**Husson Stock Index**

 **Week Ended November 8th, 2024**

 For the week ending November 8, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 244.82,

 which is a 4.74% increase from the week prior. The S&P 500 increased this week by 4.66% from 5,728.80 to 5,995.54. The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased this past week by 4.61% from 42,052.19 to 43,988.99. Year to date, the HSI has grown by 7.79%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 25.70% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 16.71%.

 **Summary**

For the week ending November 8, 2024, the stock with the greatest percentage increase was Bar Harbor Bank Shares (BHB). The Maine-based company’s shares increased from $31.80 to $36.57, a 15% increase. BHB reached a significant milestone earlier this week, as its share price reached its all-time high of $35.92. It then grew and closed at an even higher price for Friday's market close. The regional bank is surely picking up some steam, as it sports a 12.7% total return over the last month, and an even more impressive 27.63% return over these past six months. The company has stood firm on its emphasis on increasing shareholder value, as they have paid a dividend for 30 consecutive years and has raised its dividend each year for the past 21 years. BHB currently has a dividend yield of 3.63%. For the week ended November 8, 2024, the stock with the second largest percentage increase was Northeast Bank (NBN). This is yet another Maine-based company that saw intriguing growth this week, as its shares traded at $101.37, which is a 14.68% increase from last week’s closing price of $88.39. NBN posted its earnings for the first quarter of fiscal 2025 earlier last week, and the measures they presented may contribute to investor’s growing confidence in the company. Most notable were revenues of $42.7 million, which is a 13% increase from the first quarter of 2024. Net income is up 13% from 2024 quarter one as well, sitting at $17.1 million. The company’s profit margin remained steady at 40%, consistent with quarter one of 2024. Finally, NBN’s 2025 Q1 EPS was $2.17, which is an increase from $2.03 posted in Q1 of 2024.

In terms of decreases, it was a rather solid week for the Husson Stock Index, as only 4 out of our 25 (not including DJIA or S&P500) positions experienced a decrease in share price. This week, the stock with the largest percentage decline was Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (WBA). Shares fell by 4.12% from $9.46 to $9.07 this week. The company is going through major cost-cutting measures, and CEO Tim Wentworth is attempting to make the company much more appealing to the long-term investor, which may explain why many investors were leaving the stock this past week. Recent news of over 1,200 store locations being closed over the next few years is not good news for the consumer staples company. Wentworth justifies this decision by explaining that shedding off unprofitable stores can help the company get closer to breaking even and better position themselves to post consistent profits. The Motley Fool published an article on November 6th in which they ranked the worst-performing stocks in the S&P 500 over this past year. WBA was first (worst) on this list, as they have now suffered a 64.6% decrease in share price year to date. For the week ended November 8, 2024, the stock with the second largest percentage decline was United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS). The delivery industry giant saw a 1.20% decrease in share price, as shares fell from $134.05 to $132.44. UPS released a report on November 6th in which it announced its regular quarterly dividend of $1.63 per share on all outstanding class A and B shares. The dividend is payable December 5, 2024 with a date of record of November 18, 2024. Shareholders have been disappointed to find that they have lost 9.7% of capital over the past six months, despite the S&P 500’s growth of 15.5% in that same time frame. Analysts at StockStory are out on this stock and point to reasons such as demand levels slipping as sales volumes have declined. Another reason is that in the long-term, the company’s EPS is showing very little movement. Over the past five years, the EPS has been below the 4.3% annualized revenue growth. The final reason that was specified is that the company’s return on invested capital has declined as new investments failed to pan out.

 **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.

*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 |