

Husson Stock Index Week Ended February 22, 2019

Introduction

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) continued its unrelenting climb, posting gains in every week thus far in 2019. For the week ending February 22, 2019 the index finished at 151.35, which represents a 0.41% gain for the week, and a 14.5% increase year-to-date (YTD). With this gain, the HSI also continues to outpace the S&P 500, which has shown a gain of 12.35% YTD¹.

Summary

Bar Harbor Bankshares (NYSE:BHB) led the HSI for the week, posting a gain of 5.98%. Due to its strong dividend, which was recently raised, the financial institution continues to garner support from investors. With the increase the dividend yield is now at 3.4%. After the recent increase in the dividend yield, BHB will pay \$0.20 per share on March 15, 2019 to common shareholders on record as of February 15, 2019 (*Bar Harbor Bankshares*).

Following its (-6.67%) drop the prior week, ImmuCell (NYSE:ICCC) rebounded, closing out this week with a 4.14% gain. There was no news as to the cause of this increase, but one can surmise that the increase was nothing more than a correction from the sudden drop the week before. ICC is up 1.5% YTD.

After finishing up 10.61% the week prior, Hilton Worldwide Holdings (NYSE:HLT) finished the week ending February 22, 2019 with another impressive gain of 4.01%. The hospitality company announced that it will launch a new brand of hotels for some of the bigger destination properties. According to David Marr, senior vice president and global head of full-service brands, the new brand is meant to “resonate with travelers, ‘wow’ meeting professionals and set a new, elevated standard for the meetings and events industry” (Cooper).

If there was one word to describe Rite-Aid Corporation, it would be volatility. The stock continued its rollercoaster-like movement, finishing the week down (-7.50%), the single largest decline in the HSI. Investors continue to look for signs as to the overall direction of the drugstore. The company recently hired a new chief executive officer as its pharmacy benefits manager (Japson).

The stock with the second largest decline of the week was Walgreen Boots Alliance, Inc. (NYSE:WBA), whose shares sank (-4.09%) for the week. Although there was no

major news concerning WBA, investors, after rival drugstore chain CVS Health Corp. experienced a disappointing fourth quarter, may be pessimistic about the sector in general (Kilgore).

Conclusion

The HSI 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 David Giles. The HSI tracks and analyzes the stocks of 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 or consumer spending. This price-weighted index offers a numerical breakdown of Maine's economy. The analysis looks into the events of the week and finds the likely reasons the index went up or down. This index and analysis helps provide a better understanding of Maine's economy as well as explain significant changes in stock prices of the companies that comprise the HSI.

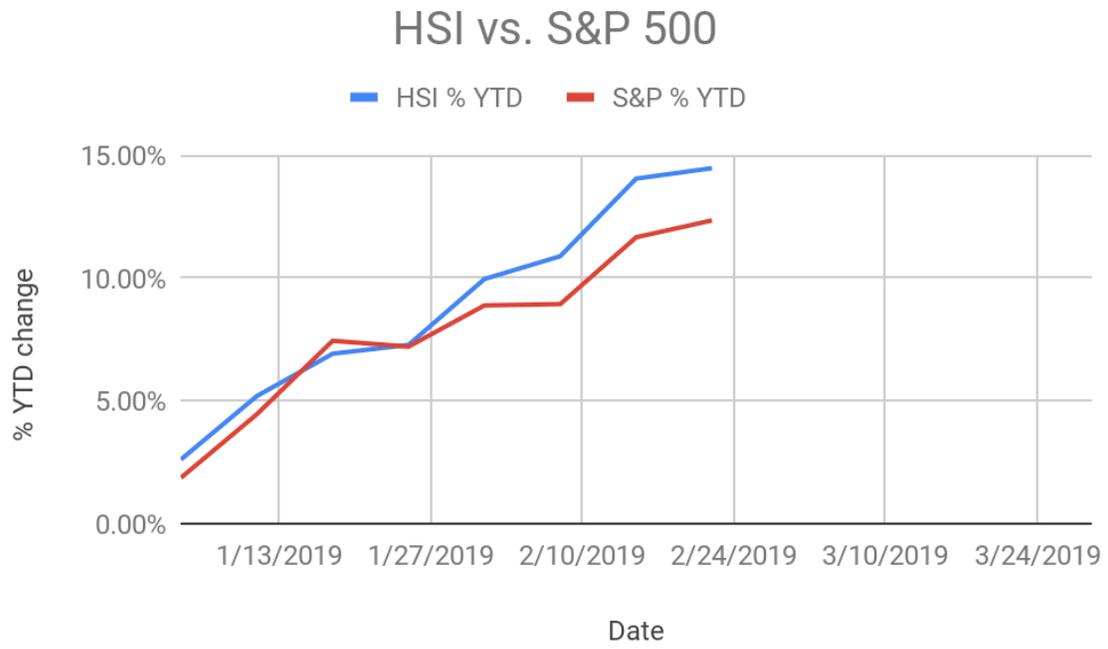
¹ Calculations for week-to-week and year-to-date are calculated using end-of-week totals. For instance, the year-to-date percentage increases use the end of December 28, 2018 as the starting point, and not December 31, 2018.

Composition of the Husson Stock Index (HSI)

Ticker Symbol	Stock	Maine Affiliation	Sector
AGR	Avangrid, Inc.	Presence	Utilities
ANCUF	Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc Class B	Presence	Consumer Staples
BAC	Bank of America Corporation	Presence	Financials
BHB	Bar Harbor Bankshares	Maine-based	Financials
CAC	Camden National Corporation	Maine-based	Financials
CHTR	Charter Communications, Inc.	Presence	Communications Services
CL	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Maine-based	Consumer Staples
DRI	Darden Restaurants, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
FNLC	The First Bancorp, Inc.	Maine-based	Financials
GD	General Dynamics Corporation	Presence	Industrials
HLT	Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
HD	The Home Depot, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
ICCC	ImmuCell Corporation	Maine-based	Health Care
IDXX	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	Maine-based	Health Care
LOW	Lowe's Companies, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
MCD	McDonald's Corporation	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
NBN	Northeast Bancorp	Maine-based	Financials
PENN	Penn National Gaming, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
RAD	Rite Aid Corporation	Presence	Consumer Staples
TD	The Toronto-Dominion Bank	Presence	Financials
TMUS	T-Mobile US, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Services

UPS	United Parcel Service, Inc.	Presence	Industrials
UTX	United Technologies Corporation	Presence	Industrials
UNM	Unum Group	Presence	Financials
VLO	Valero Energy Corporation	Presence	Energy
WMT	Walmart Inc.	Presence	Consumer Staples
WEX	WEX Inc.	Presence	Information Technology
WBA	Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Staples

Husson Stock Index (HSI) vs Standard & Poor (S&P) 500 YTD



References

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