HSI Week Ended February 3rd, 2017

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) decreased 0.21% from the week ended January 27th. The HSI on January 27th was 123.29 and is now 123.04. This can be explained by the four significant changes over this period. There was only one significant increase from January 27th to February 3rd and that was IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX). IDEXX increased 16.74% from $121.66 to $142.02; this was due to their release of their impressive fourth quarter earnings. There were also three major decreases during this time period, Athenahealth (ATHN) decreased 12.178% to $108.90, due to being below their estimated revenue totals for 2016. Rite Aid (RAD) decreased 23.95% to $5.27 because of Walgreens amendment to the buyout deal. Finally the United States Postal Service (UPS) decreased 9.43% to $106.95.

IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX): IDEXX Laboratories released their impressive fourth quarter earnings that lead to people investing in their stock. Brian Orelli of the Motley Fool explains, “Sales of instruments were up 24% organically. The new SediVue urine sediment analyzer continues to help boost the category.”

Athenahealth (ATHN): Athenahealth’s revenue was much lower than they had anticipated. Jessica Bartlett of the Boston Business Journal quoted Mohan Naidu, an analyst with Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., “Investors are paying attention to the revenue miss.…Although they beat earnings, the revenues were below expectations, which usually doesn’t happen that much with this company so it’s a big surprise.”

Rite Aid (RAD): Rite Aid’s stock has dropped because Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) has made an amendment to the deal to buy out Rite Aid. This is explained by Sonya Bells of the Market Realist, “According to the amendment, Walgreens will now pay $6.50–$7 per share to Rite Aid shareholders, depending on the number of stores it must divest. That compares to $9 per share that Walgreens agreed to pay when it first made the deal in October 2015.”

United Parcel Service (UPS): The United Parcel Service’s stock lost value because of the release of their fourth quarter earnings per share. This is explained by Samuel Prince of the Market Realist, “United Parcel Service (UPS), the parcel delivery giant, reported its 4Q16 earnings on January 31, 2017. The company reported a loss of $0.27 per share in 4Q16. The company missed Wall Street analysts’ estimates by 3.6%. UPS’s loss of $0.27 per share compares with its earnings of $1.48 per share in 4Q15.”

The Husson 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 Justin Hallowell. 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 Husson Stock Index.

Orelli, Brian. Motley Fool. (2017, February 3). *Strong Fourth Quarter for IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.*Retrieved From: <https://www.fool.com/investing/2017/02/03/strong-fourth-quarter-for-idexx-laboratories-inc.aspx?source=yahoo-2&utm_campaign=article&utm_medium=feed&utm_source=yahoo-2&yptr=yahoo>

Bartlett, Jessica. Boston Business Journal. (2017, February 3).*Mild winter hurts Athenahealth revenue, shares slide.*Retrieved from: <http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2017/02/03/mild-winter-hurts-athenahealth-revenue-shares.html?ana=yahoo&yptr=yahoo>

Bells, Sonya. Market Realist. (2017, February 1). *Rite Aid Stock Tanks as Walgreens Drops Merger Price.* Retrieved from: <http://marketrealist.com/2017/02/walgreens-rite-aid-amend-merger-agreement-extend-deadline-2/?utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=feed&yptr=yahoo>

Prince, Samuel. Market Realist. (2017, February 2). *Pension Accounting Loss Shadows UPS’s 4Q16 Earnings, Stock Down 3.5%.* Retrieved from: <http://marketrealist.com/2017/02/pension-accounting-loss-shadows-upss-4q16-earnings-stock-down-3-5/?utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=feed&yptr=yahoo>