HSI Week Ended February 24th, 2017

The Husson Stock Index (HSI) increased 0.49% from the week ended February 17th. The HSI on February 17th was 125.99 and is now 126.60. The HSI had a relatively quiet week, there wasn’t any changes with a plus or minus of 5% or greater. There were two changes in the four percent range that we will look at this week, those being Bar Harbor Bankshares and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Bar Harbor Bankshares (BHB) increased 4.61% from $41.88 to $43.81. Bar Harbor Bankshares continues to see positive investing activity following their recent acquisition of the Lake Sunapee Bank Group. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT) increased 4.35% from $69.37 to $72.39. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. increased in value due to the release of their company’s fiscal fourth quarter earnings.

Bar Harbor Bankshares (BHB): Investors continue to invest in Bar Harbor Bankshares following their acquisition of the Lake Sunapee Bank Group. This is explain by Bar Harbor Bankshares Company President and Chief Executive Officer, Curtis C. Simard, “Bar Harbor Bankshares has generated increased value for shareholders through execution of our business strategies, stock price appreciation and quarterly cash dividends. We have now closed the Lake Sunapee Bank Group acquisition and believe that the three-for-two stock split will make our company more attractive to a broader range of investors.”

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT): Shannon Bailey of the Market Realist explains the reason for Wal-Mart’s weekly raise in stock price, “Walmart (WMT) stock rose 3.0% to $71.45 on February 21, 2017, in reaction to the company’s fiscal 4Q17 earnings release and fiscal 2018 outlook.” Wal-Mart’s fourth quarter of last year is not the only thing that has investors excited about Wal-Mart as explained by Bailey, “It marked the sixth consecutive quarter that the company has surpassed analyst expectations. Adjusted EPS (earnings per share) was $1.30, beating the consensus Wall Street estimate of $1.29.”

The Husson Stock Index 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 Justin Hallowell. The index tracks and analyzes 28 companies that are considered to have an effect on the Maine economy. These companies are either based in Maine or have an influence on the Maine economy through employment, number of consumers, and overall presence in the State. This price-weighted index offers a numerical break down of Maine’s economy. The analysis looks into the events of the week and finds the likely reasons the index was up or down. The index and analysis help provide a better understanding of Maine’s economy and offer an explanation of significant changes in the stock prices of the companies that comprise the Husson Stock Index.

Business Wire. (2017, February 21). *Bar Harbor Bankshares Announces Stock Split as a Large Stock Dividend.*Retrieved from: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/bar-harbor-bankshares-announces-three-210500192.html>

Bailey, Shannon. Market Realist. (2017, February 24). *Walmart Stock Rises as 4Q17 Earnings Top Expectations* Retrieved from: <http://marketrealist.com/2017/02/walmart-stock-rises-4q-earnings-top-expectations/>