**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended January 26th, 2024**

 For the week ending January 26th, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 224.21, which is a 1% increase from the week prior. Like the HSI, both the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose this week. The S&P 500 ended the week with a 1.06% increase and the Dow Jones had a 0.65% increase. Year to date, the HSI decreased by 1.29%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 2.54% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 1.11%.

**Summary**

For the week ending January 26th, 2024, the stock in the HSI with the greatest percentage increase was Valero Energy Corporation (VLO). This week, VLO recorded a 7.61% increase in stock price from $128.16 to $137.91. Several factors could have contributed to the increase this week. Valero increased its quarterly cash dividend on common stock by 5% to $1.07 per share. In the Ethanol segment, Valero reported an adjusted operating profit of $205 million, significantly up from $69 million in the year-ago quarter. Higher ethanol production volumes aided the segment. Refining operating expenses per barrel of throughput was $4.99 compared with $5 in the year-ago quarter. The metric is slightly above the estimate of $4.80. These changes have provided shareholders and investors alike with a positive outlook on the company’s financials. The stock with the second-largest percentage growth was General Dynamic Corporation (GD). GD saw a 6.31% gain in share price from $249.34 to $265.07.

This week, the stock with the largest percentage decline was Lowe’s Company Inc (LOW). LOW saw a 3.65% decrease in stock price from $220.01 to $211.98. Lowe's, a home improvement store, announced on Thursday that it has cut a small number of corporate jobs in non-customer facing areas. In today's trading session, Lowe's (LOW) finished at $210.55, down -1.83% from the previous day. The stock underperformed the S&P 500, which had a daily gain of 0.08%. As of today, shares of the home improvement store had lost 3.75% of their value over the previous month, which was less than the gains of 2.4% for the S&P 500 and 0.71% for the Retail-Wholesale sector. The stock with the second worst performance this week was McDonald’s Corporation (MCD). This week, MCD saw a 2.75% decrease in stock price from $300.52 to $292.26.

**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 Lily Greene and Alexander Rechsteiner under the supervision of Associate Professor of Finance Dr. Jia Liu. The HSI currently tracks and analyzes the stocks of 26 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 the Husson Stock Index (HSI)**

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| **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 |
| 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 |