Estee Lauder(EL)

$238.64 (As of 11/06/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$251.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 07/01/19) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**3-Hold**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:C
	Value: D | Growth: B | Momentum: C	

Summary

Estee Lauder has outperformed the industry in the past three months. We note that the company has been undertaking robust cost-control measures amid COVID-19. Such efforts aided its operating margin in first-quarter fiscal 2021. Additionally, the company's Skin Care business is growing steadily. This, along with solid online business bodes well, especially amid the pandemic. Also, the company reopened almost all stores as pandemic-induced restrictions were lifted. However, some store closures and reduced traffic in reopened ones hurt Estee Lauder's fiscal first-quarter results, with the top and the bottom line declining year over year. Notably, net sales fell 9% while earnings dropped 14%. Also, management plans to permanently shut 10-15% of its global freestanding stores along with various low-performing department store counters.

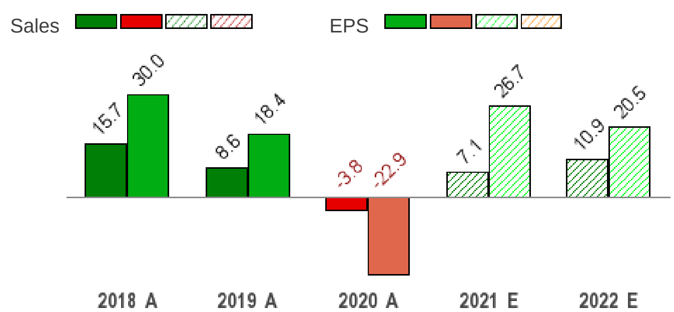
Price, Consensus & Surprise

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$239.86 - $137.01**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,067,018**
Market Cap	**$86.3 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**15.5%**
Beta	**0.83**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$2.12 / 0.8%**
Industry	**Cosmetics**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Top 48% (120 out of 249)**
Last EPS Surprise	**60.0%**
Last Sales Surprise	**2.2%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**9.3%**
Expected Report Date	**NA**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**61.7**
P/E F1	**45.7**
PEG F1	**3.5**
P/S TTM	**6.2**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	4,127 E	4,951 E	3,943 E	3,700 E	16,965 E
2021	3,562 A	4,468 E	3,815 E	3,458 E	15,303 E
2020	3,895 A	4,624 A	3,345 A	2,430 A	14,294 A

EPS Estimates

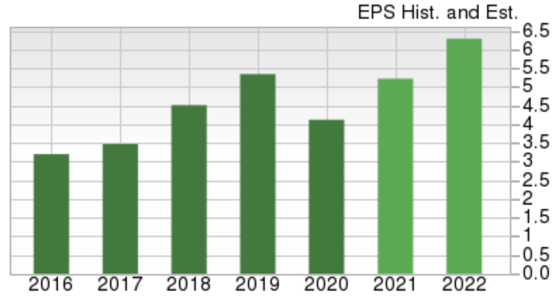
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	$1.83 E	$2.12 E	$1.64 E	$0.74 E	$6.29 E
2021	$1.44 A	$1.65 E	$1.49 E	$0.67 E	$5.22 E
2020	$1.67 A	$2.11 A	$0.85 A	-$0.53 A	$4.12 A

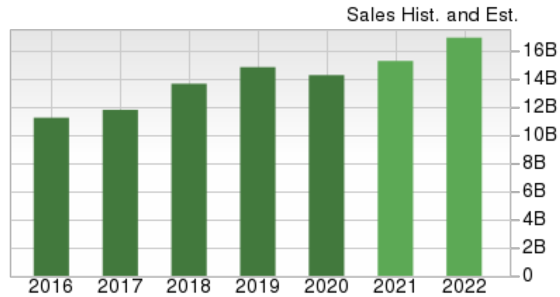
*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 11/06/2020. The reports text is as of 11/09/2020.

Overview

New York-based Estee Lauder Companies Inc. is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care products. The company's products are sold through department stores, mass retailers, company-owned retail stores, hair salons and travel-related establishments.





Estee Lauder's manufacturing and research facilities are spread across the U.S., Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan, South Africa and the U.K.

The company reports operating results in terms of product categories and geographic regions.

In terms of product categories, Estee Lauder's primary segments include:

• **Skin Care division** (51.6% of fiscal 2020 sales): This segment sells skin care products for men and women. The products consist of moisturizers, creams, lotions, cleansers, sunscreens and self-tanning products.

• **Makeup division** (33.5% of fiscal 2020 sales): This segment manufactures, markets and sells makeup products. Products include lipsticks, mascaras, foundations, eye shadows, nail polishes, powders and related items, such as compacts, brushes and other makeup tools.

• **Fragrances division** (10.9% of fiscal 2020 sales): This segment sells fragrance products for men and women. Its products include eau de perfume, sprays and colognes, as well as lotions, powders, creams and soaps that are based on a particular fragrance.

• **Hair care division** (3.6% of fiscal 2019 sales): This segment includes hair color and styling products, shampoos, conditioners, and finishing sprays.

• **Other division**: This segment sells ancillary products and services.

Region-wise, the company reports under **Americas** (26.5% of fiscal 2020 sales); **Europe, the Middle East & Africa** (43.8% of fiscal 2020 sales); and **Asia-Pacific** (29.6% of fiscal 2020 sales).

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

> Estee Lauder's cost-control measures amid the coronavirus outbreak are encouraging. Additionally, it has been depicting strong growth in its and online business.

- **Skin Care Sales Strong**: Shares of Estee Lauder have gained 16.7% in the past three months compared with the industry's growth of 14%. Estee Lauder's Skin Care portfolio has been performing extremely well. During the first quarter of fiscal 2021, brands such as Estee Lauder and La Mer witnessed significant growth. Notably, Estee Lauder delivered solid double-digit growth on the back of solid growth in travel retail, Mainland China as well as digital platform. La Mer also increased double-digits driven by strength in Asia/Pacific and many markets worldwide. Also, La Mer saw robust growth in travel retail channels. The Skin Care category is also benefitting from the acquisition of Dr. Jart. During the quarter, Skin Care category sales were up 10% year over year to $2,035 million.

- **Cost-Saving Efforts**: The company is on track with cost-saving measures. In fact, uncertainties related to COVID-19 led management to implement stringent cost-curtailment practices. These include costs related to advertising and promotion activities, travel, meetings, consulting and certain employee expenses. The company has undertaken some temporary furloughs and salary reductions for some employees along with elimination of cash retainers for the Board of Directors for now. Markedly, cost-saving actions have boosted the company's operating margin during the first quarter of 2021.

- **Solid Presence in Emerging Markets**: Estee Lauder has strong presence in emerging markets which insulates it from the macroeconomic headwinds in the matured markets. The company derives significant revenues from emerging markets like Thailand, India, Russia and Brazil, which keeps it encouraged about making distributional, digital and marketing investments in these countries.

  Markedly, China remains a major area of focus for Estee Lauder. In fact, the company's recently piloted emerging business model for online and offline stores in Mainland China region is bodes well. Moreover, the company expanded into new cities to reach more than 130 cities in Mainland China. Also, it is focused on making incremental advertising investment on social and digital platform to expand its reach. Notably, the brick-and-mortar channel returned to double-digit growth in Mainland China during the first quarter of fiscal 2021. Also, online channels and travel retail channels contributed to growth in the region.

- **Strong Online Business**: Estee Lauder has a strong online business and the company expects it to be a major growth engine for the upcoming few years. Estee Lauder was the first global prestige beauty company that went online with the Clinique brand in the United States in 1996 and has now spread its presence online to about 50 markets. Further, Estee Lauder has been implementing new technology and digital experiences including online booking for each store appointment, omni-channel loyalty programs and high touch mobile services. These initiatives and the company's digital-first mindset have been aiding the company's online sale.

  Moreover, Estee Lauder's brand teams have been fully committed to enhancing consumer experiences online since coronavirus-induced lockdowns were imposed. In this regard, they have been focusing on proper product placement and showing cases tools including virtual try-on to ease decision-making. During the first quarter of fiscal 2021, the company hosted more than 1 million virtual try-on sessions worldwide. In North America, the Estee Lauder brand rolled out AI-driven product recommendations on the basis of real-time consumers' behaviors and past preferences. Apart from these, management has been on track with expanding brand presence across various third-party sites, rolling out new digital payment technologies and enhancing its loyalty programs as it continues to widen market reach.

- **Financial Status**: Estee Lauder's long-term debt of $4,913 million as of Sep 30, 2020 remained unchanged sequentially. Nevertheless, the company's debt-to-capitalization ratio of 0.55 stands better than the last quarter's figure of 0.61. Further, the company had cash and cash equivalents of $4,267 million as of Sep 30, while its current debt is of $473 million.

Reasons To Sell:

▼ **Q1 Results Unimpressive**: The company reported first-quarter fiscal 2021, with the top and the bottom line deteriorating year over year. Notably, Estee Lauder's adjusted earnings of $1.44 per share declined 14%. On a constant-currency (cc) basis, adjusted earnings also declined 14%. Net sales of $3,562 million dropped 9% (also at cc). The downside was caused by some temporary retail store closures and reduced traffic in reopened stores amid the coronavirus outbreak. Also, net sales attributed to travel retail were flat year over year. The company highlighted that restrictions on travel due to government orders and consumer health concerns amid COVID-19 continues to hurt consumer traffic in most travel retail locations.

Some retail store closures due to the coronavirus pandemic hurt Estee Lauder's top-line in first-quarter fiscal 2021.

▼ **Soft Q2 Outlook**: For the second quarter of fiscal 2021, Estee Lauder projects revenues to decline in the band of 5-3% that includes a contribution of nearly 2% from Dr. Jart+ acquisition. Also positive currency impact is expected to be 1% to the sales. Excluding these, management expects net sales to decline 8-6%.

Further, adjusted earnings are anticipated between $1.45 and $1.60 per share in the fiscal second quarter. Excluding share dilution related to the acquisition adjusted earnings per share at cc are anticipated to decline 31-24%.

▼ **Store Closures Amid COVID-19**: Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Estee Lauder had temporarily closed stores in several regions like Europe, the Middle East & Africa and the Americas among others. While the company reopened almost all stores as coronavirus-induced restrictions are being lifted, the temporary closures of various stores at some point in the first quarter of fiscal 2021 put pressure on performance.

Moreover, in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the company initiated a two year Post-COVID Business Acceleration Program in August. The program aims to reduce Estee Lauder's retail footprint, along with increasing its investments in the digital space. Through this plan, management expects to shut 10-15% of its freestanding stores worldwide along with various low performing department store counters. Apart from this, various retailers have decided to undertake planned reduction of their footprint via door closures amid the pandemic.

▼ **Risk of Operating in Overseas Markets**: Estee Lauder's financial performance may be largely affected by its significant presence in the international markets, which exposes it to the risk of unfavorable foreign currency translations, economic or political instability, and other governmental actions on trade and repatriation of foreign profits. We believe that, the above mentioned factors pose a major threat to the company's performance.

▼ **Market Trends and Consumer Preferences**: As Estee Lauder operates in a consumer centric market, its ability to garner profits depends largely on how well it can predict changes in consumer preferences and spending patterns for beauty products and respond in a timely manner to fulfill the same. Hence, failure to stay up to date on product mix by continually searching for new products and anchoring new supplier agreements may raise the risk of the business becoming obsolete.

Last Earnings Report

Estee Lauder Beats Q1 Earnings Estimates, Hikes Dividend

Quarter Ending	09/2020
Report Date	**Nov 02, 2020**
Sales Surprise	**2.15%**
EPS Surprise	**60.00%**
Quarterly EPS	**1.44**
Annual EPS (TTM)	**3.87**

Estee Lauder reported first-quarter fiscal 2021 adjusted earnings of $1.44 per share, which surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 90 cents. However, adjusted earnings declined 14% year over year. On a cc basis, adjusted earnings also declined 14%.

Estee Lauder's net sales of $3,562 million surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $3,487 million. However, sales declined 9% (also at cc) from $3,895 million reported in the year-ago quarter. The top-line includes nearly 3 percentage point positive impacts from Have&Be Co. Ltd. ("Dr. Jart+") acquisition. The downside was caused by some temporary retail store closures and reduced traffic in reopened stores amid the coronavirus outbreak. Nevertheless, the decline was partially offset by strong online sales. Also, net sales attributed to travel retail were flat year-over-year.

Gross profit came in at $2,737 million, down 8%. Nevertheless, gross margin increased to 76.8% from 76.7% reported in the year-ago quarter.

The company reported operating income of $705 million down 9% year over year.

Product-Based Segment Results

Skin Care's sales were up 10% year over year (also at cc) to $2,035 million. Makeup revenues plunged 32% year over year (also at cc) to $978 million. In the Fragrance category, revenues fell 12% year over year (down 13% at cc) to $406 million. Hair Care sales totaled $136 million, flat year on year (down 1% at cc).

Regional Results

Sales in the Americas declined 25% year over year (down 24% at cc) to $873 million. Revenues in Europe, the Middle East & Africa region declined 8% (down 9% at cc) to $1,540 million. Nevertheless, in the Asia-Pacific region sales increased 9% (up 7% at cc) to $1,149 million.

Other Updates

The company concluded the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of $4,267 million, long-term debt of $4,913 million and total equity of $4,481 million.

Net cash flow providedby operating activities for three-months ended Sep 30, 2020 came in at $358 million.

In a separate press release, the company declared quarterly dividend of 53 cents per share on Class A and Class B shares, up 10% from its previous dividend rate of 48 cents per share. The increased dividend will be payable on Dec 15 to shareholders of record as on Nov 30.

COVID-19 Update

In Asia/Pacific, almost all retail stores that were temporarily shut due to coronavirus-induced restrictions remained open during the quarter. In Europe, the Middle East & Africa and the Americas, nearly 15% and 20% of retail stores were closed in the beginning of July, respectively. At the end of September, almost all stores were reopened in both the regions. However, restrictions on travel due to government orders and consumer health concerns amid COVID-19 continue to hurt consumer traffic in most travel retail locations.

In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the company initiated a two year Post-COVID Business Acceleration Program in August. The program aims to reduce Estee Lauder's retail footprint, along with increasing its investments in the digital space. This program bodes well in the current environment wherein customers are increasingly shopping online. Through this plan, management expects to shut 10-15% of its freestanding stores worldwide along with various low performing department store counters. Apart from this, various retailers have decided to undertake planned reduction of their footprint via door closures amid the pandemic.

Guidance

Given the uncertainty related to the pandemic, management is not providing any guidance for fiscal 2021. Nevertheless, the company is undertaking several efforts to preserve its financial flexibility amid the coronavirus pandemic. These include reduced travel, meeting, lower consulting expenses and temporary salary cuts for certain employees.

For the second quarter of fiscal 2021, the company projects revenues to decline in the band of 5-3% that includes a contribution of nearly 2% from Dr. Jart+ acquisition. Also positive currency impact is expected to be 1% to the sales. Excluding these, management expects net sales to decline 8-6% in the quarter.

Further, adjusted earnings are anticipated between $1.45 and $1.60 per share in the fiscal second quarter. Excluding share dilution related to the acquisition adjusted earnings per share at cc are anticipated to decline 31-24% in the quarter.

Recent News

Estee Lauder Hikes Quarterly Dividend – Nov 2, 2020

Estee Lauder declared quarterly dividend of 53 cents per share on Class A and Class B shares, up 10% from its previous dividend rate of 48 cents per share. The increased dividend will be payable on Dec 15 to shareholders of record as on Nov 30.

Valuation

Estee Lauder shares are up 15.5% in the year-to-date period and 27.5% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Consumer Staples sector are down 19% and 6.1%, respectively in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is down 1.8%, while the sector declined 13.2%.

The S&P 500 index is up 9.4% in the year-to-date period and 14.3% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 42.57X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 30.46X for the Zacks sub-industry, 19.2X for the Zacks sector and 22.24X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 45.07X and as low as 21.25X, with a 5-year median of 28.31X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $251 price target reflects 44.77X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for EL

Valuation Multiples - EL

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	42.57	30.46	19.2	22.24
	5-Year High	45.07	44.15	22.37	23.47
	5-Year Low	21.25	19.65	16.61	15.27
	5-Year Median	28.31	25.13	19.56	17.72
P/S F12M	Current	5.43	4.34	9.4	4.12
	5-Year High	5.43	5.21	11.16	4.3
	5-Year Low	2.28	1.53	8.14	3.17
	5-Year Median	3.47	2.93	9.89	3.67
EV/EBITDA F12M	Current	25.15	22.77	33.77	14.39
	5-Year High	26.36	32.48	37.44	15.48
	5-Year Low	12.11	8.68	25.84	10.69
	5-Year Median	17.04	18.2	33.77	13.24

As of 11/06/2020 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 48% (120 out of 249)

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
e.l.f. Beauty Inc. **(ELF)**	Outperform	2
Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc. **(NUS)**	Outperform	1
Coty Inc. **(COTY)**	Neutral	3
Helen of Troy Limited **(HELE)**	Neutral	3
Inter Parfums, Inc. **(IPAR)**	Neutral	3
LOreal SA **(LRLCY)**	Neutral	3
Revlon, Inc. **(REV)**	Neutral	4
Shiseido Co. **(SSDOY)**	Neutral	4

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Cosmetics

	EL	X Industry	S&P 500	COTY	HELE	NUS
				Industry Peers		
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Outperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	1
VGM Score	C	-	-	C	A	A
Market Cap	86.29 B	1.47 B	23.64 B	3.12 B	5.27 B	2.74 B
# of Analysts	12	4	13	7	4	5
Dividend Yield	0.80%	0.00%	1.56%	0.00%	0.00%	2.81%
Value Score	D	-	-	C	C	C
Cash/Price	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.16	0.03	0.15
EV/EBITDA	47.41	13.47	13.75	-20.97	24.91	8.03
PEG F1	3.53	3.06	2.71	NA	2.00	2.34
P/B	19.26	3.84	3.33	0.97	4.03	3.31
P/CF	40.56	21.23	13.32	8.86	20.65	11.85
P/E F1	45.72	39.60	21.18	NA	18.79	15.95
P/S TTM	6.18	2.61	2.63	0.56	2.82	1.13
Earnings Yield	2.19%	2.30%	4.53%	-0.74%	5.32%	6.27%
Debt/Equity	1.10	0.24	0.70	2.44	0.23	0.38
Cash Flow ($/share)	5.88	1.15	6.92	0.46	10.07	4.50
Growth Score	B	-	-	A	A	A
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	14.73%	6.81%	10.07%	-16.46%	10.38%	3.24%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	226.25%	-6.62%	0.26%	-100.97%	30.67%	-2.28%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-16.30%	0.23%	5.29%	-71.21%	13.99%	-11.19%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	6.03%	6.03%	8.38%	-9.44%	4.22%	-3.17%
Current Ratio	1.85	1.81	1.38	1.81	1.90	1.66
Debt/Capital	52.30%	27.42%	41.97%	71.17%	18.56%	27.42%
Net Margin	4.38%	3.29%	10.44%	-15.89%	11.41%	6.54%
Return on Equity	32.72%	8.02%	14.96%	-3.96%	22.98%	19.18%
Sales/Assets	0.78	0.81	0.50	0.37	0.95	1.36
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	7.06%	0.00%	0.00%	-23.65%	17.39%	5.23%
Momentum Score	C	-	-	F	C	B
Daily Price Change	0.75%	0.00%	-0.23%	22.16%	-0.09%	-1.70%
1-Week Price Change	-6.62%	-5.87%	-5.63%	-14.45%	-8.45%	-7.60%
4-Week Price Change	6.44%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	6.94%	-3.32%
12-Week Price Change	11.84%	0.00%	2.80%	-0.73%	-0.26%	12.18%
52-Week Price Change	27.52%	10.41%	2.05%	-68.62%	35.81%	31.60%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,067,018	48,331	1,955,785	8,088,499	249,582	313,921
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	8.43%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.04%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	9.26%	0.64%	1.27%	-145.46%	9.69%	8.62%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	1.13%	2.16%	3.13%	-108.07%	9.95%	12.66%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	-6.05%	-1.41%	0.51%	-90.74%	-2.82%	14.38%

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	D
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	C
VGM Score	C

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.