

Husson Stock Index

Week Ended August 21, 2020

For the week ended August 21, 2020, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) finished the week down 0.14%, closing at 183.08. In comparison, the S&P 500 finished the week up 0.72%. Year-to-date, the HSI is up 5.95%, whereas the S&P 500 is up 4.85%.¹

Summary

Penn National Gaming (PENN: NASDAQ) was the top percentage increase for the third week in a row rising 5.95%, or \$3.12. The rally continues as PENN's recent deal with Barstool Sports for a 36% share and its resilience against COVID related closures and losses.

The second highest increase in the HSI this week was Lowe's (LOW: NYSE), rising 4.78%, or \$7.38. Lowe's declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.60 per share on Friday causing a boost in the stock. This is a 9% increase to the prior year dividend. The company has also been performing well as home sales are increasing resulting in more sales for the home improvement store, which reported a 74% increase in diluted earnings per share and \$2.8 billion in net earnings in their second quarter earnings report (PR Newswire, 2020).

Rite Aid (RAD: NYSE) was down 9.06% this week, or \$1.37. Moody's changed RAD's status to stable from negative this week noting the company's efforts to boost revenue, earnings and free cash flow. Moody's vice president, Mickey Chadha did state "the retail pharmacy space remains under pressure and new management initiatives will take time to show results in the midst of the uncertain business environment", which may have deterred some investors from reacting positively.

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.

Unum Group (UNM: NYSE) was down 7.4% this week. This stock has been volatile this past year, with the 52-week range was between \$9.58 and \$31.32. According to Invest Chronicle, “During the last month, 1 analysts gave the Unum Group a BUY rating, 0 of the polled analysts branded the stock as an OVERWEIGHT, 8 analysts were recommending to HOLD this stock, 1 of them gave the stock UNDERWEIGHT rating, and 2 of the polled analysts provided SELL rating.” (Little, 2020).

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, Caitlin Cushman. 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.

References

Little, N. (2020, August 12). Boiling and ready to burst as Unum Group (UNM) last month performance was 15.60%. Retrieved from <https://investchronicle.com/2020/08/12/boiling-and-ready-to-burst-as-unum-group-unm-last-month-performance-was-15-60/>

Lowe's Co. Inc. (2020, August 19). Lowe's Reports Second Quarter 2020 Sales And Earnings Results. Retrieved from <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lowes-reports-second-quarter-2020-sales-and-earnings-results-301114513.html>

Lowe's Hikes Quarterly Cash Dividend By 9% After 2Q Surprises Investors. (2020, August 23). Retrieved from <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/lowe-hikes-quarterly-cash-dividend-053020947.html>

Rite Aid Corporation -- Moody's changes Rite Aid's outlook to stable; affirms Caa1 CFR. (2020, August 20). Retrieved from <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/rite-aid-corporation-moodys-changes-171305304.html>

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
RTX:NYSE	Raytheon Technologies Corporation	Presence	Industrials
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
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