Maine Stock Index, Week of December 31st

The Maine Stock Index closed with a small decrease on this short week ended December 31st, a decrease of 0.87 points or 0.82%, to 104.86. This was similar to the Dow Jones Industrial Average which closed down around 1%. Almost all stocks had a slight decrease with only two going into the positive but with relatively small increases. Three stocks with the biggest impact on this short week before New Year were **Gas Natural, Inc. (EGAS),** the largest decrease of percent change for an individual stock of 4.24%, or .33¢ a share, to $7.45 this week. **WEX (WEX)** had a decrease of 2.10%, or $1.90 a share, to $88.40. **General Dynamic (GD)** had a decrease of 1.77%, or $2.48 a share, to $137.36.  **General Dynamic** **(GD)** also had the largest effect on the total stock index, a decrease of .134%

**Gas Natural, Inc. (EGAS)** TheStreet Ratings rated **Gas Natural** as a [hold](http://www.thestreet.com/r/ratings/reports/ir-screener.html?action=hold?cm_ven_int=tstwire). They say the company's strengths can be seen in multiple areas, such as its compelling growth in net income and largely solid financial position with reasonable debt levels by most measures. However, as a counter to these strengths, they also found weaknesses including a generally disappointing performance in the stock itself, disappointing return on equity and weak operating cash flow.

**WEX (WEX)** SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- A subsidiary of the South Portland payment processing company WEX Inc. must pay a $1.75 million fine for its role in deceiving college students about disbursements of financial aid. The Portland Press Herald reports WEX Bank has also been ordered to pay a share of $31 million in restitution to 900,000 customers. WEX Bank settled with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

**General Dynamic (GD)** The stock price peaked in August and then reached a low in September. It came back in October, but failed to break above the August highs. GD sold off again in November, and made a lower high in early December. As the rest of December unfolded, prices broke below the flat 50-day and 200-day moving averages. An analyst for Real Money believes General Dynamic has a weak technical picture.

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**

(EGAS) - 3 Stocks With Upcoming Ex-Dividend Dates: EGAS, CPTA, CYS. (2015, December 17). Retrieved January 4, 2016, from <http://www.thestreet.com/story/13401246/1/3-stocks-with-upcoming-ex-dividend-dates-egas-cpta-cys.html?puc=bloomberg&cm_ven=BLOOMBERG>

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