Ford Motor Company(F)

$15.99 (As of 06/03/21)

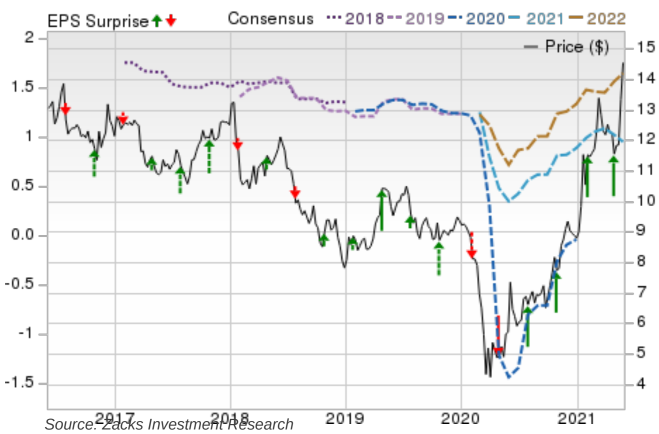
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$17.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 03/02/21) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**3-Hold**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:A
	Value: A | Growth: A | Momentum: C	

Summary

Strong vehicle mix supported by F-series trucks and SUV models is expected to bolster the Ford's top line. The firm's alliance with Volkswagen is likely to accelerate execution of electric vehicle (EV) strategy and boost Argo AI prospects. Ford's restructuring initiatives in European market and strong vehicle sales momentum in China are other tailwinds. The company's big push toward the development of electric and autonomous vehicles will drive profitability. However, the massive investments to bring the firm's e-mobility goals to fruition are likely to strain near term margins. As it is, Ford expects a $2.5 billion hit to its 2021 earnings, thanks to the shortfall of semiconductor chip. Elevated leverage of the firm also plays spoilsport. Thus, the stock warrants a cautious stance at the moment.

Price, Consensus & Surprise

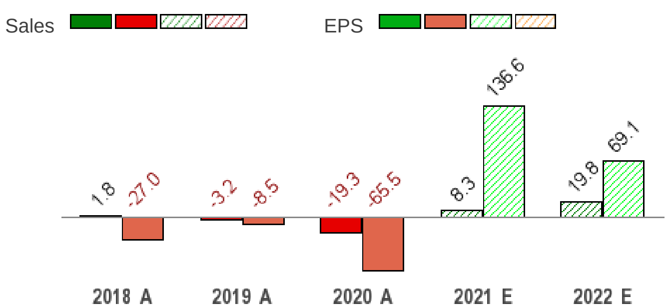


Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	$16.46 - $5.74
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	102,134,576
Market Cap	$63.8 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	81.9%
Beta	1.16
Dividend / Dividend Yield	$0.00 / 0.0%
Industry	Automotive - Domestic
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 46% (115 out of 249)
Last EPS Surprise	456.3%
Last Sales Surprise	7.8%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	2.1%
Expected Report Date	07/29/2021
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	10.5
P/E F1	16.5
PEG F1	2.1
P/S TTM	0.5

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					150,343 E
2021	33,554 A	21,329 E	32,178 E	40,853 E	125,447 E
2020	31,340 A	16,622 A	34,707 A	33,200 A	115,885 A

EPS Estimates

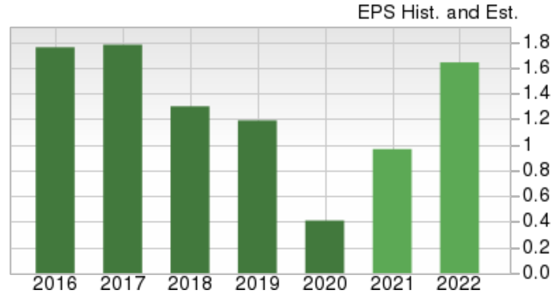
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					$1.64 E
2021	$0.89 A	-$0.40 E	$0.17 E	$0.30 E	$0.97 E
2020	-$0.23 A	-$0.35 A	$0.65 A	$0.34 A	$0.41 A

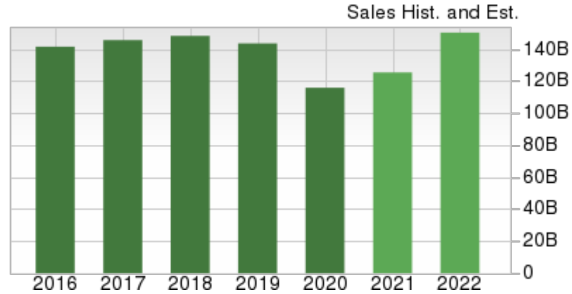
*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and sales estimates, is as of 06/03/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 06/04/2021.

Overview

Dearborn, MI-based Ford Motor Company designs, manufactures, markets and services cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles, electrified vehicles, and Lincoln luxury vehicles. Apart from vehicles, the company provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company LLC ("Ford Credit"). It employs approximately 199,000 employees worldwide.





Ford has three reportable operating segments:

The Automotive segment (contributed 91.1% to company's total revenues in 2020) is engaged in the design, development, manufacture, sale and service of Ford and Lincoln vehicles as well as service parts, and accessories. The segment covers key regional business units including North America, South America, Europe, ASEAN (including Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam), and China.

The company's wholesales primarily consisted of vehicles sold to dealerships. In 2020, it sold roughly 4,187,000 vehicles at wholesale throughout the world. Beside retail sales, Ford's dealerships sell vehicles to fleet customers, including commercial fleet customers, daily rental car companies and governments. It also sells parts and accessories to authorized parts distributors and offers extended service contracts. At the end of 2020, the company's retail segment held 13.2% market share in North America, 6.2% in South America, 7.2% in Europe, 5.3% in ASEAN and 2.4% in China.

The Mobility segment (0.1%) focuses on designing, building, growing and investing in mobility services, and autonomous technology businesses for the company. The segment works as a subsidiary of Ford under the name Ford Smart Mobility LLC ("FSM").

The Ford Credit segment (8.8%) deals with vehicle-related financing and leasing activities.

Ford is going the extra mile to demonstrate its e-mobility prowess. Ford's electric Mustang Mach-E, whose deliveries began in late 2020, is receiving positive reviews. The company's E-Transit van will be available by late 2021, while the all-electric F-150 pickup is likely to hit the roads by mid 2022. The company believes that no-emission vehicles will be central to Ford's Lincoln luxury brand and Transit commercial lineup.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

Ford’s focus on SUVs and trucks along with upcoming EV launches are likely to boost its long-term prospects.

▲ Strong vehicle mix supported by F-series trucks and SUV models, including Escape, Explorer, Expedition, EcoSport and Edge, among others is expected to bolster the company’s revenues. Ford’s new Mustang Mach-E and Bronco Sport are off to a solid start and are proving to be a hit with customers. Upcoming launches like F-150 Electric and the E-Transit are also set to drive the top line of the firm.

▲ Ford’s big push toward the development of electric and driverless cars is commendable. The company’s commitment to spend more than $30 billion in EVs and $7 billion in autonomous vehicles (AV) through 2025 — offers ample growth visibility. Encouragingly, the company’s car lineup in Europe is expected to be all-electric by 2026. The auto giant also broke ground on its $1-billion Ford Cologne Electrification Center in Germany. Ford has also established a battery center to accelerate the research and development of battery technology to rev up its EV capabilities.

▲ The company's alliance with Volkswagen is likely to accelerate execution of its EV and AV strategies. The partnership enhances Argo AI prospects, wherein both firms will collaborate to create highly capable autonomous vehicle businesses based on the self-driving technology of Argo AI. Collaboration with Google to bolster the development and delivery of connected vehicles also augurs well.

▲ Ford’s restructuring initiatives in European market has been yielding results. Through the first phase of restructuring, the company has reduced its annual structural costs by $1.1 billion. Strong vehicle sales momentum in the China auto market is also a positive for the US auto biggie, which commands a huge presence in the world’s biggest auto market.

Reasons To Sell:

Amid the acute chip shortage, Ford lowered its guidance and expects a $2.5 billion hit to earnings.

- Rising debt levels of the firm plays a spoilsport. As of Mar 31, 2021, automotive long-term debt increased to $24,819 million from $22,633 million in Q1'20 and $22,342 million in 2020 end. The firm'stotal long-term debt-to-capital ratio stands at 0.84, higher both in absolute and relative terms. Elevated leverage restricts the financial flexibility of the firm.

- While the firm's massive investments in green vehicles and self-driving cars will prove beneficial in the long term, it is likely to strain the company's near-term financials. Rising commodity and warranty costs are also raising concerns. Over the last three years, the firm's warranty expense has increased by more than $2 billion. Further, frequent vehicle recalls by Ford due to safety issues remain a headwind. As the firm's operations are spread across various nations, it also faces headwinds from unfavorable foreign currency translations.

- Ford is battling with global chip concern issues. Fire breakout at a Renesas Electronics chip plant in March exacerbated the chip famine. Amid the acute chip shortage, Ford lowered its guidance and expects a $2.5 billion hit to earnings. The company has warned that the microchip shortfall would slash second-quarter output by 50%. Ford now anticipates losing 1.1 million units of production in 2021 due to chip concerns. What's worse, it expects the global chip shortage issue to persist till 2022.

- Ford expects its second quarter FCF to be significantly negative. It has slashed 2021 FCF guidance in the range of $500-$1.5 billion versus the prior forecast of $3.5-4.5 billion, which includes $3 billion adverse impact from semiconductors. Amid the coronavirus uncertainty, Ford suspended its dividend which dampened investors' confidence and it has no intention to reinstate the dividend anytime soon considering its short- and medium-term investment needs and semiconductor shortage.

Last Earnings Report

Ford Q1 Earnings Beat But '21 View Slashed

Quarter Ending	03/2021
Report Date	Apr 28, 2021
Sales Surprise	7.79%
EPS Surprise	456.25%
Quarterly EPS	0.89
Annual EPS (TTM)	1.53

Ford posted first-quarter 2021 adjusted earnings of 89 cents per share, breezing past the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 16 cents and turning around from the year-ago loss of 23 cents. Higher-than-expected revenues, primarily in Europe and North America markets, led to the outperformance. Its consolidated fourth-quarter revenues came in at $36.2 billion, up 5.5% year over year. Importantly, the company generated automotive revenues of $33.5 billion, which outpaced the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $31.1 billion..

Segmental Performance

For the first quarter, total wholesale volume in the **Ford Automotive segment** slid from the prior-year period to 1,062,000 units. However, revenues of the segment rose 5.5% year over year to $33.6 billion., Automotive earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) of $3.4 billion turned around from the loss of $177 million incurred in the corresponding quarter of 2020, backed by the firm's restructuring efforts and massive business improvement, primarily in Europe and North America.

In ***North America***, revenues edged up 5% year on year to $23 billion for the reported quarter, aided by strong demand for Mustang Mach-E, 2021 F-150 and Bronco Sport models. The metric also surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $20.9 billion. While wholesale volume contracted 14% from the year-earlier quarter to 533,000 units, EBIT skyrocketed 752% to $2,949 million, thanks to favorable pricing strategy and product mix.

In ***South America***, revenues plummeted 40% year over year to $0.4 billion for the fourth quarter. Wholesale volume dwindled 70% from the year-ago quarter to 18,000 units. However, the unit's pretax loss narrowed from $113 million in the prior-year quarter to $73 million. Cost cut and rejig efforts helped it counter weak industry demand and economic uncertainties.

In ***Europe***, revenues grew 13% year on year to $7.1 billion for the March-end quarter, topping the consensus mark of $6.7 billion. While wholesale volumes tapered off 4% year over year to 278,000 units, EBIT totaled $341 million, reversing the year-ago loss of $143 million, thanks to aggressive restructuring initiatives. During the quarter under review, Ford commenced shipments of Mustang Mach-E in Europe and announced plans to invest $1 billion to establish the Ford Cologne Electrification Center to rev up e-mobility goals.

In ***China***, revenues soared 39% year over year to $0.8 billion for the reported quarter. Wholesale volume climbed 85% from the prior-year figure to 150,000 units and pretax loss narrowed from $241 million to $15 million for the quarter under review.

In the ***International Markets Group***, revenues scaled up 15% from the year-ago figure to $2.3 billion. Wholesale volume increased 5% from the prior-year level to 82,000 units and pretax earnings totaled $201 million against $26 million loss incurred in the comparable year-ago period. In fact, International Markets Group achieved its highest pretax profit ever, thanks to low structural costs.

First-quarter revenues from the **Ford Credit** unit declined 10.2% year over year to $2,663 million. Revenues from **Ford Mobility** came in at $11 million, on par with first-quarter 2020.

Financial Position

The company recorded negative adjusted FCF of $396 million. Ford had cash and cash equivalents of $21,826 million as of Mar 31, 2020 compared with $25,243 million on Dec 31, 2020. Automotive long-term debt increased to $24,819 million on Mar 31, 2021 from $22,633 million in the corresponding period of 2020.

Ford Hit Hard By Chip Crunch

In early February, Ford already warned that semiconductor shortages will adversely impact the firm's 2021 adjusted EBIT, which is forecast in the range of $1-2.5 billion. Fire breakout at a Renesas Electronics chip plant in March only exacerbated the chip famine. Amid the acute chip shortage, Ford lowered its guidance and expects a $2.5 billion hit to earnings. Consequently, it now anticipates full-year 2021 adjusted EBIT in the band of $5.5-$6.5 billion. Guidance for adjusted FCF is also cut and is currently envisioned in the range of $500-$1.5 billion versus the prior forecast of $3.5-4.5 billion.

Recent News

Ford's Vehicle Sales Rise Y/Y in May

On **Jun 3**, Ford reported total vehicle sales of 161,725 units for the month of May. This represents a year over year increase of 4.1% on the back of increasing demand for SUVs. Truck and SUV sales totaled 75,665 and 80,134 units, respectively. Sales of EVs rose 184% year over year in May.

Ford Launches New Initiative, Steps Up EV Game

On **May 26**, Ford announced a new initiative – themed "Delivering Ford+" – ahead of its investor day, wherein the company detailed priority areas of Ford+ plan for growth and value creation based on 'always-on' customer relationships and leadership in electric vehicles (EVs). The company expects 40% of Ford global vehicle volume to be all-electric by 2030 and also increased planned investment in EVs, including battery development, to more than $30 billion by 2025. Other details included achieving an 8% adjusted profit margin in 2023 and significantly increasing its commercial vehicle business.

The company also announced creation of Ford Pro, a global vehicle services and distribution business, fully committed to commercial and government customers. The business is aimed at increasing uptime and reducing ownership costs, leading to higher productivity and performance.

Ford Unveils F-150 Lightning Pro

On **May 24**, Ford rolled out a version of the F-150 Lightning pickup truck — the all-new 2022 F-150 Lightning Pro — the first-ever all-electric F-Series truck designed for commercial customers. F-150 Lightning Pro will be built at the Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn starting next spring.

Ford Teams Up With SK Innovation

On **May 20**, Ford entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with South Korea-based SK Innovation to form a joint venture (JV) — named BlueOvalSK — to manufacture battery cells and array modules in the United States. The new venture will approximately produce 60 gigawatt hours (GWh) annually starting mid-decade, subject to regulatory approvals. The manufactured battery cells and arrays will be used to run future Ford EVs. The BlueOvalSK MOU showcases Ford's commitment to vertically develop its battery capabilities.

Valuation

Ford's shares are up 81.9% and 117.8% year to date and in the trailing 12-month period, respectively. Stocks in the Zacks Automotive - Domestic industry and the Zacks Auto-Tires-Trucks sector are down 4.9% and 0.4%, respectively, year to date. Over the past year, the Zacks sub industry and sector are up 144.9% and 72%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 12.7% and 34.1% year to date and in the past year, respectively.

The stock is currently trading at 0.47X forward 12-month sales, which compares to 2.26X for the Zacks sub-industry, 1.11X for the Zacks sector and 4.7X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 0.47X and as low as 0.12X, with a 5-year median of 0.28X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our $17 price target reflects 0.49X forward 12-months sales.

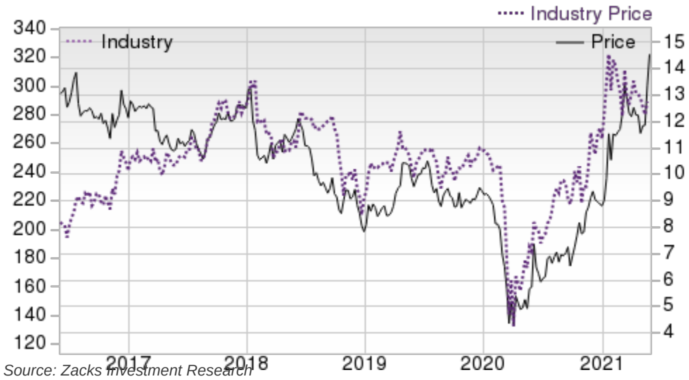
The table below shows summary valuation data for F:

Valuation Multiples - F

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/S F12M	Current	0.47	2.26	1.11	4.7
	5-Year High	0.47	2.54	1.24	4.74
	5-Year Low	0.12	0.49	0.47	3.21
	5-Year Median	0.28	0.61	0.61	3.72
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	19.31	31.29	15.79	17.25
	5-Year High	27.61	47.61	20.24	17.73
	5-Year Low	6.11	6.92	6.94	9.62
	5-Year Median	11.89	11.94	9.56	13.45
P/E F12M	Current	12.88	41.9	21.78	21.78
	5-Year High	81.99	76.32	27.58	23.83
	5-Year Low	NA	8.14	8.21	15.3
	5-Year Median	7.23	11.21	10.49	18.03

As of 06/03/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Top 46% (115 out of 249)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Fox Factory Holding Corp. **(FOXF)**	Outperform	2
HarleyDavidson, Inc. **(HOG)**	Outperform	1
Polaris Inc. **(PII)**	Outperform	2
Blue Bird Corporation **(BLBD)**	Neutral	3
General Motors Company **(GM)**	Neutral	2
IAA, Inc. **(IAA)**	Neutral	3
PACCAR Inc. **(PCAR)**	Neutral	3
Tesla, Inc. **(TSLA)**	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Automotive - Domestic

	F	X Industry	S&P 500	GM	PCAR	TSLA
				Industry Peers		
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	2	3	3
VGM Score	A	-	-	A	A	B
Market Cap	63.83 B	5.29 B	30.58 B	92.06 B	32.29 B	551.83 B
# of Analysts	6	4	12	6	8	11
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.3%	0.00%	1.46%	0.00%
Value Score	A	-	-	A	A	F
Cash/Price	0.79	0.05	0.06	0.34	0.15	0.03
EV/EBITDA	15.13	-6.44	17.35	6.51	12.33	123.47
PEG F1	2.13	1.61	2.15	1.22	1.61	3.58
P/B	1.88	7.24	4.17	1.69	3.01	23.12
P/CF	7.00	19.25	17.68	4.60	13.73	168.48
P/E F1	16.60	16.54	21.64	12.00	16.06	134.33
P/S TTM	0.49	1.73	3.48	0.75	1.66	15.35
Earnings Yield	6.07%	1.69%	4.51%	8.34%	6.22%	0.74%
Debt/Equity	3.04	0.01	0.66	1.40	0.70	0.38
Cash Flow ($/share)	2.29	-0.04	6.82	13.80	6.78	3.40
Growth Score	A	-	-	A	B	A
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-24.64%	5.67%	9.39%	-10.64%	5.67%	NA
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	135.77%	44.27%	21.44%	7.89%	54.91%	90.38%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-31.36%	-2.13%	0.86%	-6.23%	-32.26%	117.77%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	-10.33%	3.87%	7.32%	4.82%	-1.34%	234.13%
Current Ratio	1.21	1.40	1.39	1.08	2.64	1.66
Debt/Capital	75.23%	1.30%	41.51%	58.32%	41.24%	28.80%
Net Margin	3.07%	3.49%	11.92%	7.49%	7.26%	3.18%
Return on Equity	19.04%	6.13%	16.34%	19.59%	13.72%	6.13%
Sales/Assets	0.49	0.76	0.51	0.51	0.70	0.76
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	8.27%	18.95%	9.37%	10.11%	29.92%	56.61%
Momentum Score	C	-	-	D	C	B
Daily Price Change	7.24%	0.12%	-0.06%	6.39%	0.79%	-5.33%
1-Week Price Change	9.00%	0.80%	1.01%	4.57%	-0.51%	7.63%
4-Week Price Change	36.20%	1.00%	0.48%	8.07%	-0.76%	-13.67%
12-Week Price Change	24.82%	-1.96%	8.62%	12.66%	-4.84%	-18.12%
52-Week Price Change	143.38%	75.68%	36.86%	117.63%	22.90%	231.36%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	102,134,576	1,017,798	1,817,578	15,215,990	1,474,895	29,510,326
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	2.11%	1.12%	0.10%	5.03%	0.48%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-7.94%	4.74%	3.33%	3.83%	1.64%	-1.23%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-38.08%	0.59%	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

Value Score	A
Growth Score	A
Momentum Score	C
VGM Score	A

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.

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.