

## Husson Stock Index Week Ended February 8, 2019

### Introduction

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) continued its unrelenting climb for the week ending February 8, 2019, increasing from the prior weeks close of 145.32 and finishing the week at 146.56 (+.85%). Year-to-Date (YTD), the HSI has shown positive gains in each of the six weeks, and is presently up 10.89%. In contrast, the S&P 500 increased 0.05% for the week ending February 8, 2019, and shown an 8.94% increase YTD.<sup>1</sup>

### Summary

Darden's Restaurants (NYSE:DRI) led the HSI for the week ending February 8, 2019, posting a 4.22% increase in its stock price. The company, which owns and operates several popular restaurant brands with locations throughout Maine, recently implemented structural and operational changes in order to improve margins and revenue growth. Some of the changes include a reduction in deep discounting, a greater focus on both take-out orders and the sales of alcoholic beverages (*Mathews*).

The second largest percentage in the index was Rite-Aid (NYSE:RAD). Although finishing the week with a 4.00% increase, the improvement merely represents a partial recovery from the (21.05%) decrease from the week prior and represents only a \$0.03 increase in the stock price. In other -news, the Rite Aid Foundation awarded \$4 million through the KidsCents Regional Grant Program, which focuses on out-of-school programs that focus on children's nutrition, physical fitness, and academic success (*Rite Aid Foundation*).

A third stock with a substantial increase for the week was Camden National Corporation (NASDAQ:CAC), which finished the week up 3.70%. The Maine based financial institution has enjoyed a series of upgrades over the past few weeks; the most recent coming from BidaskClub, which upgraded the stock from Hold to Buy (*Powley*).

The final substantial increase for the week was United Technology Corporation (NYSE:UTX), which closed the week with an increase of 2.95%. On February 4, the company's Board of Directors declared a \$0.73 dividend, to be paid on March 10 to shareholders of its common stock as of February 15. The company boasts a history of yearly dividends that goes all the way back to 1936 (*UTC Board*).

The stocks that experienced substantial downturns this week were led by ImmuCell Corporation (NASDAQ:ICCC) which declined (3.23%). This is the second week in a row that ImmuCell experienced a significant decline in its stock price, and continues to trade slightly below the 52-week average. Fourth quarter earnings for the company have been scheduled for February 13 (*ImmuCell to Announce Financial Results*). There is no further information on the cause of the decrease in the stock price.

Another stock that showed a substantial decline in its stock price was Walgreens Boot Alliance, Inc. (NASDAQ:WBA), which posted a decrease of (2.45%). The company's stock price had decreased 1.77% in the past month, even though the Retail-Wholesale sector increased 4.26%. Additionally, the company has come under fire from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) as being one of the worst offenders at selling tobacco products to underage minors. The FDA is presently seeking an order that would ban the sale of tobacco products by one branch of the pharmacy chain.

Finally, T-Mobile (NASDAQ:TMUS), finished the week with a decline of (1.80%). The only relevant news deals with the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint. Representatives from both companies are scheduled to appear before the House Communications and Judiciary Antitrust subcommittees in the coming week where they will answer questions concerning the proposed merger (*Aycock*).

### **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 29 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.

<sup>1</sup> *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
ATHN	athenahealth, Inc.	Maine-based	Health Care
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

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