

Husson Stock Index

Week Ended February 28, 2020

For the week ended February 28, 2020, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) finished the week down 12.06%, closing at 159.04. In comparison, the S&P 500 finished the week down 11.49%. For the year-to-date, the HSI is down 7.29%, whereas the S&P 500 is down 8.82%.¹ Markets plunged this week due to concerns about the coronavirus.

Summary

The largest percentage change in the Husson Stock Index belonged to the Unum Group (NYSE: UNM) which finished down 22.22%. UNM began the week at \$29.97 and ended at \$23.31, a \$8.24 decrease. There was no specific news about UNM, with the most recent article about UNM being an analysis from Zacks Equity Research dated February 18. According to Zacks, UNM has a strong liquidity position. Still, its profit margins have been strained due to "...a low interest rate environment along with stricter credit spread continues to weigh on its operations." Zacks has given UNM a rank of 3 (Hold).

The second-largest percentage change was Penn National Gaming, Inc. (NASDAQ: PENN). PENN started the week at \$37.81 and ended at \$29.57, decreasing by 21.79%. Many travel-related stocks have been "bruised up" after reports of the coronavirus spreading in the U.S.

The largest dollar change in the Husson Stock Index was WEX Inc. (NYSE: WEX) which started the week at \$231.60 and finished at \$187.24, a decrease of \$44.36. This decline occurred despite WEX's fourth-quarter 2019 results of adjusted net income of \$2.61 per share, an increase of 24% over the same period in 2018. Simply Wall St has deemed the Return On Capital Employed (ROCE) of WEX as mediocre.

¹ Calculations for week-to-week and year-to-date are calculated using end-of-week totals. The year-to-date percentage increases use the end of December 27, 2018 as the starting point, and not December 31, 2018.

Overview

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 Jennifer Le. 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 help provide a better understanding of Maine's economy as well as explain significant changes in stock prices of the companies that comprise the HSI.

Composition of the Husson Stock Index (HSI)

Ticker Symbol: Exchange	Stock	Maine Affiliation	Sector
AGR: NYSE	Avangrid, Inc.	Presence	Utilities
ANCUF: TSX	Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc Class B	Presence	Consumer Staples
BAC: NYSE	Bank of America Corporation	Presence	Financials
BHB: NYSE	Bar Harbor Bank	Maine-based	Financials
CAC: NASDAQ	Camden National Corporation	Maine-based	Financials
CHTR: NASDAQ	Charter Communications, Inc.	Presence	Communications Services
CL: NYSE	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Maine-based	Consumer Staples
CVET: NASDAQ	Covetrus, Inc.	Maine-based	Health Care
DRI: NYSE	Darden Restaurants, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
FNLC: NASDAQ	The First Bancorp, Inc.	Maine-based	Financials
GD: NYSE	General Dynamics Corporation	Presence	Industrials

HLT: NYSE	Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
HD: NYSE	The Home Depot, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
ICCC: NASDAQ	ImmuCell Corporation	Maine-based	Health Care
IDXX: NASDAQ	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	Maine-based	Health Care
LOW: NYSE	Lowe's Companies, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
MCD: NYSE	McDonald's Corporation	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
NBN: NASDAQ	Northeast Bank	Maine-based	Financials
PENN: NASDAQ	Penn National Gaming, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Discretionaries
RAD: NYSE	Rite Aid Corporation	Presence	Consumer Staples
TD: NYSE	The Toronto-Dominion Bank	Presence	Financials
TMUS: NASDAQ	T-Mobile US, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Services
UPS; NYSE	United Parcel Service, Inc.	Presence	Industrials
UTX: NYSE	United Technologies Corporation	Presence	Industrials
UNM: NYSE	Unum Group	Presence	Financials

VLO: NYSE	Valero Energy Corporation	Presence	Energy
WMT: NYSE	Walmart Inc.	Presence	Consumer Staples
WEX: NYSE	WEX Inc.	Presence	Information Technology
WBA: NASDAQ	Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.	Presence	Consumer Staples

References

Zarrol, J., & Horsley, S. (2020, February 28). Wall Street's Brutal Week Slashed Nearly 3,600 Points From Dow. Retrieved from

<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/28/810295350/financial-markets-shudder-around-the-world-as-coronavirus-tightens-its-grip>

Zacks Equity Research. (2020, February 18). Here's Why Investors Should Retain Unum Group (UNM) Stock Now. Retrieved from

https://www.zacks.com/stock/news/771574/heres-why-investors-should-retain-unum-group-unm-stock-now?art_rec=quote-stock_overview-zacks_news-ID01-txt-771574

Sharrow, R. (2020, February 29). Retrieved from

<https://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/news/2020/02/29/philadelphia-area-companies-had-a-painful-week-on.html?ana=yahoo&yptr=yahoo>

Schultz, C. (2020, February 27). Selling in travel names accelerates on coronavirus anxiety. Retrieved from

<https://seekingalpha.com/news/3546553-selling-in-travel-names-accelerates-on-coronavirus-anxiety>

Why You Should Care About WEX Inc.'s (NYSE:WEX) Low Return On Capital (2020, February 26). Retrieved from

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-care-wex-inc-nyse-162829487.html>

Edited Transcript of WEX earnings conference call or presentation 13-Feb-20 2:00pm GMT. (2020, February 27). Retrieved from

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/edited-transcript-wex-earnings-conference-145741125.html>