Citizens Financial Grp (CFG)

$47.33 (As of 06/25/21)

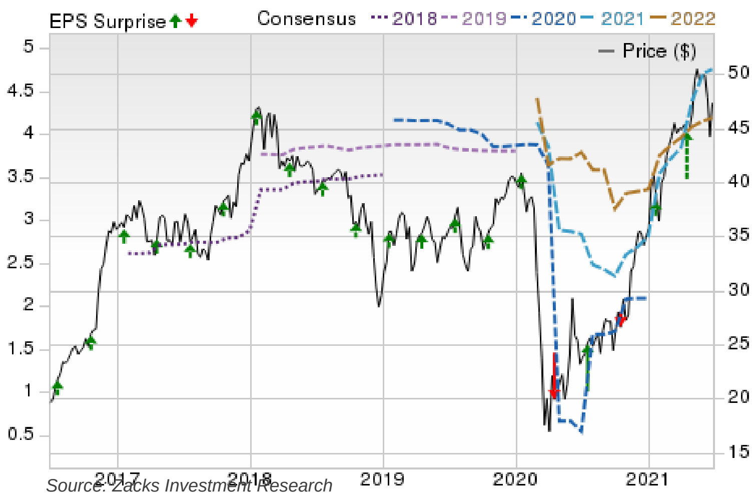
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$50.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:**	**Neutral**
	(Since: 06/25/21)	
	Prior Recommendation: Outperform	
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**3-Hold**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:D
	Value: C | Growth: F	Momentum: A

Summary

Shares of Citizens Financial have outperformed the industry in the past year. Also, the company has an impressive earnings surprise history, having outpaced the Zacks Consensus Estimate in three of the trailing four quarters. The company benefits from its revenue and efficiency initiatives, latest being the TOP 6 Program, are anticipated to deliver pre-tax benefit of $400-$425 million in 2021. Solid loan and deposit balances are likely to aid the financials. Steady capital-deployment activities in order to enhance shareholders' value are a tailwind. With strong capital base, it carries lower likelihood of default if the economy worsens. However, rising costs due to investments in technology and pressure on margin due to Federal Reserve's accommodative policy stance are concerning. Also, major exposure to commercial loans is a headwind.

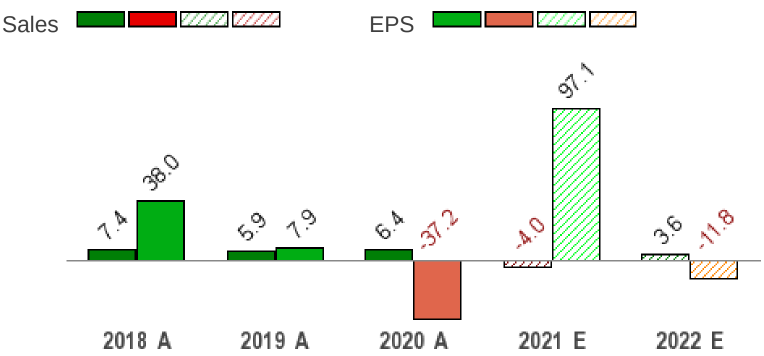
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$51.14 - $22.53**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**4,085,223**
Market Cap	**$20.2 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**32.4%**
Beta	**1.80**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$1.56 / 3.3%**
Industry	**Financial - Savings and Loan**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Top 27% (67 out of 252)**
Last EPS Surprise	**45.4%**
Last Sales Surprise	**0.4%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**1.3%**
Expected Report Date	**07/20/2021**
Earnings ESP	**-1.7%**
P/E TTM	**12.9**
P/E F1	**10.0**
PEG F1	**1.7**
P/S TTM	**2.7**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	1,696 E	1,750 E	1,764 E	1,779 E	6,870 E
2021	1,659 A	1,636 E	1,652 E	1,686 E	6,632 E
2020	1,657 A	1,750 A	1,791 A	1,707 A	6,905 A

EPS Estimates

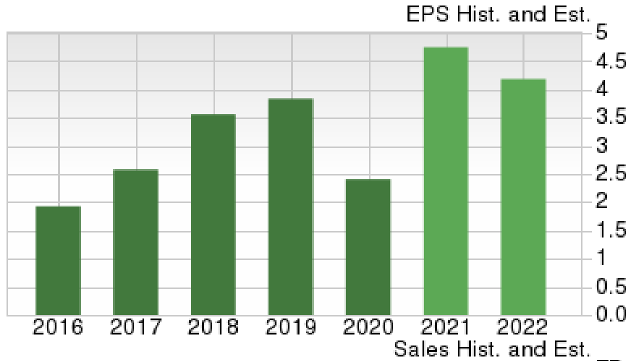
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	$0.99 E	$1.06 E	$1.13 E	$1.16 E	$4.19 E
2021	$1.41 A	$1.10 E	$1.14 E	$1.16 E	$4.75 E
2020	$0.09 A	$0.53 A	$0.68 A	$1.04 A	$2.41 A

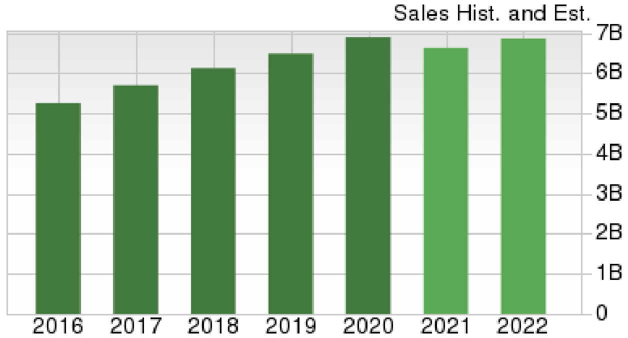
*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and sales estimates, is as of 06/25/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 06/28/2021.

Overview

Headquartered in Providence, RI, Citizens Financial Group, Inc. was founded in 1828 and currently is one of the largest retail bank holding companies in the United States, with total assets of $187.2 billion, as of Mar 31, 2021. Citizens Financial was acquired by the RBS Group in 1988 and was known as RBS Citizens Financial Group. However, Citizens Financial became a publicly-traded company through its September 2014 initial public offering.





Citizens Financial offers retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, institutions and companies. It operates approximately 1,000 branches and around 2,900 ATMs in 11 states across the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions and through its online, telephone as well as mobile banking platforms.

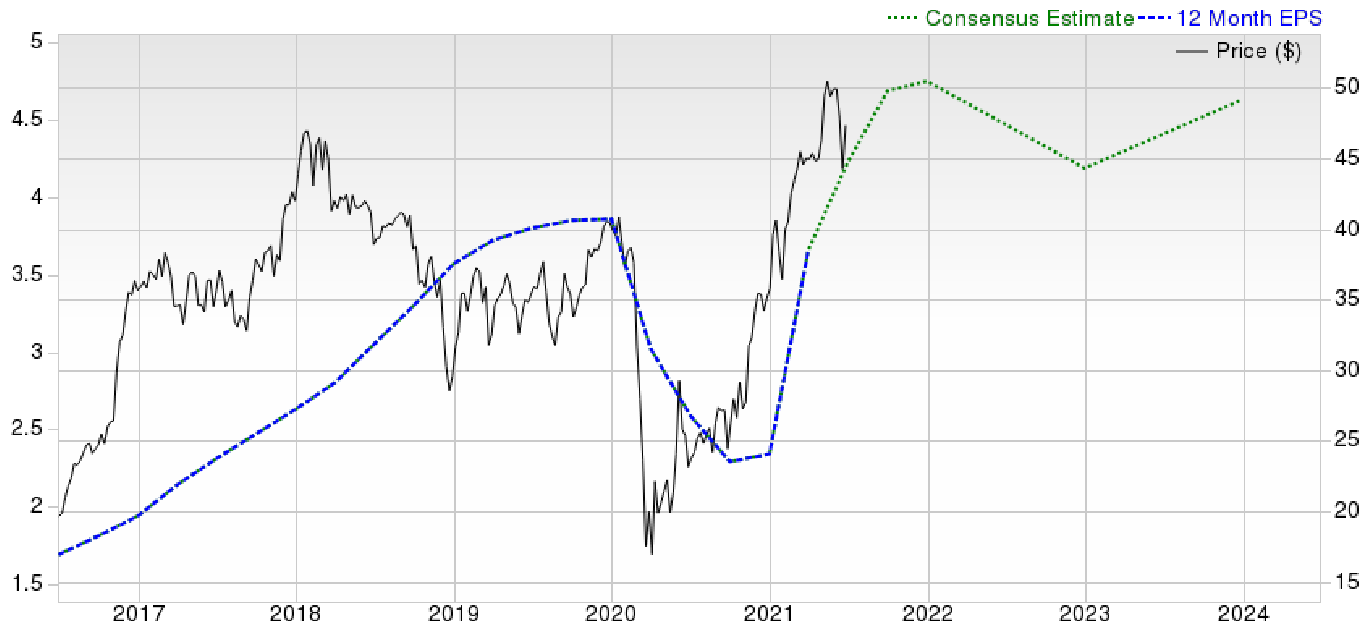
The reportable segments are consumer banking, commercial banking and other.

Consumer Banking is focused on retail customers and small businesses with annual revenues of up to $25 million. It provides traditional banking products and services, including deposit products, mortgage lending, credit cards, auto financing as well as wealth management and investment services.

Commercial Banking is mainly focused on companies with annual revenues from $25 million to $2.5 billion. The segment is engaged in offering financial products and solutions, including loans, leases, trade financing, deposits and capital markets advisory services. It covers middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions and has industry expertise in areas including government banking, healthcare, technology, oil & gas, commercial real estate and sponsor finance.

Other constitutes non-segment operations that include corporate functions, wholesale funding activities, non-core assets, and other unallocated assets, liabilities, revenues, provision for credit losses and expenses.

In March 2020, Citizens Financial closed the acquisition of Trinity Capital. In March 2019, it completed the buyout of Atlanta-based Bowstring Advisors in an all-cash deal. In January, the company acquired Clarfeld Financial Advisors, LLC. Further, in August 2018, the company strengthened its mortgage servicing portfolio by acquiring Franklin American Mortgage Company. In 2017, it acquired Western Reserve Partners LLC, a merger and acquisition advisory firm.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

Citizens Financial benefits from growing loans and deposits. Also, its focus on revenue and efficiency initiatives is a tailwind. Further, a strong capital position enables growth through acquisitions.

- Citizens Financial's organic growth is on track. The company's loans and deposits recorded a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.4% and 7.6%, respectively, over the last five years (2016–2020). While period-end loans saw a decline in the first quarter of 2021, deposits witnessed an uptrend. Further, the company has been benefiting from its increasing non-interest-bearing deposits that provide a low-cost funding base. We believe that it is well positioned to grow further backed by gradually improving U.S. economy.

- Citizens Financial's focus on executing a series of revenue and efficiency initiatives led to the introduction of "Tapping Our Potential" (TOP) program in late 2014. The first three TOP programs helped to achieve $200 million cost savings target and delivered $215 million income benefit. Following this, the company launched a fresh set of initiatives in mid-2017 to ramp up its profitability — Top 4 program — which delivered pre-tax benefit of $115 million in 2018. Also, the TOP 5 program was successful and delivered a pre-tax benefit of $125 million by 2019-end. Notably, continuing its journey to drive efficiency improvement and fund additional growth and innovation investments, Citizens Financial introduced TOP 6 Program, which is expected to deliver $400-$425 million in pre-tax run-rate benefit by 2021.

- Citizens Financial is focused on maintaining a strong capital base. As of Mar 31, 2021, the company's Basel III capital ratios, on a transitional basis, exceeded regulatory requirements, with a CET1 capital ratio and a total capital ratio of 10.1% and 13.4%, respectively. Also, it remains committed to enhancing shareholders value. In January 2020, the company increased its common stock dividend by 8%. Notably, following the approval from the Federal Reserve to buy back shares at the end of 2020, Citizens Financial's board approved a share-buyback program of up to $750 million of its common stock, beginning first-quarter 2021, of which it returned $262 million to shareholders, in the form of share repurchases and common stock dividends during the first three months of 2021. Further, it targets medium-term dividend payout ratio of 35-40%. Also, its debt/equity ratio compares favorably with the broader industry and steadily improving performance indicates that its capital-deployment activities are sustainable.

- As of Mar 31, 2021, the company held debt worth $8.39 billion. Its total debt/total capital ratio as of the same date of 0.27 has been stable over the past few quarters and its time-interest-earned of 10.2X, has witnessed an increasing trend in the past few quarters. Since the ratio is an indication of the company's ability to meet debt obligations and with a record of consistent earnings, we find Citizens Financial carries lower likelihood of default if the economic situation worsens.

- Shares of Citizens Financial have outperformed the industry over the past six months. Moreover, the company's current-year earnings estimates have shown a favorable trend. Estimates have been revised 1.1% upward over the past 30 days. The stock seems undervalued when compared with the broader industry. Its current price-to-cash flow and price-to-book value ratios are below the respective industry averages. Therefore, given the strong fundamentals and positive estimate revisions, the stock has decent upside potential in the near term.

Reasons To Sell:

Rise in costs due to investment in technology and pressure on margins are key concerns for Citizens Financial. Further, lack of diversification in loan portfolio is a major headwind for the company.

- Cost escalation is the key downside for Citizens Financial. The company's non-interest expenses witnessed a CAGR of 4.5% over the last five years (2016-2020). Though the company displayed cost control in the first quarter of 2021, the same is likely to remain elevated due to investments in newer technologies and building fee income capabilities organically. These investments might leverage the company in the long term, but increasing current expense level is limiting bottom-line expansion.

- The company's net interest margin (NIM) shrunk due to decline in the interest rates to near zero level in 2019 and 2020, in order to protect the economy from coronavirus mayhem. Notably, the declining trend continued in the first three months of 2021. Furthermore, despite decent loan demand, NIM is expected to continue being impacted in the near term due to the Federal Reserve's accommodative policy stance.

- The loan portfolio of Citizens Financial comprises majorly of commercial and real estate loans (72% of loans and leases and loans held for sale). Such lack of diversification and high exposure can be risky for the company if the housing sector weakens.

- Citizens Financial's ROE of 8.16% compares unfavorably with the 16.59% recorded by the S&P 500, highlighting that it is less efficient in using shareholders' funds.

Last Earnings Report

Citizens Financial Q1 Earnings Beat Estimates on Fee Income Growth

Quarter Ending	03/2021
Report Date	Apr 16, 2021
Sales Surprise	0.39%
EPS Surprise	45.36%
Quarterly EPS	1.41
Annual EPS (TTM)	3.66

Citizens Financial has reported first-quarter 2021 adjusted earnings per share of $1.41, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 97 cents. Also, the bottom line compares favorably with the year-ago quarter's 9 cents.

Increase in fee income on the back of a solid rise in mortgage banking and capital market fees supported revenue growth. Further, deposit balances showed improvement. Also, capital position remained strong. However, contraction of margin is a headwind.

After considering notable items, net income was $611 million or $1.37 per share compared with the $34 million or 3 cents per share reported in the prior-year quarter.

Revenues Up on Higher Fee Income, Costs Remain Flat

Total revenues for the first quarter were $1.66 billion, surpassing the consensus estimate of $1.65 billion. Additionally, the top line was up slightly, year over year.

Citizens Financial's net interest income (NII) fell 3.7% year on year at $1.1 billion. Also, NIM contracted 34 basis points (bps) to 2.76%. This was, however, partly mitigated by improved funding mix and deposit pricing.

Non-interest income climbed 9% year over year to $542 million. This upside stemmed largely from a rise in mortgage banking fees and capital market fees.

Non-interest expenses remain under control, year over year, at $1.01 billion. On an adjusted basis, expenses rose 2%.

Efficiency ratio remained flat at 61% year over year, in the January-March quarter.

As of Mar 31, 2021, period-end total loan and lease balances slightly fell sequentially to $122.2 billion. However, total deposits increased 2.8% to $151.3 billion.

Credit Quality: A Mixed Bag

Reflecting a strong credit performance across the consumer and commercial loan portfolios, and improvement in the macroeconomic outlook, provision for credit losses witnessed a reversal of $140 million compared with the $600-million provision expense in the year-ago quarter. However, net charge-offs for the quarter jumped 15.3% to $158 million.

Non-accrual loans and leases were up 29.2% to $1.1 billion. As of Mar 31, 2021, allowance for loan and lease losses increased 7.7% to $2.38 billion.

Capital Position

Citizens Financial remained well capitalized in the first quarter. As of Mar 31, 2021, common equity tier-1 capital ratio was 10.1% compared with 9.4% at the end of the prior-year quarter. Further, Tier-1 leverage ratio was 9.5%, down 10 bps year over year. Total capital ratio was 13.4%, up from 12.5%, during the same time.

Capital Deployment Update

During the first quarter, the company returned $262 million to shareholders, in the form of share repurchases and common stock dividends.

Outlook

Second-Quarter 2021 Outlook

Pre-Provision Net Revenue (PPNR) is expected to bottom out in the second quarter. NII is expected to be up 2-2.5%, with NIM up modestly and more broadly stable, excluding elevated cash. The company expects to drive interest bearing deposit costs down to the mid-teens from the current 20 bps. Earning assets are anticipated to be broadly stable.

Loan growth in the second quarter will be higher than 1.5-2%. One-third of the loans is expected to be from retail in this quarter. Also, management anticipates that 3% or better spot growth could also be witnessed if the economic scenario unfolds favorably.

Fee income is expected to be down in high single digits reflecting lower mortgage banking fees as margins continue to tighten.

Non-interest expenses are expected to be down slightly. Also, close to neutral operating leverage is expected this quarter. The company expects relatively stable net charge offs in the range of 30-40 bps of average loans, with meaningful reserve release through provisions.

Full-Year 2021

The company expects to drive interest bearing deposit costs down to the low-teens by the end of the year as it makes efforts to manage costs down across all channels, while improving overall funding mix.

Average loan growth of 1.5-2% is expected, from the second half of the year, driven primarily by student, point-of-sale, auto and mortgage loans, along with anticipated increase in commercial utilization (expected to be a bigger contributor than retail). Coupled with a steeper yield curve, NII outlook is expected to improve.

Management outlook for fees is slightly lower, driven my additional pressure on gain on sale margins in the mortgage arena. As the curve steepens, it is expecting to witness a transition to better contributions from purchase originations and servicing. Capital, global markets and wealth fees are expected to be strong as the economy rebounds. Card fees and service charges should also benefit with consumer confidence and increased spending. Hence, PPNR is expected to rebound to levels higher than the first quarter for the rest of the year, given strong NII, fees and controlled expenses.

Solid operating leverage is anticipated in the second half of the year. Given the strong performance of the loan portfolio and improvement in the macroeconomic forecast, management has reduced its full-year charge-off guidance range to 35 to 45 basis points. And with this improvement, it also expects the ACL ratio to decline meaningfully from the current 2.3-2.03% ex-Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Recent News

Citizens to Acquire 80 HSBC Branches And Online Deposit Affairs – May 26, 2021

Citizens Financial's banking subsidiary, Citizens Bank, N.A., has entered into an agreement to acquire 80 East Coast branches and the national online deposit business from HSBC Bank U.S.A, N.A.

As per the agreement, Citizens Financial will acquire deposits worth nearly $9 billion and loans worth $2.2 billion for a 2% premium paid on deposits at closing. The transaction is anticipated to be immediately accretive to Citizens Financial's earnings per share and accommodate an internal rate of return of nearly 20%. The branch acquisition boosts the company's physical presence to manifold agreeable markets and adds about 800 thousand new customers. It complements its existing franchise and helps amplify its digital-first national expansion strategy, providing a robust bedrock to propel further growth and promote scale.

The purchase of 80 branches includes 66 locations in the New York City Metro area, 9 locations in the Mid-Atlantic/Washington D.C. area, and 5 locations in Southeast Florida. The acquired branches will operate as HSBC branches until closing and will be re-branded as Citizen Financial's branches immediately upon transaction completion. This is expected to close in the first quarter of 2022, subject to customary and regulatory approvals.

Dividend Update

On Apr 16, Citizens Financial announced a quarterly cash dividend of 39 cents per share. The dividend was paid out on May 13 to shareholders on record as of Apr 29.

Valuation

Citizens Financial's shares are up 32.4% in the year-to-date period and 101.1% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Finance sector are up 26.9% and 18.9% in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are up 65.2% and 48.9%, respectively.

The S&P 500 Index is up 14.7% in the year-to-date period and 42.4% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 10.58X forward 12 months earnings, which compares to 12.31X for the Zacks sub-industry, 16.41X for the Zacks sector and 21.82X for the S&P 500 Index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 18.94X and as low as 4X, with a 5-year median of 11.49X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our $50 price target reflects 11.18X forward earnings.

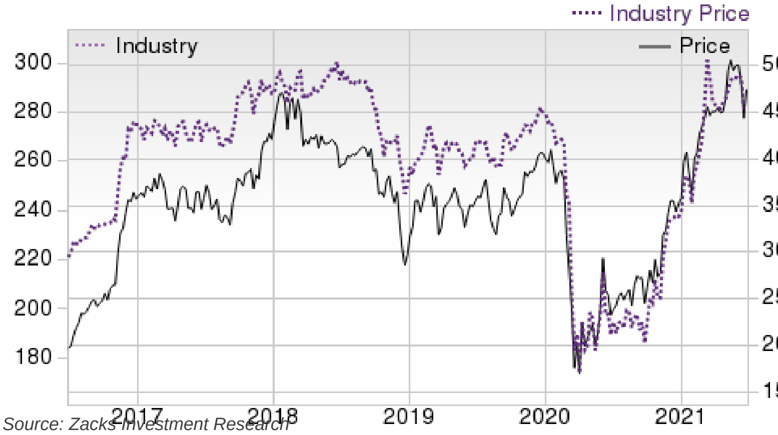
The table below shows summary valuation data for CFG

Valuation Multiples - CFG

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	10.58	12.31	16.41	21.82
	5-Year High	18.94	18.33	17.25	23.83
	5-Year Low	4.00	9.19	11.61	15.31
	5-Year Median	11.49	13.01	14.94	18.05
P/B TTM	Current	0.97	1.11	3.35	7.12
	5-Year High	1.18	2.54	3.41	7.12
	5-Year Low	0.32	0.56	1.77	3.84
	5-Year Median	0.83	1.00	2.64	5.02
P/S F12M	Current	2.99	3.31	8.56	4.75
	5-Year High	3.91	3.46	8.56	4.75
	5-Year Low	1.00	1.99	5.08	3.21
	5-Year Median	2.63	2.99	6.21	3.72

As of 06/25/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Top 27% (67 out of 252)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Comerica Incorporated **(CMA)**	Neutral	3
Flagstar Bancorp, Inc. **(FBC)**	Neutral	3
Fifth Third Bancorp **(FITB)**	Neutral	3
Investors Bancorp, Inc. **(ISBC)**	Neutral	3
New York Community Bancorp, Inc. **(NYCB)**	Neutral	2
Peoples United Financial, Inc. **(PBCT)**	Neutral	3
Pacific Premier Bancorp Inc **(PPBI)**	Neutral	3
WSFS Financial Corporation **(WSFS)**	Neutral	2

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Financial - Savings And Loan

	CFG	X Industry	S&P 500	FBC	FITB	PBCT
				Industry Peers		
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	D	-	-	C	D	B
Market Cap	20.16 B	151.34 M	30.37 B	2.29 B	27.81 B	7.64 B
# of Analysts	7	2	12	2	10	10
Dividend Yield	3.30%	2.33%	1.33%	0.55%	2.73%	4.09%
Value Score	C	-	-	B	C	B
Cash/Price	0.74	0.75	0.06	0.20	1.37	0.71
EV/EBITDA	7.24	6.17	17.25	9.56	2.40	4.77
PEG F1	1.74	0.94	2.09	NA	1.38	NA
P/B	0.97	1.16	4.15	0.97	1.37	1.04
P/CF	11.77	11.83	17.53	3.71	13.05	7.70
P/E F1	9.96	12.39	21.20	5.37	11.39	13.85
P/S TTM	2.70	3.02	3.42	0.99	3.37	3.48
Earnings Yield	10.04%	8.07%	4.61%	18.62%	8.78%	7.22%
Debt/Equity	0.40	0.36	0.66	2.60	0.72	0.21
Cash Flow ($/share)	4.02	1.77	6.86	11.68	3.03	2.32
Growth Score	F	-	-	D	F	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	11.86%	9.79%	9.59%	32.53%	7.66%	10.21%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	97.10%	35.86%	21.79%	-15.23%	60.56%	1.57%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-29.62%	1.18%	1.02%	128.64%	-16.46%	53.95%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	4.80%	13.77%	7.28%	27.53%	3.10%	24.80%
Current Ratio	0.92	0.96	1.39	1.27	0.91	0.88
Debt/Capital	26.85%	25.79%	41.51%	72.19%	39.49%	17.16%
Net Margin	21.53%	23.14%	12.06%	27.65%	25.12%	26.71%
Return on Equity	8.16%	8.27%	16.59%	30.63%	10.84%	7.47%
Sales/Assets	0.04	0.04	0.51	0.08	0.04	0.04
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-3.96%	0.00%	9.56%	-14.54%	2.08%	-6.75%
Momentum Score	A	-	-	B	A	D
Daily Price Change	1.65%	0.00%	0.33%	0.46%	2.36%	2.53%
1-Week Price Change	6.96%	2.21%	2.74%	1.57%	7.02%	5.99%
4-Week Price Change	-5.15%	0.00%	1.82%	-5.35%	-6.26%	-5.55%
12-Week Price Change	5.32%	3.98%	6.49%	-4.85%	4.00%	-1.33%
52-Week Price Change	104.36%	45.80%	42.26%	60.62%	110.55%	64.91%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	4,085,223	14,585	1,881,795	513,472	4,874,900	3,218,848
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.41%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	1.29%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.73%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	26.46%	9.87%	3.59%	3.00%	17.99%	0.70%

EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	1.72%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.88%	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	C
Growth Score	F
Momentum Score	A
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.

Disclosures

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ZIR uses the following rating system for the securities it covers. **Outperform-** ZIR expects that the subject company will outperform the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months. **Neutral-** ZIR expects that the company will perform in line with the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months. **Underperform-** ZIR expects the company will underperform the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months.

Additional Disclosure

This material represents an assessment of the market and economic environment at a specific point in time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, or a guarantee of future results. Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. Any statements that refer to expectations, projections or characterizations of future events or circumstances, including any underlying assumptions, are forwardlooking statements. Actual results, performance, or achievements may differ materially from those expressed or implied.

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.