**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended April 5th, 2024**

 For the week ending April 5th, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 225.62, which is a 2.49% decrease from the week prior. Both the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average also decreased this week. The S&P 500 ended the week with a .95% decrease and the Dow Jones with a 2.27% decrease. Year to date, the HSI has decreased by .67%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 9.11% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 3.22%.

**Summary**

For the week ending April 5th, 2024, the stock in the HSI with the greatest percentage increase was Valero Energy Corporation (VLO). This week, VLO recorded a 7.44% increase in stock price from $170.69 to $183.39. The return on capital employed (ROCE) for Valero Energy is 26%. That's a fantastic return in absolute terms—better than the 15% industry average for the oil and gas sector. With the same amount of money, Valero Energy has been able to achieve greater rates of return and increased efficiency. Investors are accounting for these tendencies since the stock has fared remarkably well over the past five years. The stock with the second-largest percentage growth was the General Dynamics Corporation (GD). GD saw a 4.49% gain in share price from $282.49 to $295.18.

The stock with the largest percentage decline in price per share this week was Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc (WBA). WBA saw a 11.80% decrease in stock price from $21.69 to $19.13. According to an article published by Julie Hyman on Yahoo Finance, the drugstore's future is still causing analysts anxiety, even after it reduced its fiscal year 2024 projection. For instance, a Jefferies analyst cut the price objective for Walgreens from $20 to $19. Early in April, Eric Volkman published a separate report stating that Charles Rhyee of TD Cowen lowered the price objective by $2 to $35 per share. Based on various appraisals, Walgreens appears to be a reasonably priced company. Its price-to-sales ratio, for instance, is 0.1, and its forecast price-to-profits ratio is little over 6. However, a cheap stock isn't always a high-potential one, and the pharmaceutical industry is a difficult one with little sense of future growth. The stock with the second worst performance this week was Charter Communications, Inc (CHTR). This week, CHTR saw a 7.96% decrease in stock price from $290.63 to $267.49.

**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 students Lily Greene and Alexander Rechsteiner under the supervision of Associate Professor of Finance Dr. Jia Liu. The HSI currently tracks and analyzes the stocks of 26 companies that are considered to affect 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 investigates 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**

Hyman, J. (2024, April 1). *Walgreens Boots Alliance stock dips on analysts' concerns*. Yahoo Finance. Retrieved April 6, 2024, from https://finance.yahoo.com/video/walgreens-boots-alliance-stock-dips-194743609.html

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Volkman, E. (2024, April 4). *Is Walgreens Boots Alliance Stock Going to $35? 1 Wall Street Analyst Thinks So.* Yahoo Finance. Retrieved April 6, 2024, from https://finance.yahoo.com/news/walgreens-boots-alliance-stock-going-124040816.html

**Composition of the Husson Stock Index (HSI)**

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| **Ticker****Symbol:****Exchange** | **Stock** | **Maine****Affiliation** | **Sector** |
| AGR: NYSE | Avangrid, Inc. | Presence | Utilities |
| 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 |
| 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 Entertainment, Inc. | Presence | Consumer Discretionaries |
| 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 |