

JetBlue Airways(JBLU)

\$10.57 (As of 07/21/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$11.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 08/29/19)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:D

Value: B

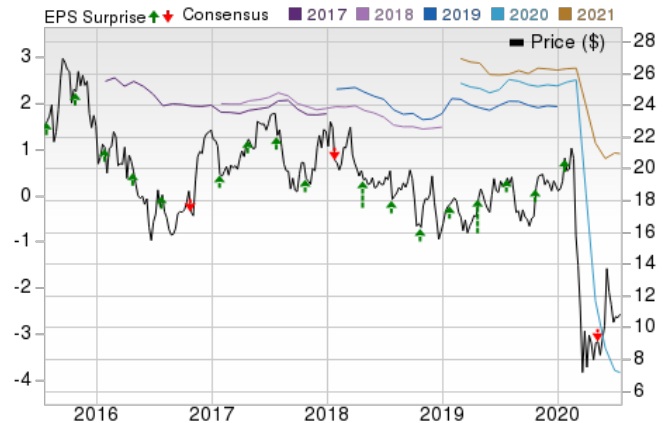
Growth: D

Momentum: F

Summary

Shares of JetBlue have plunged 49.2% since the beginning of February due to coronavirus-led slump in air travel demand. The carrier is suffering substantial loss of passenger revenues due to the drop in demand. The situation is unlikely to improve in the near future. Notably, JetBlue's CEO Robin Hayes warned that "the writing is on the wall" that travel demand will not be restored anytime soon. Additionally, the spike in coronavirus cases in the United States adds uncertainty to the carrier's recovery. Amid this downturn, low fuel prices are expected to support the bottom line. Additionally, JetBlue's sound liquidity position should help in better dealing with the crisis. Moreover, we are positive about the carrier's partnership with American Airlines, which will help the former gain access to more U.S. sites.

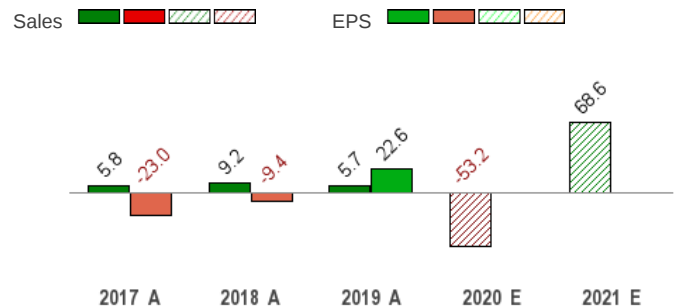
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$21.65 - \$6.61
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	12,375,962
Market Cap	\$2.9 B
YTD Price Change	-43.5%
Beta	1.39
Dividend / Div Yld	\$0.00 / 0.0%
Industry	Transportation - Airline
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 13% (219 out of 252)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	-2.4%
Last Sales Surprise	-6.0%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	-2.8%
Expected Report Date	07/28/2020
Earnings ESP	19.2%

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	1,435 E	1,756 E	1,804 E	1,925 E	6,392 E
2020	1,588 A	220 E	737 E	1,246 E	3,791 E
2019	1,871 A	2,105 A	2,086 A	2,031 A	8,094 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	-\$0.19 E	\$0.35 E	\$0.31 E	\$0.59 E	\$0.90 E
2020	-\$0.42 A	-\$1.86 E	-\$1.08 E	-\$0.44 E	-\$3.83 E
2019	\$0.16 A	\$0.60 A	\$0.59 A	\$0.56 A	\$1.90 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

P/E TTM	8.0
P/E F1	NA
PEG F1	NA
P/S TTM	0.4

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 07/21/2020. The reports text is as of 07/22/2020.

Overview

JetBlue Airways Corporation, incorporated in Delaware in Aug 1998, is a passenger airline that focuses on providing high-quality customer service. JetBlue, which started operations on Feb 11, 2000, was the sixth largest passenger carrier (in terms of available seat miles or ASMs i.e. capacity) in the United States at 2019-end. The low-fare, low-cost carrier operates primarily on point-to-point routes. In 2019, the carrier transported more than 42 million customers to 99 cities in the United States, Caribbean and Latin America with an average of 1000 daily flights.

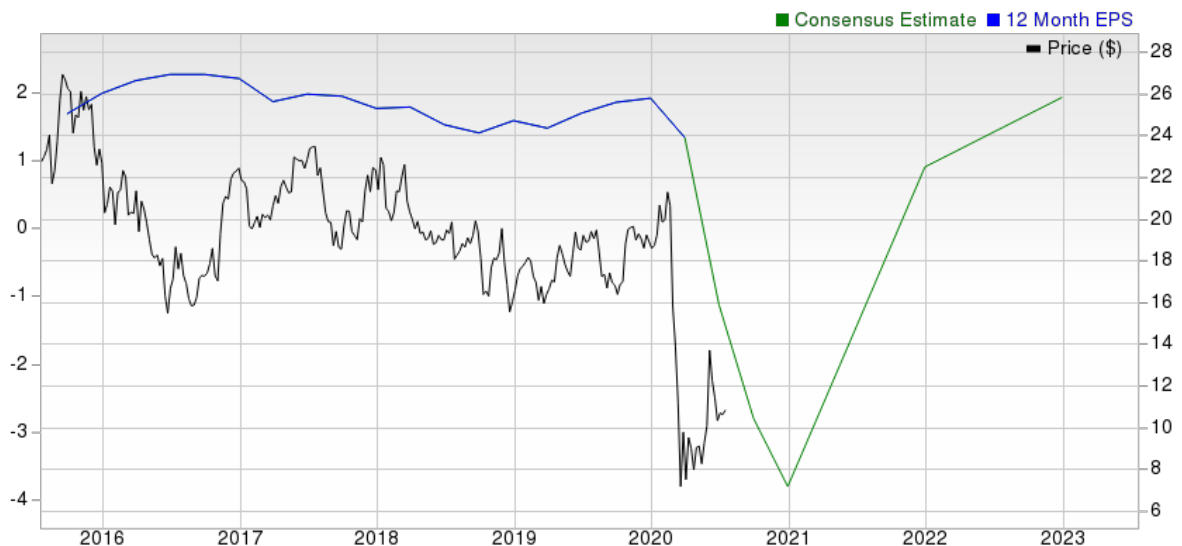
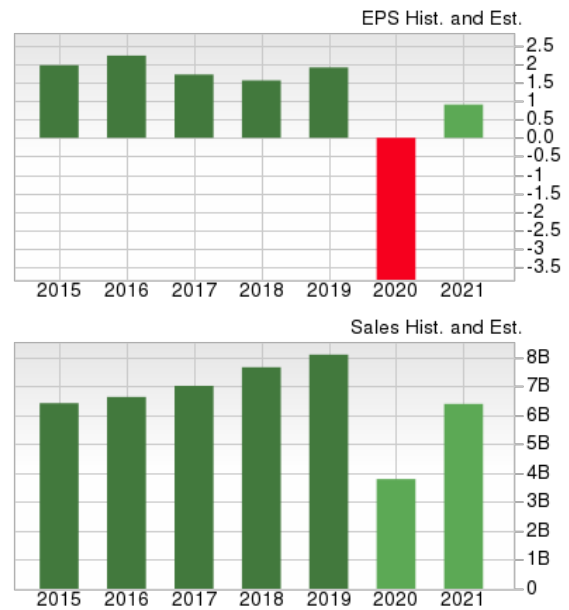
In line with the carrier's efforts to promote a differentiated product and culture apart from competitive costs, JetBlue is constantly working toward expanding its premium product, the Mint service. The service includes 16 fully lie-flat seats, four of which are in suites with a privacy door, by adding seasonal service from John F. Kennedy International Airport, to Liberia, Costa Rica, and from Boston to St. Lucia.

JetBlue currently operates Airbus A321, Airbus A320 and Embraer E190 planes. In 2019, the average age of the carrier's fleet was 10.6 years. Moreover, JetBlue flights operated an average of 11.9 hours per day in 2019.

The carrier is constantly looking to modernize its fleet. To this end, the carrier took delivery of ten Airbus A321 planes, three of which were equipped with its Mint cabin layout. JetBlue expects to take delivery of at least six Airbus A321neo engine option (neo) aircraft in 2019. Options for delivery of 60 additional A220-300 aircraft are anticipated to commence in 2025

The carrier, whose fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, is also looking to remove outdated planes from its fleet as part of the modernization process. To this end, the carrier expects to reduce its fleet of Embraer E190 aircraft from 2020. The phase out is anticipated to continue through approximately 2025.

The Long Island City, New York based company reported operating revenues of \$8.1 billion in 2019, up 5.7%. The carrier is being aided by robust growth in passenger revenues owing to healthy demand for air travel. Passenger revenues account for bulk of the total revenues. As an evidence, passenger revenues accounted for 96.2% of the top line in 2019. Balance came from other sources.



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ JetBlue's liquidity position is impressive. The carrier exited the first quarter with cash and equivalents of \$1799 million, compared with \$1328 million at the end of the fourth quarter of 2019. In fact, the cash balance at the end of first-quarter 2020 is more than the current debt of \$1400 million. Moreover, its current ratio, a measure of liquidity, stood at 0.61 at the end of the March quarter, higher than its industry's 0.48. Moreover, the company received \$936 million under the CARES Act, thereby bolstering its liquidity position further. Liquidity at the end of April 2020 stood at \$3.1 billion, compared with \$1.8 billion at 2019-end.
 - ▲ Low fuel costs aid bottom-line growth for any airline company and JetBlue is no exception. Notably, average fuel cost per gallon, including fuel taxes, declined 6.7% at JetBlue in 2019. In first-quarter 2020, average fuel cost per gallon (including fuel taxes) decreased 9.3% year over year to \$1.86. Low fuel costs are expected to partly offset the adversity from the coronavirus-led demand slump in the second quarter. Results will be available on Jul 28.
 - ▲ We are impressed by the company's efforts to modernize its fleet. To this end, the new, highly-efficient Airbus A321neo jet commenced passenger service at JetBlue officially in September 2019. Even though the fleet-modernization exercise might have taken a backseat due to the coronavirus pandemic, we believe that the company, owing to its strong cash position, will resume such efforts once things are normalized. Moreover, we are impressed by JetBlue's decision to add 30 new domestic routes in a bid to meet the gradually increasing demand for leisure and VRF (visiting friends and relatives) travel. The decision to introduce its hugely successful premium service, Mint, from Newark airport is an added positive. Also, the agreement between JetBlue and its pilots' union to avoid involuntary furloughs until May 1, 2021 is a positive.
 - ▲ We are optimistic about JetBlue's partnership with American Airlines, aimed at expediting the recovery process from the coronavirus crisis. The deal also aims to boost connectivity options for travelers in the Northeast through an array of new routes. The codeshare agreement under the partnership permits JetBlue passengers to access more than 60 routes operated by American Airlines. JetBlue can also sell seats on American Airlines' flights and share frequent flyer benefits. Further, the carrier will gain access to more U.S. sites by teaming up with airline heavyweight American Airlines, which will help expand its services in the coastal markets from both New York and Boston.
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Low fuel costs are expected to partly offset the adversity from the coronavirus-led demand slump.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ JetBlue incurred a loss in first-quarter 2020 due to the coronavirus-induced weakness in air-travel demand. Operating revenues of \$1,588 million decreased 15.1% year over year and also lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1,690 million. The year-over-year plunge was due to the 16.1% decrease in passenger revenues, which accounted for bulk (95.2%) of the top line. With the health peril showing no signs of subsiding, passenger revenues are likely to be low in the second quarter of 2020 as well. This will dent second quarter results. Moreover, JetBlue's CEO Robin Hayes warned that "the writing is on the wall" that travel demand will not be restored anytime soon
- ▼ The coronavirus pandemic is taking a significant toll on JetBlue. With air travel demand declining at an unprecedented level, the airline cut its April capacity significantly. Notably, capacity contracted 3.5% year over year in the first quarter of 2020. With traffic declining at a faster rate than capacity, consolidated load factor (percentage of seats filled by passengers) contracted 12.7 percentage points year over year to 69.8%. The spike in coronavirus cases in some parts of the United States and new quarantine rules have worsened the already-weak demand scenario. The modest uptick in demand, which U.S. airlines have been witnessing ever since travel restrictions eased, is fading with the surge in COVID-19 cases. This adds uncertainty to JetBlue's recovery.
- ▼ With fuel costs at low levels, expenses on the labor front are limiting bottom-line growth. In the first quarter of 2020, total operating expenses (on a reported basis) increased 7.1% year over year, partly due to higher costs pertaining to salaries, wages and benefits. JetBlue's operating expenses per available seat mile (CASM) increased 11% to 12.91 cents. Excluding fuel, the metric increased 4%.

Capacity cuts due to coronavirus-led demand drop are leading to substantial loss of revenues for the company.

Last Earnings Report

Wider-Than-Expected Loss in Q1

The company incurred a loss (excluding 55 cents from non-recurring items) of 42 cents per share, comparing unfavorably with the Zacks Consensus Estimate of a loss of 41 cents. Results were hurt by the coronavirus-induced weakness in air-travel demand.

Moreover, operating revenues of \$1,588 million decreased 15.1% year over year and also lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1,690 million. The year-over-year plunge was due to the 16.1% decrease in passenger revenues, which accounted for bulk (95.2%) of the top line. Revenues from other sources increased 10.7% to \$77 million.

Moreover, revenue per available seat mile (RASM: a key measure of unit revenues) in the reported quarter dropped 12% to 10.67 cents. Passenger revenue per available seat mile (PRASM) fell 13% to 10.15 cents. Average fare at JetBlue during the quarter inched up 4.6% to \$185.44. Yield per passenger mile increased 2.8% year over year to 14.54 cents.

Capacity, measured in available seat miles, contracted 3.5% year over year. Meanwhile, traffic, measured in revenue passenger miles, deteriorated 18.4% due to softness in air-travel demand. Consolidated load factor (percentage of seats filled by passengers) contracted 12.7 percentage points year over year to 69.8% as traffic decline was more than the capacity reduction in the reported quarter.

In the first quarter, total operating expenses (on a reported basis) increased 7.1% year over year, partly due to higher costs pertaining to salaries, wages and benefits. Average fuel cost per gallon (including fuel taxes) decreased 9.3% year over year to \$1.86. JetBlue's operating expenses per available seat mile (CASM) increased 11% to 12.91 cents. Excluding fuel, the metric increased 4%.

JetBlue exited the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of \$1,618 million compared with \$959 million at the end of 2019. Total debt at the end of the reported quarter was \$3,217 million compared with \$2,334 million at 2019 end.

Management at JetBlue stated that due to the various measures undertaken to combat the current pandemic-inflicted crisis, it successfully lowered its cash burn from \$18 million per day, on average, during the second half of March to just under \$10 million by May. This excludes the CARES Act support of approximately \$5 million per day through Sep 30, 2020. Moreover, the carrier expects second-quarter capacity to be reduced 80% compared to its original plan.

Quarter Ending **03/2020**

Report Date	May 07, 2020
Sales Surprise	-6.04%
EPS Surprise	-2.44%
Quarterly EPS	-0.42
Annual EPS (TTM)	1.33

Recent News

Pilots Union Inks Agreement to Avoid Furloughs — Jul 01, 2020

JetBlue and its pilots union inked an agreement to avoid involuntary furloughs until May 1, 2021. The union did not disclose the details of the agreement but agreed on not changing any pay rates.

Adds new routes and Expands Mint Service — Jun 18, 2020

JetBlue announced plans of adding 30 new domestic routes in a bid to meet the gradually increasing demand for leisure and VRF (visiting friends and relatives) travel. In another customer-friendly move, the carrier announced the expansion of its hugely successful premium service, Mint. Daily non-stop flights will be connecting Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) to both Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and San Francisco International Airport. The carrier aims to start operating on the new routes between July and October this year. The carrier will utilize its Airbus A320 aircraft for operating on all new, non-Mint routes.

Valuation

JetBlue shares are down 43.5% and 45.2% in the year-to-date period and over the trailing 12-month period respectively. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Transportation sector are down 43.1% and 8.9% in the year-to-date period respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and the sector are down 43.7% and 6.3% respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 1.2% and 9% in the year-to-date period and in the past year respectively.

The stock is currently trading at 7.95X trailing 12-month price to earnings, which compares to 9.79X for the Zacks sub-industry, 16.96X for the Zacks sector and 21.04X for the S&P 500 index.

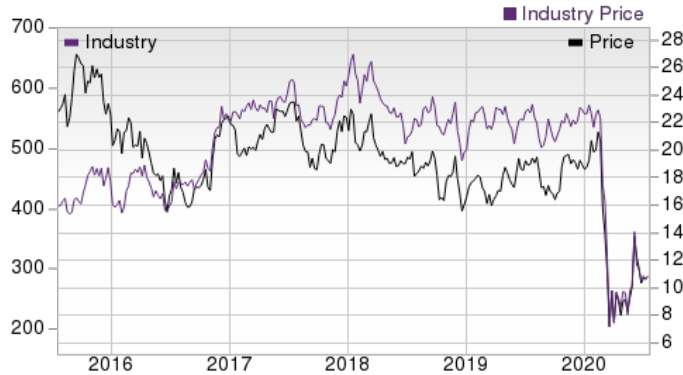
Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 20.16X and as low as 3.59X, with a 5-year median of 10.7X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$11 price target reflects 8.33X trailing 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for JBLU

Valuation Multiples - JBLU					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E TTM	Current	7.95	9.79	16.96	21.04
	5-Year High	20.16	13.19	19.57	22.25
	5-Year Low	3.59	7.45	11.63	15.98
	5-Year Median	10.7	10.58	15.55	19.13
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	3.81	4.7	7.65	12.1
	5-Year High	14.39	7.04	11.2	12.86
	5-Year Low	2.87	3.26	5.47	8.25
	5-Year Median	5.19	5.91	7.38	10.88
P/S F 12M	Current	0.54	0.71	1.3	3.61
	5-Year High	1.25	0.98	1.42	3.61
	5-Year Low	0.24	0.38	0.85	2.53
	5-Year Median	0.8	0.76	1.2	3.02

As of 07/21/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 13% (219 out of 252)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Alaska Air Group, Inc. (ALK)	Neutral	3
easyjet PLC (EJTTF)	Neutral	4
Gol Linhas Aereas Inteligentes S.A. (GOL)	Neutral	3
Southwest Airlines Co. (LUV)	Neutral	3
Ryanair Holdings PLC (RYAAY)	Neutral	3
Spirit Airlines, Inc. (SAVE)	Neutral	3
Swire Pacific Ltd. (SWRAY)	Neutral	4
LATAM Airlines Group S.A. (LTM)	Underperform	5

Industry Comparison Industry: Transportation - Airline				Industry Peers		
	JBLU	X Industry	S&P 500	ALK	EJTTF	RYAAY
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	4	3
VGM Score	D	-	-	D	A	D
Market Cap	2.85 B	2.35 B	22.70 B	4.44 B	3.18 B	16.18 B
# of Analysts	7	4.5	14	6	2	3
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.81%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Value Score	B	-	-	B	A	D
Cash/Price	0.62	0.50	0.06	0.47	0.65	0.29
EV/EBITDA	2.70	3.53	13.09	3.22	NA	9.66
PEG Ratio	NA	4.53	3.03	NA	NA	NA
Price/Book (P/B)	0.65	0.67	3.12	1.11	1.19	2.93
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	2.79	2.31	12.23	3.65	2.93	8.31
P/E (F1)	NA	24.26	22.36	NA	NA	NA
Price/Sales (P/S)	0.37	0.39	2.42	0.52	NA	1.71
Earnings Yield	-36.23%	-26.61%	4.31%	-15.64%	-21.88%	-5.05%
Debt/Equity	0.60	0.79	0.75	0.64	0.76	0.76
Cash Flow (\$/share)	3.79	4.15	6.94	9.91	2.73	8.65
Growth Score	D	-	-	F	B	D
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	-4.34%	2.29%	10.82%	-5.75%	NA	14.48%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-301.73%	-253.95%	-9.08%	-188.19%	-256.25%	-173.10%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	14.33%	11.77%	5.51%	28.26%	18.35%	0.95%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	14.43%	8.55%	8.55%	7.14%	2.84%	0.72%
Current Ratio	0.61	0.69	1.31	0.69	0.55	0.82
Debt/Capital	37.48%	54.62%	44.41%	39.10%	43.20%	43.04%
Net Margin	3.32%	0.51%	10.54%	6.24%	NA	7.72%
Return on Equity	8.63%	8.63%	15.38%	16.29%	NA	17.59%
Sales/Assets	0.67	0.60	0.54	0.65	NA	0.58
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-53.15%	-46.66%	-2.40%	-51.35%	-40.56%	-55.41%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	F	D	C
Daily Price Chg	0.38%	0.00%	0.86%	0.86%	-3.03%	0.22%
1 Week Price Chg	2.08%	1.83%	3.82%	3.55%	3.38%	6.99%
4 Week Price Chg	-6.79%	-4.50%	3.42%	-1.71%	-18.20%	0.69%
12 Week Price Chg	17.18%	4.96%	9.22%	14.63%	13.48%	22.12%
52 Week Price Chg	-45.18%	-45.18%	-3.38%	-44.39%	-41.39%	10.01%
20 Day Average Volume	12,375,962	152,394	2,069,527	2,387,495	643	357,414
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	-2.80%	0.00%	0.13%	1.88%	-16.67%	3.63%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-121.98%	-63.49%	-3.85%	-59.48%	-8,650.01%	-300.37%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	-19.43%	0.00%	0.00%	-46.95%	NA	0.00%

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	D
Momentum Score	F
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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