

Parker-Hannifin (PH)

\$276.22 (As of 02/16/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$318.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Outperform

(Since: 11/26/20)

Prior Recommendation: Neutral

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

2-Buy

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: C

Growth: B

Momentum: A

Summary

In the past three months, Parker-Hannifin's shares have outperformed the industry. The company is poised to benefit from improving product demand, its unique Win Strategy and cost-control measures. Also, synergistic gains from acquired assets are expected to strengthen its performance. In second-quarter fiscal 2021, the company's earnings surpassed estimates by 32.3%, while sales exceeded the same by 5.9%. For fiscal 2021, it anticipates year-over-year sales growth of 0.7-2.7% versus a 2-5% decline mentioned earlier. Also, adjusted earnings are expected to be \$13.65-\$14.15 per share, up from the previously stated \$11.70-\$12.30. Improving cash flow position and shareholder-friendly policies add to the company's attractiveness. In the past 30 days, its earnings estimates have been raised for fiscal 2021 and 2022.

Data Overview

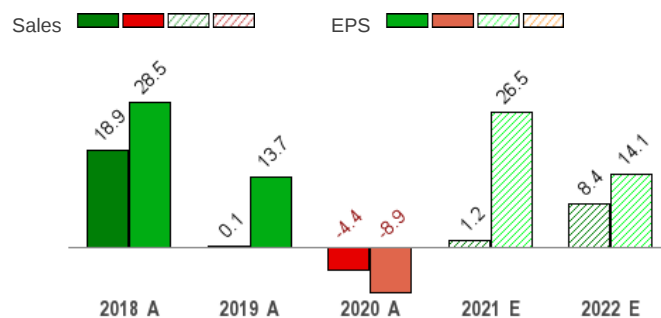
52-Week High-Low	\$293.80 - \$93.00
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,025,325
Market Cap	\$35.7 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	1.4%
Beta	1.79
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$3.52 / 1.3%
Industry	Manufacturing - General Industrial
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 38% (97 out of 253)

Last EPS Surprise	32.3%
Last Sales Surprise	5.9%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	13.5%
Expected Report Date	04/29/2021
Earnings ESP	2.6%
P/E TTM	23.1
P/E F1	20.2
PEG F1	1.7
P/S TTM	2.6

Price, Consensus & Surprise



Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	3,588 E	3,661 E	3,805 E	3,842 E	15,031 E
2021	3,231 A	3,412 A	3,650 E	3,600 E	13,863 E
2020	3,335 A	3,498 A	3,702 A	3,161 A	13,696 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$3.50 E	\$3.56 E	\$3.92 E	\$4.21 E	\$15.58 E
2021	\$3.07 A	\$3.44 A	\$3.61 E	\$3.78 E	\$13.65 E
2020	\$2.76 A	\$2.54 A	\$2.92 A	\$2.55 A	\$10.79 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 02/16/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 02/17/2021.

Overview

Parker-Hannifin Corporation is a global diversified manufacturer of motion & control technologies and systems. The company provides precision engineered solutions for a wide variety of mobile, industrial and aerospace markets.

Diversified Industrial Segment (82.8% of second-quarter fiscal 2021 sales): This segment is engaged in the production of a wide range of motion-control and fluid systems & components. The products offered by this segment are used in transportation, mobile construction, refrigeration and air conditioning, agriculture and other markets.

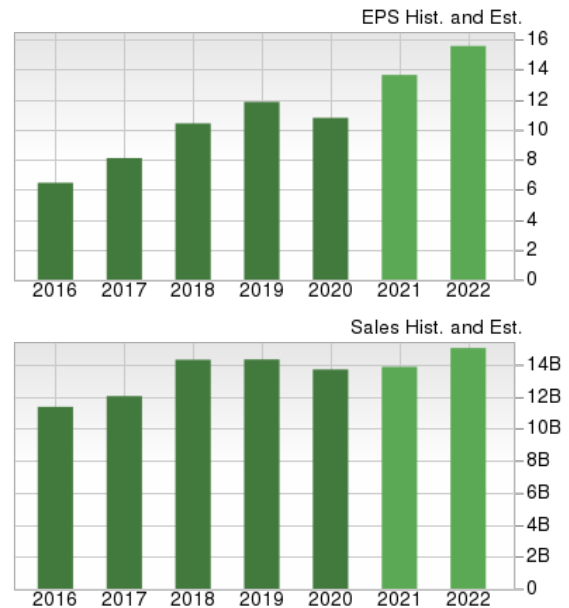
The segment sells its products through two main channels, namely, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and extensive distribution network to smaller OEMs and the aftermarket.

Products offered include sealing devices (dynamic and static); filters, systems and instruments to monitor and remove contaminants from fuel, air, oil, water and other liquids and gases; fluid connectors that control, transmit and contain fluid; hydraulic components and systems for builders and users of industrial and mobile machinery and equipment; and high-quality flow control solutions.

Aerospace Systems (17.2%): This segment supervises the designing and manufacturing of products and also provides aftermarket support for a broad range of aerospace products including commercial, business jet, military and general aviation aircraft and missile.

Products offered include control actuation systems & components, fluid metering, delivery & atomization devices, fuel systems & components, pneumatic control components, hydraulic systems & components and lubrication components among others.

The segment's products and services are offered to OEM and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) customers throughout the world. Notably, the products are marketed by field sales employees and are sold to manufacturers as well as end customers.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ In the past three months, Parker-Hannifin's shares have gained 4.2% compared with the industry's growth of 1%. In second-quarter fiscal 2021, the company's earnings surpassed estimates by 32.3%. On a year-over-year basis, the bottom line grew 35.4% as lower costs and expenses offset the impacts of lower sales generation. In the quarters ahead, the company will likely gain from its unique Win Strategy, cost-control measures and improving product demand. For 2021, it anticipates year-over-year sales growth of 0.7-2.7% as compared with a decline of 2-5% mentioned earlier. Also, it expects adjusted earnings of \$13.65-\$14.15 per share, up from the previously stated \$11.70-\$12.30. Further, analysts have become increasingly bullish about the company over the past 30 days. Notably, its earnings estimates have been raised by 10.1% for the third quarter of fiscal 2021, 10.3% for fiscal 2021 and 7.8% for fiscal 2022.
- ▲ Cost-control measures taken by Parker-Hannifin — including the reduction of discretionary expenses, salary and capital expenditure — have been helping it maintain a healthy capital structure amid the coronavirus crisis. Notably, discretionary actions yielded benefits of \$190 million in the fiscal second quarter and savings totaling \$225 million are expected in fiscal 2021 (higher than \$175 million stated earlier). Then again, the company's permanent cost-savings actions benefited the second-quarter performance by \$125 million and are expected to yield savings worth \$250 million in fiscal 2021. Despite lower sales in the fiscal second quarter, the measures helped it achieve total adjusted segment operating margin of 20.4%, reflecting a year-over-year improvement of 250 basis points. In the quarters ahead, the measures are likely to continue help it maintain a healthy margin performance. For fiscal 2021, the company anticipates adjusted segment operating margin of 20.2-20.6%, higher than the earlier mentioned 19-19.4%.
- ▲ Parker-Hannifin intends to finance new growth-based investments, acquire businesses and boost shareholders' remuneration with increased liquidity. As regard to buyouts, the company strengthened its business portfolio through the buyout of Exotic Metals Forming Company and LORD Corporation in fiscal 2020. Since acquired, Exotic Metals' unique products and proprietary manufacturing capabilities have been enhancing Parker-Hannifin's aerospace products and solutions. Also, the LORD buyout has been enhancing its engineered materials' product and solution offerings. Notably, the LORD buyout had a positive impact of 2.6% on the company's sales in the second quarter of fiscal 2021. For fiscal 2021, it expects acquisitions to have a positive impact of 2.9% on sales. Synergistic benefits from the LORD buyout are expected to be \$100 million in fiscal 2021. The benefits from the Exotic acquisition are predicted to be \$2 million in the year.
- ▲ Parker-Hannifin is steadily improving its cash position. In the last five fiscal years (2016-2020), the company's cash flow from operations increased 12.1% (CAGR). Notably, in the first half of fiscal 2021, Parker-Hannifin' cash flow from operations was up 63.9% on a year-over-year basis. Free cash flow in the first half was high at \$1.3 billion, while free cash flow conversion was 164%. We believe that healthy cash position will enable the company to reward shareholders handsomely. Notably, it distributed dividends totaling \$227.2 million in the first half of fiscal 2021. Its quarterly dividend presently is pegged at 88 cents, while annualized is at \$3.52. The quarterly rate was last hiked by 16% in April 2019. Also, the company decided to reinstate its share-buyback program.

Acquisition benefits, ongoing Win Strategy and shareholder-friendly policies are likely to drive Parker-Hannifin's competency.

Risks

- In second-quarter fiscal 2021, Parker-Hannifin's net sales declined 2.5% year over year, while its orders were flat. Businesses in the Aerospace Systems segment were weak, as sales decreased 20.4% from the year-ago quarter on an order decline of 18%. The segment's weakness more than offset a 2.3% increase in the Diversified Industrial segment's sales. The company anticipates some improvement in the Aerospace Systems business for fiscal 2021 but still predicts the segment's sales to decline 12.3-14.3% year over year. Notably, the company earlier predicted a fall of 13-16%.
 - Parker-Hannifin's realignment plan is expected to prove beneficial over the long run but will likely affect its near-term financials. For instance, in the first and second quarters of fiscal 2021, business-realignment expenses hurt its adjusted earnings by 12 cents per share and 14 cents, respectively. Notably, the company anticipates realignment expenses (total of \$58 million) to hurt its adjusted earnings by 46 cents per share in fiscal 2021. In addition, the company's long-term debt in the last five fiscal years (2016-2020) increased 23.4% (CAGR). Although the company's long-term debt was down 6.5% sequentially to \$6.6 billion at the end of second-quarter fiscal 2021, we find it more leveraged than the industry. The stock's long-term debt-to-capital ratio is 0.48, higher than the industry's ratio of 0.47. We believe that a highly leveraged balance sheet can inflate its financial obligations and hurt profitability. Moreover, the company intends to boost its revenues and profitability on the back of overseas business expansion. However, this exposes the company's financial performance to various risks like political, environmental and foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations.
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Last Earnings Report

Parker-Hannifin Q2 Earnings & Revenues Beat Estimates

Parker-Hannifin has reported better-than-expected second-quarter fiscal 2021 (ended Dec 31, 2020) earnings, with a beat of 32.3%. Also, its sales surpassed estimates by 5.9%.

The company's adjusted earnings were \$3.44 per share in the quarter, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$2.60. Also, the bottom line improved 35.4% from the year-ago quarter's \$2.54 per share.

Quarter Ending 12/2020

Report Date	Feb 04, 2021
Sales Surprise	5.91%
EPS Surprise	32.31%
Quarterly EPS	3.44
Annual EPS (TTM)	11.98

Revenue Details

In the quarter, the company's net sales were \$3,411.9 million, reflecting a 2.5% year-over-year decline. Orders were flat in the quarter on a year-over-year basis.

Notably, the company's top line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$3,222 million.

Parker-Hannifin reports revenues under two segments. A brief discussion on the quarterly results is provided below:

The **Diversified Industrial** segment's revenues totaled \$2,826.5 million, representing 82.8% of net revenues in the quarter under review. On a year-over-year basis, the segment's revenues increased 2.3%.

The segment's revenues generated in North America totaled \$1,566.9 million, decreasing 3% year over year. The segment's International revenues were \$1,259.6 million, up 9.8%. Orders in the quarter increased 1% for Diversified Industrial North America and that for Diversified Industrial International increased 10%.

The **Aerospace Systems** segment generated revenues of \$585.4 million, accounting for 17.2% of net revenues in the reported quarter. Sales fell 20.4% year over year. Orders in the quarter decreased 18%.

Margin Profile

In the reported quarter, the company's cost of sales decreased 6.1% year over year to \$2,519.5 million. It represented 73.8% of the quarter's net sales versus 76.7% in the year-ago quarter. Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased 27.3% to \$356.6 million. It represented 10.5% of net sales versus 14% in the year-ago quarter.

Adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) in the quarter increased 9.8% year over year to \$710.8 million. Adjusted EBITDA margin expanded 230 basis points to 20.8%. Interest expenses decreased 24% to \$63 million.

Balance Sheet & Cash Flow

Exiting second quarter of fiscal 2021, Parker-Hannifin had cash and cash equivalents of \$564.7 million, down 23.9% from \$742.4 million recorded in the last reported quarter. Long-term debt was down 6.5% sequentially to \$6,602.3 million.

In the first six months of fiscal 2021, the company generated net cash of \$1,354 million from operating activities, reflecting growth of 63.9% from the year-ago period. Capital spending totaled \$92.9 million compared with \$118.6 million in the year-ago period.

In the first six months of fiscal 2021, the company paid out cash dividends of \$227.2 million, relatively flat on a year-over-year basis.

Outlook

Parker-Hannifin intends to boost near-term revenues and profitability on the back of its Win Strategy. For fiscal 2021 (ending June 2021), the company currently anticipates generating adjusted earnings of \$13.65-\$14.15 per share, higher than \$11.70-\$12.30 guided previously.

Recent News

On **Jan 27, 2021**, Parker-Hannifin's board of directors approved payment of a quarterly cash dividend of 88 cents per share to shareholders on record as of Feb 10. The payment will be made on Mar 5.

Valuation

Parker-Hannifin's shares have increased 1.4% in the year-to-date period and 31.1% over the trailing 12 months. In the year-to-date period, the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Industrial Products sector decreased 2% and grew 6.9%, respectively. In the past year, the Zacks sub-industry grew 3.9% while the sector expanded 25.7%.

The S&P 500 Index has moved up 5.2% in the year-to-date period and 18.6% over the trailing 12 months.

The stock is currently trading at 18.56x forward 12-month earnings per share, which compares to 25.57x for the Zacks sub-industry, 23.29x for the Zacks sector and 22.92x for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 21.87x and as low as 8.87x, with a 5-year median of 17.4x. Our Outperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform better than the market. Our \$318 price target reflects 21.34x forward 12-month earnings per share.

The table below shows summary valuation data for PH.

Valuation Multiples - PH					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	18.56	25.57	23.29	22.92
	5-Year High	21.87	28.11	23.29	23.8
	5-Year Low	8.87	15.83	12.64	15.3
	5-Year Median	17.4	20.56	17.94	17.84
P/S F12M	Current	2.44	3.64	3.54	4.59
	5-Year High	2.69	3.77	3.54	4.59
	5-Year Low	0.85	1.72	1.62	3.21
	5-Year Median	1.59	2.34	2.12	3.68

As of 02/15/2021

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 38% (97 out of 253)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Atlas Copco AB (ATLKY)	Neutral	2
Dover Corporation (DOV)	Neutral	2
GEA GROUP AG SP (GEAGY)	Neutral	3
IHI CORP (IHICY)	Neutral	3
Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW)	Neutral	2
Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. (KWHIY)	Neutral	3
Roper Technologies, Inc. (ROP)	Neutral	3
SUMITOMO HEAVY (SOHVV)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Manufacturing - General Industrial				Industry Peers		
	PH	X Industry	S&P 500	IHICY	ITW	KWHIY
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Outperform	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	2	-	-	3	2	3
VGM Score	B	-	-	B	C	C
Market Cap	35.66 B	2.05 B	27.89 B	2.72 B	63.61 B	3.67 B
# of Analysts	11	3	13	2	10	2
Dividend Yield	1.27%	0.00%	1.41%	0.77%	2.27%	0.00%
Value Score	C	-	-	A	D	A
Cash/Price	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.30	0.04	0.39
EV/EBITDA	17.66	14.80	14.83	4.64	17.34	6.50
PEG F1	1.72	2.25	2.38	NA	2.32	NA
P/B	5.01	2.79	3.89	0.78	19.99	0.88
P/CF	18.27	15.13	15.37	4.29	26.46	5.10
P/E F1	20.24	25.00	20.93	88.00	25.42	NA
P/S TTM	2.64	1.86	3.06	0.24	5.06	0.21
Earnings Yield	4.94%	3.82%	4.72%	1.14%	3.94%	-7.50%
Debt/Equity	0.93	0.44	0.68	0.75	2.44	0.88
Cash Flow (\$/share)	15.12	2.74	6.70	1.06	7.52	1.78
Growth Score	B	-	-	F	C	D
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	15.82%	7.04%	9.32%	-43.06%	7.15%	-14.28%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	26.52%	19.63%	14.04%	-44.44%	19.25%	-253.49%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-2.94%	-2.80%	3.17%	-25.60%	-19.30%	-4.39%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	7.19%	5.49%	7.55%	NA	0.04%	-1.53%
Current Ratio	1.50	2.06	1.38	1.32	2.52	1.36
Debt/Capital	48.11%	31.13%	41.31%	42.76%	70.95%	46.71%
Net Margin	10.60%	3.82%	10.59%	0.22%	16.77%	-0.84%
Return on Equity	23.93%	8.98%	14.89%	-1.28%	82.24%	-2.79%
Sales/Assets	0.68	0.73	0.51	0.73	0.85	0.96
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	1.22%	5.85%	6.39%	-12.53%	11.02%	-4.91%
Momentum Score	A	-	-	B	A	C
Daily Price Change	-0.01%	0.00%	-0.23%	3.73%	-0.97%	3.43%
1-Week Price Change	-1.16%	2.11%	1.44%	-6.78%	-0.60%	-4.06%
4-Week Price Change	-4.36%	4.26%	2.06%	-3.06%	-2.82%	-6.67%
12-Week Price Change	-1.30%	15.63%	5.88%	29.28%	-6.26%	46.30%
52-Week Price Change	31.17%	19.56%	8.47%	-27.56%	6.73%	13.47%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,025,325	83,975	2,045,498	1,716	1,015,424	1,433
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	13.45%	0.00%	0.66%	0.00%	4.63%	-20.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	16.11%	2.74%	1.97%	200.00%	5.92%	15.39%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	9.74%	0.00%	0.38%	0.00%	4.05%	-68.18%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Stock Rating System

We offer two rating systems that take into account investors' holding horizons: Zacks Rank and Zacks Recommendation. Each provides valuable insights into the future profitability of the stock and can be used separately or in combination with each other depending on your investment style.

Zacks Recommendation

The Zacks Recommendation aims to predict performance over the next 6 to 12 months. The foundation for the quantitatively determined Zacks Recommendation is trends in the company's estimate revisions and earnings outlook. The Zacks Recommendation is broken down into 3 Levels; Outperform, Neutral and Underperform. Unlike many Wall Street firms, we maintain a balance between the number of Outperform and Neutral recommendations. Our team of 70 analysts are fully versed in the benefits of earnings estimate revisions and how that is harnessed through the Zacks quantitative rating system. But we have given our analysts the ability to override the Zacks Recommendation for the 1200 stocks that they follow. The reason for the analyst over-rides is that there are often factors such as valuation, industry conditions and management effectiveness that a trained investment professional can spot better than a quantitative model.

Zacks Rank

The Zacks Rank is our short-term rating system that is most effective over the one- to three-month holding horizon. The underlying driver for the quantitatively-determined Zacks Rank is the same as the Zacks Recommendation, and reflects trends in earnings estimate revisions.

Zacks Style Scores

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

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

Value Score	C
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	A
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.

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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 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.