**Husson Stock Index**

 **Week Ended October 18, 2024**

 For the week ending October 18, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 243.17,

 which is a 1.10% increase from the week prior. The S&P 500 increased this week by 0.85% from 5,815.03 to 5,846.67. The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased this past week by 0.96% from 42,863.86 to 43,275.91. Year to date, the HSI has grown by 7.06%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 22.95% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 14.82%.

 **Summary**

For the week ending October 18, 2024, the stock with the greatest percentage increase was Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (WBA). This marks the second week in a row that the company has topped our list for largest increase. This week, WBA’s price per share rose 17.16% from $9.21 to $10.79 per share. The big jump may likely be a follow up to the earnings report that WBA published earlier this week. The results did not jump off the page, but they did beat many of the top analyst expectations. One of the most productive measures was the fiscal fourth quarter earnings which totaled $37.55 billion. This is a 6% increase and exceeded the expectations of $35.55 billion. This has led to optimism for the company going forward, as analysts are already forecasting revenues of $148.7 billion over the entire 2025 year. In last week's report, I concluded by mentioning Morgan Stanley had set a price target of $7 for WBA. After this week's earnings, that number now seems low. A new consensus price target as of 10/18/2024 now holds steady at $11.17. The second largest increase within the Husson Stock Index for the week of October 18, 2024 was Northeast Bank (NBN). Ironically, this also marks the second week in a row that NBN has placed second on our list of largest increases as it has stayed hot throughout this week. NBN witnessed a gain of 7.51% as its share price rose from $80.01 to $86.02 per share. Insider trading is a trend I like to look toward when I see stock prices rising as to me it is a symbol for growth in the near future. A report that came out on 10/18/24 from Simply Wall St highlighted a 37% gain on an investment from a group of insiders who purchased shares a few months back. This gain brought their investment value from $3.20 million to $4.40 million. This news, along with the fact that the company has seen 197% increase in the price per share over the past five years continues to show promise. NBN will release earnings for quarter three in the beginning of next week, so this may be one to watch.

 For the week ended October 18, 2024, the largest percentage decrease was IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (IDEXX). Shares fell by 3.89% from $476.27 to $457.74. IDEXX will release third quarter earnings on October 31st. In a recent report from Zacks, the analysts released a consensus opinion stating that they expect revenues for the company to experience a 7% gain from last year and amount to about $979.3 million. The consensus opinion on earnings per share is that they will rise 6.3% to $2.69 per share. This is optimistic, as it comes on the heels of IDEXX missing their second quarter EPS estimate by 14.98%. On October 17, Yahoo Finance released a report in which they calculated a 41.84 P/E ratio going forward through the end of the quarter. The pet diagnostics company may have seen some benefit due to their performance in their Companion Animal Group (CAG) department, which has been responsible for 91% of the company’s revenue. This segment has been driven by increased demand for chemistry, blood, and urine testing technology in clinical settings. This week, the stock with the second largest percentage decline was Valero Energy Corporation. (VLO). VLO’s share price fell by 3.72% this week, as share prices moved from $142.34 to $137.04. This week's decrease represents a 1.47% decrease over the past month. Earnings for quarter three will be released on October 24th, and the company is expecting to post an EPS of $1.29, which would be an 82.78% decrease from their EPS in quarter three of last year. The Zacks Consensus Estimates for the full fiscal year predict $130.56 billion in revenue and $9.70 per share in earnings, which would be changes of -9.81% and -61.04%, respectively, from the previous year. Zacks also released a ranking of #5 on their rank system, indicating that the stock is a **Strong Sell.** The company has recently been making headlines as well for recent business projects they have taken on. On October 17th, Valero Marketing and Southwest Airlines announced an agreement for a sustainable aviation fuel supply deal at Chicago Midway International Airport. This deal becomes the largest sustainable aviation fuel deal in the state.

 **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 |