

Phibro Animal Health (PAHC)

\$21.59 (As of 08/28/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$18.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation: Underperform

(Since: 08/06/20)

Prior Recommendation: Neutral

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

5-Strong Sell

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:D

Value: C

Growth: D

Momentum: D

Summary

Phibro exited fourth-quarter fiscal 2020 with lower-than-expected earnings. Dismal quarterly revenues primarily resulted from poor international performance of the Animal Health arm. The industries that Phibro caters to also faced issues like sudden drops in demand. The other two reporting segments' results were also disappointing amid the pandemic-led business disruptions. Foreign exchange fluctuations and a stiff competition are other headwinds. Phibro has underperformed its industry in the past six months. Yet, the nutritional specialty product sales and net vaccine sales were robust. The contribution from the Osprey Biotechnics buyout bodes well. Expansion of both margins is encouraging as well. The company's provision of guidance for the first quarter of fiscal 2020 despite pandemic-led business challenges raises optimism.

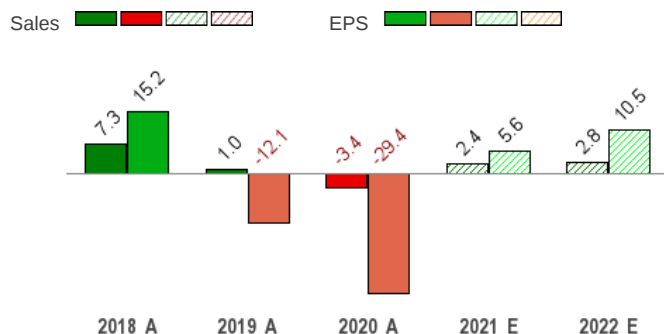
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$29.38 - \$16.87
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	164,937
Market Cap	\$873.4 M
Year-To-Date Price Change	-13.1%
Beta	0.43
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$0.48 / 2.2%
Industry	Medical - Products
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 28% (181 out of 252)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	-22.7%
Last Sales Surprise	NA
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-4.5%
Expected Report Date	NA
Earnings ESP	0.0%

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					842 E
2021					819 E
2020	190 A	214 A	211 A	186 A	800 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					\$1.26 E
2021					\$1.14 E
2020	\$0.19 A	\$0.34 A	\$0.38 A	\$0.17 A	\$1.08 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

P/E TTM	20.0
P/E F1	18.9
PEG F1	4.3
P/S TTM	1.1

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 08/28/2020. The reports text is as of 08/31/2020.

Overview

Headquartered in New Jersey, Phibro Animal Health Corporation is a leading global diversified animal health and mineral nutrition company. The company provides a broad range of products for food animals including poultry, swine, beef and dairy cattle and aquaculture. In addition to animal health and mineral nutrition products, Phibro manufactures and markets specific ingredients for use in the personal care, automotive, industrial chemical and chemical catalyst industries. At present, Phibro sells over 1,200 products in more than 65 countries.

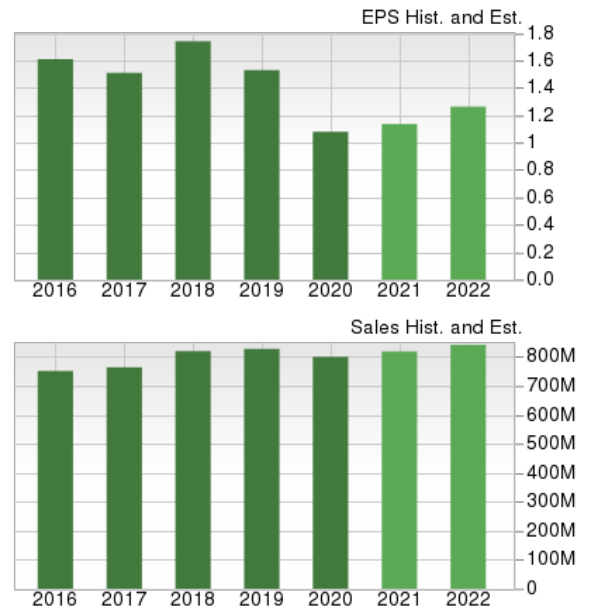
Currently, Phibro focuses on regions where the majority of livestock production is consolidated in large commercial farms such as the U.S., Brazil, China, Russia, Mexico, Australia, Turkey, Israel, Canada and Europe.

Business Segments

Animal Health (65.8% of total revenue in FY20, down 0.9% from FY19) develops, manufactures and markets more than 550 product presentations including antibacterials, anticoccidials, nutritional specialty products and vaccines.

Mineral Nutrition (26.8%, down 8.3%) manufactures and markets more than 400 formulations and concentrations of trace minerals such as zinc, manganese, copper, iron and other compounds, with special focus on customers in North America.

Performance Products (7.4%, down 5.1%) manufactures and markets a number of specialty ingredients for use in the personal care, automotive, industrial chemical and chemical catalyst industries, predominantly in the U.S.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Sell:

▼ **Share Price Performance:** Phibro has underperformed its industry for the past six months. The stock has lost 14.7% against the industry's 7.2% gain. Phibro exited fourth-quarter fiscal 2020 with lower-than-expected earnings. Dismal quarterly revenues primarily resulted from poor international performance of the Animal Health arm. The other two reporting segments also put up a disappointing show. In the quarter, the company faced the pandemic-led lack of processing availability and sudden declines in demand. Foreign exchange fluctuations and a stiff competitive landscape are other headwinds.

▼ **Coronavirus-Led Business Disruptions:** In the fiscal fourth quarter, Phibro's top line dropped 8.8% year over year primarily due to pandemic-led challenges. The industries that the company caters to (especially swine and cattle customers) also faced issues like lack of processing availability and sudden drops in demand. The company had to close down many of production facilities or operate at different rates due to the pandemic.

Further, net sales of all the three reporting segments declined year over year in the fiscal fourth quarter due to challenges arising due to the pandemic.

▼ **Foreign Exchange Headwinds:** Phibro conducts operations globally, which entails transactions in a variety of currencies. Although a portion of Phibro's revenues are denominated in various currencies, the selling prices of the majority of its products outside the United States are referenced in U.S. dollars. As a result, Phibro's revenues are not significantly directly affected by currency movements.

However, the company is subject to currency risk to the extent that its costs are denominated in currencies other than those in which the company earns revenues. Notably, Phibro manufactures some of its major products in Brazil and Israel, where production costs are largely denominated in local currencies, while selling prices are largely set in U.S. dollars. As such, the company is exposed to changes in cost of goods sold resulting from currency movements and may not be able to adjust its selling prices to offset such movements. In fact, management in particular believes that the current strong U.S. dollar is affecting the company's export market.

▼ **Competitive Landscape:** Phibro is engaged in highly competitive industries. With respect to its major products, it thus faces threat from a substantial number of global and regional competitors. Phibro's competitive position is based principally on its product registrations, customer service and support, breadth of product line, product quality, manufacturing technology, facility location, and product prices. Some of the company's principal competitors, with greater financial, R&D, production and other resources, include Bayer AG, Ceva Santé Animale, Boehringer Ingelheim International GMBH, Eli Lilly and Company (Elanco Animal Health), Huvepharma Inc., Lallemand Inc., Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck Animal Health and MSD Animal Health), Pharmgate LLC, Southeastern Minerals, Inc., Virbac and Zoetis Inc.

Moreover, consolidation continues to rise in the animal health market, which might work in favor of Phibro's competitors. Thus, the company faces a tough competitive scenario in nearly all the markets wherein it operates.

▼ **Generic Pressure to Affect Growth:** Phibro also faces competition from generic alternatives of some of its products. The company depends primarily on trade secrets to provide management with competitive advantages for many of its products. The protection afforded is limited by the availability of new competitive products or generic versions of existing products that can successfully compete with Phibro's products. As a result, Phibro faces competition from such new competitive products or lower-priced generic alternatives.

These days, generic competitors are becoming more aggressive in terms of pricing, and generic products form a considerable proportion of overall animal health sales in certain regions. If animal health customers increase their use of new or existing generic products, it will adversely affect Phibro's financial health and operational performance.

Customer consolidation can adversely affect Phibro's revenues. Moreover, headwinds such as unfavorable currency movement and tough competitive scenario continue to pose threats.

Risks

- **Animal Health Market Growth Continues:** Phibro Health is well positioned in the fastest growing food animal species segment of the animal health market with significant presence in poultry and swine. Per a report by Grand View Research, the global animal health market was valued at \$47.1 billion in 2019 and is expected to exhibit a CAGR of 5.8% between 2020 and 2027. We are also encouraged to note that, Phibro as a leading provider of Medicated Feed Additives (MFA) products, has the potential to best capture the huge and growing animal health market worldwide.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020, Animal Health segment's nutritional specialty product sales rose 8.7% primarily due to the acquisition of Osprey Biotechnics. Apart from this, net vaccine sales reflected an increase of 8.1% year over year on higher international volumes. Despite the overall fall in Animal Health, these two subsegments registered robust growth.

Further, the company recorded a favorable product mix in the Animal Health segment during the quarter, which partly contributed to an improvement in the overall gross profit margin.

- **Diversified Product Portfolio:** With rise in scarcity of natural resources, demand for efficient production of animal food such as poultry, swine and cattle have increased. By 2050, the world will need to double food production to feed an estimated global population of 9.1 billion (as per United Nations World Population Database). Meeting this need requires cost-effective production of safe, high-quality animal protein.

Phibro's key animal health products, including MFAs and nutritional specialty products facilitate in enhancing animal nutrition. Phibro's leading product franchise, Stafac/V-Max/Eskalin, is approved in more than 30 countries for use in poultry and swine and is regarded as one of the leading MFA products for livestock. Similarly, the company's nutritional product offerings, such as OmniGen-AF, are used increasingly in the global dairy industry. The company also manufactures vaccines which protect animals from both viral and bacterial disease challenges.

On the other hand, Phibro's mineral nutrition products strengthen an animal's diet and helps maintain its optimal health. Management believes the diversity of species and product categories enhances the company's sales mix and lowers sales concentration risk.

Currently, the company is focused on expanding its footprint in the poultry, swine and cattle industries in both domestic and international markets. The complementary nature of its animal health and mineral nutrition portfolio provides Phibro with unique cross-selling opportunities that can help reach out to new customers or strengthen relationships with existing ones. We believe such a diverse portfolio will allow the company to comfortably address the distinct growing conditions of livestock in different regions of the world.

- **Potential in Emerging Markets:** Phibro's existing operations and established sales, marketing and distribution network in over 75 countries, provides it ample scope to take advantage of global growth opportunities. Outside the United States, Phibro's global footprint extends to key high-growth regions (countries where the livestock production growth rate is expected to be higher than the average growth rate) including Brazil and other countries in South America, China, India and Asia Pacific, Russia and former CIS countries, Mexico, Turkey, Australia, Canada and South Africa and other countries in Africa.

Phibro has continued to invest in the Far East Asia where huge growth is expected in poultry and dairy industries. Currently, the company is expanding its dairy business in the markets of Australia, Brazil and Mexico. We believe given the turmoil that is currently prevailing in the economies of Russia, Greece, Brazil and China, Phibro has performed quite well of late and bears the potential to continue the healthy performance, going ahead.

- **Prospering Vaccine Business:** Phibro is focusing on new developments along with incremental registrations and growing volumes of existing nutritional specialties and vaccine technologies. Phibro's buyout of the assets of Israel-based developer and manufacturer of vaccines, KoVax, has widened its portfolio of aquaculture products.

Earlier, the company purchased MJ Biologic's swine vaccines in the United States. Further, Phibro had become the exclusive distributor of MJ Biologicals that works on research and development of animal health products. Both the firms are working on the joint development of certain animal vaccines. So far, the collaboration has helped expand Phibro's U.S. swine product offering to include specialized vaccines.

The company has also launched the pHi-Tech vaccination device. The initial trials have started delivering impressive results. The company has signed up its first customers for the trials and expects the product to contribute to its top line in the long term.

In the fiscal fourth quarter, Phibro's net vaccine sales increased 8.1% year over year on higher international volume. For the full year, vaccine sales grew 10% primarily on strong international demand for poultry vaccines and increasing market penetration.

- **Stable Solvency Structure with Heavy Payout Load:** Phibro exited the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020 with cash and cash equivalents of \$91 million compared with \$82 million at the end of the third quarter. Meanwhile, total debt came up to \$387 million, an increase from the sequentially-last-reported figure of \$367 million. Although, the reported quarter's total debt was much higher than the corresponding cash and cash equivalent level, the company has current-year-payable debt of \$19 million on its balance sheet, much lower than the present level of cash in hand. This is good news in terms of the company's solvency position particularly during the year of global pandemic when it is majorly facing manufacturing and supply halt globally.

Debt comparison with the industry is, however, favorable as industry's total debt of \$9.78 billion, is much higher to the company's debt level.

The quarter's total debt-to-capital ratio stands at 0.67, indicating a moderately leveraged balance sheet. It represents a sequential rise

from 0.65 in the third quarter. This compares unfavorably with the total debt-to-capital ratio of the industry, which stands at a lower level of 0.37. The overall data concludes that in terms of solvency level of the company, the picture is stable.

The company's fiscal fourth-quarter interest coverage stands at 5.3%, an increase from the sequentially-last quarter's figure of 4.7%. This, however, compares favorably with the times interest earned for the industry which stands at a lower level (4.8%).

Phirbo's capital deployment policy is based on the return of shareholders's money through dividends and share buybacks. The company's current payout ratio stands at a 44.4%. Amid the pandemic-led economic crisis, if production and supply halt along with lockdowns continue through the next few months, the company might find paying its regular quarterly dividends to be over-burdened. However, this compares unfavorably with the payout rate of the industry which stands at a lower level (37.4%).

Last Earnings Report

Phibro Q4 Earnings Fall Short of Estimates, Margins Up

Phibro reported adjusted earnings per share of 17 cents in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020, reflecting a 48.5% fall from the year-ago 33 cents. The figure also lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 22.7%.

Full-year adjusted earnings per share was \$1.08, reflecting a 29.4% decrease from the year-earlier \$1.53. The metric again fell short of the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 2.7%.

Meanwhile, without adjustments, GAAP earnings per share for the fourth quarter was 14 cents, down 36.4% from the year-ago count.

Full-year GAAP earnings per share was 83 cents, reflecting a 38.5% fall from the year-earlier \$1.35.

Quarter Ending	06/2020
Report Date	Aug 26, 2020
Sales Surprise	NA
EPS Surprise	-22.73%
Quarterly EPS	0.17
Annual EPS (TTM)	1.08

Net Sales

In the quarter under review, net sales totaled \$185.9 million, down 8.8% year over year primarily due to pandemic-led challenges. The industries that the company caters to (especially swine and cattle customers) also faced issues like lack of processing availability and sudden drops in demand. However, this was partially offset by progress made in Nutritional Specialties and Vaccines offerings.

Full-year revenues were \$800.4 million, reflecting a 3.3% drop from the year-ago period.

Segmental Sales Break-Up

During the fourth quarter, **Animal Health** net sales declined 7.3% to \$122.4 million. Within this segment, sales of medicated feed additives (MFAs) and other were \$72.6 million, reflecting a 15.9% year-over-year decline. The decline in MFAs resulted from lower sales volume in China, South America and other international regions. The drop in volumes in China was driven by continued effects of African Swine Fever and regulatory changes effective Jan 1, 2020.

Within Animal Health, nutritional specialty product sales rose 8.7% to \$31.1 million, primarily due to the acquisition of Osprey Biotechnics.

Apart from this, net vaccine sales totaled \$18.6 million, showing an increase of 8.1% year over year on higher international volume.

Net sales at the **Mineral Nutrition** segment fell 10.9% year over year to \$49.9 million owing to lower average selling prices and reduced overall unit volumes.

Net sales at the **Performance Products** segment fell 14.5% to \$13.6 million owing to lower volume of copper-based and industrial chemical products.

Margins

Phibro's fourth-quarter gross profit declined 7.2% year over year to \$60.6 million. However, gross margin expanded 57 basis points (bps) to 32.6%.

Selling, general and administrative expenses in the reported quarter were \$42.4 million, down 20.3% from the year-ago quarter.

Adjusted operating profit rose 50.4% year over year to \$18.2 million and adjusted operating margin expanded 386 bps to 9.8% in the quarter under review.

Financial Update

The company exited fiscal 2020 with cash and short-term investments on hand of \$91 million compared with \$82 million at the end of fiscal 2019.

Cumulative net cash provided by operating activities at the end of fiscal 2020 was \$59.3 million compared with \$47.2 million at the end of fiscal 2019.

Cumulative capital expenditure amounted to \$34 million at the end of fiscal 2020, reflecting an increase from the year-ago \$29.9 million.

Outlook

Despite the pandemic-led business disruptions across the globe, Phibro has provided its financial guidance for the first quarter of fiscal 2021.

The company projects net sales at around \$190 million, suggesting almost no movement from the year-ago figure. Net income is projected within \$5-\$6 million, indicating an increase of \$2.5-\$3.5 million from the year-ago figure.

Adjusted earnings per share is projected at 18-20 cents, indicating a loss of a penny to a gain of a penny from the year-ago figure. GAAP earnings per share is anticipated within 13-15 cents, reflecting an increase of 7-9 cents year over year.

Valuation

Phibro shares are down 13.1% in the year-to-date period and up 4.6% in the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and Zacks Medical sector are up 0.02% and up 0.7% in the year-to-date period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are down 0.9% and up 8.9%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 8.9% in the year-to-date period and up 20.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 18.6X Forward 12-months earnings, which compares to 29.4X for the Zacks sub-industry, 22.2X for the Zacks sector and 23.5X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 28.1X and as low as 10.1X, with a 5-year median 19.4X. Our Underperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform below the market. Our \$18 price target reflects 15.7X forward 12-months earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for PAHC.

Valuation Multiples - PAHC					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	18.64	29.42	22.19	23.49
	5-Year High	28.10	31.01	23.20	23.49
	5-Year Low	10.12	17.09	15.89	15.25
	5-Year Median	19.42	20.31	18.99	17.60
P/S F12M	Current	1.06	3.95	2.81	3.84
	5-Year High	2.53	3.95	3.42	3.84
	5-Year Low	0.85	2.90	2.23	2.53
	5-Year Median	1.46	3.29	2.89	3.05
P/B TTM	Current	4.64	3.22	3.88	4.76
	5-Year High	58.60	3.48	5.07	4.76
	5-Year Low	3.30	2.20	2.94	2.83
	5-Year Median	9.06	2.82	4.28	3.76

As of 08/28/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 28% (181 out of 252)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. (CSII)	Neutral	3
Elanco Animal Health Incorporated (ELAN)	Neutral	3
IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (IDXX)	Neutral	3
Eli Lilly and Company (LLY)	Neutral	3
MerckCo., Inc. (MRK)	Neutral	3
Neogen Corporation (NEOG)	Neutral	3
Patterson Companies, Inc. (PDCO)	Neutral	3
Zoetis Inc. (ZTS)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Medical - Products				Industry Peers		
	PAHC	X Industry	S&P 500	LLY	MRK	ZTS
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Underperform	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	5	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	D	-	-	A	B	C
Market Cap	873.38 M	344.06 M	23.71 B	140.93 B	216.63 B	76.02 B
# of Analysts	3	3	14	5	6	12
Dividend Yield	2.22%	0.00%	1.63%	2.01%	2.85%	0.50%
Value Score	C	-	-	B	B	C
Cash/Price	0.10	0.13	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.04
EV/EBITDA	10.38	-0.32	13.37	23.64	15.33	32.85
PEG F1	4.30	4.32	3.08	1.29	2.23	4.58
P/B	4.64	3.32	3.22	32.99	7.81	25.45
P/CF	11.34	17.31	12.90	20.80	12.80	35.17
P/E F1	19.01	39.92	21.82	20.21	15.04	44.24
P/S TTM	1.09	5.53	2.52	6.14	4.59	11.99
Earnings Yield	5.28%	-1.27%	4.41%	4.95%	6.65%	2.26%
Debt/Equity	1.96	0.13	0.74	3.53	0.94	2.46
Cash Flow (\$/share)	1.90	-0.00	6.94	7.08	6.69	4.55
Growth Score	D	-	-	A	B	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-3.58%	10.79%	10.41%	17.69%	9.70%	20.50%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	5.25%	7.84%	-4.94%	20.73%	9.73%	-0.64%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-14.84%	4.10%	5.22%	-7.51%	5.54%	18.22%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	4.96%	7.74%	8.50%	9.27%	0.15%	16.87%
Current Ratio	2.87	2.97	1.35	1.22	1.32	3.47
Debt/Capital	66.18%	14.85%	43.86%	77.91%	48.53%	71.10%
Net Margin	4.19%	-25.78%	10.25%	24.48%	22.20%	25.50%
Return on Equity	21.69%	-8.55%	14.66%	183.80%	52.94%	63.89%
Sales/Assets	1.02	0.51	0.50	0.57	0.55	0.53
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	2.34%	0.00%	-1.43%	6.78%	2.07%	2.38%
Momentum Score	D	-	-	D	F	D
Daily Price Change	4.35%	0.00%	0.71%	-1.09%	-0.20%	0.24%
1-Week Price Change	4.48%	-0.49%	-1.45%	-0.55%	1.80%	0.84%
4-Week Price Change	-6.01%	-0.00%	4.59%	-3.70%	8.43%	7.30%
12-Week Price Change	-17.18%	1.59%	4.86%	-2.24%	5.03%	13.86%
52-Week Price Change	2.13%	4.77%	3.09%	31.26%	-1.23%	26.30%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	164,937	273,165	1,887,168	2,549,564	7,348,356	1,587,724
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.19%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-4.48%	2.35%	0.79%	7.00%	7.08%	8.34%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-5.01%	3.53%	3.43%	7.10%	7.22%	8.74%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	NA%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.75%	4.42%	6.96%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

Value Score	C
Growth Score	D
Momentum Score	D
VGM Score	D

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

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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 medium-term 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 most recent 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 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.