**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended February 28th, 2025**

For the week ended February 28th, 2025, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) closed at 242.64. This is a 1.95% increase from the previous week. Year to date, this is a 4.91% increase. The Dow Jones Industrial Average had a 0.95% increase from the previous week and a 3.05% percent increase for the year so far. The S&P 500 decreased 0.98% this week while it was up 1.24% year to date.

**Summary**

The top performing stock this week was Unum Group (UNM). It had an 11.11% increase, from $74.06 to $82.29 per share. This is an all-time high for the company. The reason for this increase is that “Investors have responded positively to the company’s strategic initiatives and strong financial results” (Investing). The company has provided their investors with much better returns than expected. The company has had consistent growth over the last six years. The second-best performing stock in the HSI was Raytheon Technologies Corporation (RTX). RTX saw a 7.87% increase from the prior week. The price went up from $123.29 to $132.29, which is $9.70 per share. RTX is a major defense company and has been increasing sales because of the war in Ukraine. The reason for the increase this week is that “European governments faced pressure to increase military spending following a meeting between American and Russian officials in Saudi Arabia over Ukraine” (Yahoo Finance). This meeting caused a spike in RTX and other defense companies because of the ongoing battle and the need for military use. This came shortly after President Trump talked about cutting military spending which caused these companies to experience a drop in their stock prices.

 The worst performing stock in the HSI was IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (IDXX). IDXX saw a decrease of 3.46%. Shares went down from $452.77 to $437.11, which is a $15.66 decrease per share. IDXX has been a well-performing stock this year. Despite outperforming and outgrowing their expectations of the year end, the stock is going down. The reason for the decrease is because of how much money they have been reinvesting into the company while “the latest industry analyst forecasts reveal that the company's earnings growth is expected to slow down” (Yahoo Finance). Along with this there has been a slowdown in vet visits by owners, which is the main source of income for the company. The second worst performing stock in the HSI was Valero Energy Corporation (VLO). VLO saw a mere 2.98% decrease in its stock price. The price went from $134.74 to $130.73 which was a $4.01 per share drop. The reason for this decline is that VLO “has been experiencing fluctuations in its stock price as various investment firms have been making significant moves with their holdings” (Smartkarma). All these moves have made the stocks go up and down recently. Despite all of this, the company from the year ended is up 6.64%. Because of the amount of capital and power this company has in the fuel market, stockholders should not be worried about this small drop.

**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 Bode DayCoombs under the supervision of Associate

Professor of Finance Dr. Jia Liu. The HSI currently tracks and analyzes the stocks of 25 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*

Unum group stock soars to all-time high of $81.01 by investing.com. (n.d.-g). https://www.investing.com/news/company-news/unum-group-stock-soars-to-alltime-high-of-8101-93CH-3896668

*Valero Energy Corporation’s stock price drops to $130.91, witnessing a 4.37% decrease*. Smartkarma. (2025, February 12). https://www.smartkarma.com/home/market-movers/valero-energy-corporations-stock-price-drops-to-130-91-witnessing-a-4-37-decrease/

Yahoo! (n.d.-a). *Declining stock and Solid Fundamentals: Is the market wrong about Idexx Laboratories, Inc. (NASDAQ:IDXX)?*. Yahoo! Finance. https://finance.yahoo.com/news/declining-stock-solid-fundamentals-market-140019339.html

Yahoo! (n.d.-b). *Why RTX Corporation (RTX) is gaining this week*. Yahoo! Finance. https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-rtx-corporation-rtx-gaining-203109224.html

**Composition of the Husson Stock Index (HSI)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ticker****Symbol:****Exchange** | **Stock** | **Maine****Affiliation** | **Sector** |
| 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 |