**Husson Stock Index**

 **Week Ended September 27, 2024**

 For the week ending September 27, 2024, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 240.31

 which is a 1.21% increase from the week prior. The S&P 500 increased this week by 0.62% from 5,702.55 to 5,738.17. The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased this past week by 0.59% from 42,063.36 to 42,313.00. Year to date, the HSI has grown by 5.80%, while the S&P 500 has grown by 20.30% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has grown by 12.27%.

 **Summary**

For the week ending September 27, 2024, the stock with the greatest percentage increase was Northeast Bank (NBN). NBN saw a 9.90% increase during the past week, as its share price jumped from $69.87 to $76.79. Some speculation on this growth may point towards a report earlier this week on 9/24 that the full-service bank had topped $805 million in purchases of commercial real estate loans since June 30th of this year. This number represents the second-largest purchase within a quarter in the firm’s existence, strengthening the idea that they are a very reliable counterparty in the loan business. This news may point to strong belief from this firm in the future of the commercial real estate industry in Maine, as they continue to expand and diversify their portfolio through commercial lending. As with any high value loan, the company must see minimal risk or high investor confidence in themselves and in the real estate market as we close out 2024. The second largest increase within the Husson Stock Index for the week of September 27, 2024 was United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS). UPS saw a gain of 4.39% in its share price this week, as it rose from $128.62 to $134.26 per share. We might speculate that boosts in UPS shares once again come from investors trying to jump on the wagon at the right time, as this week, their rival delivery giant FedEx (FDX) released a mostly disappointing Q3 report. The report published on 9/23 included that it missed its sales number by 2% compared to its expectations. Zacks, a very reputable source, was off by 25% on their respective sales estimate for FedEx. UPS has its next earnings report due in mid-October, so some movement may accompany that. But for now, there may be some correlation between a disappointing report in a rival company and the increase in UPS this week. In other news pertaining to this future report, it is expected that UPS will report a 3.8% increase year over year in their earnings per share, bringing that number up to $1.63 per share. UPS also made it on Insider Monkey’s *13 Most Undervalued Blue Chip Stocks To Buy Right Now, According to Analysts.* Earlier this week on 9/25, Insider Monkey raved about the company’s recent acquisition of Estafeta, a logistics company offering freight forwarding solutions out of Mexico, increasing their presence on the worldwide scale. They also signed an air cargo contract with country leader USPS, making UPS their lead provider in air transport.

This week, the stock with the largest percentage decline was PENN Entertainment, Inc. (PENN). PENN share prices dropped by 3.98% this week. Its share price as of 9/27 was $19.28 per share compared to its closing the week previous on 9/20 at $20.08 per share. This comes after just two weeks ago PENN held our position of the biggest upward growth for the week of 9/6 - 9/13. There has been very little news published this week for the company, so one may speculate that their performance was merely a result of this stock cooling down after heating up for the past couple of weeks. Investors have reported a price target of $16 for PENN which is under the current price of $19.28 per share, so more decline may be ahead in the short term if this report is accurate. However, the S&P 500 Casinos and Gaming Index did trend higher as it saw a 13.76% increase this week, so do keep an eye on this one long term. The second largest percentage decline this week occurred for Bar Harbor Bank Shares (BHB). This local position’s share price dropped from $31.31 to $30.20 per share, a 3.45% decrease.No recent news has emerged out of this company in over 2 months, so we might speculate that that they are still suffering from the effects of their disappointing Q2 report. This report included the details that their earnings of $0.66 per share is still down from last year's number of $0.71 per share. They also missed Zacks’ consensus estimate of this measure. Zacks has maintained a **SELL** position in their analysis of this stock.

 **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 |