



McKesson Corporation (MCK)

Updated February 25th, 2026, by Josh Arnold

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$957	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	7.8%	Market Cap:	\$116 B
Fair Value Price:	\$741	5 Year Growth Estimate:	13.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	03/02/26
% Fair Value:	129%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-5.0%	Dividend Payment Date:	04/01/26
Dividend Yield:	0.3%	5 Year Price Target	\$1,365	Years Of Dividend Growth:	18
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Sector:	Health Care	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

McKesson Corporation traces its lineage to 1833 when its founders began to offer wholesale chemicals and pharmaceuticals in New York City. In the 190 years since, McKesson has grown into a powerhouse in the pharmaceutical and medical distribution industry and today, generates more than \$400 billion in annual revenue and trades with a \$116 billion market capitalization.

McKesson posted third quarter earnings on February 4th, 2026, and results were better than expected on both the top and bottom lines. The company saw \$9.34 in adjusted earnings-per-share, which beat estimates by seven cents. Revenue was up 11.4% year-over-year to \$106.2 billion, which was \$290 million better than expected. The company slightly narrowed its guidance range for the year with one quarter remaining. Adjusted earnings-per-share is now expected to be around \$39, and we've updated our estimate accordingly.

Q3 results were aided by growth in North American Pharma, which was due to increased prescription volumes from retail national accounts, and distribution growth of oncology and multispecialty products.

Gross profit was \$3.7 billion, up 10% year-over-year. Operating expenses were up 7% to \$2.1 billion, while operating profit was \$1.7 billion. That was up 13% year-over-year.

Free cash flow was \$1.1 billion for the quarter, and the trailing four quarters have seen \$9.6 billion in FCF.

We've updated our estimate to \$39 per share in adjusted earnings.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	\$9.84	\$11.61	\$12.62	\$13.57	\$14.95	\$17.21	\$23.69	\$25.94	\$27.44	\$33.05	\$39.00	\$71.85
DPS	\$1.08	\$1.12	\$1.30	\$1.51	\$1.62	\$1.67	\$1.83	\$2.09	\$2.48	\$2.66	\$3.28	\$6.60
Shares¹	225	211	202	191	173	158	145	136	130	125	120	100

McKesson's earnings-per-share history is quite robust, having grown nearly every year in the past decade. Indeed, McKesson has managed to average more than 10% earnings-per-share growth annually over this time frame through organic revenue growth and many acquisitions. We believe that sort of growth is likely for the foreseeable future as McKesson continues to wow investors with consistent earnings expansion. We see 13% annual growth for earnings looking forward from what would easily be a record in 2026.

McKesson can achieve this result largely via revenue gains, as it continues to acquire growth in bolt-on acquisitions with companies that supplement its current offerings, a strategy that is unlikely to change. Margins have been flat for some time, so we expect that will continue. Organic sales growth has also been improving.

The buyback should continue to meaningfully reduce the float over time, which we see as a key driver of earnings-per-share growth. We remain somewhat cautious due to an increasingly hostile regulatory environment for drug wholesalers like McKesson. In addition, constant pressure on pricing from regulators, as well as strong generic conversion are

¹ Share count in millions

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headwinds. However, recent results have been quite supportive of long-term growth, and commentary from management has been very bullish, including updated guidance for fiscal 2026.

The dividend has never been a priority for McKesson and that is not likely to change anytime soon. We see the payout rising from today's \$3.28 to \$6.60 in five years, but the dividend remains just a small fraction of earnings, and the yield is very low as a result.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	20.1	14.1	12.0	9.7	9.3	9.4	9.3	14.1	19.6	20.4	24.5	19.0
Avg. Yld.	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%

The stock's price-to-earnings ratio has ebbed and flowed in the past decade but today, at 24.5 times earnings, it appears to be quite overvalued relative to its historical norm. We now see fair value as 19 times earnings given the rapid expansion in earnings growth and thus, McKesson looks overvalued at the moment. This could provide a headwind to total returns over the next five years if the stock's valuation reverts to more normalized levels. The yield should remain about where it is for the foreseeable future, and we note McKesson is not a high-income stock, and almost certainly won't be for a long time to come.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	10%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%

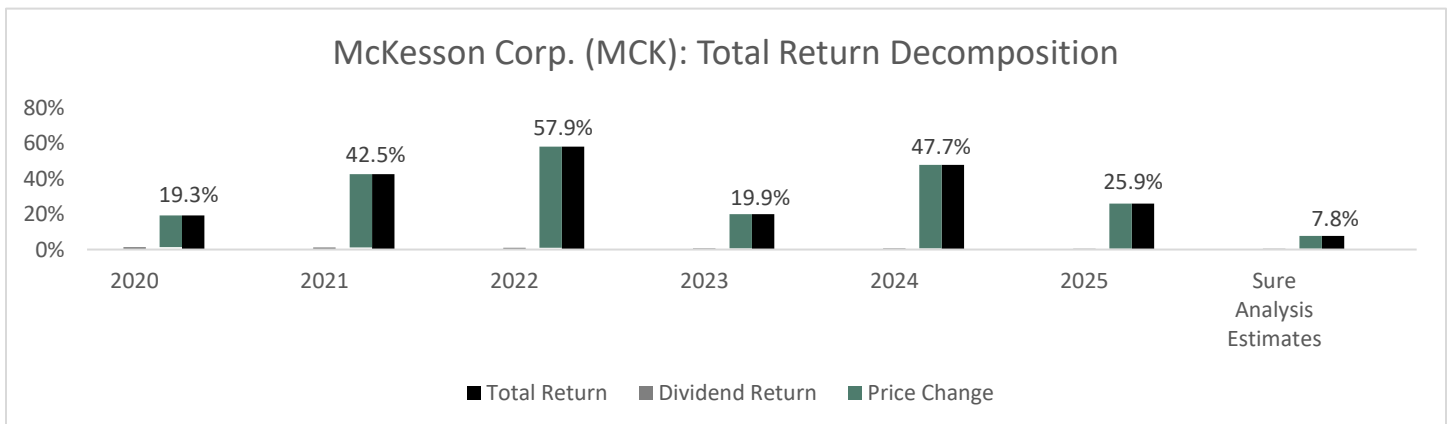
The payout ratio will remain very low, barring a material strategic shift, which we are not forecasting. Instead, McKesson will almost certainly continue to boost earnings-per-share by reducing the float.

Its competitive advantage is in its willingness to adapt and shift to the changing needs of its customers, its willingness to buy growth and its immense scale, which affords purchasing power. In addition, the company is constantly reevaluating its portfolio, divesting non-core assets, and using proceeds to acquire future growth. McKesson held up well during the COVID crisis given its product assortment that offers healthcare consumers things they need, and not discretionary items.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

McKesson offers a strong growth outlook, a robust share repurchase program, but a valuation that is ahead of our view of fair value. We are forecasting 7.8% annual total returns going forward, consisting of the current 0.3% yield, 13% earnings-per-share growth and a 5% headwind from a contracting valuation. We reiterate our hold rating.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue (\$B)	190.9	198.5	208.4	214.3	231.1	238.2	264.0	276.7	309.0	359.1
Gross Profit	11,416	11,271	11,184	11,754	12,023	12,148	13,130	12,358	12,828	12,485
Gross Margin	6.0%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	4.5%	4.2%	3.5%
SG&A Exp.	7,379	7,447	8,138	8,403	9,168	8,849	10,537	7,776	8,657	8,507
D&A Exp.	885	910	951	949	922	887	760	608	635	636
Operating Profit	3,645	3,483	2,921	3,280	2,759	3,299	2,593	4,582	4,171	4,372
Operating Margin	1.9%	1.8%	1.4%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.4%	1.2%
Net Profit	2,258	5,070	67	34	900	(4,539)	1,114	3,560	3,002	3,481
Net Margin	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	-1.9%	0.4%	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%
Free Cash Flow	2,995	4,182	3,765	3,479	3,868	3,901	3,899	4,601	3,627	5,226
Income Tax	908	1,614	(53)	356	18	(695)	636	905	629	878

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	56,523	60,969	60,381	59,672	61,247	65,015	63,298	62,320	67,443	75,140
Cash & Equivalents	4,048	2,783	2,672	2,981	4,015	6,278	3,532	4,678	4,583	5,956
Acc. Receivable	14,519	14,602	14,349	14,941	17,201	17,106	16,438	17,160	19,439	21,781
Inventories	15,335	15,278	16,310	16,709	16,734	19,246	18,702	19,691	21,139	23,001
Goodwill & Int.	12,807	14,251	15,026	13,047	12,516	12,371	11,510	12,224	12,242	12,167
Total Liabilities	47,515	49,696	50,324	51,385	55,938	64,840	65,090	63,810	69,042	76,834
Accounts Payable	28,585	31,022	32,177	33,853	37,195	38,975	38,086	42,490	47,097	55,330
Long-Term Debt	8,114	8,545	7,880	7,595	7,387	7,148	5,879	5,594	5,629	7,390
Total Equity	8,924	11,095	9,804	8,094	5,092	(21)	(2,272)	(1,857)	(1,971)	(2,074)
LTD/E Ratio	0.91	0.77	0.80	0.94	1.45	---	-2.59	-3.01	-2.86	-3.56

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	4.1%	8.6%	0.1%	0.1%	1.5%	-7.2%	1.7%	5.7%	4.6%	4.9%
Return on Equity	26.7%	50.7%	0.6%	0.4%	13.7%	-179%	---	---	---	---
ROIC	12.9%	27.4%	0.4%	0.2%	6.3%	-45.3%	17.6%	86.9%	73.8%	60.6%
Shares Out.	225	211	202	191	173	158	154	142	134	128
Revenue/Share	819.24	890.28	996.92	1,087.9	1,269.5	1,483.4	1,713.0	1,945.9	2,303.9	2,802.9
FCF/Share	12.85	18.75	18.01	17.66	21.25	24.29	25.30	32.36	27.0	40.8

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

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