Jun 18, 2021

Newell Brands Inc. (NWL)

$26.00 (As of 06/17/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$28.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 02/05/21) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**2-Buy**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:B
	Value: A | Growth: C | Momentum: D	

Summary

Shares of Newell Brands have outpaced the industry year to date. The stock further got a boost from solid first-quarter 2021 results, wherein both bottom and top lines grew year over year. This also marked the company's seventh straight quarter of earnings beat. Despite the challenging economic situation surrounding the pandemic, results reflected solid demand across all business units and regions along with enhanced supply-chain operations and robust consumption patterns. Encouragingly, it raised the 2021 view and issued upbeat second-quarter guidance. Further, it is progressing well with Project FUEL and other cost-cutting actions. However, Newell Brands has been witnessing weakness in margins due to inflation along with higher transportation and labor costs. Also, currency headwinds and rising input and transportation costs remain concerns.

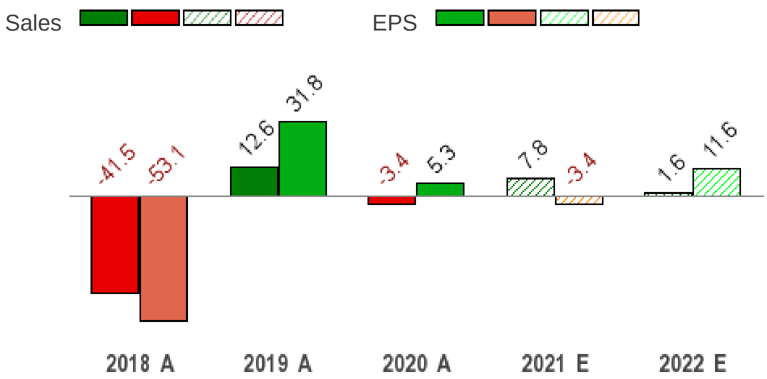
Price, Consensus & Surprise

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$30.10 - $14.81**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,950,766**
Market Cap	**$11.2 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**23.8%**
Beta	**0.95**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.92 / 3.5%**
Industry	**Consumer Products - Staples**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 13% (220 out of 252)**
Last EPS Surprise	**114.3%**
Last Sales Surprise	**10.9%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**0.0%**
Expected Report Date	**07/30/2021**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**13.2**
P/E F1	**15.0**
PEG F1	**5.3**
P/S TTM	**1.1**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	2,247 E	2,521 E	2,696 E	2,720 E	10,272 E
2021	2,288 A	2,543 E	2,600 E	2,639 E	10,115 E
2020	1,886 A	2,111 A	2,699 A	2,689 A	9,385 A

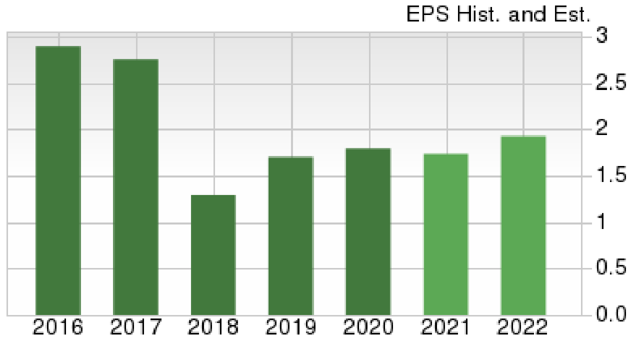
EPS Estimates

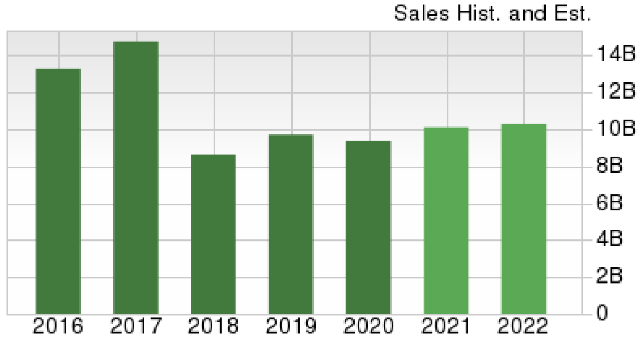
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	$0.33 E	$0.49 E	$0.63 E	$0.49 E	$1.93 E
2021	$0.30 A	$0.45 E	$0.55 E	$0.43 E	$1.73 E
2020	$0.09 A	$0.30 A	$0.84 A	$0.56 A	$1.79 A

*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 06/17/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 06/18/2021.

Overview





Atlanta, GA-based Newell Brands Inc. is a global manufacturer and marketer of consumer and commercial products, including Paper Mate, Sharpie, Dymo, EXPO, Parker, Elmer's, Marmot, Oster, Rubbermaid, Sunbeam, FoodSaver, Graco, Baby Jogger, and others. The products cater to indoor and outdoor organizations and include food and home storage products, stationery, art supplies, power tool accessories, hardware, outdoor recreation products, household staples, aluminum and steel cookware, as well as infant care products.

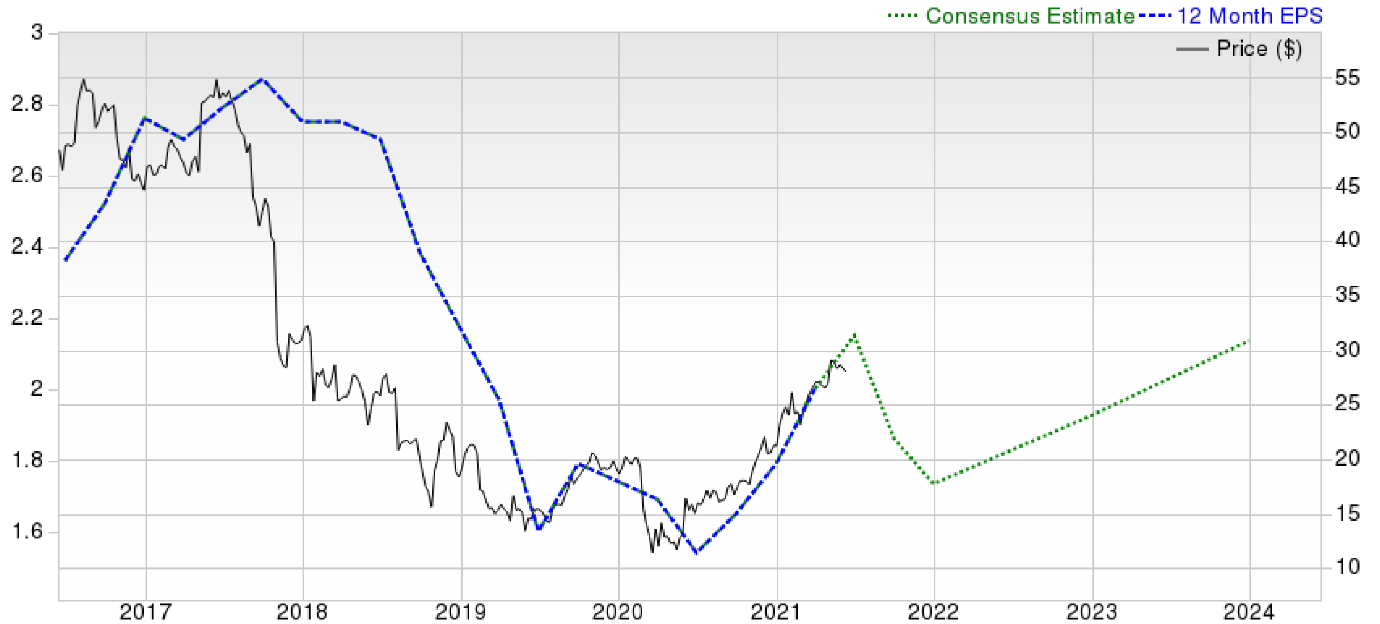
Post restructural changes, the company operates five segments as of second-quarter 2002, which are as follows:

The Learning & Development segment (27%) encompasses writing instruments such as markers, highlighters, pens, pencils; art products; cutting products; activity-based adhesive and labeling solutions; baby gear and infant care products. The segment includes brands like Sharpie, Expo, Graco, Baby Jogger, Mr. Sketch, NUK, Paper Mate, Parker, Prismacolor, Tigex, Waterman and X-Acto.

The Home Appliances segment (16%) includes household products such as kitchen appliances products, gourmet cookware, bakeware and cutlery products. The unit comprises brands like Mr. Coffee, Calphalon, Crock-Pot, Sunbeam and Oster.

The Commercial Solution segment (20.6%) encompasses food and home storage products as well as fresh preserving, vacuum sealing, commercial cleaning and maintenance solutions, hygiene systems and handling solutions products. The segment includes brands like Rubbermaid Commercial Products, Ball, FoodSaver, and Sistema.

The Outdoor and Recreation segment (14.7%) includes outdoor activities and sporting goods products, skiing and snowboarding equipment, skates and accessories as well as basketball and softball game-related product lines. The segment includes brands such as Coleman, Contigo, Marmot to name a few.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

▲ **Robust Earnings Trend**: Shares of Newell have gained 26.1% year to date outperforming the industry's growth of 3.9%. The company has been witnessing steady bottom-line performance for a while now, recording the seventh straight quarter of earnings beat in first-quarter 2021. Despite the challenging economic situation surrounding the coronavirus outbreak, results reflected solid demand across all business units and regions along with enhanced supply chain operations and robust consumption patterns. Also, robust performance in Home Fragrances and Home Appliances businesses along with improvement in the Writing business contributed to quarterly growth. Moreover, core sales improved 20.9%, driven by growth in majority of business units and all regions. Notably, this marked the third successive quarter of core sales growth. Capitalizing on the shift to digital consumption, e-commerce business accounted for more than 50% of total sales in the first quarter.

Continued demand across all business units and regions as well as a solid online show aided Newell's Q1 results. Also, enhanced e-commerce capabilities and Project FUEL plan act as growth drivers.

▲ **Upbeat View**: Management raised the 2021 view and issued upbeat second-quarter guidance. The company now anticipates 2021 sales at $9.9-$10.1 billion versus the earlier view of $9.5-$9.7 billion. Core sales growth is likely to be 5-7%. Normalized earnings now are forecasted at $1.63-$1.73, which reflects an improvement from $1.55-$1.65 per share expected earlier. For second-quarter 2021, the company expects normalized earnings of 41-45 cents, with operating margin expansion of 130-180 bps to 11.5-12%. Further, net sales are envisioned to be $2.5-$2.58 billion, with core sales witnessing growth of 17%-20%.

▲ **Declining SG&A Trend**: Newell Brands has been witnessing improvement in SG&A expenses for quite some time now. Notably, SG&A expenses fell 2.6% to $534 million in first-quarter 2021, following declines of 5%, 13.7%, 20.3%, 3.7% in the preceding four quarters. Persistence of this trend is likely to have a favorable impact on the company's bottom line in the near future **.**

▲ **Focus Areas in 2020**: Post the success of the transformation plan, management is progressing well with its Project FUEL plan for 2020 that focuses on enhancing productivity, improve pricing and other cost cutting efforts in a bid to aid revenues. The company is working toward increasing efficiency in manufacturing plants, procurement and distribution centers. Also, it plans to leverage its robust e-commerce capabilities, which have remained strong for some time now. With consumers increasingly shifting to online platform due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Newell witnessed double-digit growth online for yet another quarter. This positive trend is likely to continue in the near term. Also, the company remains well positioned to gain from consumers shifting preference to online channel.

▲ **Debt Analysis**: Newell's long-term debt (including operating lease liabilities) of $5,135 million fell 0.1% on a sequential basis at the end of first-quarter 2021. Moreover, its debt-to-capitalization ratio of 0.58 reflects a decline from 0.59 at the end of the prior quarter. The company's cash and cash equivalents of $682 million as of Mar 31 look sufficient to fund its short-term obligations of $357 million. Moreover, the company's other notable efforts include SKU reduction efforts, Project FUEL and other cost-cutting actions. Further, management repurchased $5 million of 3.85% senior notes due 2023 and redeemed $94 million of 3.2% of senior notes due April 2021. That said, it has liquidity of more than $2 billion, which is likely to help it stay afloat amid this crisis.

Reasons To Sell:

- **High Costs, A Worry**: Newell has been witnessing raw material inflation along with higher labor and freight costs stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. Driven by these factors, Newell's gross margin contracted 60 basis points (bps) to 32.2% in first-quarter 2021. The aforementioned headwinds more than offset the fuel productivity savings and better pricing. Prior to this, the metric contracted 60 bps, 90 bps and 330 bps in the fourth, third and second quarters of 2020. We believe the persistence of such expenses or any rise in it may weigh on the company's profitability in the near term .

Newell Brands Newell has been witnessing raw material inflation along with higher labor and freight costs stemming from the COVID-19 crisis, which is likely to persist in 2021.

- **Currency Headwinds**: Newell remains exposed to the impacts of adverse currency due to its vast global operations. Notably, the company's net sales in the recent quarters reflect significant impacts of unfavorable foreign currency. Going ahead, any significant unfavorable movement in foreign currency is likely to affect the company's profitability in the near term.

- **Dependence on a Few Target Customers**: Newell is heavily dependent few target customers, including large discounters, department stores, home centers, warehouse clubs, and office superstores. The company's principal customers continuously evaluate which product supplier is best for use. This considerably reduces Newell's pricing power against the giant retailers, thereby exerting pressure on margins and limiting profitability.

- **Competitive Pressure May Result in Loss of Market Share**: Newell faces intense competition from numerous manufacturers and distributors of consumer and commercial products. In such a competitive environment, the company has to focus on pricing, big consumer brands, introduction of new products, and customer service to retain its market share in the industry.

Last Earnings Report

Newell Brands Q1 Earnings & Sales Top Estimates, View Up

Quarter Ending	03/2021
Report Date	Apr 30, 2021
Sales Surprise	10.87%
EPS Surprise	114.29%
Quarterly EPS	0.30
Annual EPS (TTM)	2.00

Newell Brands posted better-than-expected results for first-quarter 2021, wherein both the bottom and the top line improved year over year. Despite the challenging economic situation surrounding the coronavirus outbreak, results reflected solid demand across all business units and regions along with enhanced supply chain operations and robust consumption patterns. Encouragingly, management raised 2021 view and issued upbeat second-quarter guidance.

Q1 Highlights

Newell Brands' first-quarter normalized earnings per share were 30 cents, which outpaced the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 14 cents. However, the metric surged more than three-fold from 9 cents earned a year ago.

Net sales grew 21.3% year over year to $2,288 million and surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $2,064 million. The uptick can be attributable to favorable currency movements and solid core sales to the tune of 20.9% as majority of business units and all regions witnessed core sales growth. On the flip side, adverse business impacts and divestitures remained headwinds.

Normalized gross margin contracted 60 basis points (bps) to 32.2% due to inflation along with higher transportation and labor costs which more than offset fuel productivity savings and better pricing. Meanwhile, normalized operating margin expanded 410 bps to 10.1% year over year.

Segment Details

The **Home Appliances** segment recorded net sales of $360 million in the first quarter, up 38% from the prior-year quarter. This is mainly due to the segment's core sales growth of 38.9%, which more than offset unfavorable foreign currency.

Net sales at the **Home Solutions** segment (Food, Outdoor products, Home Fragrance) totaled $504 million, up 33.7% from the prior-year period. The segment's top line was aided by core sales growth of 33.8%. Also, both Food and Home Fragrance businesses witnessed core sales growth.

The **Learnings and Development** segment recorded net sales of $617 million, which grew 16.9% from the prior-year quarter. This resulted from a 17.3% rise in core sales stemming from strength in both Writing and Baby units.

Net sales in the **Commercial Solution** segment were $471 million, up 14% from the prior-year period. Core sales growth of 12.9%, driven by favorable currency movements as well as solid performance in both Commercial and Connected Home & Security business categories, contributed to the segment's top line.

The **Outdoor and Recreation** segment recorded net sales of $336 million, which increased 9.4% from the prior-year quarter. This resulted from core sales growth of 7% year over year.

Other Financial Details

Newell Brands ended the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of $682 million, long-term debt of $5,135 million and shareholders' equity of $3,836 million, excluding non-controlling interests of $25 million.

In the quarter ending Mar 31, 2021, the company used $25 million in operating activities. Further, management repurchased $5 million of 3.85% senior notes due 2023 and redeemed $94 million of 3.2% of senior notes due April 2021. That said, it has liquidity of more than $2 billion, which is likely to help it stay afloat amid this crisis.

Looking Ahead

Driven by the impressive first-quarter 2021 results, management has lifted guidance for 2021 and issued a second-quarter view. The company now anticipates 2021 sales at $9.9-$10.1 billion versus the earlier view of $9.5-$9.7 billion. Core sales growth is likely to be 5-7%. Normalized earnings now are forecasted at $1.63-$1.73, which reflects an improvement from $1.55-$1.65 per share expected earlier.

For second-quarter 2021, the company expects normalized earnings of 41-45 cents, with operating margin expansion of 130-180 bps to 11.5-12%. Further, net sales are envisioned to be $2.5-$2.58 billion, with core sales witnessing growth of 17%-20%.

Recent News

Newell Approves Quarterly Dividend – May 4, 2021

Newell's board has approved a dividend of 23 cents per share, which is payable on Jun 15 to shareholders of record as of May 31.

Valuation

Newell shares are up 26.1% in the year-to-date period and nearly 72.9% for the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Consumer Staples sector are up 3.9% and 7% in the year-to-date period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is down 14.1% but the sector is up 24.2%.

The S&P 500 index is up 14% in the year-to-date period and 40.6% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 14.43X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 23.49X for the Zacks sub-industry, 20.54X for the Zacks sector and 21.69X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 18.34X and as low as 6.94X, with a 5-year median of 12.65X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $28 price target reflects 15.37X forward 12-month earnings.

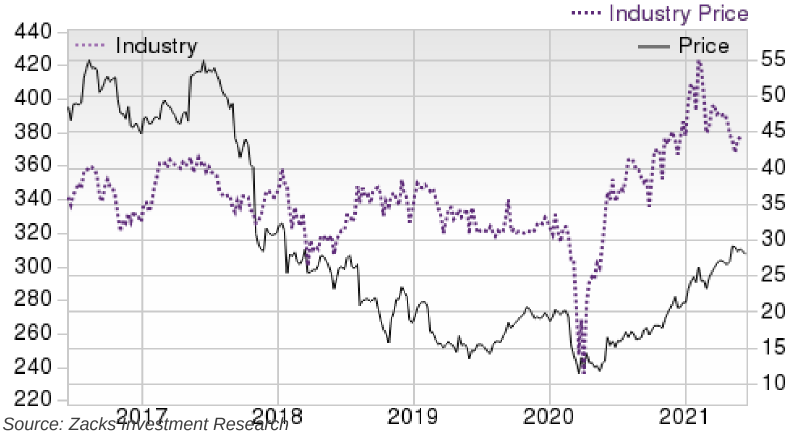
The table below shows summary valuation data for NWL

Valuation Multiples - NWL

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	14.43	23.49	20.54	21.69
	5-Year High	18.34	24.95	22.4	23.83
	5-Year Low	6.94	13.32	16.52	15.31
	5-Year Median	12.65	18.11	19.51	18.05
P/S F12M	Current	1.1	0.94	10.29	4.7
	5-Year High	1.79	2.04	11.95	4.74
	5-Year Low	0.47	0.67	8.58	3.21
	5-Year Median	0.95	1.75	10.32	3.72
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	10.01	10.62	42.21	17.34
	5-Year High	77.41	19.17	45.75	17.74
	5-Year Low	1.21	3.37	27.43	9.63
	5-Year Median	8.81	10.86	39.28	13.47

As of 06/17/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 13% (220 out of 252)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Chewy Inc. **(CHWY)**	Neutral	2
Energizer Holdings, Inc. **(ENR)**	Neutral	3
Edgewell Personal Care Company **(EPC)**	Neutral	3
International Flavors & Fragrances Inc. **(IFF)**	Neutral	3
LION CORP **(LIOPF)**	Neutral	3
Ollies Bargain Outlet Holdings, Inc. **(OLLI)**	Neutral	3
Grocery Outlet Holding Corp. **(GO)**	Underperform	5
Tupperware Brands Corporation **(TUP)**	Underperform	5

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Consumer Products - Staples

Industry Peers

	NWL	X Industry	S&P 500	CHWY	IFF	OLLI
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	2	-	-	2	3	3
VGM Score	B	-	-	C	D	C
Market Cap	11.18 B	2.79 B	29.66 B	32.27 B	36.30 B	5.78 B
# of Analysts	6	3.5	12	4	6	7
Dividend Yield	3.50%	0.00%	1.35%	0.00%	2.11%	0.00%
Value Score	A	-	-	F	C	C
Cash/Price	0.06	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.08
EV/EBITDA	13.86	11.82	16.95	-556.61	52.02	17.68
PEG F1	5.25	2.51	2.09	37.89	2.51	2.11
P/B	2.90	4.29	4.06	467.44	1.67	4.17
P/CF	4.26	14.84	17.27	NA	16.00	25.10
P/E F1	15.03	16.98	20.99	757.76	24.49	30.43
P/S TTM	1.14	1.21	3.39	4.21	5.85	3.02
Earnings Yield	6.58%	3.85%	4.65%	0.13%	4.08%	3.29%
Debt/Equity	1.33	0.41	0.66	0.00	0.52	0.00
Cash Flow ($/share)	6.17	1.59	6.83	-0.14	9.11	3.53
Growth Score	C	-	-	A	C	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-11.53%	0.61%	9.44%	NA	1.22%	32.86%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-3.17%	5.38%	21.49%	13.89%	4.47%	-7.91%
Current Cash Flow Growth	4.67%	7.73%	0.99%	-74.37%	-4.74%	57.01%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	28.01%	13.55%	7.28%	NA	13.55%	35.11%
Current Ratio	1.30	1.70	1.39	0.92	1.89	3.27
Debt/Capital	57.08%	32.17%	41.51%	0.00%	34.52%	0.04%
Net Margin	6.11%	2.59%	11.95%	-0.08%	3.17%	13.83%
Return on Equity	22.60%	11.75%	16.48%	NA	7.94%	17.59%
Sales/Assets	0.67	1.07	0.51	4.77	0.31	0.98
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	7.77%	12.36%	9.41%	25.77%	121.21%	3.47%
Momentum Score	D	-	-	A	F	D
Daily Price Change	-2.67%	-0.48%	-0.04%	0.61%	-0.99%	0.22%
1-Week Price Change	-0.81%	1.14%	-0.41%	-0.62%	3.34%	4.06%
4-Week Price Change	-7.56%	1.97%	1.51%	11.60%	4.61%	13.13%
12-Week Price Change	1.62%	-1.91%	7.99%	-1.73%	4.59%	4.18%
52-Week Price Change	70.16%	35.60%	35.52%	61.14%	13.44%	-13.68%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,950,766	485,965	1,771,802	3,946,576	1,278,049	1,143,644
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	95.24%	-0.35%	0.00%

EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.03%	179.54%	-0.82%	6.32%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	5.91%	0.54%	3.37%	187.86%	1.34%	5.71%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-28.57%	-1.66%	7.46%

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	A
Growth Score	C
Momentum Score	D
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.

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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.