

Hewlett Packard (HPE)

\$10.31 (As of 04/29/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$8.80**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation: Underperform

(Since: 04/02/20)

Prior Recommendation: Neutral

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

4-Sell

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:D

Value: B

Growth: F

Momentum: B

Summary

Hewlett Packard is witnessing weaker server demand due to macroeconomic uncertainties, supply constraint, and ongoing shift to cloud computing. Moreover, organizations are pushing back their investments in big and expensive technology products due to global economic slowdown concerns, which can undermine HPE's near-term growth prospects. Additionally, supply-chain disruption due to the coronavirus outbreak remains a major concern. Nonetheless, HPE's efforts to shift focus to higher margin offerings like Intelligent Edge and Aruba Central Hyperconverged Infrastructure is aiding its bottom-line results. Moreover, its multi-billion-dollar investment plan across expanding networking capabilities will help diversify business from server and hardware storage markets, and boost margins over the long run.

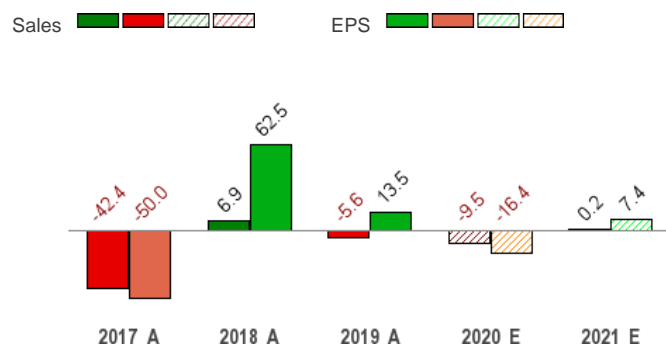
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$17.59 - \$7.43
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	8,830,133
Market Cap	\$13.3 B
YTD Price Change	-35.0%
Beta	1.57
Dividend / Div Yld	\$0.48 / 4.7%
Industry	Computer - Integrated Systems
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 32% (171 out of 253)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	2.3%
Last Sales Surprise	-3.5%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	-11.2%
Expected Report Date	05/28/2020
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	5.7
P/E F1	7.0
PEG F1	1.1
P/S TTM	0.5

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	6,662 E	6,501 E	6,709 E	6,938 E	26,421 E
2020	6,949 A	6,476 E	6,568 E	6,888 E	26,364 E
2019	7,553 A	7,150 A	7,217 A	7,215 A	29,135 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	\$0.40 E	\$0.36 E	\$0.36 E	\$0.37 E	\$1.59 E
2020	\$0.44 A	\$0.43 E	\$0.32 E	\$0.31 E	\$1.48 E
2019	\$0.42 A	\$0.42 A	\$0.45 A	\$0.49 A	\$1.77 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 04/29/2020. The reports text is as of 04/30/2020.

Overview

Headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company was formed as a result of the split of Hewlett-Packard Company into two separate entities – one focusing on the enterprise-facing hardware and service business and the other focusing on the consumer-facing computer and printer segments.

Effective Nov 1, 2015, the enterprise and service business-oriented company, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, started trading under the ticker symbol “HPE”, while the PC-focused business named, HP Inc., continues to trade under the symbol “HPQ”.

During fiscal 2017, the company divested its two business segments — Enterprise Services and Software. Hewlett Packard Enterprise has three reportable segments, namely Hybrid IT, Intelligent Edge and Financial Services. In fiscal 2019, the company reported revenues of \$29.1 billion.

The Hybrid IT segment (78% of total revenues) includes sub-segments, such as Compute, Storage, Data Center (DC) Networking and PointNext. While Compute and Storage consist of old servers and storage segments, DC Networking comprises the wired networking portion of the earlier “networking” segment. PointNext is made up of majority of the previous “technology services” segment.

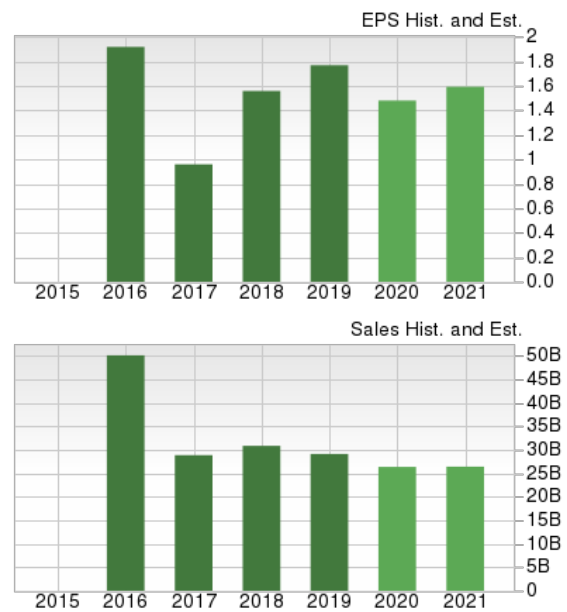
Intelligent Edge (10%) includes HPE Aruba and HPE Aruba Services, containing primarily the WLAN portion of the old “networking” segment with a small portion of the old “technology services” segment.

The Financial Services segment (12%) offers leasing, financing, IT consumption and utility programs, and asset management services.

In fiscal 2019, the United States contributed to 40% of sales and “Other” countries accounted for the rest.

The company markets and sells its products through distribution partners, resellers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), systems integrators, independent software vendors, and advisory firms.

The company's Hybrid IT segment is pitted against IBM, Dell, Cisco and Microsoft. Its Financial Services business faces competition from captive financing companies, mainly IBM Global Financing, as well as banks and other financial institutions.



Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ Hewlett Packard Enterprise is facing weaker server demand due to macroeconomic uncertainties. The company is witnessing demand and supply disruptions for its servers due to the coronavirus outbreak in China, one of its biggest markets. Capacity constraint in the North American facility is also impacting server-component supply. Furthermore, organizations are pushing back their big and expensive technology products due to a slowdown in global economic growth. Additionally, more and more organizations continue to shift to cloud computing owing to their maintenance-free and cost effectiveness compared with standalone servers.
- ▼ The acquisition of EMC by Dell has posed new challenges for Hewlett Packard Enterprise. With the acquisition, Dell has become one of the major players in the cloud services and data storage market. EMC Corporation (stylized as EMC) offers data storage, information security, virtualization, analytics, cloud computing and other products and services that enable businesses to store, manage, protect, and analyze data. VMware is its subsidiary that focuses on cloud and virtualization software and services for its parent company. Therefore, the acquisition of EMC along with its privately-controlled structure will provide Dell an unmatched scale, strength and flexibility to deepen its relationships with customers of all sizes.
- ▼ Hewlett Packard Enterprise's market share and revenues necessarily depend on client relationships and the number of contracts it secures. This, along with the limited scope for product differentiation, makes the renegotiation of large contracts extremely important. Competition from bigger companies is a major concern. Hewlett Packard Enterprise has to deal with strong competition at each of its business segments on the basis of technology, innovation, price, quality, reliability, etc. The company's Hybrid IT segment is pitted against IBM, Dell, Cisco and Microsoft. Its Financial Services business faces competition from captive financing companies, mainly IBM Global Financing, as well as banks and other financial institutions. Such intense competition across the business segments naturally increases pricing pressure, which may have a negative impact on the company's profitability.
- ▼ Usually, more than 60% of Hewlett Packard Enterprise's total revenues come from businesses outside the United States. An economic condition, which impacts the foreign currency exchange rates, results in transaction exposure, inducing fluctuation in profits. The U.S. dollar value being stronger in comparison to other currencies, the top line of the company is likely to be negatively impacted over the next few quarters.
- ▼ The United States and China's tit-for-tat trade war is a major threat to the company. Further, longer sales cycles, which are stretching the time to close certain deals is a major overhang. Execution challenges faced by the company in Intelligent Edge segment around Aruba sales are hurting its top-line growth.

Weaker server demand due to macroeconomic uncertainties, supply constraint, and ongoing shift to cloud computing is likely to continue hurting Hewlett Packard's near-term results.

Risks

- Increase in worldwide IT spending spells some optimism about Hewlett Packard Enterprise's near-term performance. As per Gartner's latest forecast, global IT spending is expected to increase 3.7% in 2020. The growth will be mainly driven by increased spending by companies toward digitalization and infrastructure build-up. In its earlier report, Gartner had indicated that major technology trends that include Internet of Things (IoT), big data, artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain have been driving overall IT spending.
 - After the split from its parent company, Hewlett Packard Enterprise has made it clear that it will focus on restructuring and realigning its businesses to drive long-term sustainable growth and improve margins. This indicates that we may see Hewlett Packard Enterprise becoming even smaller with spin offs, or acquiring assets to enhance its capabilities in the hybrid IT model. By trimming its size, the company intends to focus more on high margin businesses including enterprise class server and storage markets. Moreover, by selling assets which are not doing well and have limited growth potential, the company will be able to mobilize resources to the fast-growing areas of the cloud such as software defined networks (SDN) and converged and hyper-converged infrastructure. This will also help it to better compete with players like Oracle, Cisco and NetApp.
 - The spin-off of Enterprise Services business and merger of the same with Computer Sciences has opened new avenues of growth for the combined entity as well as has unlocked value for Hewlett Packard Enterprise's shareholders. The deal has combined Computer Sciences' strength in insurance, healthcare and financial services with Hewlett Packard Enterprise's expertise in fields such as transportation, pharma, technology, media and telecom. Post-merger, the combined entity — DXC Technology — has become the world's second-largest IT services company after Accenture plc, generating revenues of approximately \$21 billion annually.
 - Hewlett Packard Enterprise has been pursuing acquisitions to focus more on high-margin hybrid IT models that leverage on-premises and cloud-computing power. Last year's acquisitions of Cray and MapR strengthened its capabilities in high-performance computing and data-analytics platforms. In 2018, Hewlett Packard Enterprise acquired five businesses mainly focused on expanding its footprint in the hybrid IT models. We believe the company's focus on hybrid IT model will drive growth in the long run. Some other notable acquisitions by Hewlett Packard Enterprise in the hybrid IT space are SimpliVity and Cloud Technology Partners.
 - Hewlett Packard Enterprise views Artificial Intelligence (AI), Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), and distributed computing as the next major markets. Therefore, the company in 2018 decided to invest \$4 billion through 2022 to enhance its capabilities across the aforementioned space. Hewlett Packard Enterprise has linked these businesses to its fast-growing networking business arm — Aruba Networks. The strategy would also help Hewlett Packard Enterprise diversify its business from server and hardware storage markets. Notably, server and hardware storage markets have been witnessing stagnant growth for the past several quarters as more and more organizations are shifting to cloud computing due to their cost-effectiveness and anywhere accessibility features. Moreover, server shipments have contracted in the second and third quarters of 2019.
 - Hewlett Packard Enterprise can be considered as a below-average leveraged company as its current total debt to total capital ratio of 0.35 is significantly lower than the industry average of 0.62. Its debt (long-term including current maturities) has been stable at approximately \$14 billion for the past four fiscal years. Though its low cash balance in comparison with debt is a concern, the company's strong cash-flow generation capabilities have helped it serve financial obligations efficiently. As of Jan 31, 2020, Hewlett Packard Enterprise had cash and equivalents of \$3.2 billion and has generated \$3.5 billion of operating cash flow in the trailing 12 months. Moreover, its times interest earned ratio of 9.8 is higher than the industry average of 8.7, signifying the company's ability to generate enough operating income to service its financial obligations without any problems.
 - Hewlett Packard Enterprise's strong operating cash flow has helped it return cash through regular quarterly dividend payment and share repurchases. In the trailing 12 months, the company has generated \$3.5 billion of operating cash flow and distributed approximately \$600 million in dividend payments. In fiscal 2019, the company generated \$4 billion of operating cash flow and returned \$2.85 billion to shareholders. Share repurchases and dividend payments are good way of returning cash to investors while boosting the company's earnings. The company completed its plan to return \$7 billion to shareholders in the form of share repurchases and dividends over fiscal years 2018 and 2019.
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Last Earnings Report

Hewlett Packard Q1 Earnings Top, Revenues Miss Mark

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company delivered first-quarter fiscal 2020 non-GAAP earnings of 44 cents per share, beating the Zacks Consensus Estimate by a penny. The reported figure also came in higher than the year-ago number of 42 cents. Moreover, non-GAAP earnings came in at the mid-point of management's guided range of 42-46 cents.

Despite a better-than-expected bottom-line performance, HPE's shares depreciated nearly 6% in the extended trading session on Mar 3, as revenues missed the consensus mark. Additionally, the company's downbeat free cash flow outlook for fiscal 2020 turned investors cautious about its near-term performance.

Quarter Ending **01/2020**

Report Date	Mar 03, 2020
Sales Surprise	-3.53%
EPS Surprise	2.33%
Quarterly EPS	0.44
Annual EPS (TTM)	1.80

Macroeconomic Factors Hurt Q1 Revenues

HPE reported net revenues of \$6.95 billion, which missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 3.5% and declined 8% year on year. On a constant currency basis, revenues fell 7%, year over year. The company blamed weaker server demand due to macroeconomic uncertainties, supply constraint, and ongoing shift to cloud computing.

HPE cited that its supply chain has been disrupted due to the coronavirus outbreak in China. Furthermore, organizations are pushing back their big and expensive technology products due to a slowdown in global economic growth. Additionally, more and more organizations continue to shift to cloud computing owing to their maintenance-free and cost effectiveness compared with standalone servers.

Segment wise, the company registered sales contraction across all its major businesses. The Compute (43% of Q1 net revenues) division's sales decreased 16% year over year to \$3.01 billion thanks to component-supply constraints, North America manufacturing capacity constraint and macroeconomic uncertainty.

Apart from the Compute segment, HPE registered sales declines across its Storage and Financial Services businesses. Revenues from Storage business fell 8% year on year to \$1.25 billion. Financial Service revenues were down 7% year over year to \$859 million.

Nonetheless, slight year-over-year revenue improvement across the HPC & MCS, Intelligent Edge, and A&PS segments partially offset the negative impact of soft performances in the aforementioned segments. HPC & MCS revenues climbed 6% year over year to \$823 million. Revenues at the Intelligent Edge division grew 2% to \$720 million during the quarter. A&PS division's sales inched up 1% year over year to \$243 million.

Geographically, Hewlett Packard Enterprise's revenues in the Americas (40% of revenues) decreased 7% at cc. Also, EMEA (37% of revenues) revenues softened 10% at cc and APJ revenues (23% of revenues) fell 2% at cc.

Operating Results

HPE's non-GAAP gross margin of 33.2% expanded 210 basis points (bps) on a year-over-year basis, aided by a favorable portfolio mix, HPE Next initiatives, and commodity pricing tailwinds. Notably, for the past few quarters, the company is trying to shift focus to higher margin offerings like Intelligent Edge and Aruba Central Hyperconverged Infrastructure.

HPE's non-GAAP operating profit fell 10% year over year to \$602 million. However, non-GAAP operating margin advanced 10 bps, year over year, to 9.6%, primarily on higher margins of the Intelligent Edge and A&PS businesses.

Balance Sheet and Cash Flow

HPE ended the fiscal first quarter with \$3.17 billion in cash and cash equivalents compared with the \$3.75 billion recorded at the end of fourth-quarter fiscal 2019.

During the reported period, Hewlett Packard Enterprise used \$79 million of cash for operational activities. Free cash flow was also negative \$185 million in the quarter.

Additionally, the company repurchased shares worth \$204 million and paid out \$156 million as dividends.

Guidance

HPE does not expect revenue growth this year due to the coronavirus-led supply-chain disruptions. Notably, during the Security Analyst Meeting last October, HPE had anticipated revenue growth of 1-3% over the next three years.

Furthermore, the company is finding it difficult to quantify the real impact of coronavirus-led demand and supply disruptions. Therefore, management didn't provide earnings guidance for the fiscal second quarter.

Also, the server maker trimmed its free cash flow outlook to \$1.6-\$1.8 billion from \$1.9-\$2.1 billion. However, it reaffirmed the non-GAAP earnings guidance range of \$1.78-\$1.94 per share.

Recent News

On Jan 30, 2020, Hewlett Packard announced regular quarterly cash dividend of 12 cents per share to be payable on Apr 1 to the shareholders of record date as of Mar 11.

On Jan 28, 2020, Aruba, a subsidiary of Hewlett Packard, revealed that the United States Department of Defense Education Activity upgraded its network, leveraging Aruba's wireless and security solutions to deliver secure Wi-Fi for students and faculty in 164 schools worldwide.

On Jan 21, 2020, Aruba, a subsidiary of Hewlett Packard, announced that Black Fire Innovation, a collaborative effort between Caesars Entertainment and the University of Nevada, will rollout Aruba's infrastructure in its technology incubation hub to enable the next generation of retail, entertainment and hospitality experiences.

On the same day, Hewlett Packard was selected to provide crucial AI and high-performance computing infrastructure to Zenuity to develop next-generation autonomous driving systems.

On Dec 4, 2019, Aruba announced the integration of the Aruba SD-WAN solution with the new AWS Transit Gateway Network to simplify the deployment and management of networks connecting remote branch locations to Amazon Virtual Private Clouds.

Valuation

Hewlett Packard shares lost 35% YTD and 34.7% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry fell 8.9% while the Zacks Computer & Technology sector declined 2% in the year so far. Over the past year, while the Zacks sub-industry declined 11.3%, the sector gained 6.9%.

The S&P 500 Index is down 11.3% YTD and 2.5% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 6.71X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 10.52X for the Zacks sub-industry, 21.9X for the Zacks sector and 20.16X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past three years, the stock has traded as high as 13.94X and as low as 4.33X with a 3-year median of 9.98X. Our Underperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform worse than the market. Our \$8.80 price target reflects 5.7X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for HPE

Valuation Multiples - HPE					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	6.71	10.52	21.90	20.16
	3-Year High	13.94	11.90	21.92	20.16
	3-Year Low	4.33	7.93	16.71	15.19
	3-Year Median	9.98	10.32	19.23	17.44
P/S F12M	Current	0.50	1.35	3.35	3.21
	3-Year High	1.01	1.87	3.59	3.44
	3-Year Low	0.36	1.12	2.32	2.54
	3-Year Median	0.73	1.53	3.09	3.01
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	3.94	8.43	11.38	11.20
	3-Year High	13.35	10.01	12.85	12.87
	3-Year Low	3.29	6.58	8.73	8.27
	3-Year Median	4.59	8.56	11.29	11.20

As of 04/29/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 32% (171 out of 253)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Cisco Systems, Inc. (CSCO)	Neutral	3
International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)	Neutral	3
Juniper Networks, Inc. (JNPR)	Neutral	3
Microsoft Corporation (MSFT)	Neutral	3
NetApp, Inc. (NTAP)	Neutral	4
Nutanix Inc. (NTNX)	Neutral	2
Oracle Corporation (ORCL)	Neutral	3
Pure Storage, Inc. (PSTG)	Neutral	3

Industry Comparison Industry: Computer - Integrated Systems				Industry Peers		
	HPE	X Industry	S&P 500	CSCO	IBM	MSFT
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Underperform	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	4	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	D	-	-	B	C	C
Market Cap	13.28 B	395.97 M	20.82 B	183.80 B	114.26 B	1,349.54 B
# of Analysts	6	2.5	14	12	6	13
Dividend Yield	4.66%	0.00%	2.07%	3.32%	5.04%	1.15%
Value Score	B	-	-	B	B	C
Cash/Price	0.26	0.18	0.06	0.15	0.11	0.10
EV/EBITDA	4.57	-7.70	12.12	9.88	8.82	22.15
PEG Ratio	1.06	2.35	2.51	2.62	2.89	2.49
Price/Book (P/B)	0.77	2.65	2.74	5.17	5.68	12.26
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	2.72	8.20	11.23	12.60	6.51	27.93
P/E (F1)	6.82	11.33	19.26	14.15	11.40	32.02
Price/Sales (P/S)	0.47	1.50	2.16	3.57	1.49	9.73
Earnings Yield	14.35%	0.03%	5.03%	7.06%	8.77%	3.12%
Debt/Equity	0.54	0.17	0.72	0.41	2.62	0.64
Cash Flow (\$/share)	3.79	0.34	7.01	3.44	19.75	6.35
Growth Score	F	-	-	C	D	C
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	-3.49%	0.13%	10.88%	8.60%	-3.16%	17.68%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-16.29%	-13.38%	-6.94%	-1.18%	-11.89%	16.66%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	-2.58%	-1.75%	5.92%	6.95%	2.09%	19.70%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	-3.09%	-3.63%	8.55%	3.53%	-3.76%	11.99%
Current Ratio	0.79	1.72	1.23	1.81	0.96	2.80
Debt/Capital	35.19%	14.69%	43.90%	28.97%	72.36%	39.05%
Net Margin	4.22%	-4.01%	11.15%	21.44%	11.78%	33.36%
Return on Equity	13.68%	-1.07%	16.47%	36.40%	57.55%	41.16%
Sales/Assets	0.55	0.88	0.54	0.55	0.50	0.49
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-9.51%	-2.70%	-1.52%	-5.81%	-5.40%	11.44%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	B	D	B
Daily Price Chg	5.20%	1.92%	2.91%	2.00%	1.92%	4.49%
1 Week Price Chg	-1.85%	3.83%	-1.74%	0.09%	3.83%	-2.27%
4 Week Price Chg	7.62%	19.44%	21.33%	13.07%	22.40%	16.65%
12 Week Price Chg	-30.76%	-25.35%	-16.28%	-10.55%	-17.68%	-1.37%
52 Week Price Chg	-34.71%	-18.64%	-7.57%	-22.02%	-8.44%	38.75%
20 Day Average Volume	8,830,133	140,908	2,658,107	21,775,702	5,897,440	43,648,176
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.04%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	-11.19%	-12.75%	-6.32%	-2.92%	-13.43%	-0.79%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-20.16%	-17.76%	-12.93%	-6.19%	-15.35%	-0.65%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	-10.60%	-23.42%	-11.84%	-5.31%	-27.57%	-1.63%

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 have an excellent balance between the number of Outperform and Neutral recommendations. Our team of 70 analysts are fully versed in the benefits of earnings estimate revisions and how that is harnessed through the Zacks quantitative rating system. But we have given our analysts the ability to override the Zacks Recommendation for the 1200 stocks that they follow. The reason for the analyst over-rides is that there are often factors such as valuation, industry conditions and management effectiveness that a trained investment professional can spot better than a quantitative model.

Zacks Rank

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

Zacks Style Scores

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

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

Value Score	B
Growth Score	F
Momentum Score	B
VGM Score	D

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

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