Newmont Corporation(NEM)

$74.38 (As of 05/18/21)

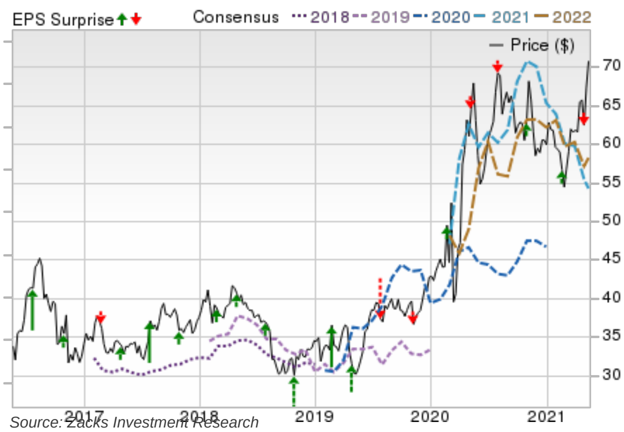
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$78.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 02/24/21) Prior Recommendation: Underperform		**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)		**4-Sell**
	Zacks Style Scores:		VGM:A
	Value: B	Growth: A	Momentum: A

Summary

Newmont's adjusted earnings and sales for the first quarter missed the respective Zacks Consensus Estimate. The company is making a notable progress with its growth projects. It is likely to gain from a number of projects including the Tanami expansion, Yanacocha Sulfides and Ahafo north. Moreover, the merger with Goldcorp is expected to be value-accretive to its cash flow and generate significant synergies. However, declining production is a concern. Factors like coronavirus-related impacts across certain mines and the divestment of certain assets are impacting production. Higher production costs are likely to weigh on its margins. Newmont is witnessing higher cost applicable to sales (CAS) and all-in sustaining costs (AISC) in certain mines partly related to the pandemic. The recent weakness in gold prices is another concern.

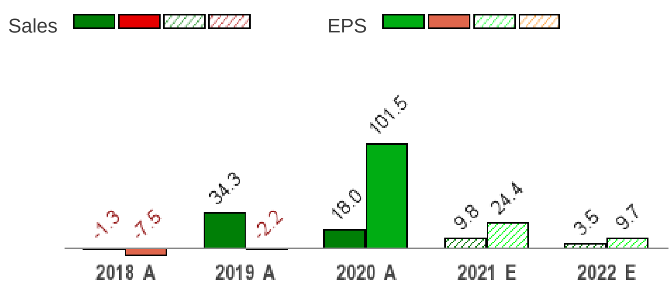
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$75.31 - $52.33**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**6,738,287**
Market Cap	**$59.6 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**24.2%**
Beta	**0.28**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$2.20 / 3.0%**
Industry	**Mining - Miscellaneous**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 23% (193 out of 251)**
Last EPS Surprise	**-1.3%**
Last Sales Surprise	**-6.9%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**-5.7%**
Expected Report Date	**07/29/2021**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**25.0**
P/E F1	**22.5**
PEG F1	**NA**
P/S TTM	**5.1**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					13,059 E
2021	2,872 A	3,001 E	3,230 E	3,243 E	12,621 E
2020	2,581 A	2,365 A	3,170 A	3,381 A	11,497 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	$0.70 E	$0.72 E	$0.77 E	$0.80 E	$3.63 E
2021	$0.74 A	$0.72 E	$0.80 E	$0.88 E	$3.31 E
2020	$0.40 A	$0.32 A	$0.86 A	$1.06 A	$2.66 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 05/18/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 05/19/2021.

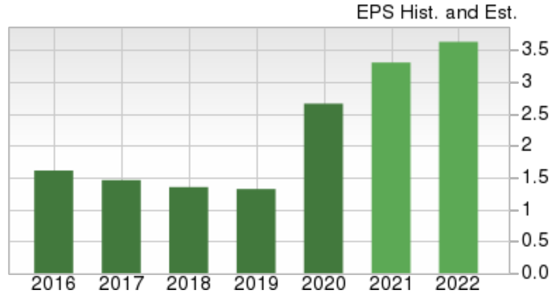
Overview

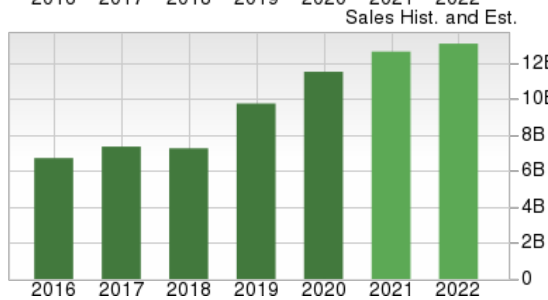
Colorado-based Newmont Corporation is one of the world's largest producers of gold with several active mines in Nevada, Peru, Australia and Ghana. As of Dec 31, 2020, Newmont had gold mineral reserves of more than 94 million ounces. Its attributable gold production for 2020 was 5.9 million ounces.

Newmont's operating segments are North America, South America, Australia and Africa.

The North America segment (25% of 2020 gold production) has operations in Mexico (Penasquito), Canada (Eleonore, Musselwhite and Porcupine) and in the United States in both Colorado and Nevada. The South America segment (12%) is represented by operations in Suriname, Peru, Argentina and Dominican Republic. The Australia segment (20%) consists of Boddington and Tanami. Newmont fully owns and operates the Tanami mine. It also owns 100% of the Boddington mine. The Africa segment (14%) operations are represented by the fully-owned Ahafo and Akyem mines in Ghana.

The company closed the sale of its 48.5% ownership interest in PT Newmont Nusa Tenggara (PTNNT), which operates the Batu Hijau copper and gold mine in Indonesia, to PT Amman Mineral Internasional (PTAMI) on Nov 2, 2016. The asset's name is now changed to PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara (PTAMNT).





The company, in February 2014, completed the sale of its Midas underground operation and mill complex to Klondex Mines Ltd. The company, in March 2014, also sold its 5.4% equity interest in Paladin Energy Ltd. through a block sale deal with UBS Australia. Moreover, the company, in July 2014, completed the sale of its Jundee underground gold mine in Australia to Northern Star Resources for roughly $91 million. The company also completed the sale of its 44% stake in the Penmont joint venture in Mexico in October 2014 to Fresnillo plc for $477 million.

In January 2019, Newmont entered into a definitive deal with Goldcorp to acquire all of the outstanding common shares of the latter in a stock-for-stock transaction. The transaction was successfully closed on Apr 18, 2019. The deal provides the company an investment-grade balance sheet and financial flexibility to pursue promising projects.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

> Newmont is making a notable progress with its growth projects and remains focused on driving shareholder value. The merger with Goldcorp will also generate significant synergies.

- Newmont continues to invest in growth projects in a calculated manner. The company is pursuing a number of projects including Tanami Expansion 2 in Australia, Yanacocha Sulfides in Peru and the Ahafo North expansion in Africa. The company is pursuing a second expansion at Tanami. The project is expected to boost production by roughly 150,000-200,000 ounces annually and reduce operating costs by around 10%. The Ahafo expansion project represents additional upside. The expansion was also brought on line in third-quarter 2019, with a budget of around $175 million. It is likely to boost mill capacity to nearly 10 million tons per year. A new mine at the Ahafo North is also expected to add 300,000 ounces per year. Also, the company's production is likely to be boosted by higher grade production from the Subika Underground project, which reached commercial production in November 2018. Subika Underground is expected to deliver higher grades in 2021. The Yanacocha Sulfides project is also expected to add 500,000 gold equivalent ounces annually. Ahafo North and Yanacocha Sulfides are expected to reach execution stage in 2021.

- Newmont is well placed benefit from its merger with Goldcorp. The transaction is immediately value-accretive to its cash flow and net asset value per share. It is projected to generate an annual expected benefit of around $165 million per year. Moreover, annual pre-tax synergies and full potential benefits are expected to be $265 million, representing value creation potential of more than $2.5 billion.

- The company is a making notable progress with efficiency improvement programs. Improved operational efficiency is allowing the company to generate positive free cash flow. The company generated strong operating cash flow of $4.9 billion and free cash flow of $3.6 billion in 2020 on the back of a rally in gold prices. Newmont also hiked its quarterly dividend by 38% to 55 cents per share. It also delivered more than $2.7 billion to shareholders through dividends and share buybacks in 2019 and 2020. Moreover, Newmont completed a $1-billion share repurchase program in 2020 and also announced a new $1-billion buyback program.

- Newmont's efforts to lower debt level are also encouraging. Its long-term debt was $4,988 million at the end of first-quarter 2021, lower than $6,045 million at the end of the sequentially prior quarter. Further, its time-interest-earned ratio of 11.4 at the end of the first quarter rose from 11.2 in the prior quarter. As such, the company appears to have a lower default risk.

Reasons To Sell:

> The company’s declining production may affect its results. Higher production costs and the recent weakness in gold prices are other concerns.

- Newmont's shares have gained 13.1% in the past year, underperforming the industry's rise of 55%. The company’s declining production may affect its performance. Its attributable gold production for 2020 dropped 6% year over year. Further, attributable gold production declined around 1% year over year in the most recent quarter. Factors like lower production at Cerro Negro amid government restrictions associated with the coronavirus pandemic and reduced ore grade at Merian affected results along with the divestment of Red Lake. Operational challenges across certain mines are expected to affect production over the near term and exert pressure on the company’s profitability. The impacts of operational restrictions in certain countries including Argentina due to the pandemic are likely to continue to affect production through the first half of 2021. The company has also temporarily suspend operations at the Musselwhite mine in Canada amid the pandemic-led disruptions.

- Higher production costs, partly due to the pandemic, is a concern for the company. Its CAS rose 5% year over year in 2020. Newmont also recorded AISC of $1,045 per ounce for 2020, up 8% year over year. The company also saw higher CAS and AISC across a number of operations in the last reported quarter. In particular, its South America operation is bearing the brunt of a significant rise in costs. AISC for the operation increased 7% year over year in the quarter. The company is also seeing higher costs in Australia and Africa. As such, higher costs may weigh on its margins over the near term.

- The recent weakness in gold prices is another concern. Gold had a strong run in 2020 with prices gaining around 25% as fears over the coronavirus pandemic made it the most attractive safe-haven asset. Apprehensions regarding global economic growth fueled safe-haven demand for the metal through the year. The ultra-low interest rate environment, fears over supply crunch and geopolitical tensions also spurred up demand for gold. Gold even shot past the $2,000 an ounce threshold for the first time in August 2020. However, gold has lost the momentum since the fourth quarter of 2020 as the introduction of vaccines boosted market sentiment and brightened the prospects for global economic recovery. Prices of the yellow metal have been on a downswing on expectations of an economic recovery this year following the roll-out of vaccines. Gold prices are expected to remain volatile over the short term.

- The coronavirus outbreak may hurt gold demand in the near term. While the companies operating in this space are seeing a spike in gold prices, demand for gold may witness a slowdown from two major consumers, China and India. Notably, gold demand hit a 11-year low in 2020 on declines in jewelry demand in China and India, particularly in the fourth quarter, partly due to disruptions associated with the pandemic. A meaningful rebound is not expected over the near term given continued uncertainties surround the pandemic and its impacts on the consumer behavior. As such, an expected slowdown in demand may have an impact on the company’s production and sales.

Last Earnings Report

Newmont Misses Earnings and Sales Estimates in Q1

Quarter Ending	03/2021
Report Date	Apr 29, 2021
Sales Surprise	-6.86%
EPS Surprise	-1.33%
Quarterly EPS	0.74
Annual EPS (TTM)	2.98

Newmont reported net income from continuing operations of $538 million or 67 cents per share in first-quarter 2021, down from $837 million or $1.04 per share in the year-ago quarter.

Barring one-time items, adjusted earnings were 74 cents per share that missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 75 cents.

Newmont reported revenues of $2,872 million, up 11% year over year. However, the figure missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $3,083.5 million. The upside was driven by higher average realized metal prices, partly offset by reduced sales volumes.

Operational Highlights

Newmont's attributable gold production in the first quarter inched down 1.3% year over year to 1.46 million ounces in the quarter, impacted by the sale of Red Lake, reduced production at Cerro Negro, lower leach pad production and the ramp down of the mill at Yanacocha, reduced mill throughput at Nevada Gold Mines and lower ore grade milled at Merian.

Average realized prices of gold increased 10% year over year to $1,751 per ounce.

The company's CAS for gold was $752 per ounce, down 4% year over year.

AISC for gold remained flat year over year at $1,039 per ounce. Increased sustaining capital spend and higher advanced projects spend were largely offset by lower CAS per ounce.

Regional Performance

North America: Attributable gold production for the first quarter in North America was 413,000 ounces, up 10% year over year. Gold CAS for the region was $736 per ounce, down 15% year over year.

South America: Attributable gold production in South America was 174,000 ounces, down 26% year over year. Gold CAS for the region declined 2% on a year-over-year basis to $791 per ounce.

Australia: Attributable gold in the region was 269,000 ounces, up 4% year over year. Gold CAS in the region rose 3% year over year to $750 per ounce.

Africa: Production in the region totaled 205,000 ounces of gold in the quarter, up 10% year over year. Gold CAS was $758 per ounce, up 3% year over year.

Nevada: Production totaled 303,000 ounces of gold in the quarter, down 8% year over year. Gold CAS was $745 per ounce, up 2% year over year.

Financial Position

The company ended the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of $5,518 million, up 48.7% year over year. At the end of the quarter, the company had long-term debt of $4,988 million.

Net cash from operating activities amounted to $841 million in the quarter, down 10% year over year.

Outlook

For 2021, Newmont expects attributable gold production of 6.5 million ounces. The company also expects gold CAS to be $750 per ounce and AISC to be $970 per ounce.

Newmont expects an increase in gold production and is undertaking investments in its operating assets and other growth prospects. Its development projects, Ahafo North and Yanacocha Sulfides are expected to reach execution stage in 2021. Other development projects that have not reached execution stage reflect upside to guidance.

Recent News

Newmont Set to Repurchase Shares Worth Up to $1 Billion

Newmont, on **Jan 14, 2021**, announced that its board has approved a share repurchase program for up to $1 billion of common equity. This repurchase will be completed over the next 18 months. It is in addition to Newmont's industry-leading dividend framework. It will be carried out at the company's discretion, using open market repurchases in the authorization period.

Newmont follows a capital allocation strategy, wherein it maintains financial strength and flexibility, balances stable reinvestment in the business and provides good returns to shareholders.

The company has a dividend framework, which includes a sustainable base dividend and additional returns at higher gold prices. The repurchase program builds on the $1 billion 2020 program, which retired 22 million shares at the average price of $45 per share.

The company noted that the share repurchase program further underscores its disciplined operating model and a world-class and sustainable portfolio to provide industry leading returns to shareholders.

Valuation

Newmont's shares are up 13.1% over the trailing 12-month period. Over the past year, the Zacks Mining - Miscellaneous industry and the Zacks Basic Materials sector are up 55% and 64.5%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 41.9% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 21.83X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 8.28X for the Zacks sub-industry, 10.77X for the Zacks sector and 21.82X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 33.78X and as low as 12.5X, with a 5-year median of 23.64X.

Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $78 price target reflects 22.87X forward 12-month earnings per share.

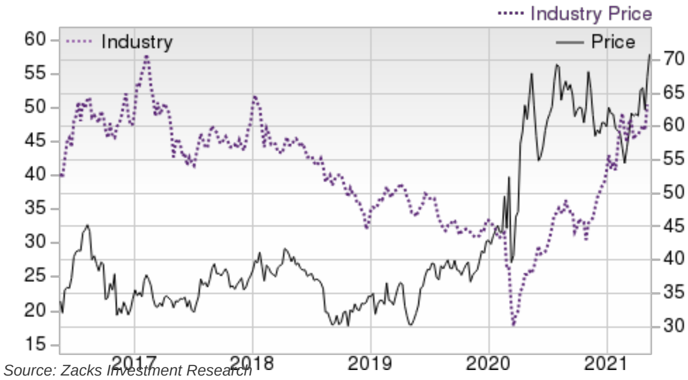
The table below shows summary valuation data for NEM:

Valuation Multiples - NEM

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	21.83	8.28	10.77	21.82
	5-Year High	33.78	26.97	18	23.83
	5-Year Low	12.5	7.88	10.23	15.3
	5-Year Median	23.64	11.74	13.03	18.02
P/B TTM	Current	2.49	1.58	3.66	6.89
	5-Year High	2.75	4.16	3.68	7.01
	5-Year Low	1.16	0.69	1.22	3.83
	5-Year Median	1.62	1.39	2.27	5
P/S TTM	Current	5.06	4.45	3.23	5.14
	5-Year High	5.33	4.49	3.37	5.23
	5-Year Low	2.17	1.9	1.4	2.82
	5-Year Median	3	2.81	2.67	3.92

As of 05/18/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 23% (193 out of 251)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
AngloGold Ashanti Limited **(AU)**	Neutral	3
Yamana Gold Inc. **(AUY)**	Neutral	4
B2Gold Corp **(BTG)**	Neutral	3
Gold Fields Limited **(GFI)**	Neutral	3
Barrick Gold Corporation **(GOLD)**	Neutral	3
Kinross Gold Corporation **(KGC)**	Neutral	4
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited **(AEM)**	Underperform	4
Eldorado Gold Corporation **(EGO)**	Underperform	4

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Mining - Miscellaneous

	NEM	X Industry	S&P 500	Industry Peers BTG	GOLD	KGC
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	4	-	-	3	3	4
VGM Score	A	-	-	B	B	A
Market Cap	59.59 B	216.10 M	30.10 B	5.57 B	44.65 B	10.37 B
# of Analysts	6	2	12	7	7	8
Dividend Yield	2.96%	0.00%	1.31%	1.89%	0.96%	0.73%
Value Score	B	-	-	A	B	A
Cash/Price	0.10	0.06	0.05	0.10	0.13	0.11
EV/EBITDA	10.33	-7.45	17.45	4.88	5.88	3.90
PEG F1	NA	2.12	2.20	1.68	10.88	NA
P/B	2.49	2.35	4.16	2.05	1.39	1.53
P/CF	13.45	10.19	17.38	10.82	10.51	5.72
P/E F1	22.49	12.73	21.80	11.89	21.75	13.34
P/S TTM	5.06	3.83	3.53	3.15	3.48	2.40
Earnings Yield	4.45%	4.10%	4.53%	8.49%	4.58%	7.54%
Debt/Equity	0.23	0.05	0.66	0.02	0.16	0.21
Cash Flow ($/share)	5.53	-0.00	6.82	0.49	2.39	1.44
Growth Score	A	-	-	B	A	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	9.78%	9.78%	9.39%	61.58%	5.83%	80.14%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	24.25%	71.43%	20.09%	-9.04%	0.37%	-19.97%
Current Cash Flow Growth	51.61%	-7.61%	0.61%	264.18%	44.85%	56.74%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	20.84%	9.88%	7.37%	14.15%	14.98%	17.53%
Current Ratio	2.40	2.93	1.39	2.91	3.77	2.16
Debt/Capital	18.94%	9.55%	41.58%	2.41%	13.81%	17.39%
Net Margin	21.77%	-19.99%	11.70%	36.55%	19.19%	31.69%
Return on Equity	10.18%	-11.10%	15.91%	20.57%	7.18%	16.56%
Sales/Assets	0.29	0.31	0.50	0.54	0.28	0.41
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	9.78%	4.17%	9.06%	-2.37%	-2.21%	1.01%
Momentum Score	A	-	-	D	F	F
Daily Price Change	0.51%	0.00%	-0.83%	-0.19%	-0.63%	-0.48%
1-Week Price Change	5.08%	-3.19%	-0.87%	-1.73%	0.42%	0.52%
4-Week Price Change	12.97%	12.08%	1.84%	3.52%	12.10%	8.30%
12-Week Price Change	30.86%	4.25%	9.84%	9.73%	24.55%	22.32%
52-Week Price Change	10.39%	151.40%	48.66%	-4.50%	-10.64%	8.73%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	6,738,287	236,511	1,913,723	6,172,593	16,786,052	12,933,768
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	1.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-5.56%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-5.69%	0.00%	1.90%	-5.74%	-5.29%	-17.97%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-14.51%	7.85%	2.54%	-9.83%	-17.18%	-26.75%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	-15.26%	0.00%	1.08%	-18.52%	-25.00%	-14.82%

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

Value Score	B
Growth Score	A
Momentum Score	A
VGM Score	A

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.

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.