroleum announced that its board has unanimously decided against separating the company's midstream operations that own and operate gathering and processing assets along with crude transportation and logistics infrastructure. It means that the company will remain the general partner of MPLX LP.

The board was of the opinion that a spinoff would have added tax costs of at least \$1 billion, plus MPLX debt restructuring expenses that could have run up to \$500 million. In addition, the company sees the midstream segment as a stable revenue contributor.

Meanwhile, the downstream operator appointed Michael Hennigan as its president and CEO effective immediately, Marathon Petroleum said in a separate statement.

Valuation

Shares of Marathon Petroleum are down 56.3% and 56.2% on year-to-date basis and over the trailing 12-month period, respectively. Stocks in the Zacks Oil and Gas-Refining and Marketing and the Zacks Oil-Energy sector are down 49.7% and 40.6% in the year-to-date period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are down 47.6% and 46.6%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is down 11.7% and 2.6% in the year-to-date period and over last year, respectively.

The stock is currently trading at 5.11 trailing 12-month EV/EBITDA, compared with 5.2X for the Zacks sub-industry, 377X for the Zacks sector and 10.4X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 11.6X and as low as 4.1X, with a 5-year median of 7.53X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$29 price target reflects 5.1X F12M earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for MPC

Valuation Multiples - MPC					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	5.11	5.2	3.77	10.4
	5-Year High	11.6	16.47	10.37	12.87
	5-Year Low	4.1	4.3	3.05	8.27
	5-Year Median	7.53	7.39	6.5	10.78
P/E F12M	Current	4.61	11.8	27.9	18.03
	5-Year High	24.11	15.83	32.31	19.34
	5-Year Low	2.93	8.02	11.27	15.19
	5-Year Median	10.44	11.01	18.55	17.45
P/S F12M	Current	0.13	0.21	0.65	3.04
	5-Year High	0.62	0.37	1.45	3.44
	5-Year Low	0.08	0.17	0.58	2.54
	5-Year Median	0.34	0.29	0.99	3.01

As of 04/14/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 36% (163 out of 253)



Top Peers

Delek US Holdings, Inc. (DK)	Neutral
Phillips 66 (PSX)	Neutral
Chevron Corporation (CVX)	Underperform
HollyFrontier Corporation (HFC)	Underperform
PBF Energy Inc. (PBF)	Underperform
Royal Dutch Shell PLC (RDS.A)	Underperform
Valero Energy Corporation (VLO)	Underperform
Exxon Mobil Corporation (XOM)	Underperform

Industry Comparison Industry: Oil And Gas - Refining And Marketing				Industry Peers		
	MPC Neutral	X Industry	S&P 500	HFC Underperform	PSX Neutral	VLO Underperform
VGM Score	B	-	-	C	B	A
Market Cap	17.08 B	867.24 M	19.79 B	4.06 B	26.84 B	20.86 B
# of Analysts	9	5	14	8	9	9
Dividend Yield	8.82%	0.00%	2.16%	5.58%	5.89%	7.69%
Value Score	B	-	-	C	A	A
Cash/Price	0.09	0.15	0.06	0.21	0.06	0.13
EV/EBITDA	5.69	3.88	11.74	2.85	6.07	4.43
PEG Ratio	1.70	2.11	2.15	NA	2.11	1.31
Price/Book (P/B)	0.41	0.91	2.65	0.62	1.00	0.93
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	2.46	3.66	10.40	2.73	5.40	4.52
P/E (F1)	15.03	14.76	17.72	13.98	14.13	16.24
Price/Sales (P/S)	0.14	0.19	2.06	0.23	0.24	0.19
Earnings Yield	6.01%	6.16%	5.46%	7.14%	7.07%	6.16%
Debt/Equity	0.71	0.62	0.70	0.38	0.41	0.41
Cash Flow (\$/share)	10.70	4.65	7.01	9.20	11.30	11.28
Growth Score	B	-	-	C	C	B
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	4.56%	11.39%	10.92%	21.60%	12.36%	-5.36%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-67.99%	-6.58%	-2.65%	-63.39%	-46.29%	-44.97%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	13.40%	2.05%	5.93%	-5.96%	-27.54%	-11.67%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	12.38%	10.33%	8.55%	10.80%	0.90%	-2.48%
Current Ratio	1.25	1.29	1.24	1.96	1.24	1.44
Debt/Capital	42.36%	39.06%	42.36%	27.39%	29.22%	28.94%
Net Margin	2.11%	1.93%	11.64%	4.42%	2.81%	2.24%
Return on Equity	7.45%	10.31%	16.74%	12.55%	13.51%	10.27%
Sales/Assets	1.28	1.63	0.54	1.44	1.88	2.07
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-27.00%	-2.18%	0.00%	-23.38%	-24.97%	-32.72%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	C	D	F
Daily Price Chg	3.83%	1.36%	2.56%	0.08%	-0.80%	2.52%
1 Week Price Chg	27.77%	17.09%	16.01%	18.05%	19.18%	24.19%
4 Week Price Chg	29.56%	16.03%	11.39%	16.88%	30.85%	30.57%
12 Week Price Chg	-53.19%	-46.30%	-19.33%	-46.48%	-40.33%	-43.55%
52 Week Price Chg	-56.18%	-45.04%	-11.64%	-47.77%	-36.37%	-42.31%
20 Day Average Volume	13,430,346	810,372	3,452,738	3,188,627	4,863,717	7,040,048
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-1.03%	0.00%	0.00%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	-72.39%	-29.07%	-6.42%	-54.31%	-42.86%	-56.35%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-78.31%	-38.79%	-8.69%	-64.04%	-53.23%	-67.48%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	-93.88%	-46.78%	-11.08%	-100.13%	-75.56%	-106.99%

Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

Value Score	B
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	F
VGM Score	B

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

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