Maine Stock Index, Week of April 1st

The Maine Stock Index closed with an increase for the week ended April 1st. The Index was up 2.04 points or 1.96%, to 106.35. Of the stocks in the Index, 79 percent were up this week, with three stocks having an increase above 4%. Big changers this week for the Maine Stock Index included **IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX)** which was up 5.00% or $3.78 a share, to $79.37 this week. **Athenahealth (ATHN)** was up 4.18% or $5.59 a share, to $139.17 this week. **(ATHN)** also had a large effect on the Index as a whole, increasing the Index 0.306%. **Home Depot (HD)** was up 3.37% or $4.39 a share, to $134.85 this week.

**IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX)** - continues to demonstrate solid growth worldwide. Its price increase of $3.78 a share is demonstrating more interest in the company by outside investors. IDEXX has gone from a share price of $16.40 at the beginning of 2009 to now being around $80 within seven years.

**Athenahealth (ATHN)** – The company’smedian net profit margins and relatively high asset efficiency give it some operating leverage. Compared with its peers, changes in the company’s annual earnings are better than the changes in its revenue, implying better than median cost control and/or some economies of scale.

**Home Depot (HD) -** Home Depot's early February decline, a five-day losing streak on accelerating trade, drove the stock below its January low. HD quickly rebounded from this selloff after holding near the $110 level. The rally that followed has been very steady and, at today's peak, had lifted the stock over 22%.  As the stock stretches into the $135 area, it is revisiting the multi-month 2015 highs.

The Maine Stock Index 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 Samuel Thomas. The index tracks and analyzes 28 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, number of consumers, and overall presence in the State.  This price-weighted index offers a numerical break down of Maine’s economy. The analysis looks into the events of the week and finds the likely reasons the index was up or down. The index and analysis help provide a better understanding of Maine’s economy and offer an explanation of significant changes in the stock prices of the companies that comprise the Maine Stock Index.

**References**

(IDXX) – Yahoo Finance. (2016, April 03). IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Retrieved April 03, 2016, from <http://finance.yahoo.com/q?s=IDXX>

(ATHN) – Capital Cube. (2016, March 24). Athenahealth, Inc. - Value Analysis (NASDAQ:ATHN) : March 24, 2016 - CapitalCube. Retrieved April 03, 2016, from <http://www.capitalcube.com/blog/index.php/athenahealth-inc-value-analysis-nasdaqathn-march-24-2016/>

(HD) - Morrow, G. (2016, April 01). Is Home Depot headed for new all-time highs? Retrieved April 03, 2016, from <http://www.thestreet.com/story/13515904/1/is-home-depot-headed-for-new-all-time-highs.html?puc=yahoo>