**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended August 8th, 2025**

 For the week ended August 8th, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 249.93. This represents a 4.50% increase from the previous week. This is an 8.06% increase from the end of last year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 44,175.61. This is an increase of 1.35% from the end of the previous week and an increase of 3.83% from the end of the last year. The S&P 500 ended the week at 6,389.45, increasing 2.43% on the week and 8.63% year to date.

**Summary**

 The top-performing stock in the HSI this week was IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., increasing 22.88%, which was in an increase in share price of $122.52. IDEXX reported second-quarter earnings per share (EPS) of $3.63, beating analyst expectations by $0.35. This was accompanied by revenue of $1.11 billion, marking a 10.6% year-over-year increase. Such strong financial performance signals robust demand for IDEXX’s veterinary diagnostics and software solutions, which are core to its business model. The company has continued to strengthen its position in the animal health diagnostics market, a sector that has shown resilience and growth amid broader market volatility. IDEXX’s innovation in diagnostic tools and its expanding global footprint have helped it maintain a competitive edge, especially as pet ownership and veterinary care spending remain elevated. Multiple analysts have raised their price targets for IDEXX. JPMorgan Chase & Co. increased its target from $550 to $675, maintaining an “overweight” rating. Similarly, firms like Jefferies and BTIG have issued “buy” ratings with targets as high as $785. These upgrades reflect growing optimism about IDEXX’s long-term growth trajectory and profitability. Management has also been actively buying back shares, which not only boosts EPS but also signals internal confidence in the company’s valuation. This move often reassures investors that the stock is undervalued relative to its future potential. In summary, IDEXX’s massive price increase is driven by strong quarterly results, strategic positioning in a growing industry, and reinforced investor sentiment through analyst upgrades and share repurchases. These factors collectively paint a picture of a company with solid fundamentals and promising growth prospects.

The second top-performing stock in the HSI was ImmuCell Corporation, which had an increase from $6 to $6.66, an increase of 11%. This was largely driven by its strong Q1 2025 financial performance. The company reported record product sales of $8.1 million, marking an 11% year-over-year growth. This surge was attributed to strategic expansion in production capacity and the successful launch of a new bulk powder format of its flagship product, First Defense. The new format broadened market appeal and contributed to increased sales volume. Additionally, ImmuCell improved its gross margin from 37% in Q4 2024 to 42% in Q1 2025, signaling enhanced cost efficiency and profitability. The company’s earnings per share rose to $0.16, and its adjusted EBITDA reached $2.3 million, up from $705,000 in the same period last year. These financial metrics reflect robust operational performance and investor confidence, which led to a nearly 10% surge in stock price following the earnings announcement. ImmuCell’s strategic investments in facility upgrades and product innovation have positioned it for continued growth. With a targeted annual production capacity of $40 million and a strong cash balance of $4.6 million, the company is well-equipped to capitalize on future opportunities.

 The worst-performing stock in the HSI was Penn Entertainment Inc., which had a loss of 4.72%, losing roughly $0.84 per share. This can be attributed to a mix of investor skepticism, strategic uncertainty, and broader market pressures. While Penn Entertainment beat revenue expectations in its Q2 2025 report, posting $1.77 billion versus the $1.73 billion estimate, its adjusted earnings per share were only $0.10—just barely above the $0.01 forecast. This narrow margin of profitability, despite strong top-line growth, raised concerns about the company’s operational efficiency and cost management. Deutsche Bank recently adjusted its price target for Penn from $17 to $18, maintaining a “Hold” rating. While not a downgrade, this cautious stance reflects limited upside potential. Other analysts have echoed similar sentiments, suggesting that while Penn’s fundamentals are stable, its growth trajectory remains uncertain. Penn’s ambitious partnership with ESPN to launch ESPN BET has yet to deliver the expected traction. Investors are wary of the competitive online sports betting landscape, where giants like DraftKings and FanDuel dominate. The slower than anticipated adoption of ESPN BET has dampened enthusiasm for Penn’s digital strategy. The stock’s beta of 1.60 also suggests it’s more sensitive to market swings, amplifying losses during broader downturns.

The second-worst-performing stock in the HSI was Charter Communications. Their stock decreased 3.07%, losing $8.12 per share. This can be traced to a disappointing earnings report and growing investor concerns over strategic risks. Charter’s Q2 2025 earnings came in below Wall Street expectations, with adjusted earnings per share at $9.18 versus the anticipated $9.58. While revenue reached $13.8 billion and met consensus estimates, the earnings shortfall triggered a sharp sell-off. Investors often react strongly to earnings misses, especially in sectors like telecom where margins are closely scrutinized. Charter’s proposed $34.5 billion merger with Cox Communications has raised eyebrows. Since the merger was announced in May, Charter’s stock has dropped 26%, underperforming the broader S&P 500. Concerns center around integration risks, regulatory hurdles, and whether the deal will deliver the promised synergies. Despite CEO Chris Winfrey’s reassurances, skepticism remains high. Although Charter has made strides in bundling streaming services with broadband, the traditional pay-TV model continues to erode. The company is experimenting with “skinnier bundles” to appeal to price-sensitive consumers, but the long-term viability of this strategy is unclear. Investors are wary of whether Charter can successfully pivot in a rapidly evolving media landscape. Several analysts have revised their price targets downward. BNP Paribas Exane cut its target from $285 to $255, maintaining an “Underperform” rating. Barclays and Arete Research also lowered their targets, citing underwhelming earnings and strategic ambiguity. While the company remains a major player in telecom, its near-term outlook has been clouded by execution risks and market skepticism.

**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:

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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 |