HSI Week Ended March 3rd, 2017

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) increased 0.17% from the week ended February 24th. The HSI on February 24th was 126.60 and is now 126.81. The HSI had three big movers this week, those being Bank of America, Lowe’s, and Rite Aid. Bank of America (BAC) increased 4.99% from $24.23 to $25.44. This increase is due to investor’s optimism about the banking industry following the recent presidential election. Lowe’s (LOW) increased 7.33% from $76.10 to $81.68. The rise in the housing price index along with other factors explained below, is making Lowe’s a valuable stock. Finally Rite Aid (RAD) decreased 8.71% from $5.97 down to $5.45.

Bank of America (BAC): Investors continue to be optimistic about the possibility of rising interest rates following the election. On top of the possibility of rising interest rates, Bank of America is projected to continue to outperform its competitors as explained by Chiradeep BasuMallick of The Street, “Bank of America is a [$255-billion](https://in.finance.yahoo.com/quote/bac/key-statistics?ltr=1) lender that's [delivered solid returns](https://www2.investingdaily.com/glp-pf-seconds-crg?campaigncode=WL1158&src=editorial-seconds-thestreet-default&utm_source=thestreet&utm_medium=editorial&utm_campaign=pf-seconds&utm_content=cb-bank-030217) over the past year. Shares are up 93%, out-performing rivals like **JP Morgan** ([JPM](https://www.thestreet.com/quote/JPM.html)) (58%) or **Citigroup** ([C](https://www.thestreet.com/quote/C.html)) (49%).” “…With double-digit earnings [growth](https://in.finance.yahoo.com/quote/BAC/analysts?p=BAC) projected annually for the next five years, this is a [rock-solid investment option](https://www2.investingdaily.com/glp-pf-seconds-crg?campaigncode=WL1158&src=editorial-seconds-thestreet-default&utm_source=thestreet&utm_medium=editorial&utm_campaign=pf-seconds&utm_content=cb-bank-030217).”

Lowe’s (LOW): Lowe’s recent release of its fourth quarter earnings and the increase in the housing price index has led to investor optimism. This is explained in detail by Ralph Nathan of the Market Realist, “With the US housing price index on the rise, lower unemployment rate, and the recent rise in wages, the company’s management has set a positive outlook of 5% sales growth, and 16.6% EPS growth for 2017. All these factors appear to have increased investor’s confidence, leading to a rise in Lowe’s stock price.”

Rite Aid (RAD): The Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) attempted buyout of Rite Aid continues. There is no conclusive evidence why Rite Aid suffered an 8.71% decrease in its stock value this week.

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.

BasuMallick, Chiradeep. The Street. (2017, March 3). *Two Big Bank Stocks to Buy Right Now*. Retrieved from: <https://www.thestreet.com/story/14025254/1/two-big-bank-stocks-to-buy-right-now.html?puc=yahoo&cm_ven=YAHOO&yptr=yahoo>

Nathan, Ralph. Market Realist. (2017, March 3). *Lowe’s Stock Just Jumped, and Here’s Why.* Retrieved from: <http://marketrealist.com/2017/03/lowes-stock-just-jumped-and-heres-why/?utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=feed&yptr=yahoo>