**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended July 11th, 2025**

 For the week ended July 11th, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 249.07. This is a decrease from the previous week of 1.51%. This is also a 7.69% increase from the end of the previous year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 44,371.51. This is a decrease of 1.02% from the end of the previous week and an increase of 4.30% from the end of the previous year. The S&P 500 ended the week at 6,259.75, decreasing .31% for the week, while increasing 6.43% year to date.

**Summary**

 The top-performing stock in the HSI this week was Valero Energy Corporation, which had an increase of 5.86%. This was an increase of $8.47, going from $144.58 to $153.05 per share. This can be attributed to a mix of favorable market conditions, strong refining economics, and bullish analyst sentiment. Refining margins surged, particularly crack spreads, which measure the profitability of refining crude oil into gasoline and distillates. These spreads have moved appreciably higher, signaling increased profits for Valero’s core operations. As demand for transportation fuels remains robust, especially during peak summer travel, refiners like Valero benefit from elevated throughput and pricing power. Valero’s diversified operations in renewable diesel and ethanol also add resilience. Its joint venture, Diamond Green Diesel, continues to expand production capacity, including sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), which has gained traction with major airlines like Southwest and JetBlue. This positions Valero as a key player in the low-carbon fuel transition, appealing to ESG-conscious investors. Analyst upgrades have further fueled momentum. Piper Sandler recently raised its price target to $160, citing strong fundamentals and maintaining an “Overweight” rating.

The second top-performing stock in the HSI was General Dynamics Corporation, which had an increase of 2.52%, from $294.76 to $302.20. Last week reflects growing investor confidence ahead of its upcoming earnings report and recent contract wins. The defense giant has benefited from heightened geopolitical tensions and increased U.S. defense spending, which have bolstered demand for its combat systems, submarines, and aerospace technologies. Notably, its Electric Boat division was awarded a $1.85 billion contract modification for submarine production, reinforcing long-term revenue visibility. The company’s consistent performance across its four segments—Aerospace, Marine Systems, Combat Systems, and Technologies—has helped maintain strong margins and a return on equity above 18%. Analysts are projecting Q2 earnings of $4.50 per share, up 23.6% year-over-year, with revenue expected to climb 16.3% to $13.57 billion. These bullish forecasts have led to upward revisions in consensus estimates, a key driver of stock price momentum. General Dynamics also continues to trade at a slight discount to its industry peers, with a forward P/E ratio of 20.19 versus the sector average of 20.64. This valuation, combined with its 34-year streak of dividend growth, makes it appealing to both growth and income investors.

 The worst-performing stock in the HSI was Charter Communications, Inc., which had a loss of 5.94% decreasing from $416.97 down to $392.20. Broadband subscriber losses have reignited worries about Charter’s competitive position. Despite heavy infrastructure investment, the company reported a decline in broadband users, which is troubling given the sector’s reliance on recurring revenue. This underperformance comes as rivals like AT&T and Verizon aggressively expand their fiber networks, intensifying pressure on Charter’s market share. Debt-fueled share buybacks have also drawn scrutiny. Former CEO Tom Rutledge reportedly used shareholder funds to repurchase stock at inflated valuations—between $700 and $800 per share—while simultaneously exercising and selling his own stock options. This maneuver, viewed by some as self-serving, left the company with elevated debt and limited flexibility, which may be weighing on investor sentiment. Mixed analyst signals haven’t helped. While some firms like Loop Capital upgraded Charter to “Buy,” others like Bernstein downgraded it to “Market Perform,” citing valuation concerns and competitive headwinds.

The second-worst-performing stock in the HSI was T-Mobile US, Inc, which decreased 5.4% dropping from $240.75 down to $227.76. Premium valuation pressures were a major factor. Analysts at KeyBanc downgraded T-Mobile from “Overweight” to “Sector Weight,” citing its stretched valuation multiples. The stock was trading at roughly 9.3x projected 2026 EBITDA and 15.1x price-to-free cash flow—well above peers like AT&T and Verizon, which hover around 6.3x and 10.1x, respectively. This raised concerns about whether the stock could justify its lofty pricing. Growth deceleration also weighed on sentiment. T-Mobile guided to ~5% EBITDA growth for fiscal 2025, down from ~9% in 2024. Free cash flow growth is expected to slow to just 2% by some estimates, compared to 25% year-over-year growth previously. This signals a maturing growth profile, which can prompt investors to rotate into higher-growth sectors. Management signaled that the stock may be too expensive for aggressive repurchases, which can dampen bullish momentum.

**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 |