Nucor Corporation (NUE)

Updated July 31st, 2026, by Kody Kester

Key Metrics

Current Price:	$256	**5 Year CAGR Estimate:**	4.9%	**Market Cap:**	$58.5B
Fair Value Price:	$234	**5 Year Growth Estimate:**	6.0%	**Ex-Dividend Date:**	09/29/26[1]
% Fair Value:	110%	**5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:**	-1.8%	**Dividend Payment Date:**	11/09/26[1]
Dividend Yield:	0.9%	**5 Year Price Target**	$313	**Years Of Dividend Growth:**	53
Dividend Risk Score:	A	**Sector:**	Materials	**Rating:**	Hold

Overview & Current Events

Nucor Corporation (NUE) is the largest publicly traded U.S.-based steel corporation, with a market capitalization of roughly $58 billion. The company operates 27 U.S. scrap-based steel production mills and is one of North America's largest recyclers. The steel industry is notoriously cyclical, which makes NUE's streak of 53 consecutive years of base dividend increases and status as a Dividend King even more remarkable. Also, the company is transitioning from being a commodity steel maker to a high-margin solution provider. Their downstream products (e.g., overhead doors and metal buildings) now account for about one-third of total revenue, which helps to counter this cyclicality. The company faces challenges from international competitors, as some countries, including China, subsidize their steel industry, making steel exported to the United States artificially cheap, though tariffs on imported steel have provided some protection.

On Jul. 27, NUE released its financial results for the second quarter ended Jul. 4, 2026. The company's net sales jumped 23% over the year-ago period to $10.40 billion in the quarter. This robust topline growth was driven by record steel mill shipments (7.1 million tons in Q2 2026, which was a second consecutive quarterly record for NUE and a 10% increase over Q2 2025), higher realized selling prices (+7% sequentially to $1,145 per ton), and supportive U.S. trade enforcement. NUE's diluted EPS soared 93.8% year-over-year to $5.04 during the quarter (including a $0.20 per share non-cash, pre-tax benefit). That came in $0.27 above the analyst consensus for the quarter. The sizable shipment volumes once again helped NUE to achieve substantial operating leverage and scale-up efficiencies, which led to sizable operating profit expansion. Favorable federal trade policies caused the share of foreign finished U.S. steel imports to drop from 21% to 16%.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	$2.26	$3.55	$7.64	$4.15	$3.23	$23.16	$28.79	$18.00	$8.46	$7.71	***$17.99***	***$24.07***
DPS	$1.50	$1.51	$1.52	$1.60	$1.61	$1.62	$2.00	$2.04	$2.16	$2.20	***$2.24***	***$2.86***
Shares[2]	318.7	318.0	305.6	301.8	302.2	272.4	253.5	244.9	232.8	228.3	***228.5***	***200.0***

Since 2016, NUE has compounded its diluted EPS base by nearly 15% annually. Still, we believe that the constructive federal trade policies will provide a major boost to the company over the coming years. Then, there's the fact that the West Virginia sheet mill is expected to ramp up in 2027. This will act as another growth driver for NUE. Lastly, there are the company's expansions into higher-margin automotive and galvanized steel. That's why we believe that diluted EPS can grow by 6% annually through 2031, off an anticipated 2026 base of $17.99.

[1] Estimated dates based on past dividend dates.
[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.

Nucor Corporation (NUE)

Updated July 31st, 2026, by Kody Kester

Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	26.4	18.0	6.8	13.1	16.2	4.9	4.6	9.6	13.7	21.9	***14.2***	***13.0***
Avg. Yld.	2.5%	2.4%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	1.4%	1.5%	1.2%	1.9%	1.3%	***0.9%***	***0.9%***

Over the last decade, NUE's P/E ratio has varied from as low as the mid-single-digits during cyclical booms to as much as the mid-20s during cyclical downcycles. Over that time, the average P/E ratio was almost 14. Moving forward, we believe that a reasonable fair value P/E ratio for NUE is 13. That accounts for the combination of a favorable operating environment, expansions into higher-margin businesses, and the continued cyclicality of its business. Relative to the current-year P/E ratio of 14.2, this suggests shares are slightly overvalued.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	66%	43%	20%	39%	50%	7%	7%	11%	26%	29%	***12%***	***12%***

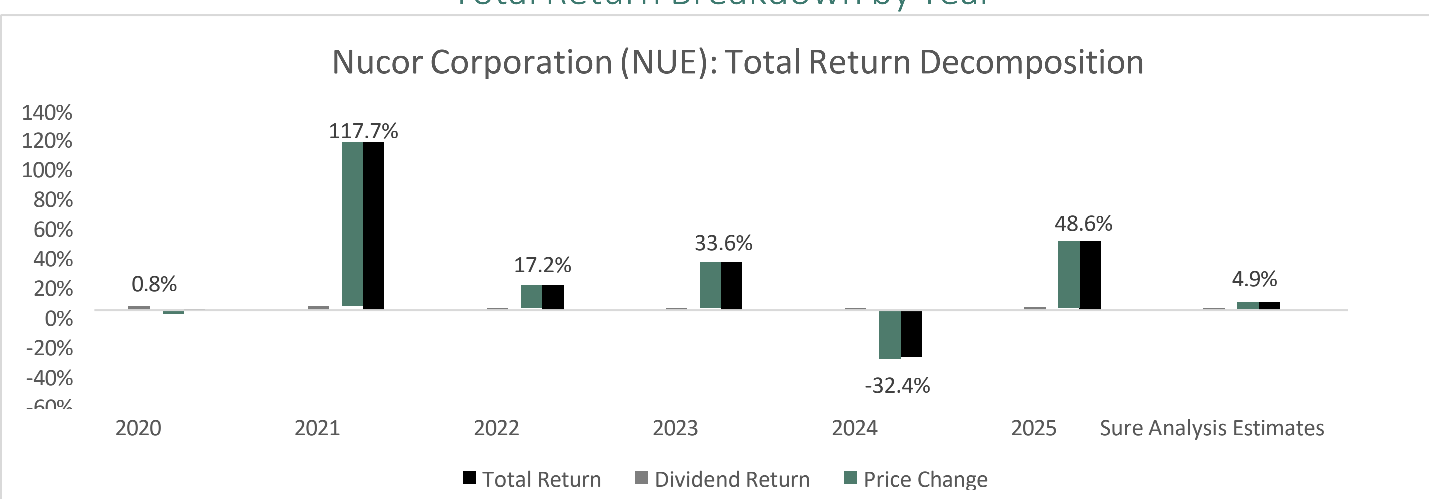
NUE's key competitive advantage is that it was the pioneer of the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) mini-mill model. During periods of low demand or higher electricity prices, the company can dial down its EAFs to protect margins in a downturn. Mini-mills are also much cheaper and faster to build than integrated blast furnace complexes, which allows NUE to scale capacity with much lower capital intensity. The other competitive advantage is that one-third of its net sales comes from selling finished infrastructure. These are specialized steel products used for utility towers and data center racking, which are priced based on value and engineering rather than the commodity spot price of steel.

NUE's balance sheet is also very strong. As of Jul. 4, 2026, the company's debt-to-capital ratio was 23%. This suggests that it is very well-capitalized. NUE also had $3.4 billion in liquidity to end the quarter, which gives it plenty of flexibility to execute the roughly $3.6 billion remaining on its share repurchase program over time. NUE's dividend is also very sustainable, with the payout ratio set to be around 12% in 2026. That should allow the company to extend its 53-year dividend growth streak for the foreseeable future.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

NUE's 0.9% dividend yield, 6.0% annual diluted EPS growth prospects, and 1.8% annual valuation multiple contraction potential could generate 4.9% annual total returns through 2031. This is why we're reiterating our Hold rating.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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.

Nucor Corporation (NUE)

Updated July 31st, 2026, by Kody Kester

Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	16,208	20,252	25,067	22,589	20,140	36,484	41,512	34,714	30,734	32,494
Gross Profit	2,039	2,586	4,286	2,679	2,247	11,054	12,437	7,824	4,123	3,903
Gross Margin	12.6%	12.8%	17.1%	11.9%	11.2%	30.3%	30.0%	22.5%	13.4%	12.0%
SG&A Exp.	597	688	861	711	615	1,707	1,997	1,584	1,123	1,219
D&A Exp.	687	727	720	735	785	865	1,062	1,168	1,356	1,480
Operating Profit	1,465	1,921	3,405	1,934	1,650	9,348	10,440	6,240	3,000	2,684
Op. Margin	9.0%	9.5%	13.6%	8.6%	8.2%	25.6%	25.1%	18.0%	9.8%	8.3%
Net Profit	898	1,376	2,472	1,364	832	7,090	8,048	4,896	2,310	2,031
Net Margin	5.5%	6.8%	9.9%	6.0%	4.1%	19.4%	19.4%	14.1%	7.5%	6.3%
Free Cash Flow	1,145	603	1,411	1,332	1,154	4,609	8,124	4,898	806	(188)
Income Tax	398	369	748	412	(0)	2,078	2,165	1,360	583	530

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	15,224	15,841	17,921	18,345	20,125	25,823	32,479	35,340	33,940	35,104
Cash & Equivalents	2,196	999	1,399	1,835	3,048	2,618	4,858	7,131	4,139	2,699
Acc. Receivable	1,632	2,029	2,506	2,160	2,299	3,854	3,591	2,953	2,675	3,105
Inventories	2,480	3,462	4,554	3,842	3,569	6,011	5,454	5,578	5,106	5,462
Goodwill & Int.	2,920	3,111	3,013	2,943	2,898	3,931	7,242	7,077	7,422	7,177
Total Liabilities	6,969	6,756	7,719	7,553	8,894	11,219	12,909	13,217	12,523	12,980
Accounts Payable	838	1,181	1,428	1,202	1,432	1,974	1,650	2,020	1,832	1,890
Long-Term Debt	4,339	3,742	4,233	4,395	5,358	5,651	6,724	6,805	6,818	7,101
Total Equity	7,880	8,739	9,792	10,358	10,789	14,016	18,415	20,941	20,294	20,936
LTD/E Ratio	0.55	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.50	0.41	0.37	0.33	0.35	0.35

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	6.0%	8.9%	14.6%	7.5%	4.3%	30.9%	27.6%	14.4%	6.7%	5.9%
Return on Equity	11.1%	15.9%	25.6%	13.0%	7.6%	54.9%	47.1%	23.5%	10.6%	9.3%
ROIC	7.2%	10.8%	18.1%	9.2%	5.2%	38.3%	34.4%	17.7%	8.0%	7.0%
Shares Out.	319	318	305	301	298	270	252	241	231	229
Revenue/Share	50.68	63.14	79.14	73.94	66.41	124.35	157.74	138.63	128.86	140.67
FCF/Share	3.58	1.88	4.46	4.36	3.80	15.71	30.87	19.56	3.38	(0.81)

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