**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended July 25th, 2025**

For the week ended July 25th, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 249.41. This is an increase from the previous week of 1.59%. This is a 7.83% increase from the end of the previous year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 44,901.92. This is an increase of 1.26% from the end of the previous week and an increase of 5.54% from the end of the last year. The S&P 500 ended the week at 6,388.64, increasing 1.46% on the week, and 8.62% year to date.

**Summary**

The top-performing stock in the HSI this week was WEX Inc., which increased by 14.68%, a bounceback from last week's drop, after releasing a robust Q2 2025 earnings report that exceeded analyst expectations. Despite a slight dip in total revenue, the company’s adjusted EPS rose to $3.95, and GAAP EPS climbed 8.2% year-over-year, reinforcing investor confidence in WEX’s profitability. The standout performer was its Benefits segment, which posted an 8.5% revenue increase and helped offset weaker results in Mobility and Corporate Payments. Additionally, fuel price fluctuations impacted the Mobility unit, but the company’s forward-looking guidance suggested strategic resilience. Perhaps the most bullish signal came from WEX’s $750 million Dutch auction share repurchase—a move interpreted as management’s confidence in long-term valuation. Investors likely saw this combination of segment strength, earnings growth, and capital return as evidence of operational stability, prompting a surge in stock price.

The second top-performing stock in the HSI was IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., which also had a bounce-back week with an increase of 9.83%, driven by strong investor response to its recent strategic and financial developments. The company hit a 52-week high of $549.81, signaling renewed market confidence in its long-term growth trajectory. Analysts pointed to several catalysts: the successful launch of the InVue Dx diagnostic console, which is expected to generate substantial recurring revenue, and the announcement of a $1.5 billion share repurchase plan, both of which suggest robust cash flow and management’s confidence in future performance. Additionally, IDEXX’s Q1 2025 earnings slightly beat expectations, with adjusted EPS at $2.88 versus the projected $2.85, reinforcing its reputation for consistent execution. The company’s expansion in veterinary diagnostics and water microbiology testing continues to position it as a leader in high-margin, recurring revenue sectors. With multiple analysts raising price targets and maintaining bullish ratings, the stock’s bounce reflects both operational strength and favorable sentiment in the diagnostics space.

The worst-performing stock in the HSI was by far Charter Communications, Inc., which had a decrease in value of 18.93%, largely triggered by its Q2 2025 earnings miss and ongoing subscriber attrition. While the company reported a modest 0.6% year-over-year revenue increase to $13.77 billion, its EPS of $9.18 fell short of the $9.58 forecast, disappointing investors and sparking a sell-off. The decline was compounded by the loss of 117,000 internet customers and 80,000 video subscribers, reflecting persistent challenges in retaining core residential users. Although Charter added 500,000 mobile lines and emphasized growth in its converged connectivity strategy, the erosion of its broadband base raised concerns about long-term sustainability. Adding to investor anxiety was a 19.3% year-over-year drop in free cash flow, down to $1.0 billion, driven by unfavorable mobile device working capital and the timing of cash taxes and interest. This disconnect between net income growth and cash generation casts doubt on Charter’s financial flexibility. Despite management’s optimism about future EBITDA growth and network evolution, the market reacted sharply to the earnings miss and structural headwinds in broadband and video.

The second worst-performing stock in the HSI was The First Bancorp, Inc., which had a decrease of 4% on the week, reflecting investor concerns over compressed net interest margins and seasonal deposit outflows reported in its Q2 2025 earnings. While the bank maintained strong asset quality—with non-performing assets at just 0.09% of total assets—its net income fell to $6.0 million, down 9.9% from the prior quarter. This drop was largely attributed to a 6.1% decline in net interest income, driven by rising funding costs and intense competition for deposits, which tightened profitability. Additionally, the bank’s efficiency ratio rose to 61.15%, indicating higher operating expenses relative to revenue. Despite originating $127 million in new loans and maintaining a diversified portfolio, the market reacted to the yield curve inversion and margin pressure, both of which signal challenges for regional banks in the current rate environment. The modest decrease in tangible book value and a dip in the tangible common equity ratio also contributed to cautious sentiment.

**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 |