

Husson Stock Index Week Ended March 15, 2019

Introduction

After experiencing back-to-back weekly declines, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) rebounded this week, rising from 145.54 to close out the week at 150.21. This represents a 3.21% increase for the week and brings the Year-to-Date (YTD) performance for the index to a 13.66%. In comparison, the S&P 500 experienced a 2.38% increase for the week, and sits at a 12.98% increase Year-to-Date (YTD)¹.

Summary

The top performer of the week was IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (NYSE:IDXX), which finished the week with an increase of 7.17%. The healthcare stock has been somewhat volatile over the past few weeks, resulting in it being one of the largest movers (either up or down) in the HSI since the beginning of March. Some analysts see a potential future upswing in the stock price. Among them is IHS Market which sees positive sentiment due to the fact that: ETFs holding this stock are seeing a slowdown in investor capital outflows, there is little bearish sentiment towards the stock from investors who seek to gain from the short-term decline in equity prices, and there is an overall positive sentiment in the healthcare sector. Since the week ending Dec 28, 2018 IDXX is up 16.9%.

The second best performer of the week came from Valero Energy Corporation (NYSE:VLO), which finished up 6.68%. The company is expected to report EPS of \$0.66 and an estimated quarterly revenue of \$15.47 billion during its earnings report scheduled on April 25. Year-to-date, shares of the energy company are up 15.22%.

On the other side of the spectrum is Penn National Gaming, Inc. (NYSE:PENN), which continues to struggle, suffering four back-to-back weekly declines in its stock price. For the week ending March 15, PENN closed at \$22.12, which represents a -2.85% for the week. In an effort to bolster value for its shareholders, the gambling company recently completed the acquisition of Margaritaville Resort in Bossier City, LA (Penn National Gaming). Even with this string of weekly declines, the stock price, year-to-date, still shows an impressive increase of 18.73%.

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.

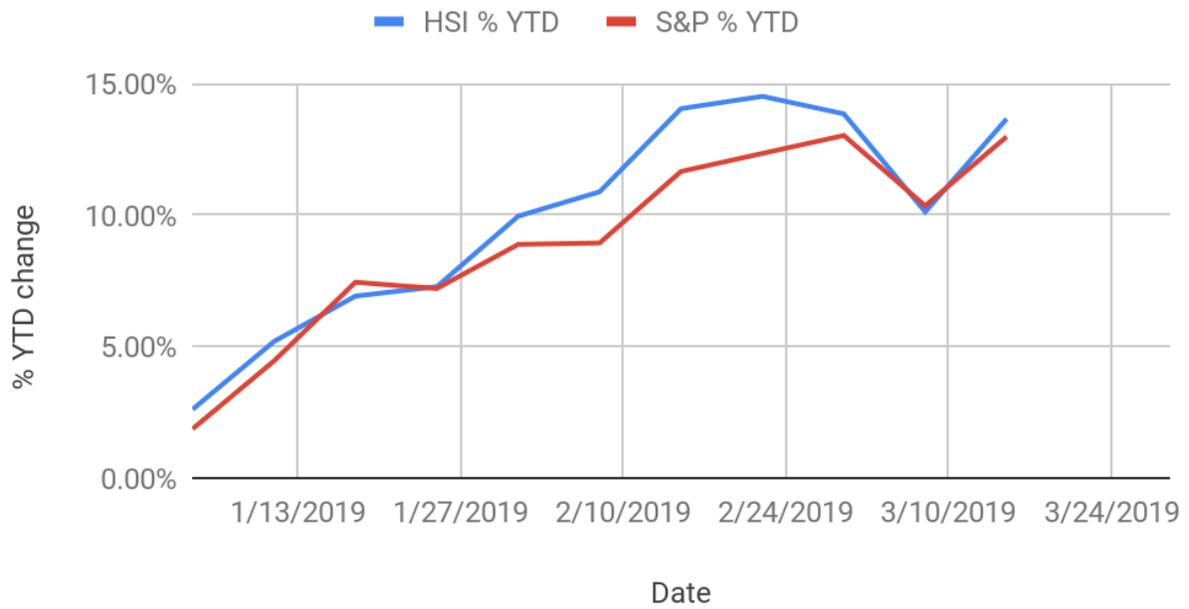
Composition of the Husson Stock Index (HSI)

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
Husson Stock Index by Sector

HSI vs. S&P 500



References

(2019, March 12). *Idexx Laboratories Inc.* IHS Markit. Retrieved from <https://api.markitondemand.com/apiman-gateway/MOD/markit-view-report/1.0/documents/153171/full-report?version=20190312>

(2019, March 15). *Valero Energy (VLO) Gains But Lags Market: What You Should Know.* Zacks Equity Research. Retrieved from <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/valero-energy-vlo-gains-lags-214509997.html>

(2018, March 9). *Penn National Gaming (PENN) Down 11.6% Since Last Earnings Report: Can It Rebound?* Zacks Equity Research. Retrieved from <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/penn-national-gaming-penn-down-143102081.html>