**Husson Stock Index**

**Week ended August 18th, 2023**

For the week ending August 18th, 2023, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) ended the week at 213.22. This is a 2.66% decrease from the week prior. So far this year, the index has increased 6.01%. In comparison, the S&P 500 has decreased 2.11% this week and up 13.81% year to date. Lastly, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is down 2.21% this week and up 4.08% year to date.

**Summary**

For the week ending August 18th, 2023, the stock with the best performance was Immucell Corporation (ICCC). The Husson Stock Index had a poor performance overall this week as every stock declined from last week’s numbers. ICCC had the smallest decline of 0.20%. The stock price went down by $0.01per share.

The stock with the second smallest price decline this week was Unum Group (UNUM), reporting a 0.93% decrease. Unum is up 18.91% year to date. The stock price change was $49.25 to $48.79 per share for the week. Zacks Equity Research comments on the current state of the insurance market, which Unum group does business solely in. “**Aflac Inc., Unum Group**, **Employers Holdings**and**AMERISAFE**should continue to benefit from prudent underwriting standards. However, a rise in claims frequency could weigh on the positives. The industry has been witnessing soft pricing over the past several quarters, which is not expected to change any time soon. Nonetheless, a rise in claims, with business activities returning to normal levels, is likely to increase pricing for this industry. Also, the increasing adoption of technology in operations will help in the smooth functioning of the industry.” (Zacks, 2023)

 This week’s worst performer was Rite Aid Corporation (RAD) with a decrease of 27.71% in their stock price. The second worst performer was Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) with a 9.57% decrease in their stock price, from $29.35 to $26.54. Rite Aid Corporation has been the Husson Stock Index’s worst performer for 2 weeks in a row.

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 Conrad Nicely under the supervision of Associate Professor of Finance Dr. Jia Liu. The HSI currently tracks and analyzes the stocks of 27 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 looks into 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.

**Reference(s):**

Yahoo! (n.d.-b). *Zacks Industry Outlook Highlights Aflac, Unum Group, employers holdings and AMERISAFE*. Yahoo! Finance. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/zacks-industry-outlook-highlights-aflac-130300344.html>

**Composition of the Husson Stock Index (HSI)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ticker****Symbol:****Exchange** | **Stock** | **Maine****Affiliation** | **Sector** |
| AGR: NYSE | Avangrid, Inc. | Presence | Utilities |
| BAC: NYSE | Bank of America Corporation | Presence | Financials |
| BHB: NYSE | Bar Harbor Bank | Maine-based | Financials |
| CAC: NASDAQ | Camden National Corporation | Maine-based | Financials |
| CHTR: NASDAQ | Charter Communications, Inc. | Presence | Communications 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 | Industrials |
| HLT: NYSE | Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc. | Presence | Consumer Discretionaries |
| HD: NYSE | The Home Depot, Inc. | Presence | Consumer Discretionaries |
| ICCC: 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 | McDonald's Corporation | Presence | Consumer Discretionaries |
| NBN: NASDAQ | Northeast Bank | Maine-based | Financials |
| PENN: NASDAQ | Penn National Gaming, Inc. | Presence | Consumer Discretionaries |
| RAD: NYSE | Rite Aid Corporation | Presence | Consumer Staples |
| 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 Staples |
| WEX: NYSE | WEX Inc. | Presence | Information Technology |
| WBA: NASDAQ | Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. | Presence | Consumer Staples |