**Husson Stock Index**

**Week ended Friday September 26, 2025**

For the week ending September 26, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 255.65 Although it is a 0.28% decrease over the previous week, the overall increase year to date is 10.53%. The S&P 500 decreased .31% over the last week but has currently increased 12.96% year to date. Lastly, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) decreased by .15% over the last week but has increased a total of 8.70% year to date.

**Summary**

Over the past week, Valero Energy Corporation (VLO) was the top-performing stock in the HSI, showing a strong upward trend. On Friday, September 26, 2025, its stock closed at $175.63, up from $162.62 the previous week; an 8% increase. This rise reflects both global market factors and Valero’s strong position in the oil refining industry. A big reason for the increase is tension in the global oil supply. Recent attacks on Russian refineries in the Ukraine have disrupted oil production and exports from Russia. With less Russian oil available, companies like Valero benefit because demand for their products goes up, allowing them to sell more at higher prices and increase profits. Over the past month, these events helped Valero’s stock rise about 17%, beating many competitors in the energy sector. Valero’s Relative Strength (RS) Rating also recently jumped to 83, which means it has performed better than 80% of the market over the past year. Stocks with RS Ratings above 80 are often starting strong price moves, making Valero attractive to investors who follow technical trends. Looking ahead, Valero is set to release its third-quarter 2025 financial results at the end of October.

Charter Communications (CHTR), the company behind Spectrum, was the second-best performer in the index this week closing at $273.40, a 4.13% increase compared to the previous week. Charter has been making moves to stay competitive in the fast-changing telecom industry. The company is set to release its third-quarter 2025 financial results and will host a webcast in October to go over how it performed for the quarter ending September 30. On the consumer side, Spectrum recently launched a new device protection plan called “Repair and Replacement Premium.” For $10 a month, the plan covers lost or stolen devices, unlimited accidental damage repairs, $29 fixes for things like cracked screens or battery issues, and unlimited battery replacements after the manufacturer’s warranty ends. On the business side, Charter and Comcast have partnered with T-Mobile on a multi-year deal to use T-Mobile’s 5G network to provide mobile services to business customers across the U.S., starting in 2026. This partnership aims to give small and medium-sized businesses access to faster and more reliable 5G connections.

The worst performer in the index was Northeast Bank (NBN), whose stock dropped from $109.41 to $102.65, a decline of 6.18%. Although that fall looks steep, it follows a year of strong performance in which the stock gained more than 50%. Based in Maine, Northeast Bank earns money both as a local community bank and through a growing national lending arm, with a particular focus on Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. Recently, the bank has faced challenges from new SBA lending rules that could temporarily slow loan activity. At the same time, broader economic uncertainty has also weighed on the stock. Earlier this month, the Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate by 25 basis points, but investors remain unsure about future moves. Some Fed officials believe more cuts are necessary to support jobs, while others are cautious because inflation is still above target. This uncertainty is especially important for banks, since their profits depend heavily on net interest income, the difference between the interest they earn from loans and the interest they pay to depositors. Despite these short-term challenges, analysts remain generally optimistic about Northeast Bank’s future, noting that its business model continues to show strength and potential for growth.

The second worst performer in the index over the past week was IDEXX Laboratories (IDXX), as its stock dropped from $656.16 to $632.22, a decrease of about 3.6%. This drop is mainly due to slower growth in veterinary clinics, which means fewer people are bringing their pets in for tests and services. IDEXX also lowered its revenue and earnings forecasts for 2025 because of this slowdown and the stronger U.S. dollar affecting international sales. The stock has also been affected by broader market trends, performing slightly worse than some other companies in the same industry. Even with these challenges, IDEXX is still growing in some areas. Its Companion Animal Group segment, which focuses on pet diagnostics, has seen steady growth, and the company is investing in software, diagnostic equipment, and services for vets, which have also grown. Analysts believe that once veterinary visits stabilize, IDEXX has good potential to recover. Overall, while the stock may be a bit volatile in the short term, IDEXX is investing in important parts of its business that could help it grow over time.

**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 students Ray Intwari and Hugh Jack 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 | Financials |
| BHB: NYSE | Bar Harbor Bank | Maine-based | Financials |
| CAC: NASDAQ | Camden National Corporation | Maine-based | Financials |
| CHRT: NASDAQ | Charter Communications, 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 | Financials |
| GD: NYSE | General Dynamics Corporation | presence | Financials |
| 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 | Financials |
| PENN: NASDAQ | Penn National Gaming, Inc. | presence | Consumer Discretionaries  |
| RTX: NYSE | Raytheon Technologies Corporation | presence | Industrials |
| TD: NYSE | The Toronto-Dominion Bank | presence | Financials |
| TMUS: NASDAQ | T-Mobile US, Inc. | presence | Consumer Services |
| UPS: NYSE | United Parcel Service, Inc.  | presence | Industrials |
| UNM: NYSE | UNUM Group | presence | Financials |
| VLO: NYSE | Valero Energy Corporation | presence | Energy |
| WMT: NYSE | Walmart, Inc. | presence | Consumer Services |
| WEX: NYSE | WEX, Inc.  | presence | Information Technologies |