

HSI WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 14, 2018

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) increased from 129.53 on December 21 to 132.16, representing a 2.03% change for the week ended December 28, 2018.

The stocks were all over the place with wild swings varying each day for the week, but we ended with a slight increase of 2.03%. The main reason for the vast amount of changes is the partial government shutdown that President Trump declared last Friday the 21st. The shutdown does not affect the market directly, but it's a confidence factor. The shutdown has caused people to panic and sell. Economic factors, such as fears about Federal Reserve monetary policy, are also affecting the market.

The stock that increased the most this week was ImmuCell Corporation [ICCC] which went up 11.15%. One of the reasons for this is the effect of the low stock price, a change of just \$0.72 looks significant. The company recently announced the USDA approval of their newest product Dual-Force, which provides antibodies to prevent scours in newborn calves. Overall, though, the company has underperformed the S&P 500 this year by 16.09%. It will be interesting to get the fourth quarter results and see the impact of this new product.

Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. [HLT] was another stock to make a significant increase this week, going up 6.74%. Sanjit Deepalam of Seeking Alpha believes that HLT is not undervalued, although maybe not overvalued, and has a number of positives such as being "asset-light, growing and [generating] good cash flow." According to Steve Dixon of FIN Bulletin, a recent research note from RBC Capital Mkts. set a price target for HLT of \$84.

The Home Depot, Inc. [HD] went up by 6.07%. The company is doing very well with an increase of both sales and earnings per share of 10.64% in the third quarter. They are dominant in the home improvement market. Analysts' median estimate is for an increase in the stock price for next year of 17.5%.

The HSI was developed by Marie Kenney, while a student at Husson University, in consultation with Associate Professor J. Douglas Wellington. The index is currently being tracked and analyzed by Husson student Mairéad O'Sullivan. The HSI tracks and analyzes 29 companies that are considered to have an effect on the Maine economy. These companies are either based in Maine or have an influence on the Maine economy through employment, and overall presence in the State. This price-weighted index offers a numerical break down of Maine's economy to help provide a better understanding of Maine's economy. The analysis looks into the events of the week and tries to explain significant changes in the stock prices of the companies that comprise the Husson Stock Index.

References

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