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Oct 16, 2020

Boyd Gaming(BYD)

$34.09 (As of 10/15/20)

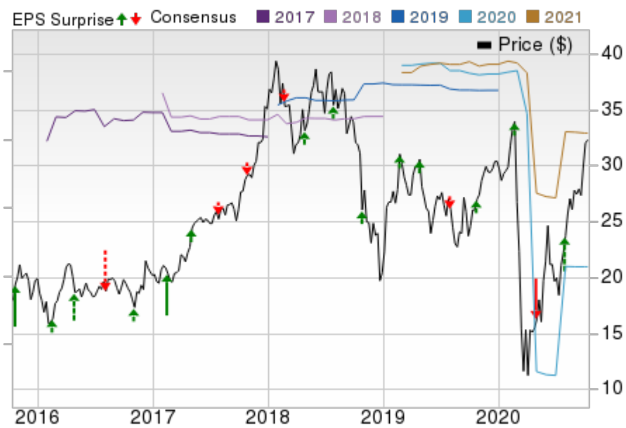
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$36.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 02/03/20) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	Neutral
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5) Zacks Style Scores: Value: C | Growth: F | Momentum: C	3-Hold VGM:D

Summary

Shares of Boyd Gaming have outperformed the industry so far this year. Notably, the company is benefitting from initiatives to strengthen current operations and growth through capital investment as well as other strategic measures. Moreover, expansion of online betting offerings along with FanDuel partnership bode well. Earnings estimates for 2020 have remained unchanged over the past 30 days, depicting analysts optimism regarding the stock growth potential. However, the coronavirus related woes persist. Although majority of the properties have reopened, the company is facing dismal traffic due to the coronavirus fear. Since the severity and duration of the outbreak's impact on its business cannot be estimated at present, the company has not only suspended its share repurchase programs but has also withdrawn its 2020 guidance.

Price, Consensus & Surprise

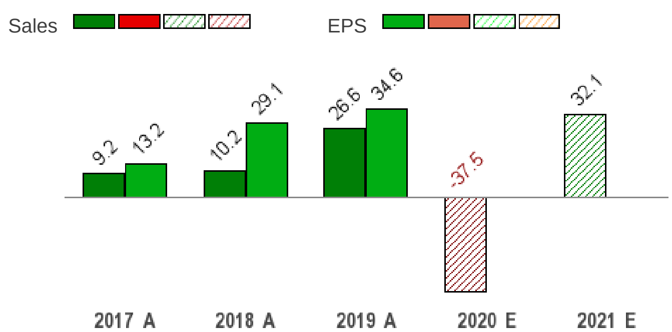


Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$36.22 - $6.44**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,666,788**
Market Cap	**$3.8 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**13.9%**
Beta	**2.30**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.00 / 0.0%**
Industry	**Gaming**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 30% (177 out of 254)**
Last EPS Surprise	**32.4%**
Last Sales Surprise	**25.5%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**0.0%**
Expected Report Date	**10/26/2020**
Earnings ESP	**964.0%**
P/E TTM	**NA**
P/E F1	**NA**
PEG F1	**NA**
P/S TTM	**1.5**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	675 E	704 E	714 E	720 E	2,746 E
2020	681 A	210 A	563 E	604 E	2,079 E
2019	827 A	846 A	820 A	833 A	3,326 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	$0.11 E	$0.22 E	$0.21 E	$0.24 E	$1.10 E
2020	-$0.02 A	-$0.98 A	$0.04 E	$0.17 E	-$0.87 E
2019	$0.43 A	$0.46 A	$0.39 A	$0.50 A	$1.79 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 10/15/2020. The reports text is as of 10/16/2020.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see important disclosures and definitions at the end of this report.

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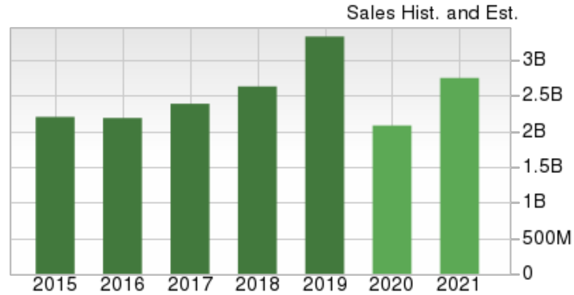
Overview

Founded in 1975 and headquartered in Las Vegas, Boyd Gaming Corporation is a multi-jurisdictional gaming company. It owns and operates gaming entertainment properties in Nevada, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and Pennsylvania. As of Jul 28, 2020, the company owns and operates 29 properties, offering 1.77 million square feet of casino space, 36,977 slot machines, 809 table games and 11,090 hotel rooms. It also has 320 food and beverage outlets.

Boyd Gaming reports its operating results under the following segment:

Las Vegas Locals (23.2% of second-quarter 2020 revenues): This segment consists of nine casinos and mainly targets the people of Las Vegas metropolitan area. The segment competes directly with other locals casinos and gaming companies.



Downtown Las Vegas (2.2%): This segment consists of three casinos, which competes with eight other casinos in the area.

Midwest and South (74.6%): The segment has four land-based casinos, six dockside riverboat casinos, three racinos and four barge-based casinos. These casinos operate in nine states in the Midwest and southern United States.

During 2019, Boyd Gaming completed several transactions to improve its long-term financial position. In the fourth quarter of 2019, the company issued $1 billion aggregate principal amount due December 2027. The proceeds from the debt issuance were used to finance the redemption of all of its outstanding 6.875% senior notes due 2023 and prepay a portion of Refinancing Term B Loans.

One of the notable initiatives by Boyd Gaming has been regarding the legalization of sports gambling. In July 2018, the company entered a partnership with MGM Resorts International, under which the companies have the opportunity to offer online and mobile gaming platforms, including sports betting, casino gaming and poker.

In 2018, Boyd Gaming opened sports books at its two Mississippi properties, IP Casino Resort Spa ("IP") in Biloxi, and Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall in Tunica. It also entered a partnership with FanDuel Group to pursue sports betting and online gaming opportunities across the United States.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

▲ **Portfolio Expansion & Acquisitions to Drive Growth:** Boyd Gaming continues to expand its portfolio by strengthening current operations and growing through capital investment as well as other strategic measures. The company extensively depends on acquisitions as a strategy to expand its brand presence. Earlier, it entered an agreement with Penn National Gaming to acquire the operations of Ameristar St. Charles; Ameristar Kansas City; Belterra Casino Resort in Florence, IN; and Belterra Park in Cincinnati, OH. Notably in 2019, the company benefitted from the acquisitions of Lattner (on Jun 1, 2018), Valley Forge (Sep 17, 2018) and Ameristar Kansas City, Ameristar St. Charles, Belterra Resort and Belterra Park (Oct 15, 2018).

Boyd Gaming is poised to benefit from portfolio expansion, acquisitions and increased focus on online betting.

▲ **Increased Focus On Online Betting Bodes Well:** Meanwhile, Boyd Gaming has also been undertaking efforts to expand online betting offerings. One of the notable initiatives by the company has been regarding the legalization of sports gambling. During the third quarter 2019, the company partnered with FanDuel Group and opened sports books at Blue Chip, Belterra Resort, Diamond Jo Dubuque and Diamond Jo Worth properties in the Midwest. It also introduced a market-leading mobile app in Pennsylvania. Moreover, courtesy of its performance in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, FanDuel launched its mobile betting app in the state of Indiana. In July 2018, it entered a partnership with MGM Resorts International, under which the companies have the opportunity to offer online and mobile gaming platforms, including sports betting, casino gaming and poker in jurisdictions, where they have physical casino resorts and online licenses. In 2018, Boyd Gaming also opened sports books at its two Mississippi properties, IP Casino Resort Spa ("IP") in Biloxi, and Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall in Tunica.

During the second quarter of 2020, the company continued to expand its partnership with FanDuel Group, which includes retail sports books at seven Boyd properties, mobile sports betting apps in Pennsylvania and Indiana as well as the online gaming site in Pennsylvania. With new opportunities opening up in states such as Illinois, the partnership is likely to extend in times ahead.

▲ **Increased Focus on Interactive Gaming Bodes Well:** Since the outbreak of coronavirus, Boyd Gaming has been witnessing solid performance by the interactive gaming platform. So far this year, Interactive gaming revenues in New Jersey and Pennsylvania have totaled over $500 million and $250 million, respectively. Thanks to the strategic partnership with FanDuel, the company is optimistic regarding its future in the iGaming industry. During the second quarter, the company launched Stardust brand and social casino to boost presence in the interactive gaming platform.

▲ **Local Markets to Drive Growth:** Post coronavirus-induced shutdowns, increased traffic from local and regional customer base is likely to benefit the company. Notably, the company considers the local market in Las Vegas as a major driver for its portfolios. With restaurants and bars open, frequent visitation of locals is likely to drive growth for the company. Post reopenings, the locals business witnessed solid EBITDAR growth. Also, the company witnessed solid business across Orleans and Gold Coast owing to a rise in out-of-state visitation.

▲ **Enough Liquidity to Tide Over Pandemic:** At the end of the second quarter, Boyd Gaming had cash and cash equivalents of $1.31 billion, significantly up from $0.8 billion as on Mar 31, 2020. The increase reflects $670.0 million drawn from the company's revolving credit facilities as well as $600 million of 8.625% senior notes (due 2025) issued on May 21, 2020. As of Jun 30, 2020 the company reported long term debt (net of current maturities and debt issuance costs) at $4.9 billion compared with $4.4 billion as on Mar 31, 2020. Nonetheless the company stated that it has enough liquidity to survive a zero-revenue scenario for 19 months. Moreover, the company had a debt to capitalization ratio of 0.8x, which further indicates that the debt levels are manageable.

Reasons To Sell:

▼ **Coronavirus Likely to Hurt 2020 Results:** Boyd Gaming's financials in 2020 are likely to be impacted by the outbreak of coronavirus. Although majority of the properties have reopened, the company is facing dismal traffic owing to coronavirus fears. Since the severity and duration of the outbreak's impact on its business cannot be estimated at present, the company has not only suspended its share repurchase programs but has also withdrawn its 2020 guidance.

Boyd Gaming is persistently facing intense competition from various casinos and hotel casinos. Also coronavirus-related woes are pressing concerns.

▼ **Intense Competition Hurts:** Boyd Gaming is persistently facing intense competition from various casinos and hotel casinos. The company faces competition from not only gaming services but also from other non-gaming resorts and vacation destination. The company's operations, therefore, are facing heightened competition with new entries in the already high-supply market.

▼ **Dependence on Discretionary Spending:** The gambling industry is cyclical and a worsening of global economic conditions might in turn dent Boyd Gaming's revenues and profits. Consumer demand for services is closely linked to the performance of the general economy, and is sensitive to business and personal discretionary spending levels. Declines in consumer demand due to adverse general economic conditions, poor travel patterns, lower consumer confidence and high unemployment can lower the revenues and profitability of Boyd Gaming.

Last Earnings Report

Boyd Gaming Q2 Earnings Beat Estimates, Decline Y/Y

Quarter Ending	06/2020
Report Date	Jul 28, 2020
Sales Surprise	25.47%
EPS Surprise	32.41%
Quarterly EPS	-0.98
Annual EPS (TTM)	-0.11

Boyd Gaming reported second-quarter 2020 results, wherein both the top and the bottom line beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate. However, earnings and revenues declined sharply year over year on account of the coronavirus pandemic.

The company also stated that it is making significant progress in its digital platform with the launch of the Stardust Social Casino mobile app. Moreover, the company along with FanDuel Group rolled out the online casino product in Pennsylvania. Notably, the company intends to capitalize on the growth opportunity with interactive gaming and mobile sports betting.

Q2 Earnings and Revenues

In the quarter under review, adjusted loss per shares came in at 98 cents, narrower than the Zacks Consensus Estimate of a loss of $1.45. In the prior-year quarter, the company had reported adjusted earnings of 46 cents per share.

Total revenues of $209.9 million beat the consensus mark of $167 million by 25.7%. However, the top line declined 75.2% on a year-over-year basis.

Total adjusted EBITDAR during the reported quarter came in at $16.1 million, down 93.1% year over year.

Segmental Details

Las Vegas Locals

Revenues at this segment amounted to $48.7 million, down 78% year over year. Moreover, the segment's adjusted EBITDAR came in at $2.9 million compared with $71.4 million in the year-ago quarter.

Downtown Las Vegas

Revenues at the segment declined 92.8% from the prior-year quarter's figure to $4.7 million. Adjusted EBITDAR came in at ($7.2) million against $15.9 million reported in the year-ago quarter. The decline can primarily be attributed to reduced visitation to Las Vegas as well as lower business volumes from the company's Hawaiian customer base.

Midwest and South Segment

Revenues at this segment fell 72.1% from the prior-year quarter's figure to $156.5 million. Adjusted EBITDAR was reported at $32.7 million, down from $165.1 million in the year-ago quarter. Although the segment performed exceptionally well post reopenings, dismal traffic due to the coronavirus outbreak is likely to hurt margins going forward.

Other Financial Details

As of Jun 30, 2020, the company had cash on hand of $1.31 billion. This reflects $670.0 million that was drawn from the company's revolving credit facilities on Mar 16, 2020 as well as $600 million of 8.625% senior notes (due 2025) issued on May 21, 2020. Total debt amounted to $4.98 billion.

Valuation

Boyd Gaming's shares are up 13.9% year-to-date and 29.9% in the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry is down by 20.8% and the Zacks Consumer Discretionary sector is down by 0.4% in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry were down by 8% but sector was up by 7.5%.

The S&P 500 index is up by 8.4% in the year-to-date period and 16.6% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 1.46X forward 12-month sales, which compares to 2.89X for the Zacks sub-industry, 2.37X for the Zacks sector and 4.17X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 1.84X and as low as 0.26X, with a 5-year median of 0.98X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $36 price target reflects 1.54X forward 12-month sales.

The table below shows summary valuation data for BYD.

Valuation Multiples - BYD

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/S F12M	Current	1.46	2.89	2.37	4.17
	5-Year High	1.84	3.34	2.95	4.31
	5-Year Low	0.26	1.62	1.68	3.18
	5-Year Median	0.98	2.52	2.47	3.67
P/B TTM	Current	3.78	4.51	3.46	6.07
	5-Year High	4.63	5.02	4.83	6.2
	5-Year Low	0.69	1.91	2.22	3.75
	5-Year Median	2.87	3.91	4.18	4.89
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	14.15	19.76	11.32	15.31
	5-Year High	16.12	21.38	17.81	15.68
	5-Year Low	5.23	7.26	8.25	9.55
	5-Year Median	10.77	13.3	12.25	13.1

As of 10/15/2020 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 30% (177 out of 254)

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Churchill Downs, Incorporated **(CHDN)**	Neutral	3
Caesars Entertainment, Inc. **(CZR)**	Neutral	3
FLUTTER ENT PLC **(PDYPY)**	Neutral	3
Penn National Gaming, Inc. **(PENN)**	Neutral	3
Red Rock Resorts, Inc. **(RRR)**	Neutral	2
UbiSoft Entertainment Inc. **(UBSFY)**	Neutral	3
WILLIAM HIL ADR **(WIMHY)**	Neutral	3
Wynn Resorts, Limited **(WYNN)**	Neutral	4

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Gaming

	BYD	X Industry	S&P 500	Industry Peers: CZR	PDYPY	WIMHY
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	D	-	-	F	F	C
Market Cap	3.80 B	1.82 B	23.94 B	9.36 B	26.63 B	3.71 B
# of Analysts	6	3	14	5		3
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.59%	0.00%	0.00%	3.32%
Value Score	C	-	-	D	F	C
Cash/Price	0.37	0.17	0.07	0.11	0.06	NA
EV/EBITDA	9.73	9.73	13.69	18.34	NA	NA
PEG F1	NA	1.14	2.85	NA	NA	NA
P/B	3.77	4.04	3.52	3.39	1.85	4.30
P/CF	7.27	10.24	13.34	12.02	30.24	10.24
P/E F1	NA	26.70	22.31	NA	117.68	NA
P/S TTM	1.49	1.79	2.66	5.05	NA	NA
Earnings Yield	-2.55%	-3.45%	4.34%	-12.55%	0.85%	-0.99%
Debt/Equity	4.87	0.89	0.70	2.26	0.32	NA
Cash Flow ($/share)	4.69	0.56	6.93	4.62	2.84	1.38
Growth Score	F	-	-	F	F	A
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	18.49%	-3.31%	10.41%	-9.91%	NA	NA
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-148.42%	-125.55%	-2.95%	-574.97%	-61.74%	-125.31%
Current Cash Flow Growth	32.88%	-1.74%	5.54%	24.91%	-9.96%	-10.44%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	17.50%	9.19%	8.51%	97.54%	NA	NA
Current Ratio	2.86	1.94	1.35	3.22	0.98	NA
Debt/Capital	82.96%	48.00%	42.91%	69.29%	24.40%	NA
Net Margin	-2.48%	-11.44%	10.28%	-13.58%	NA	NA
Return on Equity	-0.92%	-9.17%	14.79%	-2.85%	NA	NA
Sales/Assets	0.37	0.40	0.51	0.31	NA	NA
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-37.50%	0.00%	-0.53%	66.20%	-19.57%	-0.45%
Momentum Score	C	-	-	D	D	D
Daily Price Change	4.47%	0.00%	0.41%	0.49%	1.62%	-0.65%
1-Week Price Change	0.97%	0.00%	4.06%	-7.88%	6.94%	0.70%
4-Week Price Change	22.63%	-0.50%	2.68%	0.36%	5.11%	24.19%
12-Week Price Change	55.80%	4.43%	5.78%	52.00%	16.85%	144.51%
52-Week Price Change	29.92%	-20.42%	3.83%	29.60%	79.52%	33.58%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,666,788	178,439	2,066,999	6,274,081	26,824	594,700
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	-2.57%	0.00%	-2.50%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	61.96%	9.23%	3.55%	13.50%	0.00%	8.89%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	8.51%	0.00%	0.00%	5.87%	NA	NA

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	C
Growth Score	F
Momentum Score	C
VGM Score	D

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 mediumterm 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 mostrecent 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.