**Husson Stock Index**

 **Week Ended October 4, 2024**

 For the week ending October 4, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 239.26

 which is a 0.44% decrease from the week prior. The S&P 500 increased this week by 0.22% from 5,738.17 to 5,751.07. The Dow Jones increased this past week by 0.09% from 42,313.00 to 42,352.75. Year to date, the HSI has grown by 5.34%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 20.57% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 12.37%.

 **Summary**

For the week ending October 4, 2024, the stock with the greatest percentage increase was Unum Group (UNM). This stock moved 4.94% from a share price of $58.65 to $61.55. Zacks reports on UNM as a member of their health insurance and risk sector. This entire sector is expected to benefit pricewise from a rise in insurance claims as business activities return to normal levels around the country. Unum is Zacks #3 ranked risk and insurance company. The future is supposedly looking bright for UNM as they have a consensus estimate of increased earnings of 10.7% in 2024 and 5.7% in 2025. Zacks also reports an expected long term earnings growth rate of 8%. Movement in this position may also be due to speculation surrounding their oncoming quarter three earnings report on October 29th. The second largest increase within the Husson Stock Index for the week was Valero Energy Corporation (VLO). VLO gained 4.74% this week, as its share price rose from $135.97 to $142.42. VLO outpaced the movement of all three major market indexes (S&P 500, DJIA, and Nasdaq) earlier this week, as speculators await their third quarter earnings later this month. Although income has declined for the oil refining giant in the recent timeline, Valero has continued to repurchase their own shares, increasing shareholder value.

For the week ending October 4, 2024, the largest percentage decrease was IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (IDXX). The local agricultural company posted a drop in share price from $511.78 all the way down to $477.67. This represents a 6.66% loss, one of the largest the HSI has seen this quarter. The company recently announced that third quarter earnings will be released on October 31st of this year. Very little public information has been released to support investors selling off this stock specifically this week, so movement may be pure speculation on the impacts of upcoming earnings and how it will affect IDXX’s market performance. The company currently has a market value of $42 billion, and in the past three years, they have seen a 6.2% increase in earnings per share. This week, the stock with the second largest percentage decline was Colgate-Palmolive Company (CL). CL fell from $103.66 to $99.04, a 4.46% decrease. This may come as a surprise for investors because the cleaning supply company has been performing very well all year up to this point. CL’s recent quarter saw them beat earnings per share estimates of $0.87 per share with an impressive $0.91 per share. Zacks has Colgate-Palmolive ranked at #3 in their cleaning supplies index, and established a **hold** opinion on them, with no rush to buy or sell at this particular time. The company continues to impress by increasing their annual dividends often, for a year over year annual increase of 3.02%. The annual dividend for CL currently sits at $2, with a yield outpacing the S&P 500.

 **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 |