



# Balfour Capital Group Celanese Corporation

Celanese Corporation (NYSE: CE) is a global specialty materials and chemicals company headquartered in Irving, Texas. Founded in 1918, it produces acetyl-based chemicals (such as acetic acid, VAM, acetate esters) and engineered polymers used across industries like automotive, electronics, construction, and food ingredients (e.g., sorbates, sweeteners).

## 1. Top 5 Competitors

Major competitors in its chemicals and materials space include:

1. Dow Inc.
2. LyondellBasell Industries
3. Eastman Chemical
4. Huntsman Corporation
5. Westlake Chemical

These firms compete directly in areas like acetyl intermediates and engineered polymers.

## 2. Largest Institutional Shareholders

As of early July 2025, leading institutional holders include:

- Capital World Investors (~\$1.06 B)
- Dodge & Cox (~\$873.8 M)
- BlackRock (~\$788.7 M)
- Vanguard Group (~\$681.5 M)
- Berkshire Hathaway (~\$620.5 M)

Institutional ownership is very high, about 98.9% of shares .

## 3. Management Team

Key executives include:

- Lori J. Ryerkerk – Chair, President & CEO
- Chuck B. Kyrish – SVP & CFO
- Scott A. Richardson – EVP & COO
- Ashley B. Duffie – SVP & General Counsel
- Mark C. Murray – SVP Acetyls
- Thomas F. Kelly – SVP Engineered Materials

Plus several VPs like Anne Puckett (Executive Officer), Aaron McGilvray (Controller), and Sameer Purao (CIO)



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## 4. Revenue

For fiscal year 2024, Celanese reported approximately \$10.3 billion in revenue

## 5. Institutions with Buy Recommendations:

While specific “institutional analyst” recommendations aren’t centralized, major firm analysts have issued recent buys or upgrades, including:

- Wells Fargo (June 2025): upgraded to Overweight, PT \$66
- BMO Capital (May 2025): from Underperform to Market Perform, PT \$55
- KeyBanc, Alembic, Vertical Research (Mar-May 2025): upgrades from neutral/sell to Overweight/Hold, with PTs ranging \$70–76
- Deutsche Bank (Nov 2024): upgraded to Buy, PT cut to \$110

## 6. Analyst Sentiment Summary

On platform Simply Wall St, Celanese’s stock is considered ~61.6% undervalued vs intrinsic value, with earnings growth forecasts strong ( $\approx +62\%$  annually), though financial health is flagged weak (high debt) [Simply Wall St](#).

Earnings volatility and macro challenges have prompted note downgrades and price-target cuts from multiple banks. For example, Wells Fargo, Vertical Research, BMO, KeyBanc, etc., made recent upgrades, while others like RBC and UBS lowered targets in late 2024 to early 2025 .

Recent news from Reuters, Investopedia, and local analysts highlight cost pressures, demand softness, and production issues, though analysts like Deutsche Bank view these as transitory and affirm long-term cash flow and recovery potential .

## 7. Insider Buying and Selling (Last 24 Months)

From SEC filings and tracking sites:

- Purchases (~\$389,929 total):
  - Mark C. Murray (SVP Acetyls): ~\$170,563
  - Thomas F. Kelly (SVP Eng. Materials): ~\$219,366
- Sales (~\$919,159 total):
  - Scott A. Richardson (COO): ~\$919,159

Recent activity within last 90 days (via TipRanks & InsiderScreener):

- Mark Murray buying: 1,479 shares (~\$77K) on May 23, 2025.

Additionally in March 2025, Moorthy Ganesh and Scott Sutton (non-exec directors) bought shares, along with further purchases by Murray.

Data from Fintel shows younger insider purchase activity with profit potential.