**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended June 27, 2025**

 For the week ended June 27th, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 246.22. This is an increase from the previous week of 2.76%. This is also a 6.46% increase from the end of the previous year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 43,819.27. This is an increase of 3.82% from the end of the previous week and an increase of 3% from the end of the previous year. The S&P 500 ended the week at 6,173.07, increasing by 3.44%, and up 4.96% year to date.

**Summary**

 The top-performing stock in the HSI this week was PENN Entertainment, Inc. at a gain of 7.21%. One key driver appears to be renewed investor optimism following analyst upgrades and revised price targets. For instance, Craig Hallum recently upgraded PENN to a “Buy” rating and raised its price target from $20 to $30, signaling confidence in the company’s turnaround potential. This kind of endorsement often triggers buying activity, especially among institutional investors seeking undervalued plays in the consumer discretionary sector. Another factor is positive momentum in the online gaming and sports betting space, where PENN has been expanding aggressively through its ESPN BET and theScore platforms. As regulatory environments stabilize and digital engagement grows, investors may be pricing in long-term upside from these assets. Additionally, cost-cutting initiatives and leadership changes have sparked speculation about improved operational efficiency. PENN’s recent appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as its independent auditor may also signal a push toward greater transparency and governance, which can boost investor confidence. Finally, media sentiment has been notably favorable, with PENN receiving more positive coverage than some of its competitors, like MGM Resorts.

The second top-performing stock in the HSI was Northeast Bank, which had an increase of 7% over the last week. A major catalyst was the bank’s third-quarter earnings report, which revealed net income of $18.7 million, or $2.23 per diluted share, up from $13.9 million and $1.83 per share a year earlier. This 34% year-over-year earnings growth signals robust profitability, especially impressive given the challenging interest rate environment. Investors likely responded positively to this outperformance, particularly as revenue also exceeded expectations, reaching $87.4 million. Another factor is strong loan growth, which Northeast Bank highlighted in its earnings call. Despite margin pressures from declining loan yields and rising expenses, the bank’s ability to expand its loan book suggests effective risk management and demand for its lending products. Additionally, analyst activity and institutional interest have played a role. Keefe, Bruyette & Woods recently raised their price target on the stock, and institutional investors like Polaris Capital and Charles Schwab have increased their holdings, signaling confidence in the bank’s long-term value proposition. Finally, the stock saw a notable increase in trading volume, which often reflects heightened investor attention and can amplify price movements in smaller-cap stocks like Northeast Bank.

 The worst-performing stock in the HSI was ImmuCell Corporation, which had a decrease of 11.18% over the last week. The decline over the past week is a correction following a recent surge in its stock price. Earlier in June, the company experienced a sharp rally, reaching a 52-week high of $7.60, driven by strong Q1 earnings, record sales, and optimism surrounding its Re-Tain product awaiting FDA approval. However, after such a rapid climb, some pullback is natural as investors lock in profits. Additionally, despite revenue growth, ImmuCell continues to report negative net income and cash flow, with a net loss of $3.81 million and EPS of -$0.50. These fundamentals may have prompted caution among investors, especially in a market environment that’s increasingly sensitive to profitability. Another possible contributor is low trading volume and market cap—at just over $56 million. ImmuCell is a micro-cap stock, making it more susceptible to volatility from relatively small trades. Without fresh catalysts or news, momentum can fade quickly. In short, the drop likely reflects a mix of profit-taking, weak earnings fundamentals, and the natural volatility of small-cap biotech stocks after a strong run-up.

 The second worst-performing stock in the HSI was Valero Energy Corporation, decreasing 4.54% over the last week. The decline over the past week can be attributed to a mix of macroeconomic pressures and company-specific developments that have dampened investor sentiment. A key factor was weaker-than-expected earnings, despite beating analyst estimates. Valero reported Q4 adjusted earnings per share of $0.64, surpassing the $0.43 consensus, but this still marked a steep drop from $3.55 per share a year earlier. The company’s refining margins contracted significantly, falling from $3.55 billion to $2.33 billion, which raised concerns about profitability going forward. Additionally, geopolitical tensions and trade policy shifts—notably new tariffs on Canadian energy imports—have introduced uncertainty. Valero, with operations in both the U.S. and Canada, may face increased costs or supply chain disruptions, prompting investors to reassess risk exposure. Finally, investor rotation away from energy stocks amid broader market optimism in tech and AI sectors may have contributed to the decline. Even with a 6% dividend hike and strong shareholder returns, the market appears more focused on declining year-over-year profits and tightening margins.

**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.

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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 |