

LinkedIn shares dive on weak forecast

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LinkedIn shares plunged more than 40 percent on Friday after a weak outlook from the career-focused social network fueled fears of a slowdown.

The shares dived 43.6 percent to close at \$108.38, its lowest since late 2012.

LinkedIn reported a loss of \$166 million for 2015, far wider than the \$16 million deficit for 2014.

But investors were unsettled by the weak [outlook](#) of revenues well below the \$3.9 billion expected.

The outlook "implies material deceleration in growth, which removes support for the company's historically premium valuation," said Mark Mahaney at RBC Capital Markets in a research note.

Barclays analyst Paul Vogel said he was not surprised by the sharp reaction in LinkedIn stock.

"It is definitely a lot harder not to wonder if the company is starting to hit saturation levels with certain users or enterprises," he said in a note to clients.

LinkedIn claimed 414 million users in December, up by 18 million from the previous quarter and 67 million over the past year.

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