



Hawkins (HWKN)

Updated August 23rd, 2026 by Prakash Kolli

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$119	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	3.3%	Market Cap:	\$2.48B
Fair Value Price:	\$92	5 Year Growth Estimate:	8.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	08/14/26
% Fair Value:	130%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-5.1%	Dividend Payment Date:	08/28/26
Dividend Yield:	0.7%	5 Year Price Target	\$135	Years Of Dividend Growth:	21
Dividend Risk Score:	B	Sector:	Materials	Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Hawkins is a diversified chemical company founded in 1938 and it went public in 1972. It specializes in manufacturing and selling value-added and bulk ingredients, chemicals, and services to industrial, manufacturer, and municipal customers. The company operates in three segments: Water Treatment (~50% of revenue), Food & Health Sciences (~30% of revenue), and Industrial (~20% of revenue). Almost all revenue is from the United States with 66 facilities in 26 states. Key brands are Stevia, Hereditium, Fermentalg, Lipfoods, Epax, Aquamin, Covico, Panmol, pomma, nippi, and the Enzymology Research Center. The CEO is Patrick Hawkins, a member of the founding family. He owns about 1.5% of the company. Total revenue was \$974.4M in fiscal year 2025.

Hawkins reported Q1 FY 2027 results on July 29th, 2026. Sales increased 8% to \$315.7M from \$293.3M, while diluted earnings per share declined 4% to \$1.35 from \$1.40 on a year-over-year basis in all three segments. Water Treatment segment revenue rose 6% to \$158.3M from \$149.6M on acquisitions, increased organic volumes, and higher pricing. The Food & Health Sciences segment revenue increased 9% to \$97.3M from \$89.2M in the prior year on higher volumes, especially in agricultural products, offset by softness in food ingredient products. Industrial segment revenue increased 10% to \$97.3M from \$89.2M in comparable periods on higher volumes.

In FY 2026, the company acquired WaterSurplus, Hendrickson Enterprises, PhilTech, StillWaters Technology, RedBird Chemical, and Aqua-Chem, adding to its water treatment business.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year ¹	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	\$0.86	\$1.06	(\$0.43)	\$1.14	\$1.33	\$1.93	\$2.44	\$2.86	\$3.59	\$4.37	\$4.17	\$6.13
DPS	\$0.41	\$0.43	\$0.45	\$0.46	\$0.47	\$0.51	\$0.56	\$0.60	\$0.62	\$0.68	\$0.80	\$1.18
Shares²	21.2	21.3	21.2	21.0	21.0	20.9	21.1	21.0	21.0	20.9	20.9	20.6

Hawkins' revenue has trended up in the past decade driven by organic growth and many acquisitions. The company typically acquires a few smaller firms per year incrementally adding to revenue and earnings per share. Since 2011, Hawkins has acquired 25 companies with 22 of those in water treatment. The strategy has proven successful over time, and operating income grew for 31 consecutive quarters before Q1 FY 2027. The company likely has many more years of growth ahead of it. Many small chemical companies exist throughout the United States as acquisition targets, especially in municipal water treatment. However, debt, leverage, and interest expense are rising because of the strategy, while operating margins have fallen. We are expecting revenue and earnings per share to grow at ~8% annually on average, less than the past decade, because of inflationary headwinds causing rising input costs and higher interest rates on debt.

Hawkins has a 41-year history of paying a dividend and a 21-year streak of increasing it. The dividend is the second highest priority for capital allocation. The payout ratio is conservative at approximately 19%, leaving much room for future increases. It also provides confidence about the dividend safety in a cyclical industry. We anticipate an ~8% growth rate per year, near the average for the past decade.

¹ All data is in fiscal year, which ends at the end of March or early April depending on the year.

² Share count in millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	27.9	15.1	--	19.1	19.1	20.1	15.8	24.6	34.2	28.1	28.5	22.0
Avg. Yld.	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	2.2%	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	0.9%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%

Hawkins' stock price is down substantially since our last report on mixed results. We lowered our fiscal year 2026 earnings estimate to match analyst consensus. Our fair value multiple is now 22X, near the 10-year average. Our fair value estimate is \$92. Our 5-year price target is \$135. The equity trades above our estimate.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	48%	41%	--	40%	35%	26%	23%	21%	17%	16%	19%	19%

Hawkins' competitive advantage is its strong supplier and customer relationships. Additionally, the firm emphasizes its people and culture. The average tenure is 7 years, and the median salary is ~\$94k, seemingly on the higher end for a chemical company. Long tenure ensures Hawkins' customers and suppliers deal with the same employee over time.

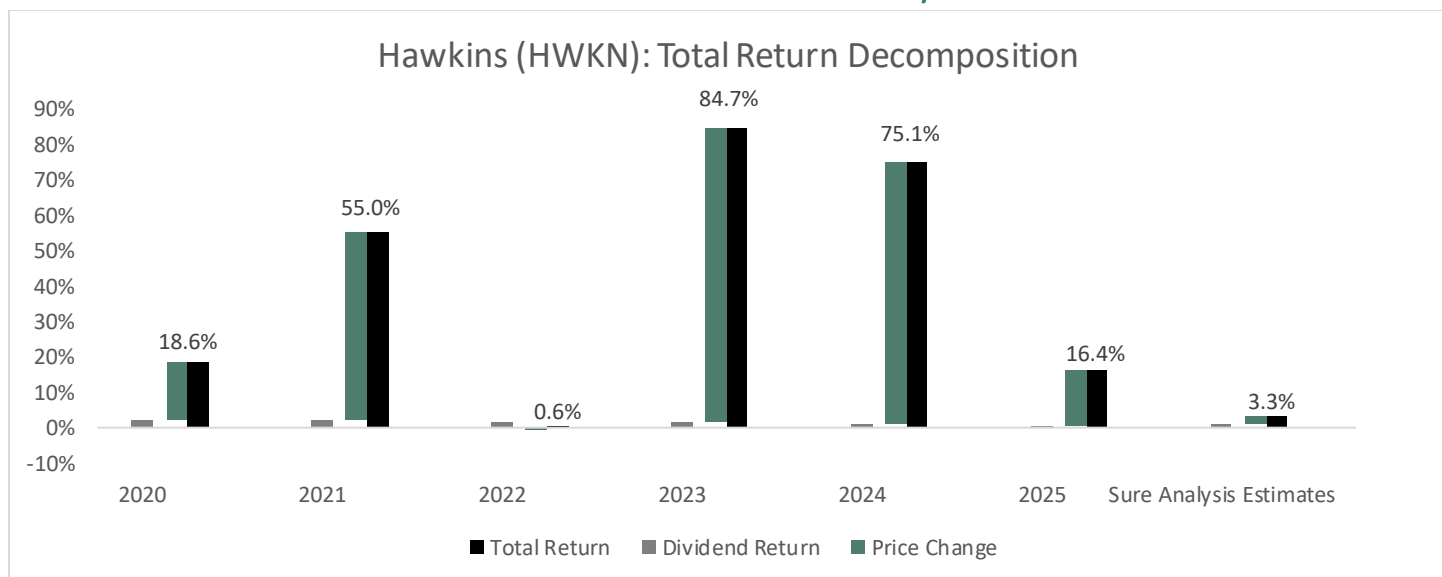
The chemical industry is not recession resistant. Hawkins Industrial and Health and Nutrition segments face challenges during recessions. The Water Treatment segment revenue and profits are less cyclical. However, the company's earnings have declined in the past before recovering.

The company makes use of debt for acquisitions. It has no current long-term debt, and \$244M of long-term debt that is offset by \$8.0M of cash and equivalents. Interest coverage is about 8.64X, and the leverage ratio is ~1.45X.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

At present we are forecasting 3.3% annualized total return over the next five years from a dividend yield of 0.7%, 8% EPS growth, and -5.1% P/E multiple contraction. Hawkins focuses on growth by investing in the business and tuck-in acquisitions. We expect the firm to maintain this strategy despite rising debt. It is also returning cash to shareholders through consistent dividends and incremental share repurchases. Despite the company's attractive characteristics, the current share price accounts for the gains we envision for the next five years. Our rating for this equity is a 'hold'.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	414	484	504	556	540	597	775	935	919	974
Gross Profit	80	98	87	96	101	124	147	165	194	226
Gross Margin	19.4%	20.3%	17.2%	17.2%	18.7%	20.7%	18.9%	17.6%	21.1%	23.1%
SG&A Exp.	49	59	59	59	59	68	75	77	90	106
D&A Exp.	16	21	22	22	22	23	24	27	32	40
Operating Profit	31	39	27	37	42	56	71	88	104	121
Operating Margin	7.5%	8.0%	5.4%	6.6%	7.7%	9.4%	9.2%	9.4%	11.3%	12.4%
Net Profit	18	23	(9)	24	28	41	52	60	75	84
Net Margin	4.4%	4.7%	-1.8%	4.4%	5.3%	6.9%	6.7%	6.4%	8.2%	8.7%
Free Cash Flow	12	23	8	35	34	23	14	29	119	70
Income Tax	12	13	(6)	9	11	15	18	23	26	30

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	436	419	391	386	389	473	567	591	658	785
Cash & Equivalents	20	7	5	9	4	3	3	8	7	5
Accounts Receivable	59	57	64	64	67	91	123	129	114	132
Total Liabilities	48	51	60	60	54	64	95	241	252	325
Accounts Payable	181	174	130	124	119	147	158	54	56	61
Long-Term Debt	236	201	189	168	156	207	265	112	99	160
Shareholder's Equity	30	30	33	29	34	37	67	350	406	460
LTD/E Ratio	129	103	101	85	60	99	126	0.32	0.24	0.35

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	5.3%	5.3%	-2.3%	6.3%	7.3%	9.5%	9.9%	10.4%	12.1%	11.6%
Return on Equity	9.2%	10.8%	-4.4%	11.6%	12.6%	16.4%	18.2%	18.4%	19.9%	19.5%
ROIC	6.9%	6.9%	-2.9%	8.1%	9.5%	12.5%	13.0%	13.5%	15.6%	14.9%
Shares Out.	21.2	21.3	21.2	21.0	21.0	20.9	20.8	21.0	21.0	21.0
Revenue/Share	19.57	22.82	23.68	25.93	25.35	28.07	36.65	44.50	43.74	46.54
FCF/Share	0.57	1.10	0.36	1.65	1.61	1.08	0.68	1.38	5.68	3.34

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

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