Maine Stock Index, Week of February 19th

The Maine Stock Index closed with an increase for the week ended February 19th of 2.41 points or 2.51%, to 98.46. Of the stocks in the Index, 82 percent were up this week, with six stocks having an increase above 5.00%. Still a lot of fluctuation and uncertainty is getting projected into the Maine economy from the market as a whole. We are starting to see some stability in the oil industry which is a promising outlook. Big changers this week include **Unum Group (UNM)** which was up 9.47% or $2.38 a share, to $27.52 this week. **Hilton Worldwide (HLT)** up 7.23% or $1.34 a share, to $19.88 this week. **Athenahealth (ATHN)** up 6.64% or $7.84 a share, to $125.98 this week, which also had a large effect on the index of 0.466%. **IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX)** was up 5.14% or $3.49 a share, to $71.34 this week.

**Unum Group (UNM)** Last week **(UNM)** was down 9.18%, and this week was up 9.47%, which may indicate a market correction.

**Hilton Worldwide (HLT) -** The company is offering room rate discounts of up to 10 percent for Hilton Honors loyalty program members who book through Hilton’s site. “There’s always been a misconception that you could find lower prices elsewhere, which wasn’t true,” said [Mark Weinstein](http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/search/results?q=Mark%20Weinstein), Hilton’s global head of customer engagement.  “The reality of the situation is you get a better value when you engage with us directly. That’s the crux of our message, and we felt it was time to shout it from the hilltops.” This may lead to lowering the cost of online travel agency commissions, which can be as high as 30%.

**Athenahealth (ATHN)** – The company isa leading provider of network-enabled services and mobile applications for health care providers nationwide.Healthcare is one of the last industries to modernize, and healthcare IT companies may have a lot of exciting potential for growth.

**IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX) -** Americans spend $60 billion a year on their pets, a fact that has led investors to seek shelter in pet company shares when the stock market is weak. According to Yahoo Finance, IDXX has a stock beta of 0.29, indicating that it is generally not sensitive to market fluctuations.

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

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