Sep 29, 2020

Masimo Corporation(MASI)

$230.76 (As of 09/28/20)

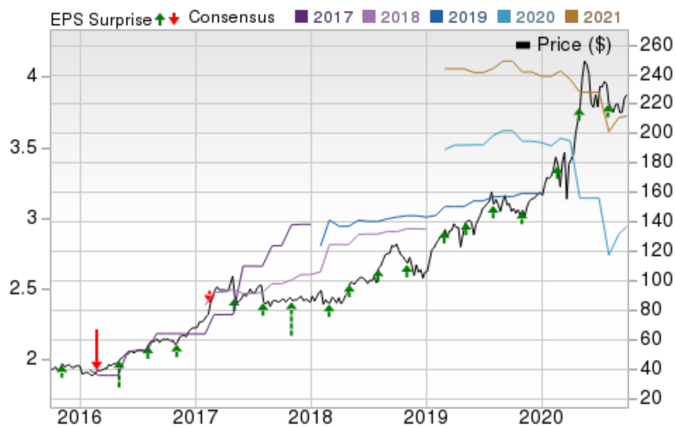
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$242.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 09/28/20) Prior Recommendation: Underperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5) Zacks Style Scores: Value: D | Growth: B | Momentum: C	**3-Hold** VGM:C

Summary

Masimo continues to gain from its key Product segment, which witnessed solid growth in the quarter under review. The company's non-invasive technology shipments also surged in the quarter. The recent launch of the Masimo SafetyNet, designed to help fight the coronavirus pandemic, buoys optimism. The outbreak has boosted demand for the company's products among direct and OEM customers. The company recently saw a plethora of new product launches like Masimo Sleep and UniView: 60. Masimo exited the second quarter on a strong noteIts shares have outperformed the industry over the past year. However, contraction of both margins is a concern. Masimo's Royalty and Other segment saw no contribution during the quarter. Further, the company faces fierce competition from MedTech bigwigs.

Price, Consensus & Surprise

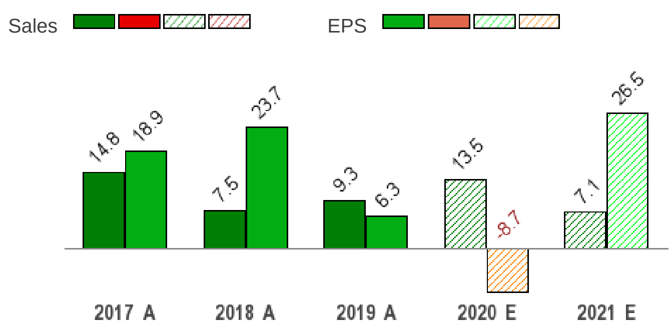


Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$258.00 - $140.16**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**388,796**
Market Cap	**$12.7 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**46.0%**
Beta	**0.84**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.00 / 0.0%**
Industry	**Medical - Instruments**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 31% (173 out of 250)**
Last EPS Surprise	**9.0%**
Last Sales Surprise	**4.0%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**1.9%**
Expected Report Date	**11/04/2020**
Earnings ESP	**20.2%**
P/E TTM	**66.1**
P/E F1	**78.5**
PEG F1	**4.9**
P/S TTM	**12.1**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	279 E	282 E	282 E	299 E	1,141 E
2020	270 A	301 A	241 E	253 E	1,065 E
2019	232 A	230 A	229 A	248 A	938 A

EPS Estimates

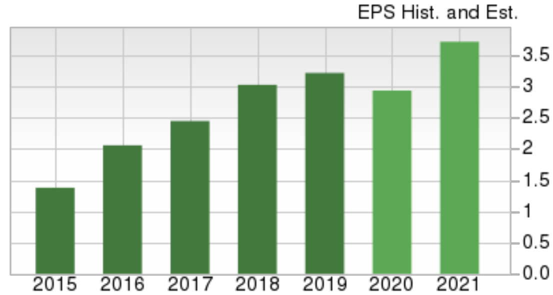
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	$0.89 E	$0.91 E	$0.89 E	$1.08 E	$3.72 E
2020	$0.97 A	$0.85 A	$0.48 E	$0.64 E	$2.94 E
2019	$0.79 A	$0.76 A	$0.76 A	$0.91 A	$3.22 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

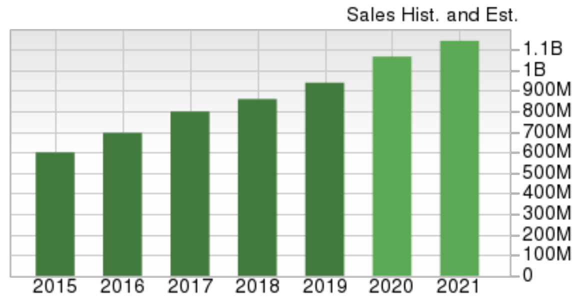
The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 09/28/2020. The reports text is as of 09/29/2020.

Overview

Irvine, CA-based Masimo Corporation (MASI) develops, manufactures and markets a family of non-invasive monitoring systems. The Company has two segments: Product Revenues, Royalty & Other revenues.



Within Product revenues, the company's flagship– Signal Extraction Tecgnology (SET) Pulse Oximetry – is used to monitor blood oxygen saturation levels and protect against hypoxemia and hyperoxemia. The device also measures pulse rate. Apart from blood monitoring, the company has also ventured into non-invasive blood constituent, brain and breathe monitoring. The company's rainbow Pulse CO-Oximetry measures blood constituents that include total hemoglobin (SpHb), oxygen content (SpOC), carboxyhemoglobin (SpCO), methemoglobin (SpMet) and SET measurements of oxygen saturation (SpO2), pulse rate (PR), perfusion index (PI), and pleth variability index (PVI).



Rainbow Acoustic Monitoring measures respiration rate (RRa) non-invasively and on a continuous basis. SedLine monitors brain functioning of patients under anesthesia or sedation. The company also provides Capnography and Multigas Monitoring original equipment manufacturers (OEM) solutions.

Apart from these, the company also provides circuit boards to OEMs Carefusion, Mindray, Philips and others. OEMs generally use these circuit boards in their own multi-parameter products.

2019 Results at a Glance

Masimo's full-year revenues totaled $937.8 million, up 9.3%.

Product revenues were $936.4 million (99.8%), while Royalty and Other revenues totaled $1.4 million (0.2%).

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

Masimo’s non-invasive SET pulse oximeter is the key growth catalysts. New product launches and growing installed base of its existing devices are going to help Masimo gain greater market traction.

▲ **Share Price**: Masimo's shares have outperformed the industry over the past year. The shares have gained 55%, compared with the industry's 21.9% gain. A broad product spectrum, positive tidings in the regulatory front and considerable focus on innovation provide have driven the company's stock. The company continues to gain from its key Product segment, which witnessed solid growth in the quarter on a surge in non-invasive technology shipments. The recent launch of the Masimo SafetyNet, designed to help in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, buoys optimism.

▲ **Positive Feedbacks**: Masimo has been riding high on a series of regulatory approvals. Notably, in March, the company received FDA clearance for the monitoring of adult and pediatric patients with Rad-97, Radical-7 and Radius-7 Pulse CO-Oximeters. Moreover, in the fourth quarter, the company announced submission of its Masimo SafetyNet for FDA clearance.

In March 2020, the company obtained FDA clearance for the continuous RRp (respiration rate from the photoplethysmograph) monitoring of adult and pediatric patients with Rad-97, Radical-7 and Radius-7 Pulse CO-Oximeters. With this go-ahead, both continuous and spot-check RRp are now commercially available in the United States.

In the second quarter, the company received FDA clearance for Centroid, which is a wearable, wireless sensor designed to monitor patient position and help clinicians reduce pressure ulcers or bedsores and to alert clinicians of sudden movements.

▲ **Patient-Monitoring in Focus**: Masimo offers mobile as well as standalone units, allowing a patient to be monitored from the ambulance to the emergency room to the general floor, and through to discharge. The company’s new Root patient monitoring and connectivity platform integrates rainbow and SET technologies. Masimo Patient SafetyNet System is a remote monitoring (wireless) system which helps clinicians effectively monitor patient clinical data, especially on general floors of a hospital.

In March 2020, the company and University Hospitals collaborated to implement Masimo SafetyNet to help clinicians monitor patients remotely.This is likely to ramp up demand for its patient monitoring systems, thereby facilitating remote monitoring at patients’ homes.Since the full market release in April, 120 customers have implemented Masimo SafetyNet to deal with the COVID-19 patient surge.

In July 2020, the company announced a crucial expansion to the Masimo SafetyNet platform with the launch of Radius T°, a wearable, wireless sensor that provides continuous body temperature measurements.This lends the patient monitoring solution the capability to track four key vital signs – oxygen saturation, respiration rate, pulse rate, and now, temperature.

In non-invasive patient monitoring, the company’s Patient SafetyNet, Rainbow acoustic monitoring, SedLine brain function monitoring, Capnography and gas monitoring deserve a mention. Masimo’s flagship Rad-97 Pulse CO-Oximeter with integrated NomoLine capnography obtained CE mark. This will make the device available in and outside the United States.

The unit sales of the company’s Root Connectivity platform increased more than fivefold in the second quarter. The company also witnessed increased demand for its Patient SafetyNet in-hospital monitoring system. Patient SafetyNet together with bedside devices like Root facilitates continuous monitoring of more patients on the postsurgical floor, thereby improving patient outcomes.

▲ **SET Pulse Oximeter Driving Growth**: Masimo’s flagship Signal Extraction Technology (SET) pulse oximetry or SET pulse oximeter solution successfully eliminates the limitations of conventional pulse oximeters. Masimo’s rainbow SET technology is gaining traction owing to rapid product development. The device has been clinically proven to reliably detect critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) in newborns.

The advantages of Masimo’s Measure-through Motion and Low Perfusion technology are complemented by the highly differentiated technology embedded in its rainbow products such as SpHb, PVi, and ORi.

With the recent Imprivata deal, Masimo will not only add to its SET Pulse Oximeter Technology but also bolster patient monitoring, which in turn will drive growth.

▲ **Cost Effectiveness – the Key Strategy**: One of the major benefits of Masimo’s non-invasive SET pulse oximetry and rainbow SET is cost effectiveness. Usage of SET pulse oximetry has been proven cost effective compared to traditional solutions. This can be largely attributed to the fact that continuous monitoring lowers ICU transfer rate, which reduces hospitalization costs.

As per a study conducted by consulting firm Capgemini, an average 500-bed hospital would save $468,000 lives annually by implementing SpHb and other rainbow measurements. Meanwhile, we believe that the product’s cost effectiveness will continue to drive its demand, which will boost Masimo’s top-line growth going forward.

▲ **Product Launches**: In addition to addressing critical care units, Masimo is launching new products that target general floor of hospitals and consumer market.

In April 2020, the company extended its reach into care for respiratory patients through the acquisition of TNI Medical, a company in Germany producing high flow nasal cannula oxygen therapy.In the same month, the company announced the full market release of Masimo SafetyNet, which is an economically scalable cloud-based patient management solution, created to enable clinicians to provide care for patients in hospital settings and non-traditional settings remotely. This innovative solution is now available globally and is likely to aid clinicians and health workers in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

In January, Masimo acquired connectivity assets from NantHealth. Per management, the acquisition provides Masimo with products that complement its portfolio apart from expanding its customer base.

In June 2020, the company launched Masimo SafetyNet-Open, which has been designed to help businesses, governments and schools manage employee and student health and safety better during the COVID-19 crisis.This is expected to strengthen the company's foothold in the non-invasive patient monitoring space. In the same month, the company introduced — Masimo Sleep — a new health and wellness home monitoring solution which has been developed to enable consumers to understand their quality of sleep better.

In July, the company unveiled its latest automation and connectivity solution, UniView: 60. The solution leverages the Masimo Hospital Automation platform to aggregate and showcase relevant patient information on a digital display just outside each patient's room, enabling clinicians to acquaint themselves with the most pertinent details of each case at the door a minute before they visit the patient.Further, the company announced an opioid withdrawal solution — Bridge — that utilizes neuromodulation for reducing symptoms related to opioid withdrawal. Equipped with an FDA De Novo classification, Bridge is the first evidence-based, drug-free, non-surgical device of its kind.

▲ **Collaborations**: In March 2020, the company inked a deal with Imprivata with respect to the integration of Imprivata Medical Device Access into Masimo's Hospital Automation solutions that feature the Root Patient Monitoring and Connectivity Platform, and Iris Gateway. On the back of this newly-launched technology, hospitals are likely to benefit from a more powerful patient monitoring and hospital automation solution created to boost clinical workflows and efficacy in a number of ways.

In April 2020, St Luke's Hospital University Health Network in Pennsylvania announced that its regional network of 10 hospitals and 320 affiliated sites is expanding their use of a range of Masimo hospital automation technologies after impressive outcome results at a pilot site. Given the success of the pilot program in the orthopedic ward, St Luke's extended its use of Patient SafetyNet to an additional 48 beds across two additional units on their Bethlehem campus.

In the same month, the company announced its collaboration with Samsung Electronics America to make the Masimo SafetyNet Patient App available on select Samsung smartphones. The app will be pre-installed and configured on these phones. The collaboration is likely to enable faster and wider distribution of Masimo SafetyNet to COVID-19 patients, particularly the older patients who are less likely to own smartphones or have the ease to configure the app on their own.

In May 2020, Masimo extended its licensing agreement with Royal Philips whereby the latter will incorporate additional Masimo measurement technologies into select IntelliVue MX-series multi-parameter monitors to help clinicians evaluate cerebral oximetry and ventilation status.

▲ **Strong Liquidity Position**: The company exited the second quarter of 2020 with cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments amounting to $682 million, up from $656 million in the preceding quarter. Meanwhile, the company does not have either long-term or current debt. This is good news in terms of the company's solvency level as, at least during a year of economic downturn, the company has sufficient cash for debt repayment.

Reasons To Sell:

A sluggish hospital capital spending environment remains an overhang. Intensifying competition from peers, over-dependence on third-party providers and customer concentration risks are major concerns.

- **Segmental Softness:** In the second quarter, Masimo's Royalty and Other segment saw no contribution.

- **Foreign Exchange Woes:** A strengthening U.S. dollar negatively impacts the overseas revenues of MedTech companies. Hence, Masimo apprehends a $4-mllion impact on its 2020 product revenues, courtesy of unfavorable currency movements.

- **Cutthroat Competition in Niche Space:** Masimo faces strong competition from larger players such as Covidien in the pulse oximetry market. Moreover, the company also faces significant competition from OEM distributors as well as large medical devices companies.

- **Overdependence on Third Parties:** Masimo relies on third-party providers like OEMs for a part of its business. As a result of the third-party reliance, the company's performance could be affected by the loss of its OEM partners.

- **Customer Concentration:** Masimo faces customer concentration risk. Thus, loss of any of the company's customers would adversely impact the company's top line going forward.

Last Earnings Report

Masimo Earnings and Revenues Beat Estimates in Q2

Quarter Ending	06/2020
Report Date	**Jul 28, 2020**
Sales Surprise	**4.02%**
EPS Surprise	**8.97%**
Quarterly EPS	**0.85**
Annual EPS (TTM)	**3.49**

Masimo Corporation reported second-quarter 2020 adjusted earnings per share of 85 cents, which surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 78 cents by 8.9%. Earnings improved 11.8% from the year-ago quarter.

Total revenues (including Royalty) improved 31.1% year over year to $301 million and beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $289.33 million by 4%.

Segmental Analysis

Product Revenues

Product revenues in the second quarter totaled $301 million, up 31.1% from the year-ago quarter and 32% at constant currency (cc).

Per management, shipments of non-invasive technology boards and monitors surged 174% to a record 165600 in the quarter.

Margin Analysis

In the quarter under review, gross profit totaled $191.6 million, up 24.1% year over year. Gross margin was 63.6%, down 355 basis points (bps).

Adjusted operating profit in the quarter totaled $62.2 million, up 19.7% from a year ago. Adjusted operating margin contracted 196 bps to 20.7% in the quarter.

2020 Guidance

Given the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the company's normal business patterns, Masimo has not issued any guidance for 2020.

Recent News

Masimo Introduces Automation and Connectivity Solution: July 14, 2020

Masimo Corporation unveiled its latest automation and connectivity solution, UniView: 60. The solution leverages the Masimo Hospital Automation platform to aggregate and showcase relevant patient information on a digital display just outside each patient's room, enabling clinicians to acquaint themselves with the most pertinent details of each case at the door a minute before they visit the patient.

Valuation

Masimo's shares are up 46% and 55.1% in the year-to-date period and the trailing 12-month periods, respectively. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and Zacks Medical sector are up 15.4% and 0.2% in the year-to-date period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are up 21.9 % and 12.7%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 5.6% in the year-to-date period and 14.9% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 65.6X Forward 12-months earnings, which compares to 35.8X for the Zacks sub-industry, 21.3X for the Zacks sector and 21.9X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 73.5X and as low as 20.7X, with a 5-year median of 34.9X.

Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $242 price target reflects 68.8X forward 12-months earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for MASI.

Valuation Multiples - MASI

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	65.55	35.83	21.34	21.94
	5-Year High	73.45	41.84	23.19	23.46
	5-Year Low	20.70	23.21	15.89	15.26
	5-Year Median	34.94	28.31	19.02	17.63
P/S F12M	Current	11.30	4.36	2.77	4.09
	5-Year High	12.61	4.54	3.25	4.30
	5-Year Low	2.63	2.52	2.24	3.11
	5-Year Median	5.99	3.11	2.89	3.66
P/B TTM	Current	9.43	4.56	3.88	5.77
	5-Year High	10.81	4.82	5.07	6.19
	5-Year Low	5.62	2.75	2.95	3.75
	5-Year Median	7.38	3.92	4.29	4.86

As of 09/28/2020 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 31% (173 out of 250)

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Quidel Corporation **(QDEL)**	Outperform	1
Becton, Dickinson and Company **(BDX)**	Neutral	4
DexCom, Inc. **(DXCM)**	Neutral	3
Honeywell International Inc. **(HON)**	Neutral	4
Medtronic PLC **(MDT)**	Neutral	3
Stryker Corporation **(SYK)**	Neutral	3
Teleflex Incorporated **(TFX)**	Neutral	3
Baxter International Inc. **(BAX)**	Underperform	4

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Medical - Instruments

Industry Peers

	MASI	X Industry	S&P 500	BDX	HON	MDT
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	4	4	3
VGM Score	C	-	-	B	C	F
Market Cap	12.68 B	147.73 M	23.11 B	65.22 B	115.54 B	139.30 B
# of Analysts	4	2	14	12	10	14
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.66%	1.40%	2.19%	2.24%
Value Score	D	-	-	C	C	C
Cash/Price	0.05	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.13	0.09
EV/EBITDA	46.57	-1.13	13.15	19.50	13.11	19.10
PEG F1	4.98	3.99	2.88	2.85	3.11	3.37
P/B	9.43	3.38	3.29	2.72	6.29	2.76
P/CF	59.34	22.65	12.83	10.83	16.65	15.66
P/E F1	79.86	48.12	21.32	22.64	23.86	26.19
P/S TTM	12.11	4.19	2.49	3.86	3.35	4.99
Earnings Yield	1.27%	-2.99%	4.44%	4.42%	4.19%	3.82%
Debt/Equity	0.00	0.07	0.70	0.71	0.96	0.45
Cash Flow ($/share)	3.89	-0.13	6.92	20.77	9.89	6.62
Growth Score	B	-	-	B	C	F
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	22.16%	8.58%	10.43%	10.16%	7.45%	3.21%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-8.77%	4.22%	-4.22%	-14.92%	-15.43%	-13.79%
Current Cash Flow Growth	8.77%	6.70%	5.47%	14.64%	-1.43%	-9.02%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	19.44%	10.08%	8.52%	24.86%	5.69%	7.68%
Current Ratio	4.80	3.02	1.35	1.45	1.63	1.87
Debt/Capital	0.00%	14.28%	42.91%	41.57%	48.93%	31.19%
Net Margin	21.22%	-25.57%	10.28%	5.30%	16.94%	15.80%
Return on Equity	16.49%	-22.08%	14.73%	14.19%	29.93%	10.47%
Sales/Assets	0.72	0.52	0.50	0.32	0.58	0.30
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	13.55%	0.00%	-1.38%	-2.75%	-12.89%	0.71%
Momentum Score	C	-	-	C	F	F
Daily Price Change	2.15%	0.14%	1.85%	0.41%	1.95%	0.46%
1-Week Price Change	1.17%	-1.00%	-2.32%	-3.37%	-4.27%	-4.13%
4-Week Price Change	3.02%	-2.18%	-2.53%	-7.32%	-0.55%	-3.57%
12-Week Price Change	-1.64%	-1.65%	4.17%	-10.17%	11.83%	11.18%
52-Week Price Change	55.09%	-2.63%	0.12%	-11.05%	-2.70%	-4.59%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	388,796	189,088	2,098,704	1,650,159	2,850,080	4,159,883
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.25%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	1.88%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.11%	-0.33%	-0.43%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-6.45%	6.93%	4.22%	-4.86%	-0.38%	12.90%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	7.22%	0.00%	0.00%	-2.61%	-1.40%	-5.79%

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	D
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	C
VGM Score	C

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.