



Linde plc (LIN)

Updated February 18th, 2026 by Jonathan Weber

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$485	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	1.9%	Market Cap:	\$225B
Fair Value Price:	\$371	5 Year Growth Estimate:	6.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	03/14/26 ¹
% Fair Value:	131%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-5.2%	Dividend Payment Date:	03/21/26 ²
Dividend Yield:	1.2%	5 Year Price Target	\$496	Years Of Dividend Growth:	32
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Sector:	Materials	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Linde plc, which was created through the merger of Germany-based industrial gases company Linde AG and US-based industrial gases company Praxair, is the world's largest industrial gas corporation. The company produces, sells, and distributes atmospheric, process, and specialty gases, along with high-performance surface coatings. The company is headquartered in Guildford, United Kingdom. Linde plc is, by both market capitalization as well as by sales generation, the number one in its industry by a wide margin.

Linde plc released its fourth quarter earnings results in February. The company announced that its revenues totaled \$8.8 billion during the quarter, which was up 6% versus the prior year's quarter. This was better than the previous quarter, during which Linde did achieve a revenue increase of 2%. Linde was not able to grow its margins over the last year, as its operating profit grew a little less than its revenues.

Linde's earnings-per-share during the fourth quarter totaled \$4.20, which means that the company's earnings-per-share growth came in at 6% versus the previous year's quarter. Linde's management has a positive view regarding the foreseeable future, as Linde is forecasting earnings-per-share in a range of \$17.40 to \$17.90 for fiscal 2026, which represents a solid growth rate of around 7% compared to 2025, which was also a record year.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	\$5.21	\$5.68	\$6.19	\$7.34	\$8.23	\$10.69	\$12.29	\$14.20	\$15.51	\$16.46	\$17.65	\$23.62
DPS	\$3.00	\$3.15	\$3.30	\$3.50	\$3.85	\$4.24	\$4.68	\$5.10	\$5.56	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$8.42
Shares³	288	289	334	541	531	522	504	492	482	470	460	425

The numbers in the above table, for 2016 and 2017, are for Praxair as a standalone company, as Linde plc was created in 2018 through a merger between Praxair and Linde AG. Praxair, as a stand-alone company, delivered unspectacular but reliable earnings growth. Linde plc, since its creation, has delivered reliable earnings growth as well, with a faster earnings-per-share growth rate compared to the mid-single digits growth rate Praxair had achieved in the past.

Linde plc was able to generate substantial cost-savings through synergies between the two companies, which was a driving factor for margin expansion since the two companies combined, but synergies have been fully captured now. We thus believe that Linde plc will see its earnings-per-share growth rate come down to some degree in the future, although we still forecast that earnings-per-share will grow at a rate of around 6% in the long run, which is more than the growth rate Praxair had delivered as a standalone company. The somewhat higher growth rate that we expect can be explained by the positive impact of scale advantages, e.g. when it comes to buying from suppliers in an efficient manner. While Linde plc saw its share count go up massively during the merger between Linde AG and Praxair, the company has been buying back shares relatively consistently following the closing of the merger. We believe that Linde will continue to reduce its share count over time, which will positively impact its earnings-per-share growth rate.

¹ Estimated date

² Estimated date

³ In Millions

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Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	21.8	23.2	25.4	29.0	31.5	32.2	26.5	28.9	26.7	25.9	27.5	21.0
Avg. Yld.	2.6%	2.4%	2.2%	1.6%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%

Based on forecasted earnings-per-share of around \$17.65 for fiscal 2026, Linde plc trades at 27 to 28 times this year's earnings right now. Shares of Linde, and before it, Praxair, Linde's predecessor, were never cheap, and due to the solid growth outlook and Linde plc's leadership in its industry, we believe that an above-average multiple of 21 times earnings is justified. Shares trade above that level right now, which is why we believe that Linde's shares are overvalued. Shares have gotten less expensive compared to 2020-2021 but are still pricey.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	58%	55%	53%	48%	47%	40%	38%	36%	36%	36%	34%	36%

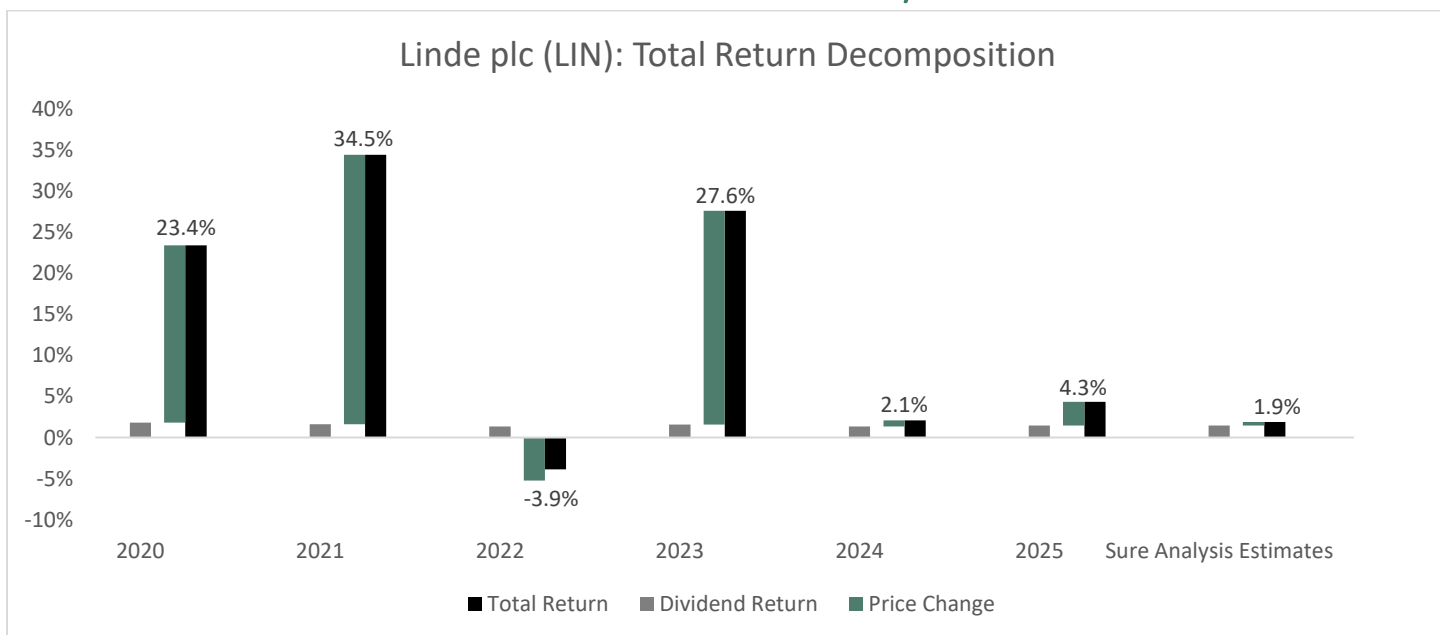
Neither Praxair's nor Linde's dividend payout ratio was high in the past. Based on forecasted earnings, Linde plc's dividend payout ratio is very reasonable, at less than 40%. We believe that the dividend is thus quite safe, especially as Linde's business is not very cyclical.

Linde plc is the clear leader in the industrial gases market, and thus has large competitive advantages in terms of size and scale, e.g. due to its global reach and an advantaged position versus both suppliers and customers. Linde plc is active in an industry that is quite stable, as its gases are sold to non-cyclical industries such as healthcare.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Linde plc is the clear leader in its industry. Linde generated new record profits reliably in recent years, and it looks like the company will do the same this year. We believe that Linde will be able to grow its earnings-per-share meaningfully in the long run. Unfortunately, Linde's shares trade at a relatively high valuation. Total returns are forecasted to be not very attractive over the coming years, which is why we rate Linde a hold at the current price, even though Linde looks like a fundamentally strong company.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	10,534	11,437	14,836	28,228	27,243	30,793	33,364	32,854	33,005	33,986
Gross Profit	3,552	3,792	3,986	6,909	7,234	8,615	9,710	11,546	12,082	12,834
Gross Margin	33.7%	33.2%	26.9%	24.5%	26.6%	28.0%	29.1%	35.1%	36.6%	37.8%
SG&A Exp.	1,145	1,207	1,629	3,457	3,193	3,189	3,107	3,295	3,337	3,433
D&A Exp.	1,122	1,184	1,830	4,675	4,626	4,635	4,204	3,816	3,780	3,763
Operating Profit	2,315	2,492	2,244	3,268	3,889	5,283	6,460	8,105	8,595	9,254
Op. Margin	22.0%	21.8%	15.1%	11.6%	14.3%	17.2%	19.4%	24.7%	26.0%	27.2%
Net Profit	1,538	1,308	4,288	2,272	2,622	3,956	4,281	6,341	6,737	7,058
Net Margin	14.6%	11.4%	28.9%	8.0%	9.6%	12.8%	12.8%	19.3%	20.4%	20.8%
Free Cash Flow	1,308	1,730	1,819	2,506	4,029	6,639	5,691	5,518	4,926	5,064
Income Tax	551	1,026	817	769	847	1,262	1,434	1,814	2,002	1,989

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	19,332	20,436	93,386	86,612	88,229	81,605	79,658	80,811	80,147	86,817
Cash & Equivalents	524	617	4,466	2,700	3,754	2,823	5,436	4,664	4,850	5,056
Acc. Receivable	1,641	1,710	4,580	4,690	4,329	4,633	4,683	4,914	4,885	5,235
Inventories	550	614	1,651	1,697	1,729	1,733	1,978	2,115	1,946	2,055
Goodwill & Int.	3,700	4,018	43,097	43,156	44,385	40,840	38,237	39,150	37,267	39,798
Total Liabilities	13,880	13,914	36,290	34,977	38,647	36,164	38,271	39,716	40,659	47,076
Accounts Payable	906	922	3,219	3,266	3,095	3,503	2,995	3,020	2,507	2,810
Long-Term Debt	9,081	8,762	13,811	12,940	13,735	13,838	14,493	15,425	18,210	22,479
Total Equity	5,021	6,018	51,596	49,074	47,317	44,035	40,028	39,720	38,092	
LTD/E Ratio	1.90	1.50	0.30	0.30	0.36	0.35	0.47	0.51	0.59	0.71

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	8.2%	6.6%	7.5%	2.5%	3.0%	4.7%	5.3%	7.9%	8.4%	8.5%
Return on Equity	29.7%	21.8%	13.5%	4.2%	5.2%	8.3%	9.9%	15.4%	16.7%	17.8%
ROIC	10.6%	8.6%	9.8%	3.3%	3.9%	6.2%	7.1%	10.4%	10.9%	11.0%
Shares Out.	288	289	334	541	531	522	504	492	482	470
Revenue/Share	36.61	39.56	44.40	51.78	51.29	59.00	66.19	66.74	68.46	71.97
FCF/Share	4.55	5.98	5.44	4.60	7.59	12.72	11.29	11.21	10.22	10.72

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

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