Huntsman Corporation(HUN)

$27.00 (As of 01/28/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$31.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 12/31/20) Prior Recommendation: Neutral	**Outperform**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**1-Strong Buy**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:D
	Value: B | Growth: F | Momentum: B	

Summary

Earnings estimates for Huntsman for the fourth quarter of 2020 have been going up over the past month. Huntsman benefits from its investment in downstream businesses and differentiated product innovation. The company is committed to expand its downstream specialty and formulation businesses. It is also shifting its methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) business from components to differentiated systems that have higher margins. Huntsman's Polyurethanes segment is well placed for strong upside in the long term on the back of its focus on ramping up its high-value differentiated downstream portfolio. Acquisitions are also expected to offer significant synergies. The company also remains focused on expanding its margins and generating strong free cash flows. Moreover, Huntsman is committed to reduce debt using strong cash flows.

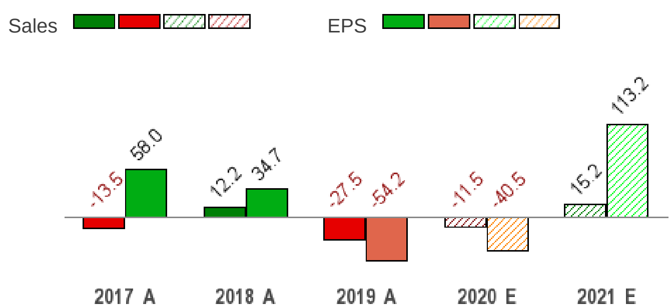
Price, Consensus & Surprise

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$29.18 - $12.23**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,344,342**
Market Cap	**$5.7 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**3.5%**
Beta	**1.54**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.65 / 2.4%**
Industry	**Chemical - Diversified**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Top 19% (48 out of 253)**
Last EPS Surprise	**28.0%**
Last Sales Surprise	**2.9%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**1.6%**
Expected Report Date	**02/12/2021**
Earnings ESP	**-6.4%**
P/E TTM	**34.3**
P/E F1	**13.9**
PEG F1	**1.6**
P/S TTM	**1.0**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	1,669 E	1,661 E	1,777 E	1,801 E	6,925 E
2020	1,593 A	1,247 A	1,510 A	1,635 E	6,013 E
2019	2,034 A	2,194 A	1,687 A	1,657 A	6,797 A

EPS Estimates

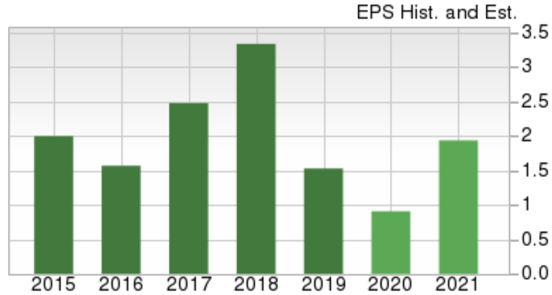
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	$0.45 E	$0.49 E	$0.55 E	$0.53 E	$1.94 E
2020	$0.29 A	-$0.14 A	$0.32 A	$0.44 E	$0.91 E
2019	$0.46 A	$0.63 A	$0.41 A	$0.29 A	$1.53 A

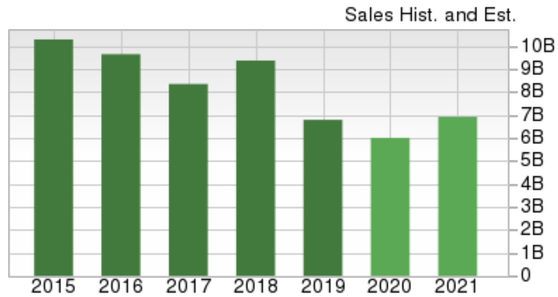
*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 01/28/2021. The reports text is as of 01/29/2021.

Overview

Woodlands, TX-based Huntsman Corporation is among the world's largest manufacturers of differentiated and commodity chemical products. The company markets its products to a diverse group of industrial and consumer customers. Its products include MDI, polyols, propylene oxide, amines, surfactants, maleic anhydride, epoxy-based polymer formulations, textile chemicals and dyes.





Huntsman's products are used in number of applications including aerospace, automotive, construction products, adhesives, personal care and hygiene, durable and nondurable consumer products, digital inks, electronics, medical, packaging, coatings and construction, power generation, refining and textile chemicals.

Huntsman, in Aug 2017, completed the separation of its pigments and additives division through the spinoff of its subsidiary, Venator Materials PLC. Venator's ordinary shares started trading on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "VNTR" on Aug 3, 2017.

Huntsman and Clariant, in May 2017, agreed to combine in an all-stock deal. However, the companies terminated the merger of equals deal by mutual agreement in Oct 2017 after facing pressure from activist investors.

The company currently has four reportable segments – Polyurethanes, Performance Products, Advanced Materials and Textile Effects.

Polyurethanes (57% of 2019 sales): The division makes a vast range of polyurethane chemicals including MDI products are used to make rigid foams, coatings, adhesives, sealants and elastomers.

Performance Products (17%): The unit is a leading producer of amines, surfactants and maleic anhydride and caters to a vast spectrum of consumer and industrial end markets.

Advanced Materials (15%): The division is a leading producer of technologically advanced epoxy, acrylic and polyurethane-based polymer products for a number of industrial and consumer applications.

Textile Effects (11%): The unit offers a diverse portfolio of textile chemicals, dyes and digital inks in a wide range of end-markets including apparel, sportswear, institutional textiles and furnishings.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

Huntsman is well placed to gain from its actions to grow its downstream businesses. Acquisitions are also expected to offer significant synergies. The company also remains committed to reduce debt using strong cash flows.

- Huntsman remains committed to grow its downstream specialty and formulation businesses and is shifting its MDI business from components to differentiated systems that typically have higher margins and lower volatility. The company is seeing healthy demand for MDI, which has been growing around 6%-7% globally a year driven by megatrends and material substitution. The core Polyurethanes segment, which accounted for more than half of Huntsman's revenues last year, is poised for strong upside on the back of the company's focus on beefing up its high-value differentiated downstream portfolio. Substitution of MDI for less effective materials will remain a key driving factor for the MDI business.

- The buyout of Demilec, a leading manufacturer and distributor of spray polyurethane foam (SPF) insulation systems in North America, is also expected to offer significant synergies. The integration of Demilec into its Polyurethanes business delivers considerably higher and stable margins along with offering significant synergies by pulling large quantities of upstream polymeric MDI into specialized spray foam systems. The integrated business is likely to have more than 25% EBITDA margins and double-digit growth. The acquisition of Icynene-Lapolla, a leading North American manufacturer and distributor of SPF, is also in line with Huntsman's strategy of expanding its downstream polyurethanes business. Moreover, the buyout of CVC Thermoset Specialties is in sync with the company's strategy of expanding its specialty Advanced Materials portfolio. The company expects to achieve total annualized targeted synergies of $35 million for these two acquisitions by the end of 2021.

- Huntsman is focused on expanding its margins and generating strong free cash flows. The company generated free cash flow of $389 million in 2019. It expects to generate strong free cash flow in 2020. It projects a free cash flow conversion of roughly 35% in 2020. Also, the company's board has also approved an increase in its earlier authorized share repurchase program to up to $1 billion. The company has repurchased around 10.1 million shares worth roughly $208 million in 2019. Huntsman had $420 million remaining under its repurchase program at the end of the most recent quarter.

- The company's efforts to reduce its debt levels appear encouraging. At the end of the third quarter of 2020, Huntsman's long-term debt was $1,557 million, down around 29% year over year. Its total debt-to-total capital stood at 38.6% as of Sep 30, 2020, lower than 39.6% as of Jun 30, 2020. Further, its time-interest-earned ratio of 1.5 at the end of third-quarter 2020 rose from 0.8 in the prior quarter. The company also has a strong liquidity position (of roughly $2.5 billion), which should allow it to meet its short-term debt obligations.

Risks

- The company's Advanced Materials unit is exposed to headwind from weaker demand in industrial and aerospace markets. The company is seeing significant headwind in the aerospace business. Revenues in the company's aerospace business tumbled 68% year over year in the most recent quarter. Global aerospace build rates have come to a standstill due to the impacts of the pandemic. Huntsman expects weakness in aerospace to continue in the fourth quarter, partly offset by some recovery in industrial markets. It envisions lower EBITDA in this unit on a sequential comparison basis in the fourth quarter factoring in the weakness in aerospace.

- The Performance Products segment is facing challenges from lower volumes as witnessed in the recently reported quarter. Volumes and margins in the ethylene amines business remain weak due to competitive pressure and a difficult economic environment. Revenues in the segment declined in the last reported quarter on reduced selling prices as well as lower sales volumes. The Performance Products unit is also exposed to lower industrial demand, especially in automotive. Softness in this segment is expected to continue in the fourth quarter. Huntsman expects EBITDA in this unit to decline year over year in the fourth quarter.

- Huntsman's Textile Effects unit faces headwinds from weak volumes and pricing. Despite some recovery, demand in this segment remains lower on a year-over-year basis due to the impact of the pandemic. Most of the business is centered around Asia where the effects of the pandemic started before any other parts of the world. The company expects demand to be lower by single-digits in the fourth quarter from a year ago. It envisions EBITDA in this unit to decline year over year in the fourth quarter.

Last Earnings Report

Huntsman Tops Earnings and Revenue Estimates in Q3

Quarter Ending	09/2020
Report Date	Oct 29, 2020
Sales Surprise	2.94%
EPS Surprise	28.00%
Quarterly EPS	0.32
Annual EPS (TTM)	0.76

Huntsman recorded profit of $57 million or 22 cents per share in third-quarter 2020, up from a profit of $41 million or 13 cents in the year-ago quarter.

Barring one-time items, adjusted earnings per share were 32 cents in the quarter. The figure topped the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 25 cents.

Revenues were $1,510 million, down around 10% year over year. However, the top line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $1,466.9 million. The company saw lower sales across its business segments in the reported quarter.

Segment Highlights

Polyurethanes: Revenues for the segment fell 6% year over year to $936 million in the reported quarter due to lower MDI average selling prices. Overall polyurethanes sales volumes were essentially flat when including sales volumes related to the Icynene-Lapolla acquisition.

Performance Products: Revenues for the unit declined 15% to $238 million due to reduced average selling prices as well as lower sales volumes resulting from the global economic slowdown.

Advanced Materials: Revenues for the unit dropped 22% to $199 million on lower sales volumes due to customer destocking and global economic slowdown, and reduced average selling prices.

Textile Effects: Revenues for the division fell 21% to $142 million. The decline was due to reduced sales volumes and average selling prices.

Financials

Huntsman had total cash of $1,168 million at the end of the quarter, up nearly three fold year over year. Long-term debt was $1,557 million, down around 29% year over year.

Net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations was $65 million for the reported quarter while free cash flow was $11 million.

Outlook

Moving ahead, Huntsman said that it is witnessing positive momentum entering the fourth quarter. It remains on track in integrating of two downstream acquisitions completed earlier this year and delivering more than $100 million of targeted annualized savings from its cost optimization initiative by the end of next year. The company also remains focused on growing its differentiated businesses and enhancing shareholder value.

Recent News

Huntsman Wraps Up Gabriel Performance Acquisition

Huntsman, on **Jan 15, 2021**, announced the completion of the purchase of Gabriel Performance Products from funds owned by Audax Private Equity. Gabriel is a North America-based specialty chemical manufacturer of specialty additives and epoxy curing agents for the coatings, adhesives, sealants as well as composite end-markets.

It was an all-cash transaction wherein Huntsman paid $250 million that was funded from available liquidity, subject to customary closing adjustments.

Gabriel has three manufacturing facilities in Ashtabula, OH, Harrison City, PA and Rock Hill, SC. The company's revenues for 2019 were roughly $106 million. Based on 2019, the acquisition price reflects an adjusted EBITDA multiple of around 11 times or roughly eight times pro forma for synergies.

The acquisition of Gabriel is expected to complement Huntsman's recent acquisition of CVC Thermoset Specialties. It is also expected to provide significant commercial synergies as the company expands and globalizes its specialty products portfolio.

Huntsman Closes Sale of Venator Shares; Receives $100 Million

Huntsman, on **Dec 23, 2020**, announced the completion of the sale of shares of Venator Materials PLC to funds advised by SK Capital Partners, LP.

Roughly 42.4 million ordinary shares of Venator have been sold and Huntsman received around $100 million in cash. The figure includes $8 million for a 30-month option for the sale of the remaining roughly 9.7 million shares held by Huntsman for $2.15 per share.

Huntsman realized a total benefit of roughly $250 million in cash in 2020, including the $150 million cash tax savings from offsetting the capital loss on the sale of Venator against the capital gain realized on sale of chemical intermediaries and surfactants businesses.

Huntsman Raises Q4 Outlook Owing to Higher Demand

Huntsman, on **Dec 10, 2020**, announced an update to its fourth quarter outlook. The company expects fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA to exceed its prior guidance by 20-25%.

Stronger-than-expected overall demand and higher MDI component margins have led to the increase from the previous guidance.

The fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA for its Polyurethanes segment is expected to be better than third-quarter levels by at least 20%. For its Performance Products segment, the fourth- quarter adjusted EBITDA is expected to be higher than third-quarter figures by around 15%. For the Advanced material segment, it is expected to be in-line with third-quarter levels. For the Textile Effects segment, it is expected to be roughly in line with fourth-quarter 2019 levels.

Valuation

Huntsman's shares are up 25.8% over the trailing 12-month period. Over the past year, the Zacks Chemical - Diversified industry and Zacks Basic Materials sector are up 21.3% and up 25.9, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 16.3% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 13.63X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 18.2X for the Zacks sub-industry, 11.83X for the Zacks sector and 22.46X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 27.47X and as low as 4.16X, with a 5-year median of 10.71X.

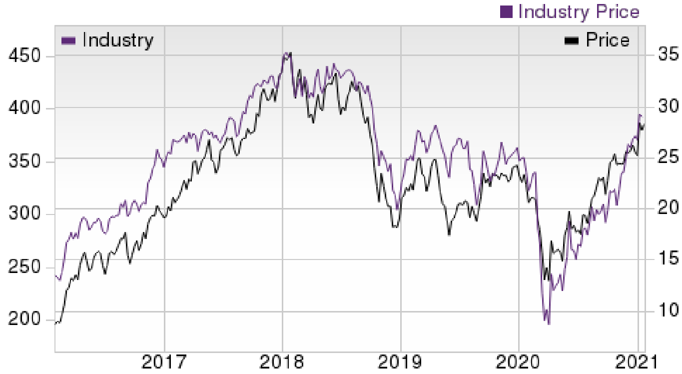
Our Outperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform above the market. Our $31 price target reflects 15.66X forward 12-month earnings per share.

The table below shows summary valuation data for HUN:

Valuation Multiples - HUN					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F 12M	Current	13.63	18.2	11.83	22.46
	5-Year High	27.47	19.24	21.04	23.8
	5-Year Low	4.16	8.97	10.25	15.3
	5-Year Median	10.71	13.27	13.28	17.82
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	19.75	9.97	10.84	17.04
	5-Year High	20.94	13.12	17.62	17.54
	5-Year Low	4.45	5.19	6.41	9.53
	5-Year Median	7.34	7.66	9.98	13.23
P/B TTM	Current	1.76	2.28	3.16	6.46
	5-Year High	4.07	2.82	3.47	6.64
	5-Year Low	0.84	0.87	1.22	3.73
	5-Year Median	1.95	1.75	2.24	4.95

As of 01/28/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 19% (48 out of 253)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
BASF SE **(BASFY)**	Outperform	2
LyondellBasell Industries N.V. **(LYB)**	Outperform	2
Akzo Nobel NV **(AKZOY)**	Neutral	3
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. **(APD)**	Neutral	3
Ashland Global Holdings Inc. **(ASH)**	Neutral	3
The Chemours Company **(CC)**	Neutral	2
Eastman Chemical Company **(EMN)**	Neutral	2
Olin Corporation **(OLN)**	Neutral	2

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Chemical - Diversified

	HUN	X Industry	S&P 500	Industry Peers: BASFY	EMN	LYB
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Outperform	-	-	Outperform	Neutral	Outperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	1	-	-	2	2	2
VGM Score	D	-	-	C	B	A
Market Cap	5.74 B	3.26 B	26.41 B	70.28 B	13.59 B	28.74 B
# of Analysts	9	3	13	3	8	7
Dividend Yield	2.50%	1.20%	1.45%	3.49%	2.75%	4.88%
Value Score	B	-	-	B	B	A
Cash/Price	0.19	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.05	0.09
EV/EBITDA	8.22	10.69	14.73	9.19	10.62	7.00
PEG F1	1.64	3.49	2.43	2.29	3.70	1.31
P/B	1.70	2.18	3.66	1.74	2.21	3.92
P/CF	9.94	9.70	14.44	8.18	8.50	6.15
P/E F1	13.92	17.41	19.77	15.47	13.69	10.49
P/S TTM	0.96	1.06	2.84	1.08	1.60	1.03
Earnings Yield	7.45%	5.64%	4.98%	6.48%	7.30%	9.53%
Debt/Equity	0.46	0.66	0.69	0.48	0.89	1.88
Cash Flow ($/share)	2.71	3.02	6.85	2.38	11.76	14.19
Growth Score	F	-	-	D	C	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-7.25%	3.92%	9.69%	-8.09%	-0.64%	-5.33%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	113.47%	18.86%	12.80%	45.49%	23.14%	70.83%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-41.39%	-11.19%	4.88%	-19.09%	-9.97%	-16.46%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	-7.56%	4.70%	8.07%	-3.10%	1.05%	-3.48%
Current Ratio	1.56	1.95	1.38	1.66	1.98	2.25
Debt/Capital	31.56%	39.97%	41.57%	32.28%	47.16%	65.45%
Net Margin	16.55%	4.05%	10.44%	-3.55%	5.56%	4.23%
Return on Equity	5.27%	9.14%	15.37%	6.52%	13.12%	24.09%
Sales/Assets	0.73	0.68	0.51	0.65	0.53	0.90
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	15.17%	7.03%	5.98%	5.89%	6.96%	18.35%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	C	A	A
Daily Price Change	3.73%	0.27%	1.38%	1.93%	-0.38%	1.38%
1-Week Price Change	2.13%	0.46%	-0.02%	-0.64%	1.37%	-3.61%
4-Week Price Change	7.40%	0.97%	0.04%	-0.91%	-0.36%	-4.81%
12-Week Price Change	8.65%	15.62%	8.96%	31.76%	15.62%	17.57%
52-Week Price Change	25.82%	13.06%	7.48%	13.11%	43.67%	4.55%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,344,342	118,602	1,962,643	206,780	760,317	1,567,888
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.69%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	1.63%	1.63%	0.26%	10.42%	0.86%	6.78%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	22.03%	3.29%	1.63%	17.78%	3.84%	7.33%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	24.40%	1.40%	0.05%	0.00%	4.17%	1.55%

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	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.

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.