Maine Stock Index, Week of December 24th

The Maine Stock Index closed at its 3rd highest point on this short week ended December 24th, an increase of 2.63 points or 2.55%, to 105.73. Most stocks had a slight increase with only two going into the negative but with relatively small decreases. Two stocks with the biggest impact on this short week before Christmas were **Gas Natural, Inc. (EGAS)**,a whooping increase of 19.69%, or $1.28 a share, to $7.78 this week. The company is finally seeing some improvement after a 27.53% decline over the previous four weeks. **Athenahealth (ATHN)** had a large impact on the total effect of the index, a 0.4% increase in the total index and 15.69% of the total change in the index. **Athenahealth (ATHN)** had an increase of 4.65%, or $7.23 a share, to $162.78.

**Gas Natural, Inc. (EGAS)** is trading at a lower price than its peers. Compared to its peers it underperformed over the last year. However, **EGAS** price momentum over the last month is better than last year which may be an indicator that investors may purchase more of this possibly undervalued stock.

**Athenahealth (ATHN)** was rated as a hold by TheStreet Quant Ratings. They say the company's strengths can be seen in multiple areas, such as its compelling growth in net income, robust revenue growth and largely solid financial position with reasonable debt levels by most measures. However, as a counter to these strengths, they also find weaknesses including premium valuation and weak operating cash flow.

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.

References

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(EGAS) - Yahoo Finance. (2015, December 22). Gas Natural, Inc.: Strong price momentum but will it sustain? - CapitalCube. Retrieved December 27, 2015, from http://www.capitalcube.com/blog/index.php/gas-natural-inc-strong-price-momentum-but-will-it-sustain/