

Apogee Enterprises (APOG)

\$21.51 (As of 09/28/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$25.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Outperform

(Since: 09/29/20)

Prior Recommendation: Neutral

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

1-Strong Buy

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:A

Value: A

Growth: B

Momentum: B

Summary

Apogee is poised to gain from its efforts to increase market share, expand into new geographies and markets, introduction of new products, solid bidding and order activities as well as steady demand from new construction activities. Strong backlog in the Architectural Services segment is likely to drive top and bottom line growth in the near term. In the Large-Scale Optical segment, customers resumed operations as evident from positive orders and sales trend. The company is well placed to deliver stable growth and profitability driven by focusing on strategy to diversify revenue streams, exploring growth opportunities, and improving the efficiency and productivity of operations. Moreover, the company's cost-reduction initiatives are likely to deliver around \$50 million savings during fiscal 2021, in turn boosting overall operating margins.

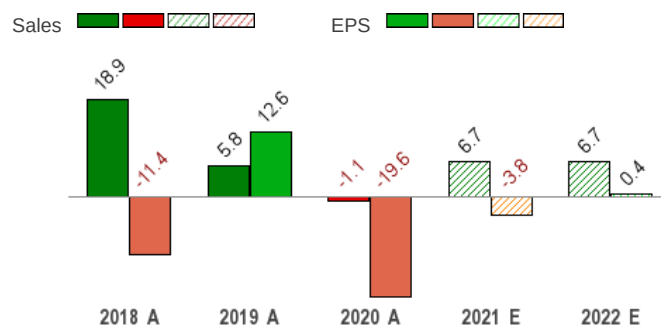
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$41.07 - \$13.77
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	336,836
Market Cap	\$566.9 M
Year-To-Date Price Change	-33.8%
Beta	1.37
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$0.75 / 3.5%
Industry	Glass Products
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 3% (8 out of 250)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	114.7%
Last Sales Surprise	NA
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	34.7%
Expected Report Date	12/17/2020
Earnings ESP	0.0%

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					1,579 E
2021	289 A	319 A			1,480 E
2020	355 A	357 A	338 A	337 A	1,387 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					\$2.30 E
2021	\$0.15 A	\$0.73 A	\$0.70 E		\$2.29 E
2020	\$0.58 A	\$0.72 A	\$0.57 A	\$0.51 A	\$2.38 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, except sales and EPS estimates, is as of 09/28/2020. The reports text and the analyst-provided sales and EPS estimates are as of 09/29/2020.

Overview

Apogee Enterprises is a leader in technologies for the design and development of value-added glass products, services, and systems. The company operates under four segments, with three of the segments serving the commercial construction market:

The **Architectural Glass** segment (25% of total revenues in fiscal 2020) fabricates glass used in customized window and wall systems forming the outside skin of commercial and institutional buildings. The segment consists of Viracon, a fabricator of coated, high-performance architectural glass for global markets. Its markets include the U.S. government, offices, education, health care and hotels.

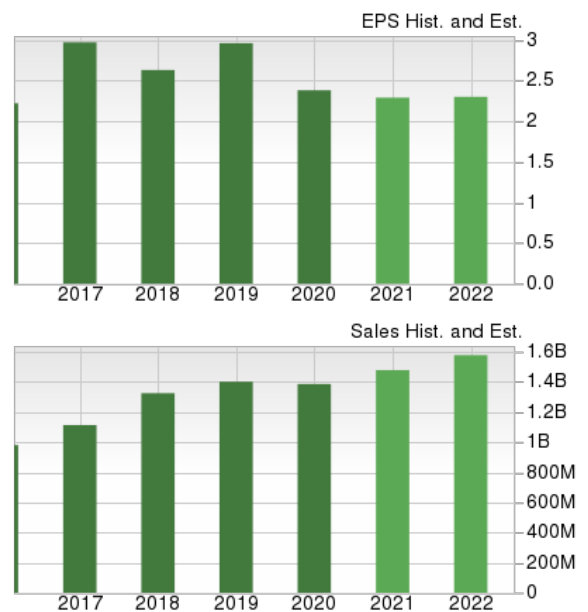
The **Architectural Services** segment (20%) is involved in designing, engineering, fabricating and installing walls and windows of glass constituting the outside skin of commercial and institutional buildings which are being constructed or renovated. The segment consists of Harmon, one of the largest U.S. full-service building glass installation and renovation companies. The Architectural Services segment operates mid to small-size complex projects in the U.S.

The **Architectural Framing Systems** (49%) designs, engineers, fabricates and finishes the aluminium frames used in customized aluminium and glass window, curtainwall, storefront and entrance systems structuring the outside skin and entrances of commercial and institutional buildings with features such as energy efficiency and hurricane protection. The segment comprises of Wausau Window and Wall Systems, Tubelite and Linetec.

The **Large-Scale Optical** (LSO) segment (6%) manufactures value-added glass and acrylic products for the picture framing market. The LSO segment consists of Tru Vue, a manufacturer of value-added glass and acrylic for the custom picture framing and fine art market.

On Jun 12, 2017, the company acquired the stock of EFCO Corporation (EFCO), a privately-held U.S. manufacturer of architectural aluminum window, curtainwall, storefront and entrance systems for commercial construction projects, for around \$190 million.

On Dec 14, 2016, Apogee acquired substantially all the assets of Sotawall, Inc., a privately-held Canadian designer and fabricator of high-performance, unitized curtainwall systems for commercial construction projects, for around \$138 million.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ Apogee's second-quarter fiscal 2021 results benefited from effective cost management as well as increased profitability across its business segments. The company expects to report solid results in the upcoming quarters with the stabilization in its end markets as well as in the economy. The company's Architectural segments are likely to gain from strong project backlog in long lead-time business. In Large-Scale Optical segment, customers resumed operations as evident from positive orders and sales trend. In late July, the segment resumed normal operations at two of its primary manufacturing factories, which were shut down in the fiscal first quarter due to the pandemic. Consequently, Apogee expects to report higher top- and bottom-line results in the second-half of the fiscal compared to the first half. Apogee's cost-reduction initiatives and procurement savings will also deliver significant savings in fiscal 2021.
- ▲ The Architectural Services segment continues to win new projects and focus on building strong order backlogs. The segment's backlog level reached to \$665 million, up 32% from the prior year's \$502 million. Backed by its strong projects pipeline, the company expects backlog growth in the fiscal third quarter as well. This is likely to drive top and bottom line for at least the next two years. The company's segments have the potential to increase market share, expand into new geographies and markets, and introduce new products. Framing Systems will continue to benefit from the optimization of operations, solid execution and cost removal in the fiscal third quarter. Significant efforts to integrate and optimize Framing Systems segment expect to deliver cost savings through fiscal 2021.
- ▲ Apogee has broader exposure in various projects across different sectors, including healthcare, education, and government and multifamily housing, as well as a growing renovation business. The company is witnessing strong demand from new construction activities. Employment growth, improvement in the architectural billing index and pick up in industrial activity instill hope for the company's business. Apart from this, the various government stimulus measures provide support for the company's construction end markets.
- ▲ Apogee continues to focus on strategy to diversify revenue streams, explore growth opportunities, and improve efficiency and productivity of operations to deliver stable growth and profitability. The company has initiated several operational and commercial improvements, including cost reductions, integrated product management and pricing strategies, and supply chain and operational efficiencies. Apogee has made significant progress identifying procurement cost savings opportunities across the enterprise. The company is likely to deliver around \$50 million savings in fiscal 2021. The company plans to utilize these savings to improve overall operating margins. Additionally, the company expects the cost reduction plan will significantly improve working capital and cash flow performance.
- ▲ The company's solid liquidity position coupled with strong free cash flow place it well to sail through the current turbulent situation. The company has lowered its capital expenditure and has temporarily suspended share repurchases in order to preserve cash. During the second quarter of fiscal 2021, the company reduced total debt to \$168 million from \$218 million at the end of fiscal 2020. Apogee will utilize excess free cash flow to further reduce debt. The company's total debt to total equity stands at a healthy 31.9%. This suggests Apogee's ability to meet debt obligations.

Apogee will benefit from strong backlog across its Architectural segments, improving efficiency and productivity of operations, roll out of new products as well as cost-reduction initiatives.

Risks

- Given the coronavirus pandemic-related uncertainties in the end markets and economy, the company has not issued financial guidance for fiscal 2021. In Architectural segments, the company continues to expect project delays and soft market conditions in the second half of fiscal 2021. Architectural Glass revenues have been impacted by lower project volumes resulting from increased competition from overseas competitors. Moreover, in the longer term, Apogee expects to witness downturn in its end markets.
 - The Large-Scale Optical segment has been bearing the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic. It has witnessed a complete shutdown of its customer base to comply with government's stay-at-home orders. The segment depends on the strength of the retail picture framing market, which, in turn, is dependent on consumer confidence and the U.S. economy. Despite the recovery in retail lately, the segment's volume will remain below last year's level owing to the impact of pandemic.
 - The Large-Scale Optical segment's sales are highly dependent on a small number of customers. Consequently, loss of a significant customer base or a substantial reduction in pricing or the shift of certain customers to a less favorable mix of value-added picture framing glass products could materially reduce the segment's sales and operating results.
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Last Earnings Report

Apogee's Earnings Surpass Estimates In Q2, Up Y/Y

Apogee reported second-quarter fiscal 2021 (ended Aug 29, 2020) adjusted earnings per share of 73 cents, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 34 cents. The company had reported adjusted earnings of 72 cents per share in the prior-year quarter.

Including one-time items, the company delivered earnings per share of 67 cents compared with the 72 cents recorded in the year-ago quarter.

Apogee generated revenues of \$319 million during the quarter, marking a year-over-year decline of 11% on lower volumes across all of the company's segments due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Operational Update

Cost of sales in the fiscal second quarter was down 10% year over year to \$243 million. Gross profit declined 12% year over year to \$76 million. Gross margin came in at 24%, flat year over year.

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses decreased 10% year over year to \$53 million. Adjusted operating income was down 7% year over year to \$26 million. Operating margin in the reported quarter was 8.2% compared with the prior-year quarter's 7.8%.

Segment Performance

In the fiscal second quarter, revenues in the Architectural Framing Systems segment slid 18% year over year to \$153 million on lower order volume and COVID-19-related project delays. The segment's operating income dipped 25% year over year to around \$12 million.

Revenues in the Architectural Glass Systems segment dropped 13% year on year to \$87 million, reflecting dismal volumes due to the pandemic-induced project delays as well as lower order volume. The segment reported an operating profit of \$5 million compared with the year-ago quarter's \$6.5 million. This decline resulted from lower volume, partly offset by strong factory productivity and effective cost management.

Revenues in the Architectural Services segment increased 20% year over year to \$74 million, as the segment executed projects in its substantial backlog. The segment's operating profit jumped 65% year over year to \$6.6 million on solid strong project execution and prudent cost management.

Revenues in the Large-Scale Optical Technologies segment declined 19% year over year to \$17 million on lower volumes. By the end of the fiscal second quarter, the segment's customers had largely reopened, after being closed for most of the fiscal first quarter due to pandemic-related restrictions. In addition, the segment's two primary manufacturing locations resumed operations during the quarter, after being shut for most of the fiscal first and second quarters. The segment reported an operating profit of \$2 million in the fiscal second quarter compared with the prior-year quarter's \$5 million, reflecting lower volume.

Backlog

The Architectural Services segment's backlog decreased to \$665 million compared with the record level of \$685 million seen in the last quarter. Backlog in the Architectural Framing segment amounted to \$404 million, down 4.5% from the prior quarter.

Financial Position

Apogee had cash and cash equivalents of \$19 million at the end of the fiscal second quarter compared with the \$19.4 million witnessed at the end of prior-year quarter. Cash generated from operating activities were \$85 million in the six-month period ended as of Aug 29, 2020 compared with the year-ago quarter's \$18 million. Long-term debt was around \$16 million as of Aug 29, 2020 compared with \$213 million as of Feb 29, 2020. Over the past year, Apogee has reduced its total debt by \$105 million.

Fiscal year to date, Apogee has returned \$14.5 million of cash to shareholders through dividend payments and repurchases.

Fiscal 2021 Guidance

Given the coronavirus pandemic-related uncertainties in the end markets and economy, Apogee has not issued any financial guidance for fiscal 2021. Despite continued project delays and soft market conditions, the company anticipates improved revenues and earnings in the second half of fiscal 2021 compared with the first half of the fiscal year.

Quarter Ending	08/2020
Report Date	Sep 17, 2020
Sales Surprise	NA
EPS Surprise	114.71%
Quarterly EPS	0.73
Annual EPS (TTM)	1.96

Valuation

Apogee's shares are down 33.9% in the year-to-date period and 44.8% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks Glass Products industry and Zacks Industrial Products sector are down 18.7% and 2% in the year-to-date period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is down 15.9% while the sector is up 8.3%.

The S&P 500 index is up 2.4% in the year-to-date and 11.1% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 9.37X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 7.86X for the Zacks sub-industry, 21.40X for the Zacks sector and 21.60X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 20.67X and as low as 4.92X, with a 5-year median of 12.33X.

Our Outperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform better than the market. Our \$25 price target reflects 10.89X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for APOG:

Valuation Multiples - APOG					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	9.37	7.86	21.40	21.6
	5-Year High	20.67	10.68	21.86	23.46
	5-Year Low	4.92	4.19	12.55	15.26
	5-Year Median	12.33	8.23	17.51	17.63
P/S F12M	Current	0.38	0.28	2.93	4.02
	5-Year High	1.56	0.69	2.97	4.3
	5-Year Low	0.25	0.19	1.52	3.11
	5-Year Median	0.9	0.52	2.05	3.66
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	5.99	2.88	19.66	14.28
	5-Year High	13	7.85	20.38	15.65
	5-Year Low	4.3	2.33	10.74	9.53
	5-Year Median	8.55	5.99	15	13.06

As of 09/28/2020

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 3% (8 out of 250)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Gibraltar Industries, Inc. (ROCK)	Outperform	2
AAON, Inc. (AAON)	Neutral	4
Armstrong World Industries, Inc. (AWI)	Neutral	3
Acuity Brands Inc (AYI)	Neutral	3
Comfort Systems USA, Inc. (FIX)	Neutral	3
Hubbell Inc (HUBB)	Neutral	2
Lennox International, Inc. (LII)	Neutral	2
Encore Wire Corporation (WIRE)	Neutral	3

The positions listed should not be deemed a recommendation to buy, hold or sell.

Industry Comparison Industry: Glass Products				Industry Peers		
	APOG	X Industry	S&P 500	AWI	AYI	HUBB
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Outperform	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	1	-	-	3	3	2
VGM Score	A	-	-	C	A	B
Market Cap	566.93 M	4.27 B	23.11 B	3.35 B	4.03 B	7.43 B
# of Analysts	1	2.5	14	4	5	4
Dividend Yield	3.49%	1.22%	1.66%	1.14%	0.51%	2.66%
Value Score	A	-	-	C	B	B
Cash/Price	0.02	0.22	0.08	0.04	0.14	0.07
EV/EBITDA	4.51	4.51	13.15	9.31	7.12	11.53
PEG F1	0.94	0.74	2.88	9.82	1.33	2.63
P/B	1.08	1.08	3.29	8.32	1.92	3.76
P/CF	5.17	3.88	12.83	10.89	9.07	12.51
P/E F1	9.39	10.16	21.32	19.54	13.31	19.04
P/S TTM	0.44	0.44	2.49	3.43	1.19	1.71
Earnings Yield	10.65%	9.91%	4.44%	5.11%	7.51%	5.25%
Debt/Equity	0.03	0.34	0.70	1.51	0.18	0.82
Cash Flow (\$/share)	4.16	4.16	6.92	6.43	11.20	10.95
Growth Score	B	-	-	B	A	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-0.69%	-0.15%	10.43%	21.40%	8.30%	11.35%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-3.78%	-26.65%	-4.22%	-25.05%	-3.07%	-11.42%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-16.96%	-16.96%	5.47%	15.31%	6.99%	8.75%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	8.48%	8.48%	8.52%	3.83%	15.70%	8.09%
Current Ratio	0.86	1.36	1.35	2.04	2.40	2.04
Debt/Capital	2.89%	25.43%	42.91%	60.13%	15.55%	44.93%
Net Margin	3.72%	1.63%	10.28%	-5.64%	8.02%	9.09%
Return on Equity	10.12%	10.12%	14.73%	56.59%	15.57%	21.79%
Sales/Assets	1.17	0.66	0.50	0.64	1.01	0.87
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	0.00%	0.00%	-1.38%	-8.80%	0.58%	-9.24%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	F	B	C
Daily Price Change	3.31%	2.63%	1.85%	2.37%	4.45%	2.35%
1-Week Price Change	-7.75%	-6.40%	-2.32%	3.64%	-6.38%	-3.75%
4-Week Price Change	2.77%	5.30%	-2.53%	-5.07%	-7.08%	-5.49%
12-Week Price Change	-6.80%	10.22%	4.17%	-10.12%	7.92%	8.89%
52-Week Price Change	-44.83%	0.61%	0.12%	-27.61%	-24.66%	4.23%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	336,836	174,420	2,098,704	422,558	443,816	312,414
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.06%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	34.71%	17.35%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.06%	0.03%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	34.71%	6.10%	4.22%	-14.60%	2.20%	5.26%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	NA%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.52%	0.00%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Stock Rating System

We offer two rating systems that take into account investors' holding horizons: Zacks Rank and Zacks Recommendation. Each provides valuable insights into the future profitability of the stock and can be used separately or in combination with each other depending on your investment style.

Zacks Recommendation

The Zacks Recommendation aims to predict performance over the next 6 to 12 months. The foundation for the quantitatively determined Zacks Recommendation is trends in the company's estimate revisions and earnings outlook. The Zacks Recommendation is broken down into 3 Levels; Outperform, Neutral and Underperform. Unlike many Wall Street firms, we maintain a balance between the number of Outperform and Neutral recommendations. Our team of 70 analysts are fully versed in the benefits of earnings estimate revisions and how that is harnessed through the Zacks quantitative rating system. But we have given our analysts the ability to override the Zacks Recommendation for the 1200 stocks that they follow. The reason for the analyst over-rides is that there are often factors such as valuation, industry conditions and management effectiveness that a trained investment professional can spot better than a quantitative model.

Zacks Rank

The Zacks Rank is our short-term rating system that is most effective over the one- to three-month holding horizon. The underlying driver for the quantitatively-determined Zacks Rank is the same as the Zacks Recommendation, and reflects trends in earnings estimate revisions.

Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

Value Score	A
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	B
VGM Score	A

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

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Returns quoted represent past performance which is no guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate so that when shares are redeemed, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown.

Investing involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee that companies that can issue dividends will declare, continue to pay or increase dividends.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

52-Week High-Low: The range of the highest and lowest prices at which a stock has traded during the past year. This range is determined based on the stock's daily closing price which may differ from the intra-day high or low. Many investors use it as a technical indicator to determine a stock's current value and future price movement. The idea here is that if price breaks out from the 52-week range, in either direction, the momentum may continue in the same direction.

20-Day Average Volume (Shares): The average number of shares of a company traded in a day over the last 20 days. It is a direct indication of a security's overall liquidity. The higher the average daily trading volume, the easier it is to enter or exit the stock at a desired price with more buyers and sellers being available.

Daily Price Change: This is the percentage difference between a trading day's closing price and the prior trading day's closing price. This item is updated at 9 p.m. EST each day.

1-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 5 trading days. This change reflects the collective buying and selling sentiment over the 1-week period.

A strong weekly price increase for the stock, especially when accompanied by increased volume, is an indication of it gaining momentum.

4-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 20 trading days or past 4 weeks. This is a medium-term price change metric and an indication of the stock gaining momentum.

12-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change of a stock's closing price over the last 60 trading days or past 12 weeks. Similar to 4-week price change, this is a medium-term price change metric. It shows whether a stock has been enjoying strong investor demand, or if it has been in consolidation, or distress over this period.

52-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 260 trading days or past 52 weeks. This long-term price change metric is a good reference point for investors. Some investors seek stocks with the best percentage price change over the last 52 weeks, expecting the momentum to continue.

Market Cap: The number of outstanding common shares of a company times its latest price per share. This figure represents a company's size, which indicates various characteristics, including price stability and risk, in which investors could be interested.

Year-To-Date Price Change: Change in a stock's daily closing price in the period of time beginning the first day of the current calendar year through to the previous trading day.

of Analysts: Number of EPS estimates used in calculating the current-quarter consensus. These estimates come from the brokerage analysts tracking this stock. However, the number of such analysts tracking this stock may not match the number of estimates, as all brokerage analysts may not come up with an estimate or provide it to us.

Beta: A measure of risk commonly used to compare the volatility of a stock to the overall market. The S&P 500 Index is the base for calculating beta and carries a value of 1. A stock with beta below 1 is less risky than the market as a whole. And a stock with beta above 1 is riskier.

Dividend: The portion of earnings a company is expected to distribute to its common shareholders in the next 12 months for each share they own. Dividends are usually paid quarterly. Dividend payments reflect positively on a company and help maintain investors' trust. Investors typically find dividend-paying stocks appealing because the dividend adds to any market price appreciation to result in higher return on investment (ROI). Moreover, a steady or increasing dividend payment provides investors a cushion in a down market.

Dividend Yield: The ratio of a company's annual dividend to its share price. The annual dividend used in the ratio is calculated based on the most recent dividend paid by the company. Dividend yield is an estimate of the dividend-only return from a stock in the next 12 months. Since dividend itself doesn't change frequently, dividend yield usually changes with a stock's price movement. As a result, often an unusually high dividend yield is a result of weak stock price.

S&P 500 Index: The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) Index is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. It is a market-capitalization-weighted index of stocks of the 500 largest U.S. companies. Each stock's weight in the index is proportionate to its market value.

Industry: One of the 250+ groups that Zacks classifies all stocks into based on the nature of business. These groups are termed as expanded (aka "X") industries and map to their respective (economic) sectors; Zacks has 16 sectors.

Zacks Industry Rank: The Zacks Industry Rank is determined by calculating the average Zacks Rank for all stocks in the industry and then assigning an ordinal rank to it. For example, an industry with an average Zacks Rank of 1.6 is better than an industry with an average Zacks Rank of 2.3. So, the industry with the better average Zacks Rank would get a better Zacks Industry Rank. If an industry has the best average Zacks Rank, it would be considered the top industry (1 out of 250+), which would place it at the top 1% of Zacks-ranked industries. Studies have shown that roughly half of a stock's price movement can be attributed to the industry group it belongs to. In fact, the top 50% of Zacks-ranked industries outperforms the bottom 50% by a factor of more than 2 to 1.

Last EPS Surprise: The percentage deviation of a company's last reported earnings per share from the Zacks Consensus Estimate. Companies with a positive earnings surprise are more likely to surprise again in the future (or miss again if they recently missed).

Last Sales Surprise: The percentage deviation of a company's last reported sales from the Zacks Consensus Estimate.

Expected Report Date: This is an estimated date of a company's next earnings release. The information originated or gathered by Zacks Investment Research from its information providers or publicly available sources is the basis of this estimate.

Earnings ESP: The Zacks Earnings ESP compares the Most Accurate Estimate to the Zacks Consensus Estimate for the yet-to-be reported quarter. The Most Accurate Estimate is the most recent version of the Zacks Consensus EPS Estimate. The idea here is that analysts revising their estimates closer to an earnings release have the latest information, which could potentially be more accurate than what they and others contributing to the consensus had predicted earlier. Thus, a positive or negative Earnings ESP reading theoretically indicates the likely deviation of the actual earnings from the consensus estimate. However, the model's predictive power is significant for positive ESP readings only. A positive Earnings ESP is a strong predictor of an earnings beat, particularly when combined with a Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy), #2 (Buy) or #3 (Hold). Our research shows that stocks with this combination produce a positive surprise nearly 70% of the time.

Periods:

TTM: Trailing 12 months. Using TTM figures is an effective way of analyzing the most-recent financial data in an annualized format that helps neutralize the effects of seasonality and other quarter-to-quarter variation.

F1: Current fiscal year. This period is used to analyze the estimates for the ongoing full fiscal year.

F2: Next fiscal year. This period is used to analyze the estimates for the next full fiscal year.

F12M: Forward 12 months. Using F12M figures is an effective way of analyzing the near-term (the following four unreported quarters) estimates in an annualized manner. Instead of typically representing estimates for the full fiscal year, which may not represent the nitty-gritty of each quarter, F12M figures suggest an all-inclusive annualized estimate for the following four quarters. The annualization helps neutralize the potential effects of seasonality and other quarter-to-quarter variations.

P/E Ratio: The price-to-earnings ratio measures a company's current market price per share relative to its earnings per share (EPS). Usually, the trailing-12-month (TTM) EPS, current-fiscal-year (F1) EPS estimate, or forward-12-month (F12M) EPS estimate is used as the denominator. In essence, this ratio shows what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of EPS. In other words, this ratio gives a sense of what the relative value of the company is at the already reported level of earnings or at a future level of earnings.

It is one of the most widely-used multiples for determining the value of a company and helps comparing its valuation with that of a competitor, the industry group or a benchmark.

PEG Ratio: The price/earnings to growth ratio is a stock's P/E ratio using current fiscal year (F1) EPS estimate divided by its expected EPS growth rate over the coming 3 to 5 years. This ratio essentially determines a stock's value by factoring in the company's expected earnings growth and is thus believed to provide a more complete picture than just the P/E ratio, particularly for faster-growing companies.

P/S Ratio: The price-to-sales ratio is calculated as a company's current price per share divided by trailing 12 months (TTM) sales or revenues per share. This ratio shows what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of TTM sales per share. The P/S ratio is at times the only valuation metric when the company has yet to become profitable.

Cash/Price Ratio: The cash-to-price ratio or Cash Yield is calculated as cash and marketable securities per share divided by the company's current share price. Like the earnings yield, which shows the anticipated yield (or return) on a stock from earnings for each dollar invested, the cash yield does the same, with cash being the source of return instead of earnings. For example, a cash/price ratio of 0.08 suggests a return of 8% or 8 cents for every \$1 investment.

EV/EBITDA Ratio: The EV/EBITDA ratio, also known as Enterprise Multiple, is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization). Usually, trailing-12-month (TTM) or forward-12-month (F12M) EBITDA is used as the denominator.

EV/Sales Ratio: The enterprise value-to-sales ratio is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by annual sales. It is an expansion of the P/S valuation, which uses market value instead of enterprise value. The EV/Sales ratio is perceived as more accurate than P/S, in part, because the market capitalization does not take a company's debt into account when valuing it.

EV/CF Ratio: The enterprise value-to-cash flow ratio is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by the trailing-12-month (TTM) operating cash flow. It's a measure of how long it would take to buy the entire business if you were able to use all the company's operating cash flow.

The EV/CF ratio is perceived as more accurate than the P/CF ratio, in part, because the market price does not take a company's debt into account when valuing it.

EV/FCF Ratio: The enterprise value-to-free cash flow metric compares a company's enterprise value to its trailing-12-month (TTM) free cash flow (FCF). This metric is very similar to the EV/CF ratio, but is considered a more exact measure owing to the fact that it uses free cash flow, which subtracts capital expenditures (CAPEX) from a company's total operating cash flow, thereby reflecting the actual cash flow available for funding growth activities and payments to shareholders.

P/EBITDA Ratio: The P/EBITDA ratio is calculated as a company's per share market value divided by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization). This metric is very similar to the EV/EBITDA ratio, but is considered a little less exact measure as it uses market price, which does not take a company's debt into account. However, since EBITDA is often considered a proxy for cash income, the metric is used as a measure of what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of the company's cash profitability in the trailing 12 months (TTM) or forward 12 months (F12M).

P/B Ratio: The price-to-book ratio is calculated as a company's current price per share divided by its book value (total assets – liabilities – preferred stocks) per share. In short, the book value is how much a company is worth. In other words, it reflects the total value of a company's assets that its common shareholders would receive if it were to be liquidated. So, the P/B ratio indicates whether you're paying higher or lower than what would remain if the company went bankrupt immediately. Investors typically use this metric to determine how a company's stock price stacks up to its intrinsic value.

P/TB Ratio: The price-to-tangible-book value ratio is calculated as a the per share market value of a company divided by the value of its tangible assets (total assets – liabilities – preferred stocks – intangible assets) per share. Tangible book value is the same thing as book value except it excludes the value of intangible assets to get a step closer to the baseline value of the company.

P/CF Ratio: The price-to-cash flow ratio measures a company's per share market price relative to its trailing-12-month (TTM) operating cash flow per share. This metric is used to determine whether a company is undervalued or overvalued relative to another stock, industry or sector. And like the P/E ratio, a lower number is typically considered better from the value perspective.

One of the reasons why P/CF ratio is often preferred over P/E ratio is the fact that operating cash flow adds back non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortization to net income. This feature helps valuing stocks that have positive cash flow but are not profitable because of large noncash charges.

P/FCF Ratio: The price-to-free cash flow ratio is an extension of P/CF ratio, which uses trailing-12-month (TTM) free cash flow per share instead of operating cash flow per share. This metric is considered a more exact measure than P/CF ratio, as free cash flow subtracts capital expenditures (CAPEX) from a company's total operating cash flow, thereby reflecting the actual cash flow available for funding activities that generate additional revenues.

Earnings Yield: The earnings yield is calculated as current fiscal year (F1) EPS estimate divided by the company's current share price. The ratio, which is the inverse of the P/E ratio, measures the anticipated yield (or return) from earnings for each dollar invested in a stock today.

For example, earnings yield for a stock, which is trading at \$35 and expected to earn \$3 per share in the current fiscal year (F1), would be 0.0857 ($3/35 = 0.0857$) or 8.57%. In other words, for \$1 invested in the stock today, the yield from earnings is anticipated to be 8.57 cents.

Investors most commonly compare the earnings yield of a stock to that of a broad market index (such as the S&P 500) and prevailing interest rates, such as the current 10-year Treasury yield. Since bonds and stocks compete for investors' dollars, stock investors typically demand a higher yield for the extra risk they assume compared to investors of U.S. Treasury-backed securities that offer virtually risk-free returns. This additional return is referred to as the risk premium.

Debt/Equity Ratio: The debt-to-equity ratio is calculated as a company's total liabilities divided by its shareholder equity. This metric is used to gauge a company's financial leverage. In other words, it is a measure of the degree to which a company is financing its operations through debt versus its own funds. The higher the ratio, the higher the risk for shareholders.

However, this ratio is difficult to compare across industry groups where ideal amounts of debt vary. Some businesses are more capital intensive than others and typically require higher debt to finance their operations. So, a company's debt-to-equity ratio should be compared with other companies in the same industry.

Cash Flow (\$/share): Cash flow per share is calculated as operating cash flow (after-tax earnings + depreciation + other non-cash charges) divided by common shares outstanding. It is used by many investors as a measure of a company's financial strength. Since cash flow per share takes into consideration a company's ability to generate cash by adding back non-cash expenses, it is regarded by some as a more accurate measure of a company's financial situation than earnings per share, which could be artificially deflated.

Current Ratio: The current ratio or liquidity ratio is a company's current assets divided by its current liabilities. It measures a company's ability to pay short-term obligations. A current ratio that is in line with the industry average or slightly higher is generally considered acceptable. A current ratio that is lower than the industry average would indicate a higher risk of distress or default. A higher number is usually better. However, a very high current ratio compared to the industry average could be an indication of inefficient use of assets by management.

Debt/Capital Ratio: Debt-to-capital ratio is a company's total debt (interest-bearing debt + both short- and long-term liabilities) divided its total capital (interest-bearing debt + shareholders' equity). It is a measure of a company's financial leverage. All else being equal, the higher the debt-to-capital ratio, the riskier the stock.

However, this ratio can vary widely from industry to industry, the ideal amount of required debt being different. Some businesses are more capital intensive than others and typically require higher debt to finance their operations. So, a company's debt-to-capital ratio should be compared with the same for its industry.

Net Margin: Net margin is calculated as net income divided by sales. It shows how much of each dollar in sales generated by a company translates into profit. For example, if a company's net margin is 15%, its net income is 15 cents for every \$1 of sales it makes.

A change in margin can reflect either a change in business conditions, or a company's cost controls, or both. If a company's expenses are growing faster than sales, its net margin will decline. However, different net margin rates are considered good for different industries, so it's better to compare net margin rates of companies in the same industry group.

Return on Equity: Return on equity (ROE) is calculated as trailing-12-month net income divided by trailing-12-month average shareholder equity (including reinvested earnings). This metric is considered a measure of how effectively management is using a company's assets to generate profits. For example, if a company's ROE is 10%, it creates 10 cents profits for every \$1 shareholder equity, which is basically the company's assets minus debt. A company's ROE deemed good or bad depends on what's normal for its peers or industry group.

Sales/Assets Ratio: The sales-to-assets ratio or asset utilization ratio or asset turnover ratio is calculated as a company's annual sales divided by average assets (average of assets at the beginning of the year and at the year's end). This metric helps investors understand how effectively a company is using its assets to generate sales. For example, a sales-to-assets ratio of 2.5 indicates that the company generated \$2.50 in sales for every \$1 of assets on its books.

The higher the sales-to-assets ratio, the better the company is performing. However, similar to many other ratios, the asset turnover ratio tends to be higher for companies in certain industries/sectors than in others. So, a company's sales-to-assets ratio should be compared with the same for its industry/sector.

Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years): This is the average annual (trailing-12-month) EPS growth rate over the last 3-5 years. This metric helps investors see how a company's EPS has grown from a long-term perspective.

Note: There are many factors that can influence short-term numbers — a recession will reduce this number, while a recovery will inflate it. The longterm perspective helps smooth out short-term events.

Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0): This is the estimated EPS growth rate for the current financial year. It is calculated as the consensus estimate for the current fiscal year (F1) divided by the reported EPS for the last completed fiscal year (F0).

Current Cash Flow Growth: It measures the latest year-over-year change in operating cash flow. Cash flow growth tells an investor how quickly a company is generating inflows of cash from operations. A positive change in the cash flow is desired and shows that more 'cash' is coming in than going out.

Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years): This is the annualized change in cash flow over the last 3-5 years. The change in a longer period helps put the current reading into proper perspective. By looking at the rate, rather than the actual dollar value, the comparison across the industry and peers becomes easier.

Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0): This metric looks at the estimated sales growth for the current year. It is calculated as sales estimate for the current fiscal year (F1) divided by the reported sales for the last completed fiscal year (F0).

Like EPS growth, a higher rate is better for sales growth. A look at a company's projected sales growth instantly tells you what the outlook is for their products and services. However, different sales growth rates are considered good for different industries, so it's better to compare sales growth rates of companies in the same industry group.

EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past week. The change in a company's consensus EPS estimate (or earnings estimate revision) has proven to be strongly correlated with the near-term price movement of its shares. It is an integral part of the Zacks Rank.

If a stock's consensus EPS estimate is \$1.10 now versus \$1.00 a week ago, that will be reflected as a 10% upward revision. If, on the other hand, it went from \$1.00 to 90 cents, that would be a 10% downward revision.

EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past four weeks.

A stock's earnings estimate revision in a 1-week period is important. But it's more meaningful to look at the longer-term revision. And, of course, the 4-week change helps put the 1-week change into proper perspective.

EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past 12 weeks.

This metric essentially shows how the consensus EPS estimate has changed over a period longer than 1 week or 4 weeks.

EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal quarter over the past four weeks.

While the revision in consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year is strongly correlated with the near-term price movement of its shares, the estimate revision for the current fiscal quarter is an important metric as well, especially over the short term, and particularly as a stock approaches its earnings date. If a stock's Q1 EPS estimate decreases ahead of its earnings release, it's usually a negative sign, whereas an increase is a positive sign.