**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended August 15th, 2025**

 For the week ended August 15th, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 253.98. This represents a 1.62% increase from the previous week. This is a 9.81% increase from the end of last year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 44,946.12. This is an increase of 1.74% from the end of the previous week and an increase of 5.65% from the end of the last year. The S&P 500 ended the week at 6,449.8, increasing .94% on the week and 9.66% year to date.

**Summary**

 The top-performing stock in the HSI this week was PENN entertainment Inc. which increased to $18.24 per share, up 7.55%, following the release of its Q2 2025 earnings report. The company posted revenues of $1.77 billion, surpassing analyst expectations of $1.73 billion. This beat was largely driven by strong performance across its retail properties and record gaming revenue in its Interactive segment, which includes online sports betting and iCasino platforms. Notably, online-to-retail player engagement rose 8% year-over-year, while theoretical revenue from these players jumped 28%. The launch of new features on ESPN BET, such as Player Insights, also contributed to increased user engagement and retention. PENN repurchased $115.3 million in shares through August 6, reinforcing investor confidence and signaling strong cash flow management. The upcoming opening of the new Hollywood Casino in Joliet further bolstered optimism around PENN’s development pipeline. This combination of operational strength, strategic innovation, and shareholder-friendly actions helped fuel the stock’s upward momentum.

 The second top-performing stock in the HSI was Lowe's Companies Inc., increasing 4.52% to $252.06 per share, after reporting its fiscal Q2 2025 results. The home improvement retailer generated revenues of $23.7 billion, topping analyst estimates of $23.5 billion, and delivered diluted EPS of $4.56 versus consensus of $4.40. Strong performance in its Pro contractor segment—with sales up 6%—and a 20-basis-point expansion in gross margin, driven by disciplined inventory management and targeted pricing actions, underpinned the beat. Lowe’s also repurchased $1.3 billion of stock during the quarter and raised its quarterly dividend by 5%, reinforcing its commitment to shareholder returns. CFO Joe Perez pointed to supply-chain efficiencies and a 12% jump in online sales—fueled by recent digital investments—as key catalysts. With housing market fundamentals stabilizing and new Pro-focused mobile app features rolling out, investor confidence remains elevated.

The worst-performing stock in the HSI was ImmuCell which was down 8.36% to $6.10 from $6.66 per share. This happened following a period of strong gains that saw the stock rise over 57% in the prior year. Investor sentiment shifted as traders opted to lock in profits ahead of the company’s third-quarter earnings report, particularly given the absence of any imminent FDA approvals or major product launches to sustain further upside. Despite this one-day pullback, ImmuCell’s core business remains firmly grounded in its First Defense® colostrum supplement for dairy calves, which continues to deliver consistent revenue and positive cash flows in its niche animal-health market. Broader trends in small-cap biotech and animal-health sectors have softened recently, with capital reallocating toward larger, cash-flow-positive names, adding to the pressure on ICCC shares. Trading volumes on the day were lighter than average, suggesting that the move was more about targeted profit-taking than a broad loss of confidence. Notably, management and institutional investors hold a significant portion of outstanding shares, underscoring long-term belief in the company’s fundamentals. Looking ahead, the Q3 results and any commentary on pipeline progress—especially immunotherapy trials for mastitis prevention—will likely determine whether this dip stands as a buying opportunity or merely a pause. For patient investors, this lower price point may present a chance to establish or increase positions in a company with a solid balance sheet, limited debt, and a focused product line that has demonstrated resilience in a challenging sector.

The second-worst-performing stock in the HSI was Walmart which was down 3.60% from $103.73 to $100 per share. After a recent stretch of modest gains driven by solid same-store sales growth and an uptick in e-commerce penetration—led by Walmart’s investments in digital fulfillment and its expanding online grocery business—today’s pullback reflects profit-taking and a rotation into higher-beta sectors. While the company’s fiscal Q2 results showed net sales of $162.4 billion, slightly above consensus estimates, and diluted EPS of $1.66, management maintained its full-year guidance amid persistent margin headwinds from wage inflation and supply-chain cost pressures. The retail giant’s core strengths—its vast store network, resilient membership business at Sam’s Club, and improving inventory turnover—remain intact. However, concerns over slowing consumer spending on discretionary categories, as well as renewed competition from Amazon and Target on price and delivery, weighed on sentiment. Trading volume was lighter than the 30-day average, suggesting this was a targeted pullback rather than a broad sell-off. Notably, Walmart’s dividend yield of 1.75% and share repurchase authorization of $20 billion continue to appeal to income-oriented investors seeking defensive exposure. Looking ahead, the upcoming holiday-season outlook and any commentary on margin recovery initiatives—such as price optimization tools and further cost-savings programs—will be critical to determining whether the $100 level serves as a floor or a steppingstone for a deeper correction. For investors who view today’s dip as a temporary pause, the lower price offers a more attractive entry point into a company with a fortress balance sheet and a leadership position in both brick-and-mortar and online retail.

**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 Donovan Landry under the supervision of the Associate Professor of Finance Dr. Jia Liu. The HSI currently tracks and analyzes the stocks of 25 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:**

PENN Entertainment, Inc. (2025, August 7). *Reports Second Quarter Results*.<https://investors.pennentertainment.com/news-releases/news-release-details/penn-entertainment-inc-reports-second-quarter-results>

 Lowe’s Companies, Inc. (2025, August 15). Reports Second Quarter Fiscal 2025 Results.<https://investor.lowes.com/news-releases/news-release-details/lowes-companies-inc-reports-second-quarter-fiscal-2025>

 Yahoo Finance. (2025, August 17). ImmuCell Corporation (ICCC) stock price. Retrieved from<https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/ICCC>

Yahoo Finance. (2025, August 17). Walmart Inc. (WMT) stock price. Retrieved from<https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/WMT>

Composition of Husson Stock Index (HSI)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ticker symbol: Exchange | Stock  | Maine Affiliation | Sector |
| BAC: NYSE | Bank of american corp | presence | Fincancials |
| BHB: NYSE | Bar Harbor Bank | Maine-based | Fincancials |
| CAC: NASDAQ | Camden National Corporation | Maine-based | Fincancials |
| CHRT: NASDAQ | Charter Comminucaion, Inc. | presence | Communication 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 | Fincancials |
| GD: NYSE | General Dynamics Corporation | presence | Fincancials |
| HLT: NYSE | Hilton Worldwide Holding, Inc. | presence | Consumer Discretionaries  |
| HD: NYSE | The Home Depot, Inc. | presence | Consumer Discretionaries  |
| ICC: 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 | McDonalds Corporation | presence | Consumer Discretionaries  |
| NBN: NASDAQ | Northeast Bank | Maine-based | Fincancials |
| PENN: NASDAQ | Penn National Gaming, Inc. | presence | Consumer Discretionaries  |
| RTX: NYSE | Raytheon Technologies Corporation | presence | Industrials |
| TD: NYSE | The Toronto-Dominion Bank | presence | Fincancials |
| TMUS: NASDAQ | T-Mobile US, Inc. | presence | Consumer Services |
| UPS: NYSE | United Parcel Service, Inc.  | presence | Industrials |
| UNM: NYSE | UNUM Group | presence | Fincancials |
| VLO: NYSE | Valero Energy Corporation | presence | Energy |
| WMT: NYSE | Walmart, Inc. | presence | Consumer Services |
| WEX: NYSE | WEX, Inc.  | presence | Information Technologies |
| WBA: NASDAQ | Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. | presence | Consumer Staples |