**Husson Stock Index**

 **Week Ended November 15, 2024**

 For the week ending November 15, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 241.84,

 which is a 1.22% decrease from the week prior. The S&P 500 decreased this week by 2.08% from 5,995.54 to 5,870.62. The Dow Jones Industrial Average decreased this past week by 1.24% from 43,988.99 to 43,444.99. Year to date, the HSI has grown by 6.47%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 23.08% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 15.27%.

 **Summary**

The Husson Stock Index underwhelmed this week, as only 10 out of 26 stock positions increased in share price. For the week ending November 15, 2024, the stock with the greatest percentage increase was Unum Group (UNM). UNM had an increase of 5.43% this week, as share prices rose from $69.42 to $73.19. Zacks suggests that investors stick with UNM stock, as the company saw promising Q3 results. 2024 Q3 net income per share beat Zacks’ consensus estimate by 1.9% and reported at $2.13 per share. Total operating revenues were $3.2 billion, which is up 3.4% year over year. Quarterly revenue was up 4.0% compared to Q3 of 2023. Analysts are expecting that Unum will post an average EPS of $8.43 at year end. One potential story to look out for in the future regarding UNM is the insider trading that has been going on. On Thursday, November 14, UNM’s director Hanley Ronald P.O sold 14,299 of his own shares of the company at an average price of $72.10, for a total value of $1,030,957.90. This dropped UNM’s ownership stock by 26.92%, although Ronald still owns 38,819 shares for a value of $2,798,849.90. It is not always a negative implication when insider sales occur, and one may speculate that Ronald was simply looking to diversify his personal portfolio, as he does still own a large market share of the company. The second largest percentage increase this week was Bank of America Corporation (BAC). Shares for BAC rose from $45.13 to $46.75, indicating a 3.59% increase on the week. It has been a month since BAC’s last earnings report, and shares have been up 7.2% in that time frame, which is outperforming the S&P 500. One of the most promising figures to come out of that previous report was a 2.4% year over year increase in total deposit balances, reporting a number of $1.93 trillion. Net revenues were $25.35 billion, which beat Zacks’ estimate of $25.29 billion. The company also repurchased $3.5 billion worth of shares in that quarter. The activity of notorious investor Warren Buffet has influenced investor opinions for decades now, and he has recently been dumping massive amounts of his BAC shares. There is no indication that Buffet believes the stock is doomed though, as it remains the third largest position held by his group, Berkshire Hathaway. Politics has played a huge role in the growth of many banks since election day, as BAC shares are up 10% since the election earlier this month. Donald Trump’s policies on rolling back financial regulations that affect companies in the financial sector created good performance for many banks during the first presidential term in 2016, and investors may be speculating that this will occur again, leading to increased purchases of the stock. Zacks maintains a #3 rank on BAC, which is a **Hold** position, indicating that they may be in line for profits in the long run.

This week, the stock with the largest percentage decline was General Dynamics Corporation (GD). Shares for GD decreased 6.94% this week, as share prices dropped from $309.47 to $287.99. The company is becoming increasingly competitive in the cybersecurity sector as this becomes a larger focus for citizens in the United States. In Q3 of this year, GD posted a 10.4% increase in revenue to $11.67 billion. Insider Monkey has GD ranked at #8 out of 10 on their list of the best performing cybersecurity stocks in 2024. One potential reason for the decrease this week may be due to investor enthusiasm in startup companies in the defense technology sector, which draws attention away from established companies like Boeing, RTX, and our very own General Dynamics. Venture capitalists have now invested a total of $130 billion into lesser-established startups in this sector from 2021 until mid-June of this year. Even with the decrease this week, analysts at Simply Wall St claim that now may be the time to add GD to watchlists. The promising measure they point to is continued growth in General Dynamics’ EPS. GD has increased its EPS by 4.2% per year over the last three years, and the analysts believe that share prices should eventually follow this pattern. For the week ended November 15, 2024, the stock with the second largest percentage decline was Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (WBA). Walgreens has become a staple as of late in our weekly declines list, and this week was no exception. Share prices for WBA continue to decline, and this week marks a 6.50% decrease, as shares fell from $9.07 to $8.48. WBA has seen an 18.4% decline in shares in the month since their last earnings report. The company recently adjusted their Q4 EPS to $0.39, which is down 41.8% from Q4 of last year. This continues a negative trend, as for the full year, EPS was $2.88, 27.6% lower than the 2023 fiscal year number. In a recent article from The Motley Fool, WBA made it onto a list of two dividend stocks for income investors to avoid at all costs. The analysts point to an announcement back in January indicating that WBA is decreasing its dividend by 48%. WBA’s $3.48 loss per share is very discouraging when compared to the net loss per share of $0.21 reported only one year ago. Spokespeople from the retailer have attributed struggles to the increased competition in the United States retail industry, specifically the performance of big competitors such as Amazon, who launched their pharmacy unit late in 2020. The stock is currently not terribly far off from their 52-week low of $8.22 per share, and investors will be watching to see if shares creep closer and closer to this number as we close out 2024.

 **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 Cameron Silva 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.

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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 |