

PerkinElmer, Inc. (PKI)

\$133.39 (As of 04/09/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$140.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 02/04/21)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:A

Value: B

Growth: A

Momentum: F

Summary

PerkinElmer witnessed robust core segmental performance in the fourth quarter. Strong growth in Europe and United States is also encouraging. With respect to full-year 2021 guidance, it expects adjusted EPS to be at least \$8.50, while revenues are anticipated to be at least \$4.08 billion. In January 2021, PerkinElmer agreed to acquire Oxford Immunotec Global Plc for a total transaction value of \$591 million, which will enable the company to expand its portfolio of advanced infectious disease testing solutions by including tuberculosis detection product line. PerkinElmer exited the fourth quarter on a strong note, with both earnings and revenues beating their respective consensus mark. The stock outperformed its industry in a year's time. However, PerkinElmer continues to make acquisitions, which increases integration risks.

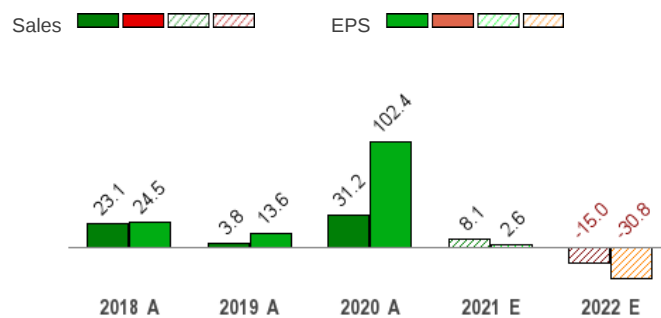
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$162.70 - \$75.70
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	778,368
Market Cap	\$14.9 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	-7.1%
Beta	1.14
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$0.28 / 0.2%
Industry	Instruments - Scientific
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 21% (53 out of 254)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	9.7%
Last Sales Surprise	7.7%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-2.1%
Expected Report Date	05/04/2021
Earnings ESP	-1.8%
P/E TTM	16.1
P/E F1	15.7
PEG F1	1.1
P/S TTM	4.0

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	784 E	831 E	846 E	959 E	3,475 E
2021	1,188 E	1,050 E	910 E	943 E	4,090 E
2020	652 A	812 A	964 A	1,355 A	3,783 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$1.19 E	\$1.37 E	\$1.43 E	\$1.69 E	\$5.90 E
2021	\$3.03 E	\$2.36 E	\$1.58 E	\$1.52 E	\$8.52 E
2020	\$0.67 A	\$1.57 A	\$2.09 A	\$3.96 A	\$8.30 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 04/09/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 04/12/2021.

Overview

Headquartered in Waltham, MA, PerkinElmer, Inc. provides scientific instruments, consumables, and services to pharmaceutical, biomedical, environmental testing, chemical, and general industrial markets worldwide.

For the **Diagnostics** market, the company offers products that are used to detect genetic disorders from pre-conception to early childhood. The company also provides digital x-ray flat panel detectors and infectious disease testing solutions. For the Research market, the company offers reagents, liquid handling and detection, and imaging technologies that are used by researchers in the drug discovery process.

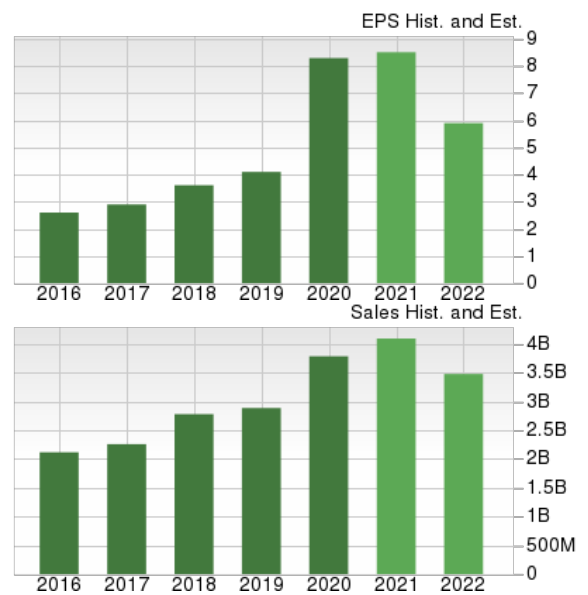
In the **Discovery & Analytical Solutions (DAS)** segment, PerkinElmer has two operating segments – Human Health and Environmental Health. In recent past, the company realigned its business structure. OneSource, the company's multivendor laboratory service business that serves the life sciences end market, was moved from the Environmental Health segment into the Human Health segment.

The Human Health segment focuses on developing diagnostics, tools and applications, which help to detect diseases earlier and more accurately. The Human Health segment serves two end markets: diagnostics and research.

The Environmental Health segment offers products and services that help in producing safer food and consumer products, securing environment and using energy more efficiently. The segment serves three end markets - laboratory services, environmental and Industrial. The company's environmental solutions help in maintaining the wellbeing of air, water, soil and food. PerkinElmer's environmental applications help its customers comply with regulatory requirements and maintain industry standards by detecting harmful substances in water, adulterants in food, toxic metals in toys, counterfeits in medicine and many other consumer products.

2020 at a Glance

In 2020, the company posted revenues worth \$3.78 billion, up 31.2% on a year-over-year basis. In 2020, Discovery & Analytical Solutions (DAS) revenues totaled \$1.72 billion (46% of net revenues) and Diagnostics' revenues came in at \$2.07 billion (54%).



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ **Shares Up:** Shares of PerkinElmer have gained 88.7% over the past year, outperforming the industry's rally of 59.2%. Wide array of products, global exposure and strength in emerging markets continue to favor the stock.

During the quarter under review, the company shipped above 25 million COVID-19 PCR tests, expanded its chemagic installed base three times to more than 1600 instruments worldwide and introduced best-in-class solutions. Notably, COVID-related products and services contributed \$549 million in the fourth quarter primarily driven by the company's PCR tests and RNA extraction solutions, and its turnkey Lab-In-A-Lab testing solutions in the state of California and the U.K.

- ▲ **Focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of AI by healthcare companies has been a latest and popular trend.

Management at PerkinElmer have introduced image analysis in the high-content screening and immunodiagnostic businesses, for better determination of the quality of grain in the food business and for applying AI in the company's services business to help to optimize its customers' laboratory productivity across all of its business segments — DAS and Diagnostics.

- ▲ **Emerging Markets in Focus:** PerkinElmer's presence in the emerging markets of China and India has more than doubled over the last couple of years. Per management, various reports suggest that over 40% of the world population will soon be in China and India. However, out of the \$65 billion global market for diagnostic testing, China and India collectively represent less than 10%. Thus, PerkinElmer has significant opportunity in these countries.

- ▲ **Global Exposure:** Apart from emerging economies, PerkinElmer enjoys strong global exposure. Per management, the major geographies witnessed a solid fourth quarter with Europe exhibiting triple-digit growth, while the United States has been witnessing strong double-digit growth. China saw sequential improvement in the quarter under review, although it remained in negative territory. Nonetheless, initial signs indicate a healthy rebound in China business as the company progresses into 2021.

- ▲ **Broad Spectrum of Products:** PerkinElmer delivers a comprehensive suite of scientific informatics and software solutions to aggregate data into actionable insights in an automated and scalable way. The company's products include the industry leading ChemDraw software, Electronic Lab Notebooks including cloud-based Elements SaaS Offering and enterprise E-Notebook Solutions, along with the TIBCO Spotfire platform for scientific data analytics.

In April 2020, the company launched solutions to simplify analysis for labs in pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, biomonitoring, food and materials. In July, the company launched a dry blood spot (DBS)-based test for SARS-CoV-2 IgG using its GSP/DELFIa platform. The platform enables processing of up to 5,000 samples per day. The finger-prick sample collection device facilitates both decentralized sample collection and high-throughput testing. Notably, the product is being commercially rolled out as a CE-IVD test and the company intends to apply for its FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) soon.

In June, PerkinElmer collaborated with the world's largest professional society of hematologists — American Society of Hematology ("ASH") — to lend support to an initiative to bolster capacity for newborn screening, education and clinical interventions for sickle cell disease (SCD) in sub-Saharan Africa. Notably, PerkinElmer is a global provider of hemoglobin isoelectric focusing (IEF) technology, which helps in the detection of SCD. Further in the same month, the company added the DELFIA Xpress sFit-1 kit to its CE-IVD pre-eclampsia product offerings. This kit will help in the short-term prediction of pre-eclampsia and enable diagnosis in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy together with the DELFIA Xpress PIGF 1-2-3 assay.

Per management, PerkinElmer spent an incremental \$25 million in people and digital capabilities, while investing above \$200 million in R&D so that the creation of a robust pipeline of new products across a full suite of technologies continues to progress.

During the third quarter of 2020, the company's EONIS screening assay got CE IVD approval, which tests for newborns for spinal muscular atrophy, SMA, Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, SCID and X-linked a gamma global anemia, XLA, simultaneously, in 1 multiplex RT-PCR assay. With respect to COVID-related new product launches and approvals, PerkinElmer received CE marking for a multi-analyte PCAM respiratory SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR panel for the direct identification of COVID-19 influenza A, influenza B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus, RSV, in a single test ahead of the upcoming flu season.

- ▲ **Improving Margins:** PerkinElmer's gross and operating margin continues to improve primarily on the back of productivity initiatives and volume leverage. The new product introductions are expected to improve product mix thereby enhancing gross margin. This coupled with stringent cost control will continue to drive operating margin in the near term.

In the fourth quarter, adjusted gross profit in the quarter amounted to \$853 million, up 101.9% year over year. Adjusted gross margin, as a percentage of revenues was 62.9%, up 1050 basis points (bps) year over year. Adjusted operating income was \$571.2 million, which skyrocketed 197% from the year-ago quarter. Adjusted operating margin, as a percentage of revenues was 42.2%, up 1830 bps.

- ▲ **Acquisitions and Divestments:** Acquisitions and strategic partnerships have been key catalysts for PerkinElmer over the years. In recent times, PerkinElmer completed the acquisition of DANI Instruments of Italy. Per management, this tie-up will help accelerate workflow solutions in food, pharma and environmental end markets.

Earlier, the company announced the buyout of Cisbio Bioassays — a leading custom assay service provider. The addition of Cisbio strengthens PerkinElmer's position in life sciences and diagnostics markets. In fact, Cisbio integration process is showing great progress and the business witnessed double-digit growth in the second quarter.

An expanding product portfolio, margin expansion and accretive acquisitions provides potential growth opportunity for PerkinElmer.

In January 2021, PerkinElmer entered into an agreement to acquire Oxford Immunotec Global Plc for a total transaction value of \$591 million. The deal is anticipated to close in the first half of 2021, subject to shareholder's approval and customary closing conditions. The acquisition will enable PerkinElmer to expand its portfolio of advanced infectious disease testing solutions by including tuberculosis detection product line. Moreover, the deal will enable PerkinElmer to merge its channel expertise and testing capabilities with Oxford Immunotec's T Cell immunology with its proprietary test kits for latent tuberculosis. The buyout is expected to be modestly accretive to PerkinElmer's non-GAAP earnings in year one following the closure.

- ▲ **Stable Liquidity Position:** PerkinElmer exited fourth-quarter 2020 with cash and cash equivalents amounting to \$402 million, up from \$258 million sequentially. Meanwhile, the company's long-term debt amounted to \$1.61 billion in the fourth quarter, up from \$1.49 billion sequentially. The long-term debt level is significantly higher than the quarter's cash and cash equivalent level. However, we can see that the current debt level of \$380.9 million, up from \$371 million sequentially, is in fact noticeably lower than the cash level. This is good news in terms of the company's solvency level as, at least during the year of economic downturn, the company has sufficient cash for debt repayment.
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Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ **Sluggish European Macro-environment:** International operations contribute majority of PerkinElmer's top-line growth. Lackluster academic end market in Europe, coupled with issues related to third party logistics provider in have been negatively impacting organic revenue growth of the company.

Revenues in the four major economies- United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and France have been witnessing lackluster performances since long.

The company continues to expect international operations to represent a substantial portion of revenue in the future. However sluggish European macro-environment and restrained spending on research are significant challenges that will keep company's top-line growth under pressure.

- ▼ **Foreign Exchange Volatility:** Increasing exposure to the international markets enhances the risk of foreign exchange volatility. The fluctuations in currency exchange rates can adversely impact the company's international sales. Due to the sluggish European economy, future revenues and earnings are likely to be affected adversely if the company does not hedge from exposure to currency fluctuations.
- ▼ **Integration Risks:** PerkinElmer continues to acquire a large number of companies. While this improves revenue opportunities, it adds to integration risks. The frequent acquisitions can also negatively impact its balance sheet in the form of a high level of goodwill and intangible assets. Frequent acquisitions are also a distraction for management and impacts organic growth.
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Unfavorable foreign exchange, a sluggish European macro environment and leveraged balance sheet are primary concerns for PerkinElmer.

Last Earnings Report

PerkinElmer Q4 Earnings and Revenues Surpass Estimates

PerkinElmer, Inc. reported fourth-quarter 2020 adjusted earnings per share of \$3.96, which beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$3.61 per share by 9.7%. Moreover, the bottom line improved 193.3% from the year-ago quarter.

For the full-year 2020, the company reported adjusted EPS of \$8.30, up 102.4% from that of 2019. Also, the figure outpaced the consensus mark by 4.5%.

Quarter Ending 12/2020

Report Date	Feb 02, 2021
Sales Surprise	7.69%
EPS Surprise	9.70%
Quarterly EPS	3.96
Annual EPS (TTM)	8.29

Revenue Details

Based in Waltham, MA, this leading MedTech company reported revenues of \$1.36 billion, up 68% from the year-ago quarter and 65% organically. Adjusted revenues in the reported quarter were \$1.36 billion, up 68.2% year over year. The top line also surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 7.7%.

For the full-year 2020, the company delivered adjusted revenues of \$3.78 billion, up 31.2% from that of 2019. The figure outpaced the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 3.3%.

Segment Details

Discover & Analytics Solutions

At this segment, revenues were \$503 million, reflecting a rise of 1.4% from the year-ago quarter. Organically, the segment saw a decrease of 2% in the quarter under review. Per management, continued strength in life sciences was more than offset by weak performance in food and applied markets.

Coming to profits at the DAS segment, the company reported fourth-quarter 2020 adjusted operating income of \$92 million, down 20.7% from the year-ago quarter.

Diagnostics segment

Revenues at this segment amounted to \$852 million, up 175.7% on a year-over-year basis. Organically, the segment soared 172% in the fourth quarter. Per management, strength in immunodiagnostics and applied genomics business drove the upside and more than offset the improving yet modest ongoing declines across reproductive health business line.

Adjusted operating income in the segment totaled \$502 million, compared with \$91 million in the year-ago quarter.

Geographical Details

Per management, the major geographies witnessed a solid fourth quarter with Europe exhibiting triple-digit growth, while the United States is witnessing strong double-digit growth. China saw sequential improvement in the quarter under review.

Margin Analysis

Adjusted gross profit in the quarter amounted to \$853 million, up 101.9% year over year. Adjusted gross margin, as a percentage of revenues was 62.9%, up 1050 basis points (bps) year over year.

Adjusted operating income was \$571.2 million, which skyrocketed 197% from the year-ago quarter. Adjusted operating margin, as a percentage of revenues was 42.2%, up 1830 bps.

Financial Update

The company exited the fourth quarter with cash and cash equivalents of \$402 million, compared with \$258.3 million in the prior quarter.

During the reported quarter, net cash provided by operating activities amounted to \$482.1 million, compared with \$215.2 million in the year-ago period.

2021 Guidance

PerkinElmer has provided guidance for first-quarter and full-year 2021.

For first-quarter 2021, the company projects adjusted EPS of at least \$3. The Zacks Consensus Estimate is pegged at \$2.64 per share.

For 2021, the company expects adjusted EPS to be at least \$8.50. The Zacks Consensus Estimate is pegged at \$8.33 per share.

Revenues are anticipated to be at least \$4.08 billion. The consensus mark is pegged at \$4.09 billion.

Recent News

PerkinElmer Boosts Testing Portfolio with New Solutions: Mar 9, 2021

PerkinElmer introduced two Research Use Only (RUO) solutions – PKamp VariantDetect SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR Assay and Next Generation Sequencing-based NEXTFLEX Variant-Seq SARS-CoV-2 Kit – to detect genomic mutations reported associated with SARS-CoV-2 variants. Notably, laboratories can utilize these assays through nucleic acid extracted from samples that tested positive earlier.

PerkinElmer Closes Buyout of Oxford Immunotec: Mar 9, 2021

PerkinElmer completed the acquisition of Oxford Immunotec Global Plc. On Jan 7, 2021, the company entered into an agreement to acquire Oxford Immunotec Global Plc for a total transaction value of \$591 million. Through this acquisition, PerkinElmer will strengthen its portfolio of testing solutions and expand its global diagnostics market reach.

PerkinElmer Receives FDA EUA for Asymptomatic Testing: Jan 14, 2021

PerkinElmer announced the receipt of Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA for its New Coronavirus Nucleic Acid Detection Kit. The New Coronavirus Nucleic Acid Detection Kit is a real-time RT-PCR test intended to test individuals without symptoms or other reasons to detect COVID-19 infection.

With this approval, clinical laboratories that are certified under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) can now start utilizing this kit to test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.

Valuation

PerkinElmer's shares are down 7% in the year-to-date period while up 74.5% in the trailing 12-month periods. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are up 13.7% in the year-to-date period while that in the Zacks Computer and Technology sector are up 10.2%. Over the past year, stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and sector are up 79.7% and 70.5%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 10.6% in the year-to-date period and 52.4% the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 17.1X Forward 12-months earnings, which compares to 28.2X for the Zacks sub-industry, 28.5X for the Zacks sector and 23.1X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 27.1X and as low as 14.3X, with a 5-year median of 20.5X.

Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$140 price target reflects 17.9X forward 12-months earnings.

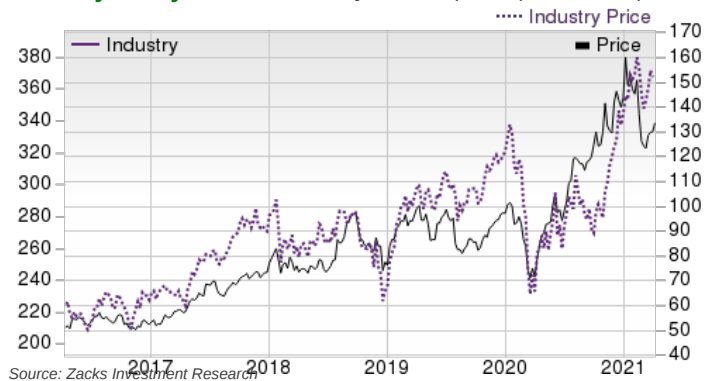
The table below shows summary valuation data for PKI.

Valuation Multiples - PKI					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	17.13	28.15	28.5	23.07
	5-Year High	27.12	28.15	28.5	23.83
	5-Year Low	14.33	20.06	15.88	15.3
	5-Year Median	20.51	23.41	19.24	18
P/S F12M	Current	3.82	6.95	4.86	4.77
	5-Year High	4.59	6.95	4.86	4.77
	5-Year Low	2.28	4.09	2.78	3.21
	5-Year Median	3.22	5.08	3.5	3.71
P/B TTM	Current	4	12.7	9.16	6.99
	5-Year High	5.12	12.92	9.38	6.99
	5-Year Low	2.56	6.05	4.41	3.83
	5-Year Median	3.42	8.21	5.78	4.98

As of 04/09/2021

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 21% (53 out of 254)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Agilent Technologies, Inc. (A)	Outperform	2
Abbott Laboratories (ABT)	Neutral	3
Becton, Dickinson and Company (BDX)	Neutral	4
BioRad Laboratories, Inc. (BIO)	Neutral	2
Bruker Corporation (BRKR)	Neutral	3
Hologic, Inc. (HOLX)	Neutral	2
QIAGEN N.V. (QGEN)	Neutral	3
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (TMO)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Instruments - Scientific				Industry Peers		
	PKI	X Industry	S&P 500	BRKR	QGEN	TMO
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	A	-	-	B	B	B
Market Cap	14.95 B	302.65 M	29.66 B	10.40 B	11.69 B	188.58 B
# of Analysts	7	5	12	6	5	10
Dividend Yield	0.21%	0.00%	1.33%	0.23%	0.00%	0.22%
Value Score	B	-	-	D	B	B
Cash/Price	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06
EV/EBITDA	13.12	19.89	17.00	34.32	16.94	19.53
PEG F1	1.12	3.31	2.38	5.83	1.15	1.13
P/B	4.00	7.39	4.01	10.78	4.18	5.50
P/CF	12.62	21.50	17.08	36.39	15.59	18.73
P/E F1	15.60	32.21	22.05	38.84	20.55	22.03
P/S TTM	3.95	4.53	3.45	5.23	6.25	5.85
Earnings Yield	6.39%	2.84%	4.47%	2.58%	4.87%	4.54%
Debt/Equity	0.43	0.41	0.66	0.86	0.67	0.55
Cash Flow (\$/share)	10.57	0.51	6.78	1.89	3.29	25.57
Growth Score	A	-	-	A	B	A
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	19.20%	8.96%	9.39%	7.71%	12.50%	17.40%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	2.60%	19.06%	15.24%	30.87%	-1.73%	13,688.75%
Current Cash Flow Growth	69.85%	-5.26%	0.61%	-10.19%	23.97%	39.75%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	24.06%	13.45%	7.37%	7.15%	10.23%	16.81%
Current Ratio	1.36	1.82	1.39	2.43	2.71	2.13
Debt/Capital	30.11%	33.88%	41.26%	46.37%	40.19%	35.64%
Net Margin	19.24%	13.59%	10.59%	7.94%	19.20%	19.79%
Return on Equity	29.31%	13.22%	14.86%	22.12%	18.94%	25.04%
Sales/Assets	0.54	0.69	0.51	0.67	0.34	0.51
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	8.13%	8.18%	7.36%	12.81%	20.03%	9.11%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	D	F	C
Daily Price Change	1.39%	0.99%	0.62%	1.72%	-0.19%	1.56%
1-Week Price Change	0.25%	1.04%	0.35%	2.40%	0.10%	-0.82%
4-Week Price Change	5.66%	5.66%	4.25%	11.16%	5.58%	3.99%
12-Week Price Change	-9.95%	16.83%	8.87%	16.81%	-3.57%	-3.63%
52-Week Price Change	70.27%	70.27%	52.90%	86.44%	28.84%	50.89%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	778,368	176,511	2,047,782	379,988	637,153	1,583,979
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-2.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.02%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	8.28%	6.29%	2.24%	2.71%	1.88%	9.01%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	-1.34%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.19%

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	B
Growth Score	A
Momentum Score	F
VGM Score	A

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

Disclosures

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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 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.