



# The AES Corporation (AES)

Updated August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by Quinn Mohammed

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$17	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	16.0%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$12 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$22	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	7.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	08/01/2024
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	75%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	6.0%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	08/15/2024
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	4.2%	<b>5 Year Price Target:</b>	\$31	<b>Years of Dividend Growth:</b>	11
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	C	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	B	<b>Rating:</b>	Buy

## Overview & Current Events

The AES (Applied Energy Services) Corporation was founded in 1981 as an energy consulting company. In 1991, AES listed on the NYSE under the ticker symbol AES and then expanded globally in 1992. The corporation now has businesses in 14 countries and a portfolio of approximately 100 power plants and wind and solar farms. AES produces power through various fuel types, such as gas, renewables, coal, and oil/diesel. The company has nearly 35,000 Gross MW in operation. In 2023, AES produced nearly \$13 billion in revenues. AES corporation is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia and has a market capitalization of \$12 billion.

AES Corporation reported second quarter results on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, for the period ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Adjusted EPS soared 81% to \$0.38 for Q2 2024.

The company constructed and acquired 1.6 GW of renewable energy year-to-date, and is on course to add 3.6 GW of new projects online in 2024.

Leadership expects to achieve the high end of its 2024 guidance for adjusted EPS of \$1.87 to \$1.97 for the full fiscal year. Additionally, the company reaffirms its expectation it can grow EPS on average 7% to 9% through 2025 from a base year of 2020. It also still expects annual EPS growth of 7% to 9% from 2023 through 2027.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
<b>Adj. EPS</b>	\$1.30	\$1.24	\$0.94	\$1.08	\$1.24	\$1.36	\$1.44	\$1.52	\$1.67	\$1.76	<b>\$1.92</b>	<b>\$2.69</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$0.25	\$0.41	\$0.45	\$0.49	\$0.53	\$0.55	\$0.57	\$0.60	\$0.63	\$0.66	<b>\$0.69</b>	<b>\$0.80</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	704	667	659	660	662	667	668	667	668	670	<b>712</b>	<b>725</b>

AES has not produced significant EPS growth over the long term, but adjusted EPS results have improved since 2017. In the last nine and five years, AES Corporation has increased adjusted EPS by a 1.1% and 3.8% CAGR, respectively.

The company is actively engaged in developing and acquiring new energy projects; it currently has a backlog of 12.6 GW of renewables. AES expects to complete the majority of this backlog of projects over the next three years, but as it continues expanding, new projects could push this date out. To fund attractive growth opportunities, the company is likely to continue issuing equity and debt. AES will also raise capital through asset sales, such as assets in Vietnam and Jordan, or by taking on more debt. In May 2024, it announced the sale of AES Brasil which will fetch AES approximately \$640 million of proceeds it will use to invest in renewables and US utilities.

Management targets 10% CAGR in US Utilities rate base and is also forecasting 7% to 9% annual adjusted EPS growth through 2027. We see AES growing adjusted EPS at 7% on average over the next five years.

The corporation has grown the dividend ever since it was instated at \$0.08 in 2012, for a total of eleven years to date. The dividend has grown 10% per year on average since 2014, and 5% per year on average in the past five years. AES aims to increase its dividend by only 2% to 3% per year after 2024, as it focuses its capital on investment opportunities and

<sup>1</sup> In millions

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minimizes stock issuance. The dividend appears safe, and we see it growing at 3.0% over the next five years to reach \$0.80 in 2029.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Now	2029
Avg. P/E	9.9	11.5	12.8	10.5	9.0	9.5	11.8	16.7	14.2	11.7	8.6	11.5
Avg. Yld.	1.3%	1.8%	3.4%	4.0%	4.4%	4.1%	3.4%	2.3%	2.5%	3.3%	4.2%	2.6%

The current PE of 8.6 is undervalued based on AES' historical PE ratio. In the past nine and five years, the average PE was 11.8 and 12.8, respectively. We estimate that AES' fair value is about 11.5 times adjusted earnings as the company executes on its growth and expansion strategy. If AES' valuation were to reach 11.5X from its current 8.6X, the share price would grow by 6.0% annually due to multiple expansion.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2029
Payout	19%	33%	48%	45%	43%	40%	40%	40%	38%	38%	36%	30%

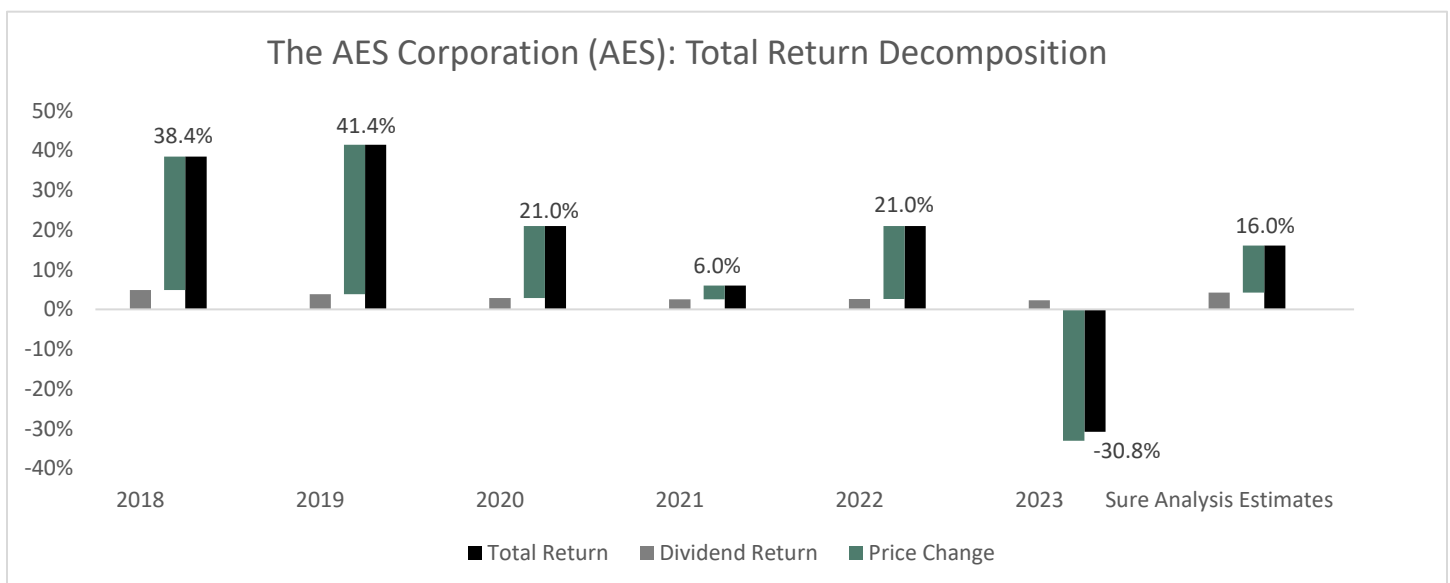
AES' payout ratio has remained fairly stable and is currently well covered. Its payout ratio has never exceeded half of its adjusted earnings, and we see the dividend continuing to grow as it has for the past eleven years.

During the great financial crisis, the AES Corporation's share price fell significantly, however, on an adjusted EPS basis, the company remained quite stable and was not in financial duress. Also, at the time, the corporation had no dividend established and thus no dividend was threatened. Energy is an essential product, regardless of the overall health of the economy. The AES Corporation's competitive advantage is its global presence in 28+ markets and technologically differentiated, customer-centric products, services, and digital packages.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

The AES Corporation is executing a strong growth strategy and expanding its renewables energy portfolio. The majority of total returns for AES will come from earnings-per-share growth, which is estimated at 7.0% annually. We forecast that AES can achieve annualized total returns of 16.0% over the next five years. This includes a 4.2% yield and 6.0% P/E multiple expansion. We are reiterating our buy rating on AES.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenue	16,124	11,260	10,281	10,530	10,736	10,189	9,660	11,141	12,617	12670
Gross Profit	2,980	2,663	2,383	2,465	2,573	2,349	2,693	2,711	2,548	2504
Gross Margin	18.5%	23.7%	23.2%	23.4%	24.0%	23.1%	27.9%	24.3%	20.2%	19.8%
D&A Exp.	187	196	194	215	192	196	165	166	207	1128
Operating Profit	2,793	2,467	2,137	2,250	2,374	2,153	2,528	2,545	2,341	2237
Op. Margin	17.3%	21.9%	20.8%	21.4%	22.1%	21.1%	26.2%	22.8%	18.6%	17.7%
Net Profit	1,245	1,144	1,176	1,169	1,003	1,045	1,068	1,056	1,053	249
Net Margin	7.7%	10.2%	11.4%	11.1%	9.3%	10.3%	11.1%	9.5%	8.3%	2.0%
Free Cash Flow	769	306	-1,130	-1,161	1,203	303	46	-409	-546	-4690
Income Taxes	-225	-174	552	327	222	61	855	-214	-1836	261

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Assets	38,966	36,470	36,124	33,112	32,521	33,648	34,603	32,963	38,363	44800
Cash & Equivalents	1,539	1,257	1,244	949	1,166	1,029	1,089	943	1,374	1426
Goodwill & Int.	2,709	2,302	1,421	1,463	1,595	1,479	1,300	1,418	1,799	2591
Total Liabilities	702	671	622	562	577	487	461	604	1,055	38810
Accounts Payable	1,739	1,497	1,444	1,425	1,495	1,528	1,888	2,627	2,203	3173
Long-Term Debt	31,641	30,299	30,424	28,267	26,917	28,419	29,883	28,396	33,859	26880
Total Equity	2,278	1,571	1,238	1,371	1,329	1,311	1,156	1,153	1,730	1650
LTD/E Ratio										10.80

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Return on Assets	1.9%	0.8%	-3.1%	-3.4%	3.7%	0.9%	0.1%	-1.2%	-1.5%	0.6%
Return on Equity	17.9%	8.2%	-38.0%	-44.2%	42.4%	9.8%	1.6%	-17.8%	-30.7%	4.8%
ROIC	2.7%	1.1%	-4.4%	-4.6%	4.8%	1.2%	0.2%	-1.7%	-2.1%	0.8%
Shares Out.	724	689	660	660	665	667	668	666	668	712
Revenue/Share	22.27	16.34	15.58	15.95	16.14	15.28	14.46	16.73	18.89	17.79
FCF/Share	-0.31	-0.25	0.84	0.50	0.33	0.09	1.28	-0.32	-2.75	-6.59

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

### Disclaimer

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