

Gilead Sciences Inc.(GILD)

\$65.48 (As of 04/23/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$69.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:
Neutral

(Since: 04/06/20)

Prior Recommendation: Underperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:A

Value: A

Growth: B

Momentum: A

Summary

Gilead's HIV franchise maintains momentum on robust Biktarvy sales, as market share continues to grow. The company's efforts to develop its oncology franchise through acquisitions and collaborations are positive. Gilead's acquisition of Immunomedics is another positive, as it adds an approved drug to the portfolio. The CAR T cell therapy franchise, comprising Yescarta and Tecartus, is also gaining traction. Incremental sales of Veklury for the treatment of COVID-19 also boosted the top line and the trend should continue as the pandemic refuses to die out anytime soon. However, increasing competition for HIV drugs is a concern. Loss of exclusivity for Atripla and Truvada will adversely impact sales. While Yescarta is picking up pace gradually, it still has a long way to go. Shares have underperformed the industry in the past year.

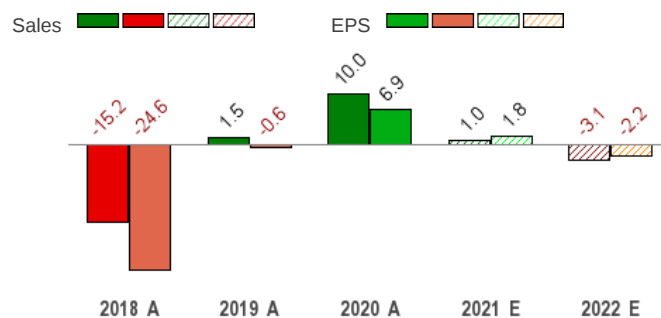
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$85.67 - \$56.56
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	6,138,740
Market Cap	\$82.4 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	12.4%
Beta	0.39
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$2.84 / 4.3%
Industry	Medical - Biomedical and Genetics
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 20% (202 out of 254)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	1.9%
Last Sales Surprise	4.4%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.1%
Expected Report Date	04/29/2021
Earnings ESP	6.0%
P/E TTM	9.2
P/E F1	9.1
PEG F1	0.7
P/S TTM	3.3

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	5,963 E	6,021 E	6,245 E	6,386 E	24,180 E
2021	6,783 E	6,198 E	5,951 E	6,042 E	24,941 E
2020	5,548 A	5,143 A	6,577 A	7,421 A	24,689 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$1.64 E	\$1.66 E	\$1.74 E	-\$0.20 E	\$7.06 E
2021	\$2.02 E	\$1.74 E	\$1.73 E	\$1.70 E	\$7.22 E
2020	\$1.68 A	\$1.11 A	\$2.11 A	\$2.19 A	\$7.09 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 04/23/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 04/26/2021.

Overview

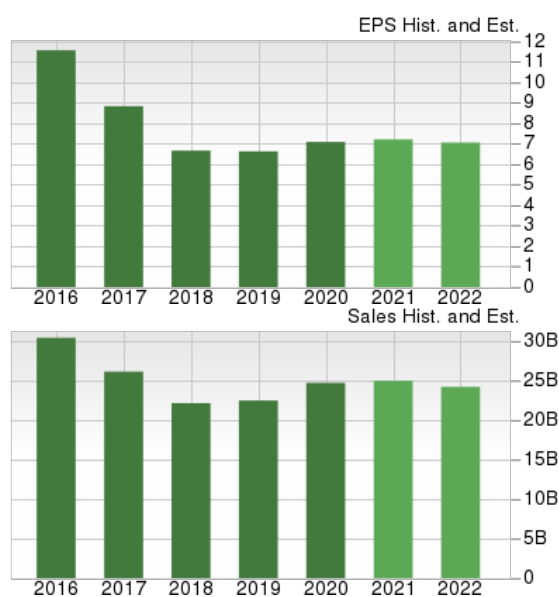
Headquartered in Foster City, CA, Gilead Sciences is a pioneer in developing drugs for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), liver diseases, hematology/oncology diseases and inflammation/respiratory diseases. The company has a strong HIV franchise with key HIV/AIDS therapies like tenofovir alafenamide (TAF)-based products Genvoya, Odefsey, Descovy, Biktarvy and Truvada. Total sales from HIV franchise came in at \$16.9 billion in 2020.

The portfolio also includes hepatitis C virus (HCV) drugs like Harvoni and Epclusa and HBV drug, Vemlidy, which have now lost sheen. For 2020, HCV product sales were \$2.0 billion compared to \$2.9 billion in 2019.

Yescarta, the first cell therapy approved for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma, has diversified Gilead's portfolio. Tecartus, another CAR T-cell therapy, was granted an accelerated approval in the United States in July for the treatment of relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma. The approval has boosted the Cell Therapy Product franchise for Gilead, which raked in sales of \$607 million in 2020.

Gilead has a robust late-stage pipeline that bodes well for long-term growth. The company is also working on diversifying and growing its business beyond antivirals into other therapeutic areas. Gilead is also making inroads in the oncology space with strategic collaborations and acquisitions. It acquired oncology company, Immunomedics, for approximately \$21 billion in 2020, which added breast cancer drug Trodelvy to its portfolio. The FDA granted full approval to Veklury (remdesivir) for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 and the European Commission (EC) granted conditional Marketing Authorization to the same. Sales of Veklury came in at \$2.8 billion in 2020. The company has also collaborated with Novo Nordisk to develop drugs for the treatment of NASH.

Revenues in 2020 came in at \$24.3 billion, up from \$22.1 billion in 2019.



Reasons To Buy:

▲ **Strong HIV Franchise:** : Gilead is a dominant player in the HIV market. The company was the first to bring to market a single-tablet regimen (STR) for the treatment of HIV. Gilead is looking to transition the HIV portfolio to drugs with improved long-term safety profiles. The TAF-based products — Genvoya, Odefsey and Descovy — have strengthened the franchise. Descovy-based regimens continue to gain share. The HIV franchise received a major boost when the FDA approved its once-daily STR, Biktarvy (bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 25mg, BIC/FTC/TAF), for HIV-1 infection. Biktarvy has become the number one prescribed regimen for both treatment-naïve and switch patients. Meanwhile, the FDA approved a label expansion of Descovy (emtricitabine 200 mg and tenofovir alafenamide 25 mg tablets; F/TAF) as a prevention option. The initial uptake for the indication has been encouraging. The FDA had earlier also extended the indication for Truvada as PrEP to include at-risk adolescents. Approval of new therapies has strengthened the franchise.

Gilead's strong HIV franchise should help the company maintain momentum. Newly launched products should continue to perform well, thereby driving top-line growth.

▲ **Veklury Approval Bodes Well:** The FDA has granted full approval to Gilead's Veklury (remdesivir) for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 and the EC granted conditional Marketing Authorization to the same. It was earlier granted an Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") by the FDA. Demand was strong toward the end of 2020 and the same is expected to prevail as the pandemic registers a spike again.

▲ **Acquisitions and Deals to Boost Portfolio and Strengthen Pipeline:** Gilead is looking to boost its portfolio and pipeline through deals and acquisitions. The company is also looking to expand beyond antivirals into other therapeutic areas.

Gilead acquired Kite Pharma to foray into the emerging field of cell therapy. Kite is a pioneer in cell therapy having developed engineered cell therapies that express either a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) or an engineered T cell receptor (TCR), depending on the type of cancer. The approval of lead candidate Yescarta for the treatment of refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma, which includes diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), transformed follicular lymphoma (TFL) and primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL) is a significant boost for the company. The FDA also granted accelerated approval to Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel, formerly KTE-X19) for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma (MCL). The approval will further strengthen this franchise. Gilead also acquired Cell Design Labs, Inc. for \$567 million in December 2017.

Gilead recently acquired oncology company, Immunomedics, for approximately \$21 billion. The acquisition added Trodelvy (sacituzumab govitecan-hziy), a first-in-class antibody-drug conjugate (ADC), to Gilead's portfolio. The addition of Trodelvy will accelerate the company's efforts to develop a strong and diverse oncology portfolio. The drug is approved as a third-line treatment for mTNBC, a difficult cancer to treat, and therefore represents significant market potential. The company currently has 27 internal ongoing clinical-stage programs for hematologic malignancies and solid tumors. The drug has also been approved for urothelial cancer.

Reasons To Sell:

▼ **Share Price Performance:** Gilead's stock has underperformed the industry in the past year.

▼ **HCV Franchise under Pressure:** The once lucrative, Gilead's HCV franchise continued to witness a slowdown across key markets, including the United States and Europe, due to new competition and fewer patient starts. Moreover, competition is stiff for the core HIV franchise from Glaxo and Janssen Pharmaceuticals. The loss of exclusivity for Atripla and Truvada adversely impacted sales in 2020 and will continue to do so in 2021 as well.

▼ **Pipeline Setbacks:** Gilead is no stranger to pipeline setbacks. In fact, the company has been suffering a string of pipeline setbacks since the last few years. Gilead suffered a setback with the recent failure of a late-stage study on selonsertib in patients with compensated cirrhosis (F4) due to NASH. The failure of the STELLAR-4 study comes as a disappointment, given the significant market potential of NASH and increasing competition from the likes of Intercept Pharmaceuticals. Moreover, STELLAR-3 on selonsertib did not meet the pre-specified week 48 primary endpoint.

While the approval of Yescarta and Tecartus is a significant boost for the company, CAR-T therapy is complicated and can sometimes be associated with severe side effects, which can limit its potential. Moreover, given the high costs of the treatment and competition from Kymriah, Yescarta is not expected to contribute significantly as of now.

▼ **Unfavorable Debt Profile:** As of Dec 31, 2020, Gilead's total debt to total capital ratio stood at 0.67, which compares unfavorably to 0.63 at the end of the previous quarter. A higher ratio indicates higher financial risk and vice versa. Gilead had a long-term debt of more than \$33.8 billion at the end of the fourth quarter and cash and equivalents of \$7.4 billion.

Weaker-than-expected performance of HCV franchise due to lower sales of Harvoni and Sovaldi is concerning. Pipeline setbacks and stiff competition remain a threat as well.

Last Earnings Report

Gilead Tops Q4 Earnings & Sales on Strong Veklury Demand

Gilead reported earnings of \$2.19 per share in the quarter under review, which beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$2.15 and grew from \$1.10 in the year-ago quarter.

Total revenues of \$7.4 billion beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$7.11 billion and increased 26% from the year-ago quarter mainly owing to incremental sales of Veklury.

Quarter in Detail

Total product sales increased 26% to \$7.3 billion for the fourth quarter of 2020. Excluding Veklury (remdesivir), product sales decreased 7% year over year to \$5.4 billion, due to the continued effects of COVID-19 on its HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) franchises, as well as the expected decline in sales of Truvada due to the loss of exclusivity in the United States.

HIV product sales decreased 7% to \$4.2 billion due to the loss of exclusivity of Truvada and Atripla in the United States in October 2020, partially offset by the continued patient uptake of Biktarvy and growth of Descovy for PrEP. Biktarvy sales grew to \$2 billion from \$1.6 billion in the year-ago quarter as market share continues to grow in the United States. Growth in Descovy also boosted the top line as sales jumped to \$478 million from \$437 million. Genvoya generated sales of \$852 million, down from \$958 million in the year-ago quarter. Truvada sales plunged to \$146 million from \$768 million in the year-ago quarter.

HCV product sales decreased 33% to \$423 million driven by lower patient starts in the United States and Europe.

Cell Therapy product sales, which include Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) and Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel) revenues, increased 34% to \$163 million, driven by the continued uptake and expansion of Yescarta in Europe. Tecartus was approved by the FDA during the third quarter of 2020.

Veklury generated revenues of \$1.9 billion in the quarter, reflecting higher hospitalization and treatment rates due to the most recent COVID-19 surge. The FDA granted full approval to Veklury for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 and the European Commission (EC) granted conditional Marketing Authorization to the same. It was earlier granted an Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") by the FDA.

Trodelvy generated \$49 million in sales in the United States, following the acquisition of Immunomedics on Oct 23, 2020. The acquisition of Immunomedics added Trodelvy to Gilead's portfolio. Trodelvy was granted accelerated approval by the FDA in April for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer ("mTNBC") who have received at least two prior therapies for metastatic disease.

Other product sales increased 7% to \$498 million.

Adjusted product gross margin was 87.5% compared with 75.6% in the year-ago period. Research & development (R&D) expenses came in at \$1.5 billion, up from \$1.1 billion in the year-ago quarter.

2020 Results

Gilead generated sales of \$24.7 billion, up 10% from 2019 due to the launch of Veklury in 2020 and beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$24.5 billion. Earnings per share of \$7.09 were up from \$6.13 in 2019 on higher revenues and beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$7.04.

2021 Guidance

Product sales are projected around \$23.7-\$25.1 billion. Veklury sales are expected to be in the range of \$2-\$3 billion. Earnings per share are expected in the range of \$6.75-\$7.45. The Zacks Consensus Estimate for sales and earnings per share is pegged at \$24 billion and \$7.15 respectively.

Other Updates

Gilead and partner Galapagos agreed to amend the existing arrangement for the commercialization and development of Jyseleca. Gilead will not pursue FDA approval for Jyseleca for rheumatoid arthritis in the United States.

Gilead announced that it will acquire a private, commercial stage German-based biotechnology company, MYR GmbH for €1.2 billion in cash.

Gilead announced a collaboration and license agreement with Gritstone Oncology, Inc. to research and develop a vaccine-based immunotherapy as part of Gilead's efforts to find a curative treatment for HIV infection.

Quarter Ending	12/2020
Report Date	Feb 04, 2021
Sales Surprise	4.36%
EPS Surprise	1.86%
Quarterly EPS	2.19
Annual EPS (TTM)	7.09

Recent News

FDA Grants Accelerated Approval to Trodelvy – Apr 13

Gilead announced that the FDA has granted accelerated approval to breast cancer drug, Trodelvy, for use in adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (UC) who have previously received a platinum-containing chemotherapy and either a programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1) or a programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) inhibitor.

Trodelvy Approval – Apr 7

Gilead announced that the FDA has granted full approval to Trodelvy (sacituzumab govitecan-hziy) for adult patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) who have received two or more prior systemic therapies, at least one of them for metastatic disease.

Submits BLA To Tecartus – Apr 1

Gilead's Kite announced that it has submitted a supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA) to the FDA for Tecartus for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). The sBLA is supported by data from the phase I/II ZUMA-3 study and the data are also being submitted for presentation at an upcoming scientific congress.

EMA Validates MAA for Tecartus – Mar 25

Gilead announced that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has validated the Marketing Authorization Application (MAA) for Tecartus for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic TNBC who have received at least two prior therapies, including at least one prior therapy for locally advanced or metastatic disease. The MAA is now under accelerated review by the EMA, in recognition of the product being considered of major interest for public health and therapeutic innovation.

Expands NASH Collaboration With Novo – Mar 18

Gilead announced that it has expanded its collaboration with Denmark-based Novo Nordisk to develop treatments for NASH. The companies will conduct a double-blind, placebo-controlled study to investigate the safety and efficacy of Novo Nordisk's semaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist, and a fixed-dose combination of Gilead's investigational FXR agonist, cilofexor, and investigational ACC inhibitor, firsocostat. The triple combination regimen will be evaluated in a new phase IIb study in NASH patients with cirrhosis.

This four-arm study will begin recruitment in the second half of 2021. It will enroll approximately 440 patients to evaluate the treatments' impact on liver fibrosis improvement and NASH resolution.

Collaborate With Merck – Mar 15

Gilead announced that it has entered into an agreement with Merck to co-develop and co-commercialize long-acting treatments in HIV.

The companies have collaborated to evaluate Gilead's investigational capsid inhibitor, lenacapavir, with Merck's investigational nucleoside reverse transcriptase translocation inhibitor, islatravir, into a two-drug regimen for HIV patients.

Both candidates are currently in late-stage development and have demonstrated activity at low dosages in clinical studies. The collaboration will initially focus on long-acting oral formulations and long-acting injectable formulations of these combination products. Gilead and Merck will share the global development and commercialization costs in the ratio of 60:40. Gilead will lead the commercialization of long-acting oral products in the United States while Merck will lead the commercialization in the EU and the rest of the world. Meanwhile, Merck will lead the commercialization of long-acting injectable products in the United States and Gilead will lead the commercialization in the EU and the rest of the world.

CAR T Cell Therapy Yescarta Gets FDA Nod for FL – Mar 5

Gilead's Kite announced that the FDA has granted accelerated approval to its chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel), for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma (FL) after two or more lines of systemic therapy. The approval makes Yescarta the first CAR T-cell therapy approved for patients with indolent FL.

The approval was based on results from ZUMA-5, a single-arm, open-label study, in which 91% of patients with relapsed or refractory FL (n=81) responded to Yescarta, including an estimated 74% of patients in a continued remission at 18 months (Kaplan-Meier estimate). Among all FL patients, the median duration of response was not reached at a median follow-up of 14.5 months.

Valuation

Gilead's shares are up 12.4% in the year-to-date period but down 18% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and sector are down 1.4% but up 1% respectively in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is down 1.2% while the sector is up 5%. The S&P 500 Index is up 12.1% in the year-to-date period and 48.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 9.14X forward 12-month earnings per share which compares to 47.52X for the Zacks sub-industry, 23.1X for the Zacks sector and 22.99X for the S&P 500 Index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 13.87X and as low as 6.28X, with a 5-year median of 9.7X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$69 price target reflects 9.63X forward 12-month earnings per share.

The table below shows summary valuation data for GILD

Valuation Multiples - GILD					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	9.14	47.52	23.1	22.99
	5-Year High	13.87	58.48	23.1	23.83
	5-Year Low	6.28	21.09	15.85	15.3
	5-Year Median	9.7	41.63	19.23	18.01
P/S F12M	Current	3.34	2.33	2.74	4.81
	5-Year High	5.38	3.01	3.16	4.81
	5-Year Low	2.95	1.83	2.27	3.21
	5-Year Median	3.77	2.33	2.79	3.71
P/B TTM	Current	4.53	3.16	4	7.11
	5-Year High	9.79	5.02	5.07	7.11
	5-Year Low	3.4	2	3.02	3.83
	5-Year Median	4.31	3.73	4.34	4.99

As of 04/23/2021

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 20% (202 out of 254)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
AbbVie Inc. (ABBV)	Neutral	3
Bristol Myers Squibb Company (BMY)	Neutral	3
GlaxoSmithKline plc (GSK)	Neutral	3
Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)	Neutral	3
Merck & Co., Inc. (MRK)	Neutral	3
Novartis AG (NVS)	Neutral	4
Pfizer Inc. (PFE)	Neutral	3
United Therapeutics Corporation (UTHR)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Medical - Biomedical And Genetics				Industry Peers		
	GILD	X Industry	S&P 500	ABBV	BMY	JNJ
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	A	-	-	B	A	B
Market Cap	82.44 B	392.00 M	30.46 B	196.57 B	147.46 B	435.77 B
# of Analysts	12	3	12	8	8	9
Dividend Yield	4.34%	0.00%	1.25%	4.67%	2.97%	2.44%
Value Score	A	-	-	A	A	B
Cash/Price	0.09	0.23	0.06	0.04	0.11	0.06
EV/EBITDA	26.33	-6.03	17.18	21.87	51.29	18.52
PEG F1	0.73	1.51	2.41	1.88	1.27	2.66
P/B	4.50	4.09	4.13	15.01	3.94	6.89
P/CF	7.86	22.17	17.29	8.11	5.94	15.20
P/E F1	9.07	26.96	22.45	8.91	8.87	17.39
P/S TTM	3.34	23.22	3.40	4.29	3.47	5.17
Earnings Yield	11.03%	-11.58%	4.40%	11.23%	11.29%	5.75%
Debt/Equity	1.85	0.00	0.66	5.92	1.28	0.52
Cash Flow (\$/share)	8.33	-0.99	6.78	13.74	11.12	10.89
Growth Score	B	-	-	C	B	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-15.96%	18.91%	9.39%	21.40%	24.65%	6.92%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	1.79%	6.80%	16.46%	18.43%	15.61%	18.53%
Current Cash Flow Growth	13.06%	15.75%	0.72%	58.71%	157.14%	-5.46%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	-12.21%	6.15%	7.37%	25.16%	46.29%	6.23%
Current Ratio	1.40	6.16	1.39	0.84	1.58	1.21
Debt/Capital	64.96%	0.00%	41.19%	85.55%	56.06%	34.03%
Net Margin	0.50%	-179.42%	11.06%	10.08%	-21.20%	17.95%
Return on Equity	47.14%	-57.29%	15.32%	199.21%	31.55%	34.92%
Sales/Assets	0.40	0.17	0.51	0.34	0.34	0.50
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	1.02%	11.81%	7.53%	21.91%	8.17%	10.57%
Momentum Score	A	-	-	D	B	B
Daily Price Change	-0.24%	0.09%	1.07%	1.21%	-0.47%	0.21%
1-Week Price Change	2.70%	-2.58%	1.43%	0.34%	4.55%	0.61%
4-Week Price Change	2.33%	-5.05%	5.81%	7.22%	5.13%	2.19%
12-Week Price Change	1.24%	-9.23%	14.32%	6.88%	5.97%	-2.15%
52-Week Price Change	-15.81%	31.70%	60.09%	35.76%	8.30%	6.44%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	6,138,740	287,506	1,772,423	6,263,311	10,196,206	7,656,943
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	-0.21%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	0.00%	0.40%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.15%	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%	0.03%	0.40%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	0.83%	-2.27%	1.97%	2.83%	1.15%	7.07%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	1.28%	0.00%	0.00%	0.06%	0.96%	-1.56%

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	B
Momentum Score	A
VGM Score	A

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

Disclosures

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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 forward-looking 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 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 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.