



Prospect Capital Corporation (PSEC)

Updated December 12th, 2025, by Josh Arnold

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$2.64	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	8.3%	Market Cap:	\$1.2 B
Fair Value Price:	\$2.52	5 Year Growth Estimate:	-5.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	12/29/25
% Fair Value:	105%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-0.9%	Dividend Payment Date:	01/21/26
Dividend Yield:	20.5%	5 Year Price Target	\$1.95	Years Of Dividend Growth:	0
Dividend Risk Score:	F	Sector:	Financials	Rating:	Sell

Overview & Current Events

Prospect Capital Corporation is a business development company, or BDC. It provides private debt and private equity to middle-market companies in the U.S. The company focuses on direct lending to owner-operated companies, as well as sponsor-backed transactions. Prospect invests primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, with occasional equity investments. The company went public in 2004 and currently has a market capitalization of \$1.2 billion. Prospect produces about \$650 million in annual revenue.

We note that Prospect has had to file amended 1099 tax forms at times in the past, causing additional work for those that own shares when filing taxes for dividends received from the company.

Prospect posted first quarter earnings on November 6th, 2025, and results were once again quite weak. Net investment income was 17 cents per share, while total investment income plummeted 20% year-over-year to \$157.6 million. While weak, these results were better than feared.

The company continues to focus on rotating assets into its core business of first lien senior secured middle market loans, while reducing second lien loans. It also exited its subordinated notes portfolio, as well as equity-linked assets, including real estate properties.

Total originations were \$92 million, off from \$271 million in the previous quarter. Total repayments were \$235 million, down from \$445 million in the previous quarter. That implies net originations of -\$143 million for Q1, up from -\$175 million in the prior quarter.

Total investments at fair value were \$6.51 billion, down from \$6.67 billion in the prior quarter. Interest-bearing investments yielded 11.8%, off from 12.2% in the prior quarter. Annualized current yield for all investments was 9.1%, off from 9.6% in the prior quarter. We've slightly cut our estimate of NII to 42 cents per share.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
NII	\$1.04	\$0.85	\$0.79	\$0.79	\$0.72	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.89	\$1.02	\$0.77	\$0.42	\$0.32
DPS	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.77	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.72	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.32
Shares¹	357	360	364	367	374	389	392	402	425	456	470	550

Growth has been tough to come by for Prospect in the past decade. The company weathered the financial crisis quite well – 2010 results excluded – but since 2012, net investment income has struggled. Part of this is due to Prospect's prodigious share count, which is much higher today than it was a decade ago. While it is typical for a BDC to issue shares to fund acquisitions, Prospect's dilution has been excessive at times. Given this history of dilution and weak net investment income performance, we expect -5% annual growth on a per-share basis.

Prospect has had additional trouble growing net investment income because its balance sheet has slowly grown smaller over time. The company's total assets are down to \$6.5 billion today, after having given back prior gains in recent quarters.

¹ Share count in millions

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The company's dividend has also shrunk over time as this year's payout of \$0.54 is well under half the value of the dividend from before the financial crisis. Shrinking net investment income has taken its toll on the company's ability to finance the dividend. We see the dividend potentially declining further as NII doesn't cover the payout today. Prospect has funded deficits in its NII in the past, and we are still cautious on its ability to fund the dividend at current levels given the convergence of NII and the dividend payment, even after the late-2024 cut. We think the odds of another dividend cut are very high.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/NII	9.9	8.7	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.5	9.3	7.0	5.4	4.1	6.3	6.0
Avg. Yld.	11.8%	11.3%	10.6%	12.1%	12.1%	11.3%	10.3%	11.6%	13.0%	18.3%	20.5%	16.4%

Prospect's price to net investment income has averaged ~8 in the past decade. We see fair value at 6 times earnings given that the company's growth outlook has deteriorated with higher rates. We see a fractional headwind to total annual returns from the valuation potentially drifting lower.

The company's current dividend yield is 20.5%, which is much higher than its historical average. We forecast the yield declining to 16.4%, which would result from a potentially lower dividend payout over time.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	96%	118%	97%	85%	100%	96%	90%	81%	71%	70%	129%	98%

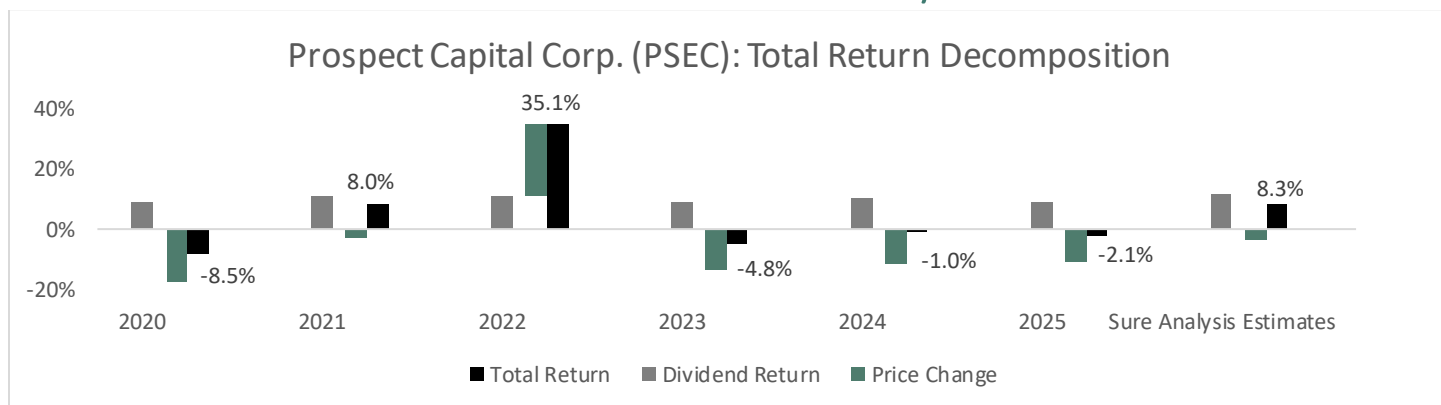
One of the issues with business development companies is that competitive advantages are very difficult to come by, and Prospect is certainly no exception. Scale is the name of the game for BDCs and with a stagnant balance sheet, Prospect has lost some of its relative scale over time. Prospect's assets are on the decline once more, producing yet another headwind for earnings and the dividend.

The company's payout ratio was over 100% for several years in the past decade and is once again for 2026. We believe it may be some time before the payout is covered by earnings again, and we believe the newly reduced dividend may also be at risk in the coming years.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Prospect Capital offers investors a huge yield, but it is not without its risks. The valuation is okay but reflects a poor outlook. The yield is strong as well. We are forecasting 8.3% in total returns in the coming years, consisting of the 20.5% yield, -5% growth, and a headwind from the valuation. We are reiterating the stock at a sell rating given significant weakness in its earnings, and risk of a dividend cut.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	137	284	326	199	37	1,008	635	(50)	321	201
SG&A Exp.	32	32	26	34	33	30	30	41	44	---
Net Profit	103	253	300	144	-16	964	583	(102)	263	(470)
Net Margin	75.3%	89.2%	92.0%	81.1%	-43.7%	95.7%	91.8%	-167%	81.9%	-234%
Free Cash Flow	862	376	369	224	429	31	(795)	(221)	280	179

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	6,236	6,173	5,839	5,800	5,300	6,303	7,663	7,862	7,857	6,805
Cash & Equivalents	318	318	84	107	45	64	35	91	82	1,449
Total Liabilities	2,800	2,818	2,432	2,494	2,244	2,358	3,544	4,129	4,145	2,186
Accounts Payable	71	69	56	56	51	51	50	54	47	---
Long-Term Debt	2,667	2,642	2,312	2,383	2,138	2,233	2,737	2,585	2,434	2,088
Shareholder's Equity	3,436	3,355	3,407	3,306	3,056	3,808	4,119	3,733	3,712	2,989
LTD/E Ratio	0.78	0.79	0.68	0.72	0.70	0.57	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.45

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	1.6%	4.1%	5.0%	2.5%	-0.3%	16.6%	8.3%	-1.3%	3.3%	-6.4%
Return on Equity	2.9%	7.4%	8.9%	4.3%	-0.5%	28.1%	14.7%	-2.6%	7.1%	-9.5%
ROIC	1.6%	4.2%	5.1%	2.5%	-0.3%	17.0%	8.9%	-1.5%	4.2%	-6.5%
Shares Out.	357	360	364	367	374	389	434	399	625	440
Revenue/Share	0.39	0.79	0.90	0.54	0.10	2.61	1.46	(0.13)	0.51	0.46
FCF/Share	2.42	1.05	1.02	0.61	1.17	0.08	(1.83)	(0.55)	0.45	0.41

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

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