**Husson Stock Index**

**Week Ended October 20, 2023**

 For the week ending October 20, 2023, the Husson Stock Index (HSI) saw a decline. The index has ended the week at 200.35, which is a 0.93% decrease from the week prior. Both the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average also declined this week. The week ended with the S&P 500 down 2.39% and the Dow Jones down 1.43%.

With the decrease this week, year to date, the HSI has moved to a negative territory. The HSI has had a 0.39% decline, whereas the S&P 500 has seen a 10.02% growth, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has decreased by 0.06% year-to-date.

**Summary**

For the week ending October 20, 2023, the stock with the greatest percentage increase was Darden Restaurants Inc. (DRI). This week DRI recorded a 4.98% increase in stock price from $134.00 to $140.67. Darden Restaurants is an American based company that owns a variety of multi-brand restaurants. Some of their more famous restaurants include locations in Bangor such as Olive Garden and Longhorn Steak House. The company owns and operates more than 1,914 restaurants worldwide. In this past week, some new numbers have come out concerning the companies’ financials and could have contributed to the growth in stock price that we saw this week. “Looking at cash flow, Darden restaurants is expected to report cash flow growth of 3.6% this year; DRI has generated cash flow growth of 8.3% over the past three to five years”. On top of this, over the next few years earning and sales for the company are projected to increase by roughly 9.5% to 10.4%. Positive numbers such as this could easily attribute to the increase in stock price that we saw this week. The stock with the second-largest percentage growth was Valero Energy Corporation (VLO). VLO saw a 4.07% gain in share price from $126.05 to $131.18.

This week, the stock with the largest percentage decline was Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. (WBA). WBA saw an 8.56% decrease in stock price from $23.25 to $21.26. This week, WBA announced that it has agreed to pay, “$192.5 million to settle a class action lawsuit by investors in Rite Aid who accused Walgreens of misleading them in 2017 about scrutiny of the two-drugstore chain operator’s then-pending merger”. This lawsuit included a variety of quotes made by Walgreens executives in 2015 regarding a proposed merger between Rite Aid and Walgreens. The lawsuit overall accuses Walgreens of downplaying the scrutiny they would be and had been receiving from the U.S antitrust regulators in October 2016. It is likely that this lawsuit and settlement has led to the decrease in Walgreens stock price this week. The stock with the second-worst performance this week was Charter Communications Inc. (CHTR). This week, CHTR saw a 4.37% decrease in stock price from $449.27 to $429.65.

**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 Parker Deprey under the supervision of Associate

Professor of Finance Dr. Jia Liu. The HSI currently tracks and analyzes the stocks of 27 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*

Yahoo! (n.d.-g). *Walgreens to Settle Rite Aid Investors’ merger claims for $192 million*. Yahoo! Finance. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/walgreens-settle-rite-aid-investors-144903102.html>

Yahoo! (n.d.-h). *Why Darden Restaurants (DRI) is a top growth stock for the long-term*. Yahoo! Finance. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-darden-restaurants-dri-top-134506521.html>

**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 |
| RAD: NYSE | Rite Aid Corporation | Presence | Consumer Staples |
| 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 |