Jun 11, 2021

Monster Beverage Corp. (MNST)

$93.77 (As of 06/10/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$99.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 10/05/20) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**4-Sell**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:B
	Value: C | Growth: B | Momentum: B	

Summary

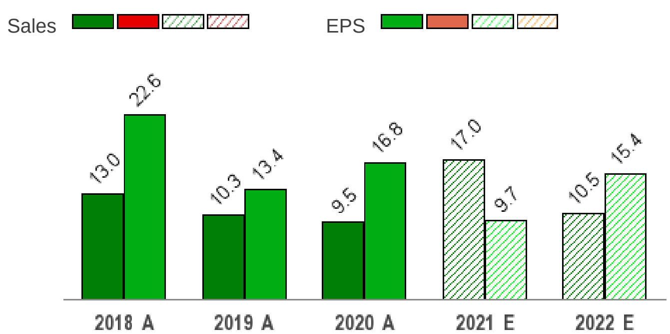
Shares of Monster Beverage have increased in the past six months, due to continued strength in its energy drinks' brands. This has been driving the company's overall performance. It reported first-quarter 2021 results, wherein the bottom line lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate whereas sales surpassed the same. Further, both the metrics improved year over year. Going ahead, management's supply chain remains unaffected, with no major impact on raw material and finished product shortages. Moreover, Monster Beverage remains committed to various product launches and innovation to boost growth. In fact, management remains on track to various launches in 2021. However, higher operating expense led to decline in gross and operating margins. Also, freight inefficiencies along with higher aluminum can costs remain concerns.

Price, Consensus & Surprise

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$99.24 - $67.37**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,775,554**
Market Cap	**$49.6 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**1.4%**
Beta	**1.10**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.00 / 0.0%**
Industry	**Beverages - Soft drinks**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Top 44% (111 out of 250)**
Last EPS Surprise	**-3.3%**
Last Sales Surprise	**1.7%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**0.0%**
Expected Report Date	**08/03/2021**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**38.3**
P/E F1	**36.1**
PEG F1	**3.0**
P/S TTM	**10.4**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	1,388 E	1,499 E	1,567 E	1,468 E	5,946 E
2021	1,244 A	1,377 E	1,431 E	1,314 E	5,380 E
2020	1,062 A	1,094 A	1,246 A	1,196 A	4,599 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	$0.68 E	$0.78 E	$0.84 E	$0.75 E	$3.00 E
2021	$0.59 A	$0.67 E	$0.70 E	$0.63 E	$2.60 E
2020	$0.52 A	$0.59 A	$0.65 A	$0.62 A	$2.37 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 06/10/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 06/11/2021.

Overview

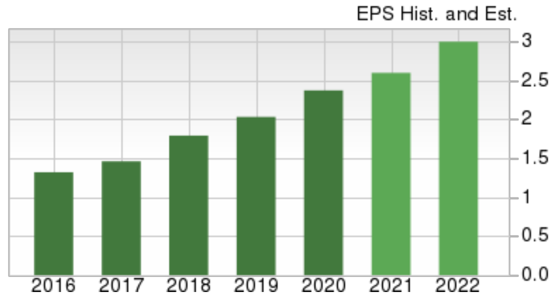
Monster Beverage Corporation, headquartered in Corona, CA, is a marketer and distributor of energy drinks and alternative beverages. Incorporated in 1990 in Delaware, Monster Beverage was previously known as Hansen Natural Corporation. In 1992, the company acquired the Hansen Beverage business.

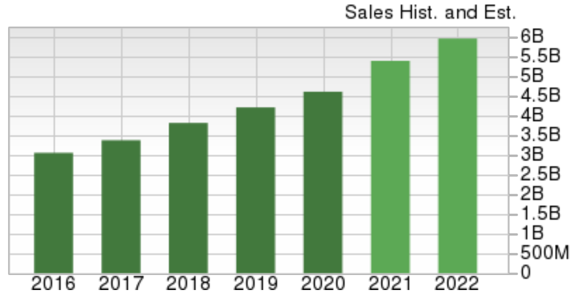
On Jun 12, 2015, Monster Beverage closed a deal with The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC). Per this long-term strategic deal, Coca-Cola acquired an approximate 16.7% equity stake in Monster Beverage. Coca Cola also transferred ownership of global energy drinks business, which includes brands like NOS, Full Throttle, to Monster Beverage. In exchange, Monster Beverage transferred non-energy business to TCCC.

Monster Beverage reports results under three operating segments:

Monster Energy Drinks (93.6% of net sales in FY20): Monster Energy Drinks Segment includes the former Direct Store Delivery segments, excluding Peach Tea brand. This segment comprises mostly Monster Energy brand products.

Strategic Brands (5.8%): The Strategic Brands segment includes brands acquired from the "TCCC Transaction". Monster Beverage observes the same business model with acquired brands as their previous owner.





Other (0.6%): The Other segment includes the former warehouse segment and the Peach Tea brand. The segment also includes products acquired from the AFF Transaction that are sold to independent third-parties. On Apr 1, 2016, the company acquired the concentrate and flavor business of American Fruits and Flavors (AFF).

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

▲ **Robust Q1 Performance**: Shares of Monster Beverage have gained 6.1% in the past six months compared with the industry's 7% growth. Despite earnings miss, the company sales surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate during first-quarter 2021 results. Further, both the metrics improved year over year. Results gained from continued strength in its energy drink category, particularly the Monster Energy brand. Notably, net sales of $1,244 million improved 17.1% year over year. Also, favorable currency fluctuations contributed $9.3 million to net sales. Going forward, management doesn't expect any material impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of its co-packers and bottlers/distributors who manufacture and distribute products, respectively. Moreover, Monster Beverage's supply chain remains unaffected, with no major impact on raw material and finished product shortages.

Monster Beverage's sales during first-quarter 2021 gained from continued strength in its energy drink category, particularly the Monster Energy brand. Also, new product launches bode well.

▲ **Sturdy Energy Drinks Category**: Monster Beverage has been experiencing continued strength in its energy drinks category, which is driving performance. We note that the company offers a wide range of energy drinks brands such as Monster Energy, Java Monster, Cafe Monster, Espresso Monster, Monster Energy Mule, Juice Monster Pipeline Punch, Juice Monster Pacific Punch, Juice Monster Mango Loco, Monster Ultra Paradise, Monster Hydra Sport, among others. In first-quarter 2021, the Monster Energy Drinks segment's net sales advanced 17.9% year over year to $1.17 billion. The segment's sales included a positive impact of $9.3 million from favorable currency rates. Also, sales of the energy brands, including Reign, rose 27% in the four-week period ended Mar 31, 2021, in the convenience and gas channel.

Moving ahead, management is optimistic about strength in the energy drinks category with the Monster Energy brand growing significantly. Also, the product launches across the Monster family will drive the company's overall top and bottom lines.

▲ **Product Innovations & Launches to Drive Top Line**: Product innovation plays a significant role in the company's success. Monster Beverage remains committed to product launches and innovation to boost growth. During the first quarter of 2021, the company launched Reign Cherry Limeade, Reign White Gummy Bear, Reign Inferno Watermelon warlord, Monster Ultra Gold in singles and a 4-pack, Monster Green, Low-Carb Monster, Monster Zero Ultra, Monster Ultra Paradise, Rehab Monster Strawberry Lemonade belonging to Rehab Monster brand, Monster Ultra Fiesta, Java Monster Oat Milk as well as Monster Ultra Paradise in Canada. Further, it rolled out the Monster Ultra Paradise, Reign Lilikoi Lychee singles and Reign Orange Dreamsicle, NOS Turbo, Pacific Punch in Mexico; and Mean Green in Honduras, Ultra Watermelon in Puerto Rico. Also, the Ultra Paradise in Aruba; Ultra Rosa made debut in Australia. It also launched the Monster Super Fuel in both Purple Passion and sugar-free flavors in New Zealand; Monster Energy Super Cola in Japan; and Pipeline Punch in Hong Kong and Macau. Going forward, management remains on track with various launches this year. Notably, it plans to introduce a new line of energy drinks under the brand name - True North, in summer 2021.

▲ **Lower SG&A Trend**: Monster Beverages have been witnessing lower costs for the past few quarters. During the first quarter of 2021, selling expenses, as a percentage of net sales, decreased 110 bps to 9.2%. Although distribution costs as a percentage of net sales expanded 70 bps, general and administrative expenses, as a percentage of net sales, contracted 110 bps year over year to 10.6%. Prior to this, selling expenses, as a percentage of net sales, decreased 250 bps, 230 bps, 240 bps and 70 bps in the fourth, third, second and first quarters of 2021, respectively. Persistence of this trend may aid the company's bottom line in the near future.

▲ **Financials & Share Buybacks**: Apart from boasting a healthy balance sheet, Monster Beverage undertakes shareholder-friendly actions via share repurchases. The company's cash & equivalents (including short term investments) were $2,159 million at the end of the first-quarter of 2021, which reflects a sequential increase from $2,061.8 million in the prior quarter. As of March 31, 2021, it had $441.5 million remaining under the previously authorized share repurchase plan. That said, management doesn't foresee any material impact related to COVID-19 on its liquidity position.

Reasons To Sell:

Higher operating costs led to decline in Monster Beverage's gross and operating margins during Q1. Also, industry headwinds and stiff competition remain woes.

- **Valuation Looks Stretched**: Considering price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio, Monster Beverage looks pretty overvalued when compared with the industry and the S&P 500. The stock has a trailing 12-month P/E ratio of 38.27, which is below than the median level of 37.7 and the high level of 41.01, scaled in the past year. On the contrary, the trailing 12-month P/E ratio is 28.11 for the industry and 27.99 for the S&P 500. Given these factors, we believe that the stock is quite stretched from the P/E aspect.

- **Dismal Margins in Q1, A Worry**: During first-quarter 2021, deleverage in operating expense led to a decline in gross and operating margins. Notably, operating expenses grew 10.5% year over year to $300.8 million. Monster Beverage gross margin contracted 250 basis points (bps) to 57.5% year over year due to higher input costs, geographical sales mix and increased promotions. Moreover, operating margin contracted 110 bps to 33.3% for the said quarter.

- **Stiff Competition**: With health-conscious consumers are opting for better and healthier beverage alternatives like ready-to-drink tea and bottled water, Monster Beverage faces tough competition from other energy drink companies. The shift in consumers' preferences is impacting the volumes of soda beverages and energy drinks. All these factors might exert pressure on the company's top and bottom lines.

- **Macroeconomic Headwinds**: Sluggishness in the global economy, along with macroeconomic headwinds such as a rise in fuel and energy costs, unemployment levels and high household debts may negatively affect the discretionary spending of consumers, and consequently hamper the company's growth and profitability.

Last Earnings Report

Monster Beverage's Q1 Earnings Lag Estimates, Sales Beat

Quarter Ending	03/2021
Report Date	May 06, 2021
Sales Surprise	1.74%
EPS Surprise	-3.28%
Quarterly EPS	0.59
Annual EPS (TTM)	2.45

Monster Beverage reported first-quarter 2021 results, wherein the bottom line lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate whereas sales surpassed the same. Further, both metrics improved year over year. Results gained from continued strength in its energy drink category, particularly the Monster Energy brand.

Going forward, management doesn't expect any material impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of its co-packers and bottlers/distributors who manufacture and distribute products, respectively. Moreover, Monster Beverage's supply chain remains unaffected, with no major impact on raw material and finished product shortages. The company is sourcing its aluminum can requirements from South America and Asia to meet growing demand. However, freight inefficiencies along with higher aluminum can costs remain concerns.

Q1 Highlights

Monster Beverage's earnings of 59 cents per share rose 14.2% year over year but missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 61 cents.

Net sales of $1,244 million improved 17.1% year over year and surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $1,223 million. Also, favorable currency fluctuations contributed $9.3 million to net sales.

During the quarter, the company launched Reign Cherry Limeade, Reign White Gummy Bear, Reign Inferno Watermelon warlord, Monster Ultra Gold in singles and a 4-pack, Monster Green, Low-Carb Monster, Monster Zero Ultra, Monster Ultra Paradise, Rehab Monster Strawberry Lemonade belonging to Rehab Monster brand, Monster Ultra Fiesta, Java Monster Oat Milk as well as Monster Ultra Paradise in Canada. Further, it rolled out the Monster Ultra Paradise, Reign Lilikoi Lychee singles and Reign Orange Dreamsicle, NOS Turbo, Pacific Punch in Mexico; and Mean Green in Honduras, Ultra Watermelon in Puerto Rico. Also, the Ultra Paradise in Aruba; Ultra Rosa made debut in Australia. It also launched the Monster Super Fuel in both Purple Passion and sugar-free flavors in New Zealand; Monster Energy Super Cola in Japan; and Pipeline Punch in Hong Kong and Macau.

Segmental Performance

Monster Energy Drinks: The segment primarily includes brands like Monster Energy drinks and Reign Total Body Fuel high-performance energy drinks. The segment's net sales increased 17.9% year over year to $1.17 billion. The segment's sales included a positive impact of $9.3 million from favorable currency rates.

Strategic Brands: In addition to affordable energy drink brands, the segment includes a range of energy drink brands acquired from The Coca-Cola Company. The segment's net sales improved 5.1% year over year to $67.8 million in the first quarter. Currency headwinds had no significant impact on the segment's results.

Other: Net sales in the segment, which includes some products of American Fruits & Flavors sold to independent third parties (AFF Third-Party Products), grew 11.8% year over year to $5.7 million.

Costs & Margins

The company's first-quarter 2021 gross margin contracted 250 basis points (bps) to 57.5% due to higher input costs, geographical sales mix and increased promotions.

Operating expenses grew 10.5% year over year to $300.8 million. As a percentage of sales, operating expenses declined 140 bps to 24.2%. Selling expenses, as a percentage of net sales, decreased 110 bps to 9.2%. Meanwhile, distribution costs, as a percentage of net sales, expanded 70 bps to 4.4%. General and administrative expenses, as a percentage of net sales, contracted 110 bps to 10.6%.

Operating income of $414.1 million grew 13.5% year over year. However, operating margin contracted 110 bps to 33.3% for the reported quarter.

Other Financial

Monster Beverage ended the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of $1,178.9 million and total stockholders' equity of $5,459.4 million.

In the reported quarter, the company did not buy back any shares. As of May 6, 2021, it had $441.5 million remaining under the previously authorized share repurchase plan.

Valuation

Monster Beverage shares are up 1.4% in the year-to-date period and nearly 37.2% the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are up 1.4% but the Zacks Consumer Staples sector is up 8.5% in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and the sector are up 24.3% and 28.5%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 14.4% in the year-to-date period and 43.8% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 33.82X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 23.3X for the Zacks sub-industry, 20.85X for the Zacks sector and 21.74X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 42.78X and as low as 21.8X, with a 5-year median of 31.02X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our $99 price target reflects 35.71x forward 12-month earnings.

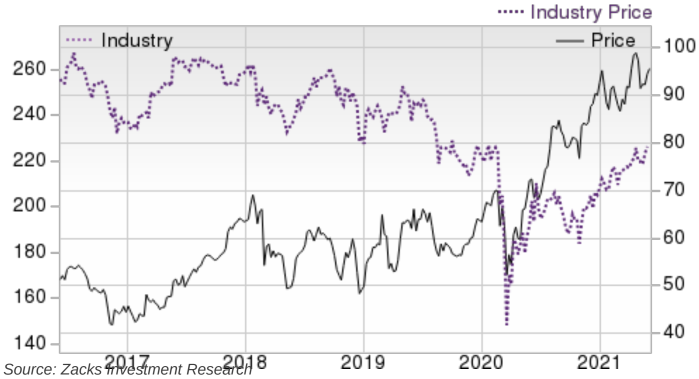
The table below shows summary valuation data for MNST

Valuation Multiples - MNST

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	33.82	23.3	20.85	21.74
	5-Year High	42.78	24.78	22.4	23.83
	5-Year Low	21.8	18.54	16.51	15.31
	5-Year Median	31.02	21.88	19.5	18.05
P/S F12M	Current	8.8	4.96	10.46	4.7
	5-Year High	10.5	5.32	11.94	4.74
	5-Year Low	5.85	3.93	8.57	3.21
	5-Year Median	8.13	4.68	10.32	3.72
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	30.09	21.23	42.76	17.32
	5-Year High	31.74	22.66	45.74	17.74
	5-Year Low	17.75	12.28	27.43	9.63
	5-Year Median	23.84	18.29	39.27	13.46

As of 06/10/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Top 44% (111 out of 250)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Britvic PLC Sponsored ADR **(BTVCY)**	Neutral	3
Carlsberg AS **(CABGY)**	Neutral	2
COCACOLA HBC **(CCHGY)**	Neutral	3
National Beverage Corp. **(FIZZ)**	Neutral	3
Fomento Economico Mexicano S.A.B. de C.V. **(FMX)**	Neutral	2
Altria Group, Inc. **(MO)**	Neutral	3
Molson Coors Beverage Company **(TAP)**	Neutral	3
Alkaline Water Company Inc. **(WTER)**	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Beverages - Soft Drinks

Industry Peers

	MNST	X Industry	S&P 500	CABGY	FIZZ	TAP
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	4	-	-	2	3	3
VGM Score	B	-	-	C	B	D
Market Cap	49.56 B	136.88 M	30.26 B	27.42 B	4.55 B	13.17 B
# of Analysts	8	1	12	2	1	7
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.28%	1.29%	0.00%	0.00%
Value Score	C	-	-	C	C	B
Cash/Price	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.04
EV/EBITDA	28.10	17.58	17.41	14.08	21.99	35.34
PEG F1	3.01	2.71	2.14	NA	NA	2.81
P/B	9.08	4.56	4.16	4.13	14.41	1.03
P/CF	37.33	19.27	17.71	16.65	28.33	7.38
P/E F1	35.99	23.11	21.55	25.29	25.27	15.71
P/S TTM	10.37	2.88	3.49	NA	4.24	1.15
Earnings Yield	2.77%	4.10%	4.55%	3.97%	3.96%	6.37%
Debt/Equity	0.00	0.06	0.66	0.68	0.00	0.56
Cash Flow ($/share)	2.51	1.57	6.83	2.23	1.72	8.22
Growth Score	B	-	-	B	B	F
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	17.28%	3.83%	9.44%	NA	15.03%	4.91%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	9.49%	15.74%	21.30%	9.33%	3.76%	-1.39%
Current Cash Flow Growth	13.09%	-17.23%	0.98%	2.64%	2.73%	-4.08%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	16.95%	10.39%	7.28%	8.46%	21.40%	11.67%
Current Ratio	4.35	1.35	1.39	0.67	2.40	0.66
Debt/Capital	0.00%	27.09%	41.53%	40.32%	0.00%	35.88%
Net Margin	30.25%	4.79%	11.95%	NA	15.95%	-6.54%
Return on Equity	26.31%	8.74%	16.36%	NA	37.33%	5.91%
Sales/Assets	0.81	0.79	0.51	NA	1.65	0.41
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	17.00%	5.95%	9.37%	11.85%	6.50%	6.14%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	C	C	D
Daily Price Change	0.57%	0.49%	0.21%	0.87%	-2.32%	-0.03%
1-Week Price Change	1.17%	1.78%	0.58%	-1.79%	-0.32%	3.07%
4-Week Price Change	4.81%	6.17%	1.55%	1.15%	8.21%	4.26%
12-Week Price Change	6.65%	2.85%	7.72%	17.51%	-2.54%	23.54%
52-Week Price Change	38.30%	38.17%	46.01%	42.83%	75.85%	66.13%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,775,554	180,609	1,775,554	57,904	397,008	1,795,681
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.05%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-3.44%	1.51%	3.52%	9.74%	0.00%	-0.66%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	NA	NA	0.00%

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	C
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	B
VGM Score	B

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.