

EnerSys(ENS)

\$83.27 (As of 12/25/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$88.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 10/13/20)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:A

Value: A

Growth: A

Momentum: B

Summary

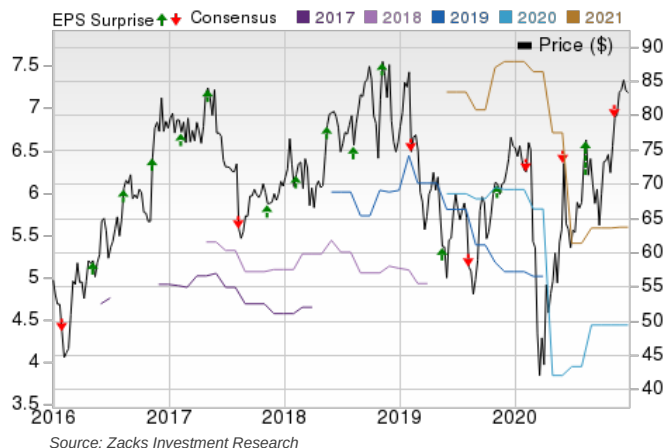
EnerSys stands to benefit from solid demand for its NexSys products along with strength in transportation and defense businesses, cost management and growth investments in the quarters ahead. Also, its acquisitions have been proving beneficial. In second-quarter fiscal 2021, buyouts had a positive impact of 4% on the company's net sales. The company remains committed to rewarding shareholders handsomely. In the past three months, EnerSys' shares outperformed the industry. However, weakness across the company's motive power business, on account of low demand environment, remains a major concern. Also, high capital expenditure might put pressure on its near-term profitability. Rise in debt levels can increase the company's financial obligations and hurt profitability. Foreign exchange headwinds might too affect its performance.

Data Overview

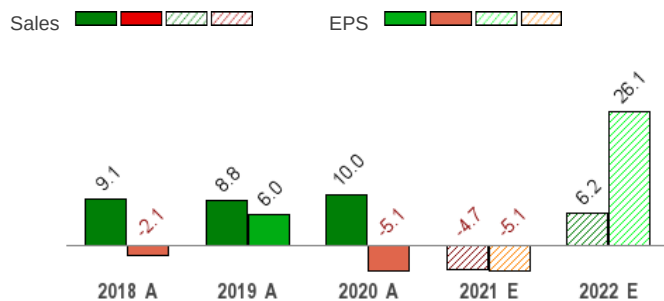
52-Week High-Low	\$86.87 - \$35.21
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	235,667
Market Cap	\$3.5 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	11.3%
Beta	1.50
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$0.70 / 0.8%
Industry	Manufacturing - Electronics
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 33% (83 out of 255)

Last EPS Surprise	-3.9%
Last Sales Surprise	-0.9%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.0%
Expected Report Date	02/03/2021
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	20.5
P/E F1	18.8
PEG F1	1.9
P/S TTM	1.2

Price, Consensus & Surprise



Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					3,124 E
2021	705 A	708 A	750 E	779 E	2,943 E
2020	780 A	762 A	764 A	782 A	3,088 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					\$5.60 E
2021	\$0.92 A	\$1.00 A	\$1.19 E	\$1.33 E	\$4.44 E
2020	\$1.30 A	\$1.23 A	\$1.04 A	\$1.11 A	\$4.68 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 12/25/2020. The reports text is as of 12/28/2020.

Overview

Headquartered in Pennsylvania, EnerSys engages in manufacturing, marketing and distribution of various industrial batteries. Additionally, the company develops battery chargers and accessories, power equipment and outdoor cabinet enclosures. This apart, it provides support services for clients.

EnerSys' products are marketed to over 10,000 customers worldwide across more than 100 countries via a robust network of distributors, independent representatives and its own sales force. Geographically, the company operates across three regions segments, namely, Americas (including North and South America), Europe, the Middle East and Africa ("EMEA"), and Asia (Asia, Australia and Oceania).

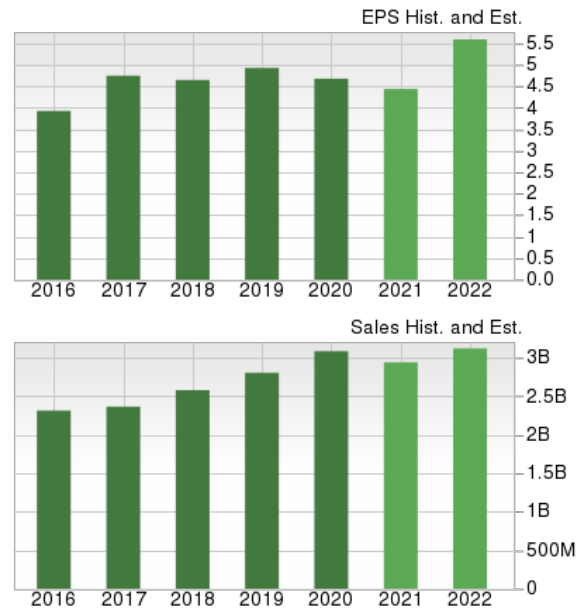
EnerSys has three operating business segments:

Energy Systems (48.1% of total revenues in second-quarter fiscal 2021): The segment is engaged in manufacturing products, which are used to provide backup power for operation of critical applications deployed in telecommunications systems, "UPS" applications for computer and computer-controlled systems, large-scale energy storage and energy pipelines, and switchgear and electrical control systems in industrial facilities and electric utilities.

Also, this product line includes integrated power solutions and services for telecom, broadband, renewable and industrial customers apart from thermally managed cabinets and enclosures. Notable, the products are sold to both global and regional customers.

Motive Power (37.2%): The segment's products are used for powering "electric industrial forklifts" that are extensively deployed in industrial applications like manufacturing, warehousing and other material handling activities. The products are also used in mining equipment as well as diesel locomotive starting and other rail equipment.

Specialty (14.7%): The segment specializes in developing energy solutions for satellites, transportation, submarines, military aircraft, ships and other tactical vehicles apart from medical and security systems.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ In the past three months, EnerSys' shares have gained 24.1% compared with the industry's growth of 20.7%. Strength in the transportation and defense businesses, 5G infrastructure build outs and solid demand for the NexSys Thin Plate Pure Lead (TPPL) products are likely to support the company's top-line performance in the quarters ahead. Notably, the company's partnership with Corning (inked in July 2020) to solve infrastructure challenges in the 5G deployment will help it in grabbing the increasing opportunities in the telecom space. Also, solid product portfolio (existing) and new product offerings, along with its investment in new and innovative technology, might be beneficial for the company. In addition, its focus on cost control measures will likely help it to maintain a healthy profitability and margin performance in the quarters ahead. For the third quarter of fiscal 2021, it anticipates adjusted earnings of \$1.17-\$1.23 per share, suggesting a year-over-year increase of 15.4% at mid-point. Also, the company's consensus estimate increased 0.8% and 1.5% for third-quarter and fourth-quarter fiscal 2021 in the past 60 days.
- ▲ Over time, EnerSys has strengthened its competency through acquisitions. In December 2018, it completed the acquisition of Alpha Technologies Group of Companies, provider of state-of-the-art energy solutions for telecom, broadband, industrial, renewable and traffic customers across the globe. The buyout aided EnerSys' product portfolio across the telecom, broadband, industrial and renewable markets. Moreover, in October 2019, the company completed the acquisition of NorthStar, which helped in enhancing its production capacities for TPPL products. Notably, the buyouts had a positive impact of 4% on the company's net sales in both the first and the second quarters of fiscal 2021.
- ▲ EnerSys follows a balanced capital-allocation strategy. It utilizes its cash flow for improving organic growth capabilities, executing acquisitions, dividend payouts and repurchasing shares. For instance, in fiscal 2020, it used \$29.7 million for paying dividends and \$34.6 million for purchasing treasury stocks. Also, in the first six months of fiscal 2021 it paid out dividends worth \$14.9 million. Although due to the pandemic-related uncertainties the company does not have any immediate repurchase plans, its dividend disbursement plan remains intact. In addition, at the end of the fiscal second quarter, its operating cash flow was \$217.3 million reflecting an increase from \$105.1 million in the year-ago quarter. Further improvement in cash flows is likely to effectively support the company's capital-allocation strategies.

Solid product portfolio, new product offerings, acquired assets and shareholder-friendly policies are key strengths of EnerSys.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ EnerSys' net sales in second-quarter fiscal 2021 were 7% lower than the year-ago figure and declined 12% on an organic basis. The year-over-year fall was primarily attributable to the adverse impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on its operational performance, particularly across the Americas and EMEA regions, and decline in prices. Persistent weakness across the company's motive power business on account of low demand environment remains a concern for its top line in the quarters ahead. Notably, based on its expected low future demand for motive power batteries, in November 2020, the company approved its plan to close its motive power facility in Hagen, Germany.
- ▼ A highly leveraged balance sheet can inflate the company's financial obligations and subsequently hurt profitability. Notably, in the last five fiscal years (2016-2020), the company's long-term debt (net of unamortized debt issuance costs) rose 17.5% (CAGR). Also, exiting the second quarter of fiscal 2021, its long-term debt (net of unamortized debt issuance costs) was high at \$1,039.2 million. Moreover, the company presently seems to be more leveraged than the industry. The stock's long-term debt-to-capital is 42%, higher than the industry's 28.2%.
- ▼ EnerSys has been making multiple investments to boost growth over time. For instance, over the past few quarters, it has been making significant investments for expanding the TPPL manufacturing capability for its NorthStar facilities. Although its investments hold good for long-term growth, high capital expenditure incurred is likely to negatively impact its short-term liquidity. In the fiscal second quarter, the company's capital expenditure totaled \$39.9 million. We believe that high capital expenditure might put pressure on its profitability in the near term. In addition, the company, which operates across diverse geographies, is exposed to uncertainty in the global macroeconomic environment, especially related to politics, labor market and economic instability. Also, unfavorable movements in foreign currencies might hurt its performance.

Persistent weakness in motive power business, along with coronavirus-led issues, might continue to affect EnerSys' prospects. High debt level and forex woes can create difficulties as well.

Last Earnings Report

EnerSys Misses Q2 Earnings & Sales Estimates, Down Y/Y

EnerSys reported weaker-than-expected second-quarter fiscal 2021 (ended Oct 4, 2020) results. Its earnings missed estimates by 3.9%, while sales lagged the same by 0.9%.

The company's earnings in the fiscal second quarter were \$1 per share, missing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.04. The bottom line declined 18.7% from the year-ago quarter figure of \$1.23 on weak sales performance.

Quarter Ending	09/2020
Report Date	Nov 11, 2020
Sales Surprise	-0.91%
EPS Surprise	-3.85%
Quarterly EPS	1.00
Annual EPS (TTM)	4.07

Revenue Details

In the reported quarter, EnerSys' net sales amounted to \$708.4 million, down 7% year over year. Revenues were adversely impacted by 11% fall in volumes, 1% decline in price, partially offset by 4% gain from acquired assets and 1% positive impact from foreign exchange.

The company noted that the top line suffered from weakness in the Motive Power segment due to the adverse impacts of the pandemic.

Moreover, EnerSys' top line missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$715 million.

Region wise, the company's net sales decreased 8% year over year to \$481 million in the Americas and fell 6% to \$172 million in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Sales in Asia were \$56 million, reflecting an increase of 3% from the year-ago quarter.

The company reports revenues under three segments. A brief discussion of the quarterly results is provided below:

Energy Systems' sales were \$340.8 million, which contributed 48.1% to net revenues in the quarter under review. On a year-over-year basis, the segment's revenues declined 0.6%. Volume was down 5% and pricing had an adverse impact of 1%. However, acquired assets boosted sales by 4%, whereas foreign exchange had a positive impact of 1% on sales.

Motive Power generated revenues of \$263.8 million, contributing 37.2% to net revenues in the reported quarter. The figure decreased 21.3% year over year due to negative impact of 21% from lower volume, 1% from weak prices, partially offset by 1% positive impact from foreign exchange.

Specialty's sales were \$103.8 million, which contributed 14.7% to net revenues in the quarter. On a year-over-year basis, the segment's revenues increased 23.7%. Volumes increased 9% and acquisitions had a positive impact of 17%, partially offset adverse impact of 3% from weak prices.

Margin Profile

In the reported quarter, EnerSys' cost of sales declined 6% year over year to \$530.9 million. Cost of sales was 74.9% of the quarter's net sales. Gross profit in the quarter decreased 10% to \$177.5 million, while gross margin fell 80 basis points (bps) to 25.1%.

Operating expenses decreased 10.1% year over year to \$119 million. It represented 16.8% of net sales in the reported quarter compared with 17.4% in the year-ago quarter. Operating earnings were \$55.4 million, reflecting a decline of 5.6%. Margin increased 10 bps year over year to 7.8%.

Interest expenses declined about 3% year over year to \$9.8 million.

Balance Sheet & Cash Flow

Exiting the second quarter of fiscal 2021, EnerSys had cash and cash equivalents of \$414.2 million, up 7.8% from \$384.4 million recorded in the last reported quarter. Long-term debt decreased 3.8% sequentially to \$1,039.2 million.

The company generated net cash of \$217.3 million from operating activities in the first six months of fiscal 2021, reflecting an increase from \$105.1 million generated in the year-ago period. Capital expenditure totaled \$39.9 million compared with \$43.4 million in the year-ago period.

Dividend

EnerSys rewarded shareholders with a dividend payout of \$7.5 million in second-quarter fiscal 2021.

Outlook

Though uncertainties related to the pandemic persist, EnerSys anticipates gaining from cost control initiatives and solid product offerings in the quarters ahead.

For the third quarter of fiscal 2021, the company currently anticipates adjusted earnings to lie in the range of \$1.17-\$1.23 per share.

Recent News

Dividend

On **Nov 11, 2020**, EnerSys' board of directors approved the payment of a quarterly cash dividend of 17.5 cents per share to shareholders on record as of Dec 18. The disbursement will be made on Dec 31.

Valuation

EnerSys' shares increased 11.4% over the trailing 12-month period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Industrial Products sector are up 21.9% and 20.9%, respectively.

The S&P 500 Index has moved up 19.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 15.71x forward 12-month earnings per share, which compares to 25.05x for the Zacks sub-industry, 23.04x for the Zacks sector and 22.86x for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 17.4x and as low as 6.61x, with a 5-year median of 14x. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$88 price target reflects 16.61x forward 12-month earnings per share.

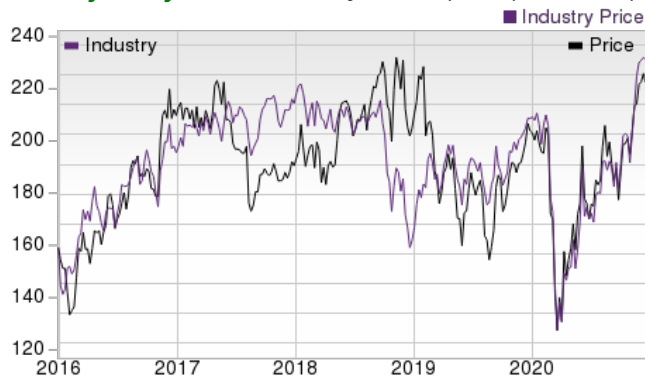
The table below shows summary valuation data for ENS.

Valuation Multiples - ENS					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	15.71	25.05	23.04	22.86
	5-Year High	17.4	25.05	23.09	23.79
	5-Year Low	6.61	13.62	12.61	15.3
	5-Year Median	14	17.79	17.76	17.81
P/Sales F12M	Current	1.15	3.4	3.37	4.34
	5-Year High	1.48	3.4	3.37	4.34
	5-Year Low	0.49	1.53	1.6	3.17
	5-Year Median	1.1	2.09	2.11	3.67

As of 12/24/2020

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 33% (83 out of 255)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Franklin Electric Co., Inc. (FELE)	Outperform	2
IIVI Incorporated (IIVI)	Outperform	1
Regal Beloit Corporation (RBC)	Outperform	2
Rexnord Corporation (RXN)	Outperform	1
A. O. Smith Corporation (AOS)	Neutral	3
AZZ Inc. (AZZ)	Neutral	3
ESCO Technologies Inc. (ESE)	Neutral	3
SPX FLOW, Inc. (FLOW)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Manufacturing - Electronics				Industry Peers		
	ENS	X Industry	S&P 500	AOS	IIVI	RBC
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Outperform	Outperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	1	2
VGM Score	A	-	-	B	C	B
Market Cap	3.55 B	3.39 B	26.20 B	8.96 B	8.07 B	4.88 B
# of Analysts	2	4	13	9	10	4
Dividend Yield	0.84%	0.32%	1.48%	1.87%	0.00%	1.00%
Value Score	A	-	-	C	D	B
Cash/Price	0.12	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.10
EV/EBITDA	13.13	14.77	14.57	15.24	34.64	10.65
PEG F1	1.88	2.58	2.83	3.11	1.26	2.16
P/B	2.46	3.43	3.64	5.13	3.11	1.99
P/CF	10.75	16.40	13.90	20.09	40.35	13.44
P/E F1	18.84	28.16	22.12	27.99	22.99	21.60
P/S TTM	1.20	2.56	2.85	3.19	2.92	1.70
Earnings Yield	5.33%	3.41%	4.36%	3.57%	4.36%	4.63%
Debt/Equity	0.72	0.13	0.70	0.06	0.56	0.34
Cash Flow (\$/share)	7.74	2.20	6.93	2.76	1.93	8.94
Growth Score	A	-	-	B	B	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	2.60%	4.59%	9.71%	6.05%	3.67%	3.81%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-5.13%	-7.31%	1.26%	-10.71%	18.81%	1.37%
Current Cash Flow Growth	18.95%	-3.38%	5.23%	-13.97%	-17.15%	-9.82%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	2.95%	2.98%	8.33%	9.81%	9.47%	1.95%
Current Ratio	2.76	2.19	1.38	1.77	3.09	2.11
Debt/Capital	42.00%	11.79%	41.97%	5.78%	32.52%	25.52%
Net Margin	3.27%	6.24%	10.40%	11.25%	0.19%	6.13%
Return on Equity	12.76%	8.01%	14.99%	19.29%	0.24%	9.03%
Sales/Assets	0.89	0.77	0.50	0.94	0.53	0.64
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-4.71%	-1.00%	0.35%	-5.97%	27.57%	-11.59%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	B	D	D
Daily Price Change	0.13%	0.13%	0.29%	0.67%	1.21%	0.28%
1-Week Price Change	-1.77%	1.04%	0.87%	-1.28%	6.41%	-0.59%
4-Week Price Change	0.06%	2.23%	0.99%	-1.58%	16.34%	-1.40%
12-Week Price Change	22.35%	27.43%	14.77%	3.53%	87.36%	28.48%
52-Week Price Change	9.93%	21.65%	5.47%	16.21%	127.84%	40.00%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	235,667	229,201	2,028,114	1,102,513	1,201,311	270,830
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	0.00%	6.53%	3.68%	9.52%	174.79%	19.55%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.22%	0.00%	0.00%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Stock Rating System

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

Zacks Recommendation

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

Zacks Rank

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

Zacks Style Scores

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Periods:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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