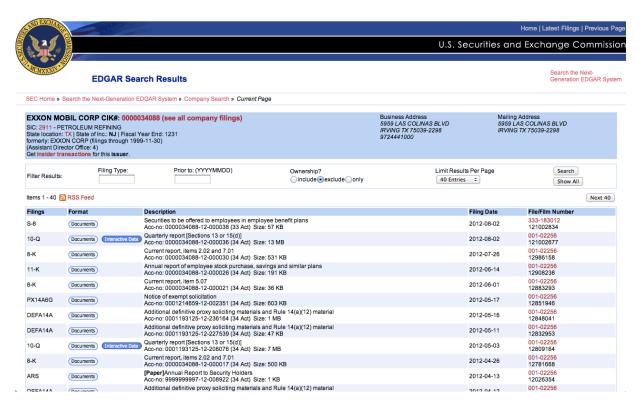
How EDGAR works

The Securities and Exchange Commission was founded in 1934 in response to the Great Depression and the financial crisis that began on Wall Street due to heavy speculation, a lack of reliable information, and heavy leveraging. The SEC was designed to ensure that all investors have available to them honest and trustworthy information, and it remains the cornerstone of any investor's research. In 1984, the SEC updated its information system with EDGAR, which stands for "the Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval System." Designed to allow electronic access to all SEC data, it predates the Web and has remained a cornerstone of all investors looking to join Wall Street from far away.

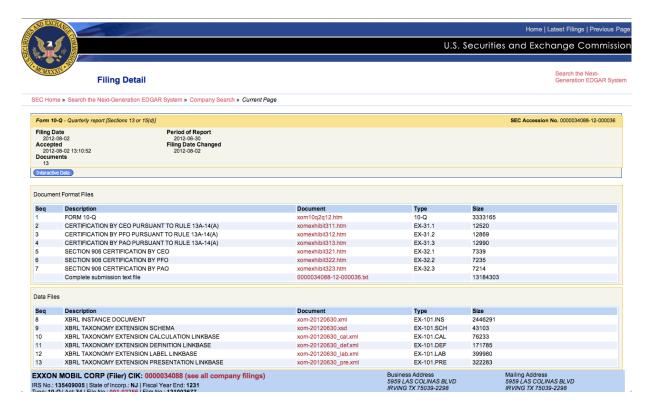
Searching EDGAR

To start, go to the EDGAR home page at http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml and click "search for filings". On this page you can choose how to search, and in most cases you will probably search by company or fund name, ticker symbol, or CIK--the first link on the page. Click on the link and you will see a search field. You can search by company name (in my experience, this is best to do with some funds on the NYSE, which don't show up on a ticker search), or by ticker symbol. For this example, let's search Exxon Mobile by their ticker "XOM". Input that into the ticker search field and hit enter or click "search". You should see this:



In addition to info on the company, its home state, its industry, and its address, we are offered a list of SEC filings of different types. If we click on "Documents", we can get electronic copies of every aspect of a filing. Click on the "Documents" button for 10-Q,

and you'll see this:



There are several sequences to any SEC filing, most of which are legally required and lack any important data for an investor. All you need to know is that these certifications and affidavits affirm the truthfulness of the information contained within--lying here is worth several decades in prison, so most executives only sign off if they believe that the data is accurate. Of course, nasty exceptions happen and can be expensive (Enron is perhaps the most well-known expensive and illegal exception). What is important is the document itself, here listed as "FORM 10-Q". To access that, click on the link under "Document" for the form, and you will come across this:

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 10-Q

□ QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from ____

Commission File Number 1-2256

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION

NEW JERSEY (State or other jurisdiction of corporation or organization)

5959 Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, Texas (Address of principal executive offices)

(972) 444-1000 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registra was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes

No

No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T due the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smareporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

X Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes 🗆 No 🗵

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

It's not very pretty, but this page is one of the most important you will find on any website. Scrolling down, you will see "Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION". This contains the bread and butter of info about how this company is performing:

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

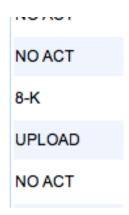
		Three Months Ended June 30,			Six Months Ended June 30,		
REVENUES AND OTHER INCOME Sales and other operating revenue (1) Income from equity affiliates Other income Total revenues and other income	\$	2012 112,745 3,651 10,967 127,363	\$	2011 121,394 3,720 372 125,486	\$	2012 231,934 7,861 11,621 251,416	\$
COSTS AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS Crude oil and product purchases Production and manufacturing expenses Selling, general and administrative expenses Depreciation and depletion Exploration expenses, including dry holes Interest expense Sales-based taxes (1) Other taxes and duties Total costs and other deductions Income before income taxes Income before income taxes		66,344 9,787 3,486 3,899 372 50 8,027 9,207 101,172 26,191 8,537		69,447 10,322 3,681 3,881 592 45 8,613 10,286 106,867		136,169 19,637 7,087 7,741 894 157 16,520 19,505 207,710 43,706 16,253	
Net income including noncontrolling interests Net Income attributable to noncontrolling interests Net income attributable to ExxonMobil	\$	17,654 1,744 15,910	\$	10,898 218 10,680	\$	27,453 2,093 25,360	\$
Earnings per common share (dollars)	\$	3.41	\$	2.19	\$	5.41	\$
Earnings per common share - assuming dilution (dollars)	\$	3.41	\$	2.18	\$	5.41	\$
Dividends per common share (dollars)	\$	0.57	\$	0.47	\$	1.04	\$
(1) Sales-based taxes included in sales and other operating revenue	s	8,027	\$	8,613	\$	16,520	\$

The information in the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements is an integral part of these statements.

To understand what all of these terms mean and how you should assess them, have a look around the Learning Center here on MyZolio. For now, instead of trying to understand the importance of this and other statements in the EDGAR system, we will instead take a look at what forms are available on EDGAR and how you can access them.

Looking back at XOM's list of filings, you will see many codes under the "Filings" column:

Filings
S-8
10-Q
8-K
11-K
8-K
PX14A6G
DEFA14A
DEFA14A
10-Q
8-K
ARS
DEFA14A
DEF 14A
8-K
NO ACT
NO ACT
NO ACT



Some of these forms will be more important for some types of investors. For example, the S-8 form lists securities that employees are offered in lieu of cash payment; if your decision to invest in Exxon depended upon how employees and executives were getting paid as well as how many shares are on the market, this would be a good document to look at.

In most cases, you will choose to buy or sell a stock not based on how employees are getting paid. Other, more important issues are how profitable a company's operations are, if the company is expanding, how much demand there is for the company's offerings, and how much cash the company has on hand. All of this information is carefully documented in EDGAR, but not in every document.

There are several forms that the SEC makes available through EDGAR, but none may be as important as the 10-K and 10-Q forms.

The "10-K" is an annual report of the company's income, earnings, profits, debts, dividend payments, and so on. The document is several pages long and details a company's income and outgoings to a certain level of detail.

The "10-Q" is like the 10-K, but covers the company's financial information for one quarter. Both the 10-Q and 10-K compare the financial information of the period covered with previous periods, so a quick glance at the tables of these forms can tell an investor if a company is making more or less money, and if the company is becoming more or less profitable.

As such, the 10-K and 10-Q forms are the most important filings available in EDGAR.

10-K and 10-Q Analysis

The SEC knows this, which is why it publishes the data both as a form and as "interactive data". Looking at XOM's 10-Q filed on August 2nd, 2012 through EDGAR, we see the button "Interactive Data" next to "Documents". If you click on that, you'll see this:



On the left-hand corner in that yellow menubar are several options: financial statements should be your first place to click. This will give you a list of statements of income, balance sheets, statements of cash flows, and statements of changes in equity. All of these are important aspects of a company's financial life, and should be looked at closely. And they are all available for you to analyze through EDGAR.