

HSI WEEK ENDED January 11, 2019

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) increased from 135.61 on January 4, to 139.03 representing a 2.52% change for the week ended January 11, 2019.

So far, things are looking good for the stock market in 2019. The Dow Jones Industrial Average year-to-date gain is 2.89%, which is the best first seven days to a year since 2006, when stocks burst 3.04% higher over the same period. Some analysts have linked this rise with the oil prices. As of Saturday January 12th, however, the government shutdown will be the longest in history. Some analysts worry that this record may cause people to panic and as a result cause the stock market to drop. A lot of people are expecting a drop soon as the past few weeks have had high gains, but other analysts note that the economy is still strong and shows no reason to believe this is other than patterns in the past. It will be interesting to see if anything changes on Monday.

Penn National Gaming, Inc. [PENN] was one stock to have a big increase going up 17.34%. This is the second week in a row that this stock has had significant growth. Earlier this week Rutter's, a Pennsylvania-based convenience store, picked Penn National as its operator for video game terminals in Pennsylvania. They have already made plans to put video game terminals in twenty stores after all the legal paperwork goes through. Additionally, on January 9th PENN announced a new two-year \$200 million stock repurchase program.

WEX Inc. [WEX] was another stock that went up a lot this week, with a 9.64% increase. On January 11th, the company announced they partnered with AI.io to launch their new voice

activated travel app called Halo Travel. It will be the first app to enable people to book hotels and flights via voice commands and should bring lots of new customers to the company. WEX is doing better than a lot of their competitors already with shares that have gained 7.7% in the past year outperforming the industry average of 7.1%.

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.

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