Maine Stock Index, Week of March 4th

The Maine Stock Index closed with a strong increase for the week ended March 4th of 2.46 points or 2.46%, to 102.37. Of the stocks in the Index, 90 percent were up this week, with six stocks having an increase above 5%. Big changers this week include **Unum Group (UNM)** which was up 7.54% or $2.18 a share, to $31.10, the third consecutive week showing an increase. **Valero Energy (VLO)** was up 7.09% or $4.23 a share, to $63.89 this week. **WEX (WEX)** was up a booming 16.78% or $10.88 a share, to $75.73 this week. **(WEX)** also largely effecting the Index as a whole with a percent change of 0.621.

**Unum Group (UNM)** launched two new websites - [WorkWell](http://cts.businesswire.com/ct/CT?id=smartlink&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.workwell.unum.com&esheet=51295049&newsitemid=20160307005996&lan=en-US&anchor=WorkWell&index=1&md5=74eb52f8abba6d1388244c974e9ada74) and [WorkLife](http://cts.businesswire.com/ct/CT?id=smartlink&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.worklife.coloniallife.com&esheet=51295049&newsitemid=20160307005996&lan=en-US&anchor=WorkLife&index=2&md5=843ab8c0c76ec9003139b130bf33c502) –to help consumers make the most of their work life. These websites will give stories about workplace issues, career development, benefits packages and healthy living tips, to support consumers as they navigate the ins and outs of their time on – and off - the clock.

**Valero Energy (VLO) –** According to *TheStreet,* the company's strengths can be seen in multiple areas, such as its largely solid financial position with reasonable debt levels by most measures, notable return on equity, reasonable valuation levels and solid stock price performance. They feel its strengths outweigh the fact that the company shows weak operating cash flow.

**WEX (WEX) -**  a leading provider of corporate payment solutions, announced on February 29 the appointment of Roberto Simon as chief financial officer, effective immediately. These executive changes are being made to add further depth and international experience to the senior management team as the company continues to globalize and diversify the business.

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**

**(WEX) –**Business Wire. (2016, February 29). WEX Welcomes Roberto Simon as Chief Financial Officer. Retrieved March 09, 2016, from <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/wex-welcomes-roberto-simon-chief-213000460.html>

**(UNM) –** Business Wire. (2016, March 7). Unum and Colonial Life launch new websites to connect with America's workers. Retrieved March 09, 2016, from <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/unum-colonial-life-launch-websites-180500602.html>

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