



Avient Corporation (AVNT)

Updated May 7th, 2025, by Ian Bezek

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$36	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	11.8%	Market Cap:	\$3.3 B
Fair Value Price:	\$44	5 Year Growth Estimate:	5.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	06/18/25 ¹
% Fair Value:	81%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	4.3%	Dividend Payment Date:	07/18/25 ¹
Dividend Yield:	3.0%	5 Year Price Target	\$57	Years Of Dividend Growth:	14
Dividend Risk Score:	C	Sector:	Materials	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Avient is a company in the specialty chemicals industry. It primarily produces resins and other plastic additives. The company's PVCs, polymer colorings and other products go into end products such as plastic bottles, flooring, and electronic equipment. Avient emerged in 2020 when its predecessor company, Polyone, acquired Clariant Masterbatch. Polyone itself came about from a merger in 2000 and historically grown via M&A.

Following its transformation into Avient, the company's acquisitive streak has continued. In 2022, Avient purchased DSM Protective Materials for \$1.49 billion. Avient sold off a distribution business to help fund that deal. And since then, Avient has been focusing on paying down debt and managing its interest expenses amid the higher interest rate environment. It has also poured more into R&D. The company had a stronger 2024 but that momentum may be short-lived given current macroeconomic conditions.

Avient reported its Q1 earnings on May 6th, 2025. Adjusted earnings-per-share of \$0.76 were unchanged compared to the prior year, and met analyst expectations. GAAP earnings were for a small loss, however, as the company took a significant non-cash impairment charge. Revenues of \$827 million increased 2% year-over-year. Avient continues to deal with challenging macroeconomic conditions. Avient's management had been optimistic for 2025 and the company seemed on pace to deliver record earnings this year, surpassing 2022's prior peak. However, weaker results from the North American market are hampering growth. The company is also having to take measures to mitigate the impact of tariffs across its supply chain, which is likely to pressure margins a bit this year. We have trimmed our outlook slightly.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2030
EPS	\$1.96	\$2.13	\$2.21	\$2.43	\$1.69	\$1.46	\$2.51	\$2.69	\$2.36	\$2.66	\$2.78	\$3.55
DPS	\$0.42	\$0.50	\$0.58	\$0.72	\$0.79	\$0.82	\$0.85	\$0.94	\$1.00	\$1.04	\$1.08	\$1.31
Shares	85	83	81	78	77	91	92	91	91	91	91	91

Avient grew its earnings at a rapid pace between 2012 and 2018, with EPS tripling over that stretch. Since that period, however, growth has been much harder to come by. Earnings declined in 2019 and 2020 before posting a strong recovery in 2021. However, earnings per share stalled out since 2022 as the company deals with a softer demand picture. The company returned to growth in 2024 and 2025 should be another positive year despite present challenges.

Avient had grown its dividend at an appealing rate, managing 10.6% annualized growth since 2015 and 5.7% annually over the past five years. Avient's most recent dividend increase was announced on Oct. 9th, 2024 and boosted the company's dividend 5% to \$0.27 per quarter. The company has generally maintained its payout ratio at a fairly low level.

Going forward, we estimate 5.0% annualized earnings growth over the next five years. While industry conditions are challenging for now, the company's acquisitions and R&D have achieved favorable returns on investment. Furthermore, Avient operates with a substantially leveraged balance sheet, and so interest rate cuts may make borrowing cheaper and enable the company to pursue additional growth avenues.

¹ Estimated date

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Valuation Analysis

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Now	2030
Avg. P/E	18.3	15.2	17.2	16.7	18.4	19.3	19.7	16.0	16.1	16.3	12.9	16.0
Avg. Yld.	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	2.5%	2.9%	2.9%	2.2%	2.6%	2.4%	3.0%	2.3%

Avient has generally maintained a stable P/E ratio of around 15 to 21 times earnings. Shares have fallen to a P/E ratio of just 12.9x now, which is below the bottom of its typical range. We expect the P/E ratio to rebound to 16x.

Avient's dividend yield started off the 2010s in the low 1% range. From 2016 and on, the dividend yield started to move up consistently. However, today's 3.0% reading is above our long-term expectations.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2030
Payout	21%	23%	26%	30%	47%	56%	34%	35%	42%	39%	39%	37%

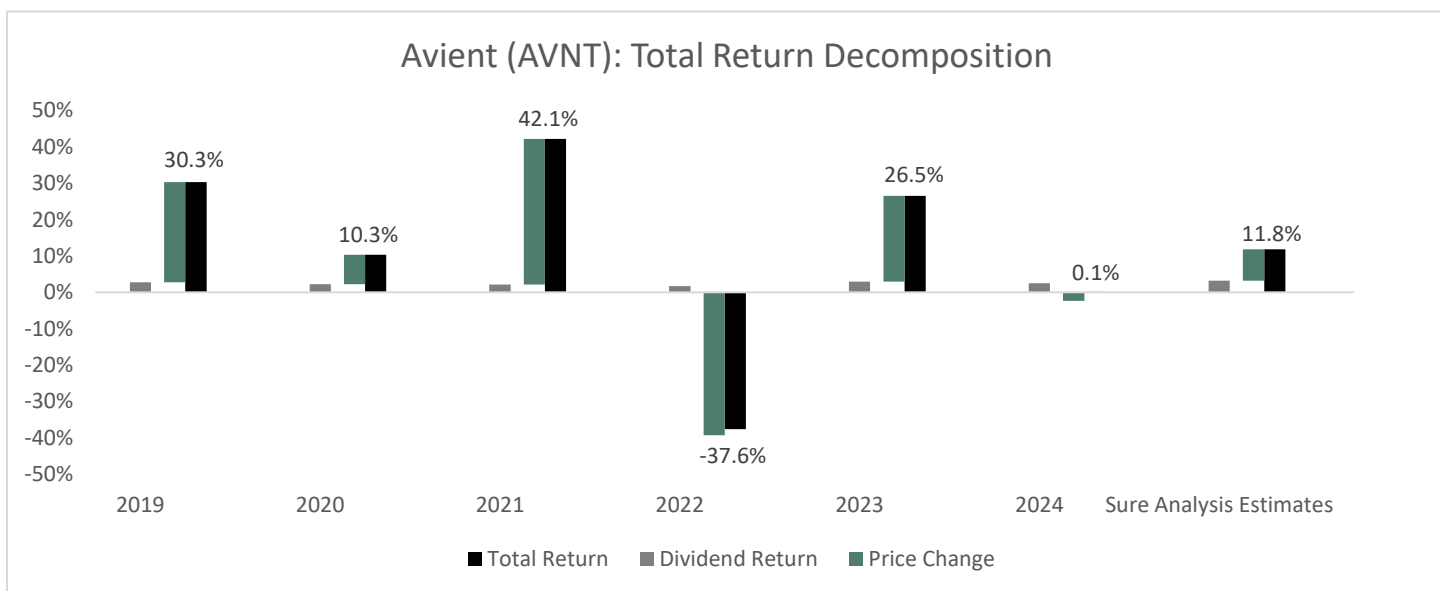
The specialty chemicals industry is known for being highly cyclical. That being the case, Avient's results have been quite strong compared to its sector. Still, as the above payout ratio shows, when earnings dip, such as they did in 2019 and 2020, the company's dividend coverage can slip a notch.

Management has guided to keeping its net debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio below 3.0x, and the sale of its distribution business to H.I.G. Capital for \$950 million went a long way toward improving its balance sheet. While Avient would see its prospects slip during a recession, we believe the firm's dividend is sustainable at current levels.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Avient has delivered a series of mixed earnings reports over the past year. The back half of 2024 was sequentially stronger, but Q1 started off 2025 on a weak note. For now, Avient will have to continue navigating a complicated and generally unfavorable macroeconomic environment. However, shares have fallen sharply and the market has arguably overly punished Avient for the near-term issues. We see 11.8% annualized total returns, driven by 5% earnings growth along with significant multiple expansion. Shares earn a hold rating today due to the mixed dividend risk score, but could easily return to the buy range with any further correction in the share price.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	2,929	2,939	2,590	2,881	2,863	3,242	4,819	3,397	3,143	3,240
Gross Profit	652	676	596	625	657	784	1,100	883	893	1,057
Gross Margin	22.2%	23.0%	23.0%	21.7%	23.0%	24.2%	22.8%	26.0%	28.4%	32.6%
SG&A Exp.	394	409	423	446	500	595	718	639	696	727
D&A Exp.	116	106	98	92	88	115	146	163	189	180
Operating Profit	258	268	173	179	157	189	381	243	197	329
Op. Margin	8.8%	9.1%	6.7%	6.2%	5.5%	5.8%	7.9%	7.2%	6.3%	10.2%
Net Profit	145	165	(58)	160	589	132	231	703	76	170
Net Margin	4.9%	5.6%	-2.2%	5.5%	20.6%	4.1%	4.8%	20.7%	2.4%	5.2%
Free Cash Flow	149	143	123	178	219	158	133	293	82	135
Income Tax	26	60	1	14	34	5	74	(19)	11	54

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Assets	2,595	2,736	2,705	2,723	3,273	4,871	4,997	6,085	5,968	5,811
Cash & Equivalents	280	226	244	171	865	650	601	641	546	545
Acc. Receivable	347	326	392	347	330	517	642	441	400	400
Inventories	287	266	328	285	261	328	461	373	347	347
Goodwill & Int.	942	875	1,011	1,062	1,155	2,317	2,212	3,270	3,301	3,110
Total Liabilities	1,890	2,010	2,106	2,183	2,221	3,159	3,207	3,732	3,630	3,482
Accounts Payable	352	321	389	305	288	472	554	454	432	417
Long-Term Debt	1,147	1,258	1,309	1,356	1,229	1,873	1,859	2,179	2,080	2,067
Total Equity	704	725	599	540	1,052	1,697	1,775	2,335	2,319	2,314
LTD/E Ratio	1.63	1.74	2.19	2.51	1.17	1.10	1.05	0.93	0.90	0.89

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Return on Assets	5.5%	6.2%	-2.1%	5.9%	19.6%	3.2%	4.7%	12.7%	1.3%	2.9%
Return on Equity	19.5%	23.1%	-8.7%	28.1%	73.9%	9.6%	13.3%	34.2%	3.2%	7.3%
ROIC	7.9%	8.6%	-3.0%	8.4%	28.2%	4.5%	6.4%	17.2%	1.7%	3.9%
Shares Out.	85	83	81	78	77	91	92	91	92	92
Revenue/Share	33.02	34.74	31.55	35.83	36.84	35.78	52.32	36.84	34.24	35.22
FCF/Share	1.68	1.70	1.50	2.21	2.82	1.74	1.45	3.18	0.90	1.47

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

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