

D.R. Horton, Inc. (DHI)

\$69.91 (As of 12/11/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$80.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Outperform

(Since: 12/11/20)

Prior Recommendation: Neutral

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

1-Strong Buy

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:A

Value: B

Growth: B

Momentum: A

Summary

D.R. Horton's shares have outperformed its industry so far this year. The price performance was backed by the company's robust earnings surprise history, having surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate in nine of the trailing 12 quarters. The uptick is expected to continue, courtesy of its impressive performance, its industry-leading market share, solid acquisition strategy, well-stocked supply of land, lots and homes, along with affordable product offerings across multiple brands. Solid housing market fundamentals backed by low interest/mortgage rates are encouraging. Estimates for current year have been trending upward, depicting analysts' optimism over the company's growth prospects. Yet, labor and land costs are concerns.

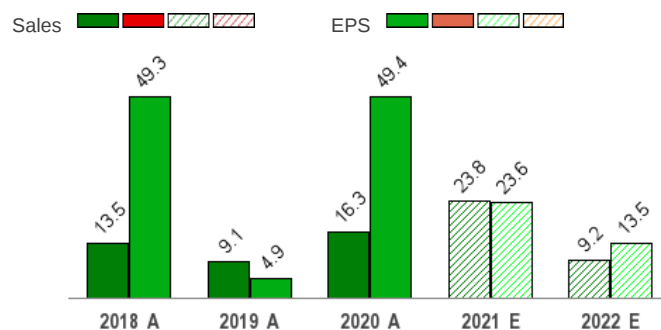
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$81.21 - \$25.51
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	2,833,662
Market Cap	\$25.5 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	32.5%
Beta	1.72
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$0.80 / 1.1%
Industry	Building Products - Home Builders
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 13% (33 out of 254)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	27.3%
Last Sales Surprise	8.8%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	3.5%
Expected Report Date	01/25/2021
Earnings ESP	1.1%
P/E TTM	11.2
P/E F1	8.8
PEG F1	0.8
P/S TTM	1.3

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	5,833 E	6,146 E	7,089 E	7,384 E	27,454 E
2021	5,530 E	5,843 E	6,724 E	6,895 E	25,141 E
2020	4,021 A	4,500 A	5,390 A	6,400 A	20,311 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$1.95 E	\$2.12 E	\$2.38 E	\$2.51 E	\$8.99 E
2021	\$1.72 E	\$1.89 E	\$2.14 E	\$2.26 E	\$7.92 E
2020	\$0.99 A	\$1.30 A	\$1.72 A	\$2.24 A	\$6.41 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 12/11/2020. The reports text is as of 12/14/2020.

Overview

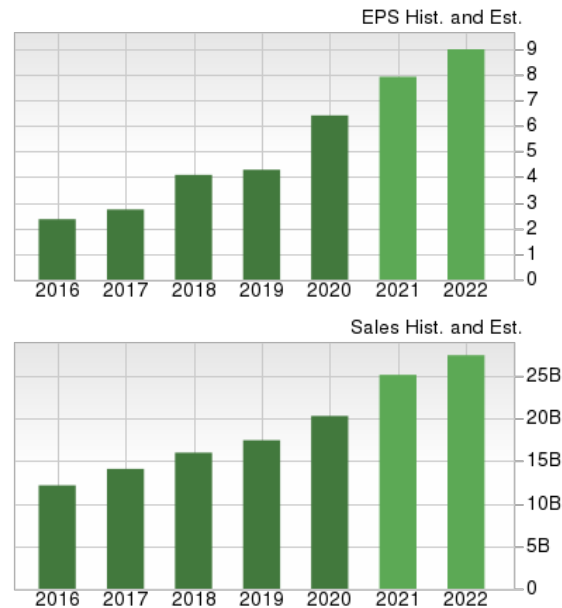
D.R. Horton, Inc., based in Texas, is one of the leading national homebuilders, primarily engaged in the construction and sale of single-family houses both in the entry-level and move-up markets. Homes vary in sizes from 1,000 to 4,000 square feet, with prices ranging from \$100,000 to more than \$1,000,000. D.R. Horton's operations are spread over 90 markets across 29 states in the East, Midwest, Southeast, South Central, Southwest and West regions of the United States. Its houses are sold under the brand names D.R. Horton - America's Builder, Emerald Homes, Express Homes and Freedom Homes.

D.R. Horton operates through three segments: **Homebuilding** (contributing 96.7% of the total revenues in fiscal 2020), **Forestar** (4.6%), and **Financial Services** (2.9%). Notably, of the total revenues, 0.2% represents Others and 4.4% represents the elimination of intercompany transactions. The Homebuilding segment comprises six reporting regions and derives revenues primarily from the sale of completed homes built on lots it develops and on finished lots purchased ready for home construction. In addition to single-family detached homes (accounting for around 90% of home sale revenues), the segment builds attached homes, such as town homes, duplexes, triplexes and condominiums. The segment also derives revenues by selling lands and lots.

As of Sep 30, 2020, the Forestar land development reporting segment has operations in 49 markets and 21 states, where it owns, directly or through joint ventures, interests in residential and mixed-use projects. During fiscal 2018, the company had acquired a 75% share of Forestar Group, which is a residential and mixed-use real estate development company. Forestar Group Inc. (FOR), a publicly-traded residential and real estate development company, is a majority-owned subsidiary of D.R. Horton.

The Financial Services segment, through the mortgage subsidiary, DHI Mortgage, provides mortgage financing and title agency services primarily to the company's homebuilding customers.

Other Businesses — Through DHI Communities, a 100% owned subsidiary, the company develops, constructs and owns multi-family residential properties that produce rental income.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ **Strong Results and Stock Outperformance:** Shares of D.R. Horton have outperformed the industry year to date. The price performance was backed by the company's robust earnings surprise history, having surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate in nine of the trailing 12 quarters. Its revenues also surpassed the consensus mark in 10 of the trailing 12 quarters. The trend is expected to continue in the near term as well, supported by solid results in fiscal 2020, with adjusted earnings and revenues increasing 42% and 15%, respectively.

D.R. Horton ended fiscal 2020 on a strong note, highlighted by an 81% year-over-year increase in net sales orders for the fiscal fourth quarter, a 60% increase in consolidated pre-tax income to \$1.1 billion and a 27% increase in revenues to \$6.4 billion. With 65,388 homes closed in fiscal 2020, D.R. Horton completed its 19th consecutive year as the largest homebuilder in the United States.

With accretive acquisitions, robust backlog and a well-stocked inventory of land, lots and homes in place, D.R. Horton is expected to perform well in fiscal 2021 and beyond

- ▲ **Accretive Acquisitions & Increased Capital Investments in Land:** Acquisitions have been an important part of D.R. Horton's growth strategy. The company is fast acquiring homebuilding companies in desirable markets. In October 2020, it acquired homebuilding operations of Braselton Homes, the largest homebuilder in Corpus Christi, TX. Over the past five years (through fiscal 2019), the company has invested approximately \$1 billion on acquisitions. During fiscal 2019, the company purchased homebuilding operations of three private builders for approximately \$325.9 million.

The company's strong cash position and low debt/capital ratio allowed it to make strategic land purchases even during the downturn, in turn giving it a significant competitive advantage. The company has selectively invested in attractively-priced land and lots in the past few years allowing it to bring new attractive communities in desirable markets. D.R. Horton's well-stocked supply of land, plots and homes provide it with a strong competitive position to meet the demand in future quarters, thereby growing sales and home closings. The company invested \$5 billion in lots, land and development in fiscal 2020, higher than the year-ago level of \$3.7 billion. The company has been boosting investments to replenish land and lot supply in fiscal 2021 and beyond for supporting revenue growth.

- ▲ **Affordable Homes Drive D.R. Horton's Profits:** Higher building material costs, as well as land and labor shortages are prompting homebuilders to increase home prices. That said, D.R. Horton's strategic shift toward more entry-level affordable homes have been paying off, with the segment experiencing strong demand and limited supply. Notably, first-time homebuyers represented 58% of its closings in fourth-quarter fiscal 2020, up from 50% a year earlier.

- ▲ **Cost Reduction and Margin Improvement:** Management has consistently made an effort to reduce both construction and selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses. It controls construction costs by designing homes efficiently and also by obtaining construction materials and labor at competitive prices. Further, its SG&A expenses are continuously going down due to cost control and better fixed cost leverage. In fiscal 2018, 2017 and 2016, SG&A expenses improved 30 basis points (bps), 40 bps and 20 bps, respectively. Notably, the company did not achieve SG&A leverage in fiscal 2019 after it reduced revenue growth expectation for the fiscal first quarter, and worked on aligning its inventory levels and operations with revised expectations throughout the fiscal year. Nonetheless, it remains focused on controlling SG&A costs. The company expects to improve the same in fiscal 2021. In fiscal 2020, SG&A improved 50 bps year over year.

The company strategically manages the pricing, incentives and sales pace across its markets in a manner that will optimize the returns on inventory investments. It believes a consistent sales pace through inventory turnover is the best way to maximize profits and returns. The company's return on equity was 22.1% in fiscal 2020, up 490 bps year over year. Homebuilding return on inventory (ROI) was 24.6% in fiscal 2020 versus 18.1% a year ago. Notably, the company's homebuilding ROI improved over the past three years from 15.4% in fiscal 2016 to 16.6% and 20.2% in fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2018, respectively. In fiscal 2019, ROI was 18.1%.

With 376,900 lots (30% were owned and 70% controlled through option contracts) in inventory at fiscal 2020-end, D.R. Horton is well poised for fiscal 2021.

- ▲ **Healthy Balance Sheet:** Ample liquidity and a low leverage profile will help D.R. Horton tide over the unfavorable demand trends owing to the pandemic. The company ended fiscal 2020 with \$2.6 billion of unrestricted homebuilding cash and \$1.8 billion of available capacity on the revolving credit facility, which resulted in total homebuilding liquidity of \$4.4 billion. Its homebuilding debt to total capital on Sep 30, 2020 was 17.5%, down sequentially from 18.4% in the fiscal third quarter. Its homebuilding debt (i.e. homebuilding notes payable) totaled \$2.5 billion on Sep 30, 2020, with \$400 million of senior note maturities in fiscal 2021.

Importantly, D.R. Horton has been actively managing cash flows, returning much of its free cash to investors through share repurchases and dividends. During fiscal 2020, the company paid dividends worth \$256 million and repurchased \$360.4 million shares. It has \$535.3 million remaining under the stock repurchase authorization (as of Sep 30, 2020).

Risks

- **Margin Pressure:** Rising land and labor costs are threatening margins as they limit homebuilders' pricing power. Labor shortages are leading to higher wages while land prices are inflating due to limited availability. Meanwhile, key cost pressures coming from finished lots, skilled labor, and rising materials costs may affect margins in all key regions. This is denting homebuilders' margins to some extent.
 - **Federal Government Actions:** The housing industry is cyclical and affected by consumer confidence levels, prevailing economic conditions and interest rates. The federal government's actions related to economic stimulus, taxation and borrowing limits could affect consumer confidence and spending levels, which in turn could hurt both the economy and housing market.
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Last Earnings Report

D.R. Horton (DHI) Q4 Earnings & Revenues Beat Estimates

D.R. Horton, Inc. reported fourth-quarter fiscal 2020 results, wherein earnings and revenues handily beat the respective Zacks Consensus Estimate. The homebuilder increased quarterly cash dividend by 14% to 20 cents per share.

Chairman Donald R. Horton said, "With 38,000 homes in inventory, an ample supply of lots and continued strong sales trends in October, we are well-positioned for another great year in fiscal 2021."

Quarter Ending **09/2020**

Report Date	Nov 10, 2020
Sales Surprise	8.82%
EPS Surprise	27.27%
Quarterly EPS	2.24
Annual EPS (TTM)	6.25

Earnings & Revenue Discussion

D.R. Horton reported quarterly adjusted earnings of \$2.24 per share, which surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.76 by 27.3% and increased 65.9% from the year-ago period.

Total revenues (Homebuilding, Forestar and Financial Services) came in at \$6.4 billion, up 27% year over year. The reported figure beat the consensus mark by 8.8%.

Home Closings and Orders

Homebuilding revenues of \$6.16 billion increased 27.2% from the prior-year quarter. Home sales also increased 27.7% year over year to \$6.13 billion, aided by higher home deliveries. However, land/lot sales and other revenues were \$33.4 million, down from \$42.8 million a year ago.

Home closings increased 26% from the prior-year quarter to 20,248 homes and 28% in value to \$6.1 billion. It recorded growth across all regions, namely East, Midwest, Southeast, and South Central, Southwest and West.

Quarterly net sales orders increased 81% year over year to 23,726 homes. It registered growth in all geographic regions served. Value of net orders also improved 84% year over year to \$7.3 billion. The cancellation rate was 19%, lower than 23% a year ago.

Order backlog of homes at quarter-end was 26,683 homes, up 96% year over year. The value of backlog was also up 98% from the prior year to \$8.2 billion.

Revenues from the Financial Services segment increased 63.4% from the year-ago level to \$220.9 million.

Forestar contributed \$347.6 million to its total quarterly revenues, reflecting a notable improvement from \$236.3 million a year ago.

Margins

The company's consolidated pre-tax margin expanded 440 bps to 16.5%.

Balance Sheet Details

D.R. Horton's cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash totaled \$3.02 billion as of Sep 30, 2020 compared with \$1.49 billion at fiscal 2019-end. At fiscal 2020-end, it had \$2.6 billion of unrestricted homebuilding cash and \$1.8 billion of available capacity. Total homebuilding liquidity was \$4.4 billion.

As of Sep 30, 2020, homebuilding debt totaled \$2.5 billion, with \$400 million of senior note maturities in fiscal 2021. As of Sep 30, 2020, its homebuilding debt to total capital was 17.5%. The trailing 12-month return on equity was 22.1%.

D.R. Horton repurchased 7 million shares of common stock for \$360.4 million during fiscal 2020. The company's remaining stock repurchase authorization — which has no expiration date — as of Sep 30, 2020 was \$535.3 million.

Fiscal 2020 Highlights

Total revenues increased 15% from a year ago to \$20.3 billion. Earnings grew 47% year over year to \$6.41 per share. Homes closed rose 15% to 65,388 homes and 16% in value to \$19.6 billion.

Fiscal 2021 Guidance

Total revenues are expected in the range of \$24-25 billion. Homes closed are expected within 77,000-80,000 units. Income tax rate is anticipated to be 24%.

Q1 View

It expects to generate consolidated revenues of \$5.4-\$5.6 billion, and homes closed between 17,500 and 18,000 homes. The company expects home sales gross margin for the fiscal first quarter to be 23% and homebuilding SG&A to be 8.9% of homebuilding revenues.

Valuation

D.R. Horton shares are up 32.6% in the year-to-date period and 27.8% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Construction sector are up 21.5% and 15.6% in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are up 18.1% and 15.5%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 14% in the year-to-date period and 15% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 8.59X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 8.66X for the Zacks sub-industry, 16.58X for the Zacks sector and 22.58X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 15.83X and as low as 5.44X, with a 5-year median of 11.06X. Our Outperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform better-than the market. Our \$80 price target reflects 9.84X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for DHI.

Valuation Multiples - DHI					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	8.59	8.66	16.58	22.58
	5-Year High	15.83	14.36	18.99	23.47
	5-Year Low	5.44	6.34	10.76	15.27
	5-Year Median	11.06	10.68	16.04	17.77
P/B TTM	Current	2.1	1.45	4.77	6.21
	5-Year High	2.49	2.29	6.72	6.28
	5-Year Low	1	0.66	1.72	3.74
	5-Year Median	1.82	1.48	3.31	4.92
P/S F12M	Current	0.98	0.89	2.08	4.25
	5-Year High	1.43	1.16	2.13	4.29
	5-Year Low	0.53	0.57	1.17	3.17
	5-Year Median	0.91	0.92	1.68	3.68

As of 12/11/2020

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 13% (33 out of 254)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Beazer Homes USA, Inc. (BZH)	Outperform	1
Lennar Corporation (LEN)	Outperform	1
MI Homes, Inc. (MHO)	Outperform	2
KB Home (KBH)	Neutral	3
Meritage Homes Corporation (MTH)	Neutral	3
NVR, Inc. (NVR)	Neutral	3
PulteGroup, Inc. (PHM)	Neutral	2
Toll Brothers Inc. (TOL)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Building Products - Home Builders				Industry Peers		
	DHI	X Industry	S&P 500	LEN	PHM	TOL
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Outperform	-	-	Outperform	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	1	-	-	1	2	3
VGM Score	A	-	-	A	A	B
Market Cap	25.47 B	3.09 B	25.68 B	22.75 B	11.35 B	5.60 B
# of Analysts	19	5	14	3	3	7
Dividend Yield	1.14%	0.50%	1.51%	1.37%	1.13%	0.99%
Value Score	B	-	-	B	A	A
Cash/Price	0.18	0.18	0.06	0.09	0.19	0.09
EV/EBITDA	8.20	9.43	14.50	11.18	8.62	10.47
PEG F1	0.80	0.57	2.76	0.80	0.58	0.44
P/B	2.10	1.21	3.60	1.32	1.82	1.14
P/CF	10.72	9.63	13.75	12.00	10.85	9.41
P/E F1	8.83	9.06	21.75	9.13	8.60	9.70
P/S TTM	1.25	0.78	2.82	1.01	1.05	0.79
Earnings Yield	11.33%	11.05%	4.40%	10.95%	11.64%	10.32%
Debt/Equity	0.35	0.45	0.70	0.42	0.45	0.80
Cash Flow (\$/share)	6.52	3.90	6.94	6.06	3.90	4.72
Growth Score	B	-	-	B	B	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	24.63%	20.07%	9.69%	16.08%	30.66%	18.98%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	23.54%	30.39%	1.03%	6.82%	41.17%	34.66%
Current Cash Flow Growth	39.35%	2.99%	5.22%	-6.27%	-2.58%	-11.99%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	23.65%	18.38%	8.33%	22.34%	15.54%	13.21%
Current Ratio	6.70	4.44	1.38	13.62	1.30	5.82
Debt/Capital	26.11%	31.67%	42.00%	29.35%	30.81%	44.55%
Net Margin	11.69%	8.54%	10.40%	9.97%	12.01%	6.31%
Return on Equity	20.67%	13.65%	14.99%	13.35%	20.62%	9.42%
Sales/Assets	1.15	0.98	0.50	0.77	0.98	0.66
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	23.04%	0.67%	0.35%	8.47%	6.22%	13.59%
Momentum Score	A	-	-	B	C	D
Daily Price Change	-0.09%	-0.23%	-0.29%	0.65%	0.45%	-0.63%
1-Week Price Change	-6.20%	-2.85%	1.73%	-4.93%	-5.18%	0.71%
4-Week Price Change	-2.11%	1.52%	4.56%	-1.66%	1.53%	-0.40%
12-Week Price Change	-4.65%	-1.12%	11.59%	-6.89%	-6.84%	0.02%
52-Week Price Change	28.61%	6.77%	5.88%	25.32%	6.86%	13.12%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	2,833,662	330,826	1,937,653	2,321,960	3,001,380	2,047,203
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-3.32%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	3.50%	0.00%	0.00%	5.41%	0.08%	-3.54%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	14.89%	13.16%	3.80%	20.06%	11.89%	8.58%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	4.23%	0.00%	0.00%	8.50%	-0.07%	-9.59%

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	B
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	A
VGM Score	A

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

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.

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

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

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Periods:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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