Dave & Busters (PLAY)

$30.02 (As of 01/01/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$32.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 04/12/20) Prior Recommendation: Underperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5) Zacks Style Scores: Value: D | Growth: F | Momentum: F	**4-Sell** VGM:F

Summary

Shares of Dave & Buster's have outperformed the industry in the past three months. Recently, the company reported third-quarter fiscal 2020 results, wherein earnings surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate but revenues missed the same. Nonetheless, the company stated that it achieved strong sales recovery through late October driven by its reopening initiatives. The company's sales-boosting initiatives and expansion plans are likely to drive growth once the outbreak eases. Also, increased focus on promotional activities is likely to aid sales in the days ahead. Due to the unprecedented and evolving nature of the crisis, the company has not provided fiscal 2020 financial guidance. Moreover, the company's comps were negatively impacted by temporary store closures, leading to lower customer volumes.

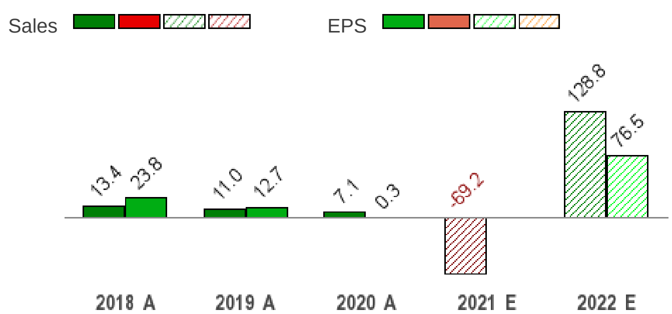
Price, Consensus & Surprise

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$48.80 - $4.61**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**2,460,699**
Market Cap	**$1.4 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**-25.3%**
Beta	**2.07**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.00 / 0.0%**
Industry	**Retail - Restaurants**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 49% (130 out of 255)**
Last EPS Surprise	**9.0%**
Last Sales Surprise	**-3.3%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**-19.4%**
Expected Report Date	**NA**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**NA**
P/E F1	**NA**
PEG F1	**NA**
P/S TTM	**2.1**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates **(millions of $)**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	159 E	248 E	255 E	292 E	954 E
2021	160 A	51 A	109 A	97 E	417 E
2020	364 A	345 A	299 A	347 A	1,355 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	-$0.79 E	-$0.31 E	-$0.29 E	$0.15 E	-$1.16 E
2021	-$1.37 A	-$1.19 A	-$1.01 A	-$1.37 E	-$4.94 E
2020	$1.13 A	$0.90 A	$0.10 A	$0.80 A	$2.94 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 01/01/2021. The reports text is as of 01/04/2021.

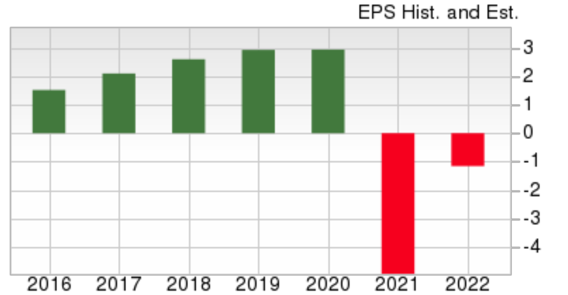
Overview

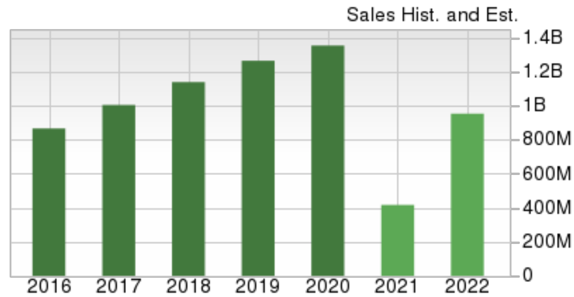
Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Dallas, TX, Dave & Buster's Entertainment, is a leading owner and operator of high-volume venues in North America that combine dining and entertainment for both adults and families. As of Aug 2, 2020, the company owned and operated 137 stores located in 39 states, Puerto Rico and one Canadian province. The core concept of this restaurant chain is “Eat Drink Play and Watch”, all in one location. Under the Eat concept, the company offers a wide variety of starters, burgers, choice-grade steaks and health-conscious food.

The company operates under two segments, Food and Beverage (40% of total revenues in fiscal first quarter) and Amusement and Other revenues (60%).

Coming to the Drink concept, the company’s locations offer full bar service, including a variety of beers, hand-crafted cocktails and premium spirits. Dave & Buster’s has re-crafted recipes, switched to more fresh juices and purees, and house-made mixers.

Under the Play concept, the company has a distinguished entertainment experience, some of which are exclusive to Dave & Buster’s on a permanent or temporary basis. Each of the stores typically has 150 redemption and simulation games as well as proprietary virtual reality platform introduced in fiscal 2018.





Dave & Buster’s also provides Sports-viewing in its watch concept. The stores have multiple large-screen televisions and high-quality audio systems, providing customers with a venue for watching live sports and other televised events.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

A unique business model, various sales boosting initiatives along with the continual expansion plans are expected to drive growth

- **A Distinct Business Style:** Dave & Buster's continues to perform well on the back of the unique customizable experience that it offers across its four platforms, “Eat, Drink, Play and Watch.” The company’s distinctive model also generates favorable store economics and strong return.

  Apart from great food or beverages, the company’s entertainment business has been driving growth. Notably, amusement and other revenues accounted for 64.8% of total revenues in the fiscal third quarter. In fact, it is a major reason behind the company’s success. In 2019, the segment’s revenues improved 8.5%. This is because increased dependence on gaming has shielded the company from the headwinds of consumer discretionary spending that characterizes the restaurant industry. This, in turn, is driving market share and comps. Further, the shift toward increased focus on amusement is aiding Dave & Buster’s bottom line, given its higher-margin business. In fact, this unique model sets it apart, and the company’s entertainment business is likely to sustain the momentum in the days ahead.

- **Reopening of Stores to Drive Top Line:** In a bid to recover its business post the coronavirus-induced shutdowns, Dave & Buster's is focused on reopening stores in compliance with the state and local regulators. The company began third-quarter fiscal 2020 with 84 open stores but finished the quarter with 104 open stores, which represent 75% of total store base. In order to support the re-openings, the company has increased focus on marketing message and media execution. Notably, it is initiating a local approach to marketing that utilizes traditional and digital media to drive awareness and accelerate recovery. In fact, the company is optimistic about expanding in additional markets with successful execution of this approach and traditional outreach methods such as loyalty database.

- **Continued Expansion & Growth Via Store Openings:** Dave & Buster's continues to pursue a disciplined new store growth strategy in both new and existing markets, given the broad appeal of its brand. Management believes that it can grow the concept to more than 200 units in North America over time. Meanwhile, in addition to growth potential that exists in North America, management is optimistic regarding the brand’s significant appeal in certain international markets. During third-quarter fiscal 2020, the company opened two new stores — one in Manchester, NH; and one in Lehigh Valley, PA The company’s comps have improved during third-quarter fiscal 2020. Comps of average of 74 reopened fully operational comp stores generated revenues at 57% of 2019 levels. As the quarter progressed, comps at the company’s reopened stores improved to 68% of 2019 level in late October.

- **Sales Boosting Initiatives:** During first-quarter fiscal 2020, the company temporarily narrowed its menu to 15 items compared to 40 items prior to COVID-19 outbreak. However, the company is now offering 17 items and plans to increase the menu by adding six more items by early March and then expand to 28 by late April 2021. During the fiscal second quarter, the company confirmed the testing of a new snackable menu. Notably, the company intends to continue with the test and learn process as it plans to roll out the menu during the first quarter of fiscal 2021. Backed by their marketing strategy, the new approach also paves path for limited time offers to drive incremental traffic in 2021.

  Meanwhile, the company continues to evolve its amusement strategy on the back of new and riveting content, including games based on some of the world’s finest movie properties. In this regard, Dave & Buster’s continues to collaborate with various game manufacturing partners and remains steadfast on its strategy of including proprietary content exclusive to the company forever. Also, to increase national awareness of its brand, the company continues to invest a significant portion of its marketing funds on advertising. As amusements are the company’s strongest sales channel, it continues to be its focus from a promotional standpoint. During the fiscal second quarter, the company continued to evolve its programming strategy around Wow Walls and other screens at store. This involves a new cloud-based platform that allows streaming for videos, live signage, sponsored content along with sports scores and related trivia. Thus, with the help of a centralized programming team, the company intends to boost the live sports experience in lieu of becoming a premier sports watching destination.

- **Digitalization to Drive Growth:** Dave & Buster's digital initiatives are likely to drive growth. The company launched a mobile app during October 2019 for promoting customers to download the app. During the first three months after the app launched the app generated $14 million of revenues and helped the company in growing its customer database.

  Additionally, the company believes that it can drive traffic by enhancing in-store and out-of-store customer experience via digital and mobile strategic initiatives, and deployment of better technology. The company thus intends to leverage its growing loyalty database and continue to invest in other mobile applications to build customer connections and drive frequent customer visitation. In November 2020, the company announced the launch of third-party delivery partnership with Door Dash and Uber Eats at 105 of our stores. The company will add the remaining stores after the reopening of those stores onsite dining.

- **Enough Liquidity to Tide Over Pandemic:** As of Nov 1, 2020, the company’s cash and cash equivalents totaled nearly $8.3 million compared with $224.3 million as on Aug 2. Although cash and cash equivalent has declined in the quarter, the company has boosted its liquidity by issuing $550 million of senior secured notes due November 2025. The company’s net long-term debt at the end of third-quarter fiscal 2020 stood at $561.8 million, down from $731.6 billion as of Aug 2, 2020. Resultantly, the company’s debt to capitalization has improved to 73.1% from 74.9% in the previous quarter, indicating manageable debt levels.

Reasons To Sell:

The coronavirus pandemic, dismal comps and limited international presence remain concerns.

- **Coronavirus Hurts Performance:** Due to the unprecedented and evolving nature of the coronavirus outbreak, the company has not provided fiscal 2020 financial guidance at this time. The company is witnessing significant decline in traffic on account of the coronavirus-induced lockdown. It has also suspended dividend payment and share repurchase program.

  In the first five weeks of the fiscal fourth quarter (through Dec 6, 2020), the company's operations were negatively impacted by the resurgence of COVID-19 cases. Notably, the company has been witnessing renewed operating limitations imposed by local jurisdictions, store reclosures and delays in store re-openings particularly in California and New York. Resultantly, comps during the period declined 71% year over year.

  Notably, the company anticipates December sales and profitability to reflect the surge in COVID-19 cases and operating restrictions. Furthermore, rise in costs related to labor, repair and maintenance, and spoilage costs (due to prolonged closures) are likely to weigh on the same.

- **Dismal Comps Performance A Major Concern:** Dave & Buster's soft comps trend over the past few quarters have been a major concern. In third-quarter fiscal 2020, comparable store restaurant sales declined 66% year over year. The decline was primarily caused by temporary store closures, leading to lower customer volumes. In first and second-quarter fiscal 2020, comps have declined 58.6% and 87%, respectively. In the fourth quarter 2019, overall comps decreased 4.7% following a decline of 4.1%, 1.8% and 0.3% in third, second and first-quarter fiscal 2019, respectively.

- **Limited International Presence:** Dave & Buster's restaurants are located in the United States and Canada, and the company has no exposure in international markets. While several other fast-casual restaurateurs are capitalizing on the emerging market potential, Dave & Buster's seems to be slow on this front. We believe that the company needs to expand presence beyond the United States in order to offset the impact of cut-throat competition in the saturated domestic market.

- **Cut-Throat Competition:** The restaurant space is highly competitive as numerous restaurant operators are ongoing advanced and prudent strategies to increase their sales. In fact, going by the current retail scenario, adapting to shifting demand has become a major precedent for retailers. Companies with continual digital innovation, focus on product customization, and launch and delivery of seamless consumer experience can only thrive in the competitive space. These initiatives involve high costs. This puts a lot of pressure on Dave & Buster's to continuously change its strategies in correspondence to the fickle consumer demand.

Last Earnings Report

Dave & Buster's Posts Narrower-Than-Expected Q3 Loss

Quarter Ending	10/2020
Report Date	**Dec 10, 2020**
Sales Surprise	**-3.25%**
EPS Surprise	**9.01%**
Quarterly EPS	**-1.01**
Annual EPS (TTM)	**-2.77**

Dave & Buster's Entertainment reported third-quarter fiscal 2020 results, wherein the bottom line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate but the top line lagged the same. However, both earnings and revenues declined sharply year over year.

Nonetheless, the company stated that it achieved strong sales recovery through late October on the back of its reopening initiatives.

In regard to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases, Dave & Buster's Chief Executive Officer, Brian Jenkins stated, "Despite this temporary setback, our resilient and committed team, our focused plan, enhanced liquidity, and our strong brand put us in position to bounce back quickly when the threat of COVID begins to subside." Following the announcement, positive investor sentiments were witnessed as shares of the company gained 3% during after hours trading session on Dec 10.

Let's delve into the quarterly numbers.

Earnings & Revenue Discussion

During the fiscal third quarter, the company posted loss of $1.01 per share, which was narrower than the Zacks Consensus Estimate of loss of $1.11 by 9%. The company had reported earnings per share of 2 cents in the year-ago quarter.

Quarterly revenues of $109.1 million missed the consensus mark of $113 million by 3.5%. The top line also slumped 63.6% from the prior-year quarter's number. The decline was primarily due to the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, Amusements and Other revenues, and Food and Beverage revenues fell considerably during the quarter owing to the pandemic.

Food and Beverage revenues (35.2% of total revenues in the fiscal third quarter) plunged 69.2% year over year to $38.3 million, Amusement and Other revenues (64.8% of total revenues) fell 59.5% to $70.7 million.

Comps Details

Comparable store restaurant sales declined 66% year over year in the fiscal third quarter. The downside can primarily be attributed to the rise in COVID-19 cases along with related operational restrictions. Meanwhile, non-comparable store revenues in the reported quarter came in at $20.1 million, down from $40.1 million in the year-ago quarter.

Operating Highlights

Operating loss in the fiscal third quarter totaled $56 million against operating profit of $6.5 million in the prior-year quarter. Operating margin came in at (51.4%) versus 2.2% in the prior-year quarter. Notably, decline in traffic due to temporary store closures negatively impacted the fiscal third-quarter operating results.

Adjusted EBITDA was ($16 million) against $46.3 million in the prior-year quarter.

Balance Sheet

As of Nov 1, cash and cash equivalents totaled $8.3 million compared with $24.7 million as of Feb 2, 2020.

At the end of the fiscal third quarter, long-term debt came in at $561.8 million compared with $632.7 million at the end of Feb 2, 2020.

Stores Update

Although Dave & Buster's was operating only through delivery and takeaway services from late March through late April, it started to initiate dine-in openings thereafter. As of Dec 6, the company had 90 stores (or 65% of its chain) open that comprised 15 store reclosures and one new store opening.

Valuation

Dave & Buster's shares are up 122.8% in the past six-month period but down 28.6% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are up by 22.4%, and the Zacks Retail-Wholesale sector are up by 12.7% in the past six-month period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is up by 12.1% and the sector is up 33.3%.

The S&P 500 index is up by 19.1% in the past six-month period and 17.7% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 1.56x forward 12-month sales, which compares with 4.04x for the Zacks sub-industry, 1.32x for the Zacks sector and 4.49x for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 2.5x and as low as 0.12x, with a 5-year median of 1.49x. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $32 price target reflects 1.67x forward 12-month sales.

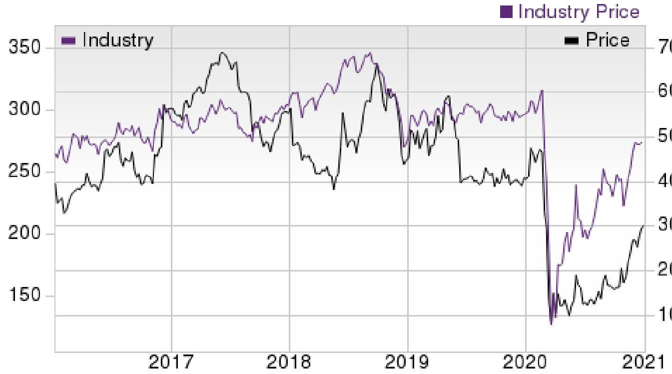
The table below shows summary valuation data for PLAY.

Valuation Multiples - PLAY

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/S F12M	Current	1.56	4.04	1.32	4.49
	5-Year High	2.5	4.04	1.33	4.49
	5-Year Low	0.12	2.82	0.83	3.21
	5-Year Median	1.49	3.37	1.01	3.67
P/CF	Current	36.28	32.31	16.07	20.65
	5-Year High	36.28	34.25	18.98	23.64
	5-Year Low	0.53	8.62	11.02	12.87
	5-Year Median	7.6	17.04	13.46	18.43
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	N/A	22.94	19.44	17.02
	5-Year High	32.87	22.94	20.69	17.02
	5-Year Low	N/A	10.72	11.13	9.56
	5-Year Median	8.93	14.5	13.03	13.19

As of 12/31/2020 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 49% (130 out of 255)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Jack In The Box Inc. (**JACK**)	Outperform	1
BJs Restaurants, Inc. (**BJRI**)	Neutral	4
Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc. (**CMG**)	Neutral	2
Papa Johns International, Inc. (**PZZA**)	Neutral	4
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Inc. (**RRGB**)	Neutral	2
RESTAURANT GRP (**RSTGF**)	Neutral	4
Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc. (**TAST**)	Neutral	4
The Wendys Company (**WEN**)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Retail - Restaurants

Industry Peers

	PLAY	X Industry	S&P 500	RRGB	TAST	WEN
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	4	-	-	2	4	3
VGM Score	F	-	-	D	A	C
Market Cap	1.43 B	618.77 M	25.84 B	298.87 M	327.14 M	4.91 B
# of Analysts	6	5	13			
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.48%	0.00%	0.00%	1.28%
Value Score	D	-	-	D	A	C
Cash/Price	0.01	0.13	0.06	0.09	0.20	0.07
EV/EBITDA	7.07	12.67	14.72	5.99	12.28	17.38
PEG F1	NA	3.03	2.84	NA	NA	3.03
P/B	6.91	3.38	3.65	1.95	1.12	9.42
P/CF	3.90	12.33	14.00	2.49	5.36	18.65
P/E F1	NA	35.18	22.36	NA	NA	38.17
P/S TTM	2.14	1.32	2.86	0.31	0.21	2.91
Earnings Yield	-16.46%	0.84%	4.34%	-51.17%	-0.96%	2.60%
Debt/Equity	2.72	0.49	0.70	1.35	1.62	5.22
Cash Flow ($/share)	7.69	1.59	6.93	7.72	1.17	1.18
Growth Score	F	-	-	D	A	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	1.12%	-0.26%	9.71%	-25.97%	-26.49%	10.07%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-268.14%	0.00%	0.00%	-1,455.83%	81.91%	-3.26%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-0.07%	-1.46%	5.22%	-15.30%	-14.11%	-0.70%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	16.47%	4.19%	8.33%	-0.74%	18.25%	-1.18%
Current Ratio	0.32	0.99	1.38	0.67	0.72	1.69
Debt/Capital	73.10%	49.13%	41.97%	57.40%	61.88%	83.93%
Net Margin	-18.78%	-1.89%	10.40%	-25.18%	-1.36%	6.26%
Return on Equity	-60.06%	-11.75%	15.07%	-64.97%	-3.46%	22.22%
Sales/Assets	0.27	0.80	0.50	0.88	0.86	0.34
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-69.21%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	A	C	D
Daily Price Change	4.09%	0.60%	0.87%	-0.31%	1.45%	-0.18%
1-Week Price Change	6.48%	0.00%	-0.44%	8.47%	-2.73%	-2.14%
4-Week Price Change	13.89%	0.05%	1.88%	-9.29%	-10.03%	0.50%
12-Week Price Change	87.16%	14.23%	11.31%	39.35%	-10.29%	-7.84%
52-Week Price Change	-26.21%	-2.84%	6.87%	-41.73%	-10.67%	-1.88%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	2,460,699	238,048	1,719,058	419,199	372,930	1,561,623
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-19.40%	-0.06%	0.00%	1.20%	0.00%	-0.37%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-24.00%	5.78%	3.68%	10.92%	-207.94%	6.07%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	-156.39%	-0.15%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.42%

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	D
Growth Score	F
Momentum Score	F
VGM Score	F

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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ZIR uses the following rating system for the securities it covers. **Outperform-** ZIR expects that the subject company will outperform the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months. **Neutral-** ZIR expects that the company will perform in line with the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months. **Underperform-** ZIR expects the company will underperform the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months.

Additional Disclosure

This material represents an assessment of the market and economic environment at a specific point in time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, or a guarantee of future results. Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. Any statements that refer to expectations, projections or characterizations of future events or circumstances, including any underlying assumptions, are forwardlooking statements. Actual results, performance, or achievements may differ materially from those expressed or implied.

Returns quoted represent past performance which is no guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate so that when shares are redeemed, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown.

Investing involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee that companies that can issue dividends will declare, continue to pay or increase dividends.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

52-Week High-Low: The range of the highest and lowest prices at which a stock has traded during the past year. This range is determined based on the stock's daily closing price which may differ from the intra-day high or low. Many investors use it as a technical indicator to determine a stock's current value and future price movement. The idea here is that if price breaks out from the 52-week range, in either direction, the momentum may continue in the same direction.

20-Day Average Volume (Shares): The average number of shares of a company traded in a day over the last 20 days. It is a direct indication of a security's overall liquidity. The higher the average daily trading volume, the easier it is to enter or exit the stock at a desired price with more buyers and sellers being available.

Daily Price Change: This is the percentage difference between a trading day's closing price and the prior trading day's closing price. This item is updated at 9 p.m. EST each day.

1-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 5 trading days. This change reflects the collective buying and selling sentiment over the 1-week period.

A strong weekly price increase for the stock, especially when accompanied by increased volume, is an indication of it gaining momentum.

4-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 20 trading days or past 4 weeks. This is a mediumterm price change metric and an indication of the stock gaining momentum.

12-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change of a stock's closing price over the last 60 trading days or past 12 weeks. Similar to 4-week price change, this is a medium-term price change metric. It shows whether a stock has been enjoying strong investor demand, or if it has been in consolidation, or distress over this period.

52-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 260 trading days or past 52 weeks. This long-term price change metric is a good reference point for investors. Some investors seek stocks with the best percentage price change over the last 52 weeks, expecting the momentum to continue.

Market Cap: The number of outstanding common shares of a company times its latest price per share. This figure represents a company's size, which indicates various characteristics, including price stability and risk, in which investors could be interested.

Year-To-Date Price Change: Change in a stock's daily closing price in the period of time beginning the first day of the current calendar year through to the previous trading day.

# of Analysts: Number of EPS estimates used in calculating the current-quarter consensus. These estimates come from the brokerage analysts tracking this stock. However, the number of such analysts tracking this stock may not match the number of estimates, as all brokerage analysts may not come up with an estimate or provide it to us.

Beta: A measure of risk commonly used to compare the volatility of a stock to the overall market. The S&P 500 Index is the base for calculating beta and carries a value of 1. A stock with beta below 1 is less risky than the market as a whole. And a stock with beta above 1 is riskier.

Dividend: The portion of earnings a company is expected to distribute to its common shareholders in the next 12 months for each share they own. Dividends are usually paid quarterly. Dividend payments reflect positively on a company and help maintain investors' trust. Investors typically find dividend-paying stocks appealing because the dividend adds to any market price appreciation to result in higher return on investment (ROI). Moreover, a steady or increasing dividend payment provides investors a cushion in a down market.

Dividend Yield: The ratio of a company's annual dividend to its share price. The annual dividend used in the ratio is calculated based on the mostrecent dividend paid by the company. Dividend yield is an estimate of the dividend-only return from a stock in the next 12 months. Since dividend itself doesn't change frequently, dividend yield usually changes with a stock's price movement. As a result, often an unusually high dividend yield is a result of weak stock price.

S&P 500 Index: The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) Index is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. It is a market-capitalization-weighted index of stocks of the 500 largest U.S. companies. Each stock's weight in the index is proportionate to its market value.

Industry: One of the 250+ groups that Zacks classifies all stocks into based on the nature of business. These groups are termed as expanded (aka "X") industries and map to their respective (economic) sectors; Zacks has 16 sectors.

Zacks Industry Rank: The Zacks Industry Rank is determined by calculating the average Zacks Rank for all stocks in the industry and then assigning an ordinal rank to it. For example, an industry with an average Zacks Rank of 1.6 is better than an industry with an average Zacks Rank of 2.3. So, the industry with the better average Zacks Rank would get a better Zacks Industry Rank. If an industry has the best average Zacks Rank, it would be considered the top industry (1 out of 250+), which would place it at the top 1% of Zacks-ranked industries. Studies have shown that roughly half of a stock's price movement can be attributed to the industry group it belongs to. In fact, the top 50% of Zacks-ranked industries outperforms the bottom 50% by a factor of more than 2 to 1.

Last EPS Surprise: The percentage deviation of a company's last reported earnings per share from the Zacks Consensus Estimate. Companies with a positive earnings surprise are more likely to surprise again in the future (or miss again if they recently missed).

Last Sales Surprise: The percentage deviation of a company's last reported sales from the Zacks Consensus Estimate.

Expected Report Date: This is an estimated date of a company's next earnings release. The information originated or gathered by Zacks Investment Research from its information providers or publicly available sources is the basis of this estimate.

Earnings ESP: The Zacks Earnings ESP compares the Most Accurate Estimate to the Zacks Consensus Estimate for the yet-to-be reported quarter. The Most Accurate Estimate is the most recent version of the Zacks Consensus EPS Estimate. The idea here is that analysts revising their estimates closer to an earnings release have the latest information, which could potentially be more accurate than what they and others contributing to the consensus had predicted earlier. Thus, a positive or negative Earnings ESP reading theoretically indicates the likely deviation of the actual earnings from the consensus estimate. However, the model's predictive power is significant for positive ESP readings only. A positive Earnings ESP is a strong predictor of an earnings beat, particularly when combined with a Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy), #2 (Buy) or #3 (Hold). Our research shows that stocks with this combination produce a positive surprise nearly 70% of the time.

Periods:

TTM: Trailing 12 months. Using TTM figures is an effective way of analyzing the most-recent financial data in an annualized format that helps neutralize the effects of seasonality and other quarter-to-quarter variation.

F1: Current fiscal year. This period is used to analyze the estimates for the ongoing full fiscal year.

F2: Next fiscal year. This period is used to analyze the estimates for the next full fiscal year.

F12M: Forward 12 months. Using F12M figures is an effective way of analyzing the near-term (the following four unreported quarters) estimates in an annualized manner. Instead of typically representing estimates for the full fiscal year, which may not represent the nitty-gritty of each quarter, F12M figures suggest an all-inclusive annualized estimate for the following four quarters. The annualization helps neutralize the potential effects of seasonality and other quarter-to-quarter variations.

P/E Ratio: The price-to-earnings ratio measures a company's current market price per share relative to its earnings per share (EPS). Usually, the trailing-12-month (TTM) EPS, current-fiscal-year (F1) EPS estimate, or forward-12-month (F12M) EPS estimate is used as the denominator. In essence, this ratio shows what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of EPS. In other words, this ratio gives a sense of what the relative value of the company is at the already reported level of earnings or at a future level of earnings.

It is one of the most widely-used multiples for determining the value of a company and helps comparing its valuation with that of a competitor, the industry group or a benchmark.

PEG Ratio: The price/earnings to growth ratio is a stock's P/E ratio using current fiscal year (F1) EPS estimate divided by its expected EPS growth rate over the coming 3 to 5 years. This ratio essentially determines a stock's value by factoring in the company's expected earnings growth and is thus believed to provide a more complete picture than just the P/E ratio, particularly for faster-growing companies.

P/S Ratio: The price-to-sales ratio is calculated as a company's current price per share divided by trailing 12 months (TTM) sales or revenues per share. This ratio shows what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of TTM sales per share. The P/S ratio is at times the only valuation metric when the company has yet to become profitable.

Cash/Price Ratio: The cash-to-price ratio or Cash Yield is calculated as cash and marketable securities per share divided by the company's current share price. Like the earnings yield, which shows the anticipated yield (or return) on a stock from earnings for each dollar invested, the cash yield does the same, with cash being the source of return instead of earnings. For example, a cash/price ratio of 0.08 suggests a return of 8% or 8 cents for every $1 investment.

EV/EBITDA Ratio: The EV/EBITDA ratio, also known as Enterprise Multiple, is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization). Usually, trailing-12-month (TTM) or forward-12-month (F12M) EBITDA is used as the denominator.

EV/Sales Ratio: The enterprise value-to-sales ratio is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by annual sales. It is an expansion of the P/S valuation, which uses market value instead of enterprise value. The EV/Sales ratio is perceived as more accurate than P/S, in part, because the market capitalization does not take a company's debt into account when valuing it.

EV/CF Ratio: The enterprise value-to-cash flow ratio is calculated as a company's enterprise value (market capitalization + value of total long-term debt + book value of preferred shares - cash and marketable securities) divided by the trailing-12-month (TTM) operating cash flow. It's a measure of how long it would take to buy the entire business if you were able to use all the company's operating cash flow.

The EV/CF ratio is perceived as more accurate than the P/CF ratio, in part, because the market price does not take a company's debt into account when valuing it.

EV/FCF Ratio: The enterprise value-to-free cash flow metric compares a company's enterprise value to its trailing-12-month (TTM) free cash flow (FCF). This metric is very similar to the EV/CF ratio, but is considered a more exact measure owing to the fact that it uses free cash flow, which subtracts capital expenditures (CAPEX) from a company's total operating cash flow, thereby reflecting the actual cash flow available for funding growth activities and payments to shareholders.

P/EBITDA Ratio: The P/EBITDA ratio is calculated as a company's per share market value divided by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization). This metric is very similar to the EV/EBITDA ratio, but is considered a little less exact measure as it uses market price, which does not take a company's debt into account. However, since EBITDA is often considered a proxy for cash income, the metric is used as a measure of what the market is willing to pay today for each dollar of the company's cash profitability in the trailing 12 months (TTM) or forward 12 months (F12M).

P/B Ratio: The price-to-book ratio is calculated as a company's current price per share divided by its book value (total assets – liabilities – preferred stocks) per share. In short, the book value is how much a company is worth. In other words, it reflects the total value of a company's assets that its common shareholders would receive if it were to be liquidated. So, the P/B ratio indicates whether you're paying higher or lower than what would remain if the company went bankrupt immediately. Investors typically use this metric to determine how a company's stock price stacks up to its intrinsic value.

P/TB Ratio: The price-to-tangible-book value ratio is calculated as a the per share market value of a company divided by the value of its tangible assets (total assets – liabilities – preferred stocks – intangible assets) per share. Tangible book value is the same thing as book value except it excludes the value of intangible assets to get a step closer to the baseline value of the company.

P/CF Ratio: The price-to-cash flow ratio measures a company's per share market price relative to its trailing-12-month (TTM) operating cash flow per share. This metric is used to determine whether a company is undervalued or overvalued relative to another stock, industry or sector. And like the P/E ratio, a lower number is typically considered better from the value perspective.

One of the reasons why P/CF ratio is often preferred over P/E ratio is the fact that operating cash flow adds back non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortization to net income. This feature helps valuing stocks that have positive cash flow but are not profitable because of large noncash charges.

P/FCF Ratio: The price-to-free cash flow ratio is an extension of P/CF ratio, which uses trailing-12-month (TTM) free cash flow per share instead of operating cash flow per share. This metric is considered a more exact measure than P/CF ratio, as free cash flow subtracts capital expenditures (CAPEX) from a company's total operating cash flow, thereby reflecting the actual cash flow available for funding activities that generate additional revenues.

Earnings Yield: The earnings yield is calculated as current fiscal year (F1) EPS estimate divided by the company's current share price. The ratio, which is the inverse of the P/E ratio, measures the anticipated yield (or return) from earnings for each dollar invested in a stock today.

For example, earnings yield for a stock, which is trading at $35 and expected to earn $3 per share in the current fiscal year (F1), would be 0.0857 (3/35 = 0.0857) or 8.57%. In other words, for $1 invested in the stock today, the yield from earnings is anticipated to be 8.57 cents.

Investors most commonly compare the earnings yield of a stock to that of a broad market index (such as the S&P 500) and prevailing interest rates, such as the current 10-year Treasury yield. Since bonds and stocks compete for investors' dollars, stock investors typically demand a higher yield for the extra risk they assume compared to investors of U.S. Treasury-backed securities that offer virtually risk-free returns. This additional return is referred to as the risk premium.

Debt/Equity Ratio: The debt-to-equity ratio is calculated as a company's total liabilities divided by its shareholder equity. This metric is used to gauge a company's financial leverage. In other words, it is a measure of the degree to which a company is financing its operations through debt versus its own funds. The higher the ratio, the higher the risk for shareholders.

However, this ratio is difficult to compare across industry groups where ideal amounts of debt vary. Some businesses are more capital intensive than others and typically require higher debt to finance their operations. So, a company's debt-to-equity ratio should be compared with other companies in the same industry.

Cash Flow ($/share): Cash flow per share is calculated as operating cash flow (after-tax earnings + depreciation + other non-cash charges) divided by common shares outstanding. It is used by many investors as a measure of a company's financial strength. Since cash flow per share takes into consideration a company's ability to generate cash by adding back non-cash expenses, it is regarded by some as a more accurate measure of a company's financial situation than earnings per share, which could be artificially deflated.

Current Ratio: The current ratio or liquidity ratio is a company's current assets divided by its current liabilities. It measures a company's ability to pay short-term obligations. A current ratio that is in line with the industry average or slightly higher is generally considered acceptable. A current ratio that is lower than the industry average would indicate a higher risk of distress or default. A higher number is usually better. However, a very high current ratio compared to the industry average could be an indication of inefficient use of assets by management.

Debt/Capital Ratio: Debt-to-capital ratio is a company's total debt (interest-bearing debt + both short- and long-term liabilities) divided its total capital (interest-bearing debt + shareholders' equity). It is a measure of a company's financial leverage. All else being equal, the higher the debt-to-capital ratio, the riskier the stock.

However, this ratio can vary widely from industry to industry, the ideal amount of required debt being different. Some businesses are more capital intensive than others and typically require higher debt to finance their operations. So, a company's debt-to-capital ratio should be compared with the same for its industry.

Net Margin: Net margin is calculated as net income divided by sales. It shows how much of each dollar in sales generated by a company translates into profit. For example, if a company's net margin is 15%, its net income is 15 cents for every $1 of sales it makes.

A change in margin can reflect either a change in business conditions, or a company's cost controls, or both. If a company's expenses are growing faster than sales, its net margin will decline. However, different net margin rates are considered good for different industries, so it's better to compare net margin rates of companies in the same industry group.

Return on Equity: Return on equity (ROE) is calculated as trailing-12-month net income divided by trailing-12-month average shareholder equity (including reinvested earnings). This metric is considered a measure of how effectively management is using a company's assets to generate profits. For example, if a company's ROE is 10%, it creates 10 cents profits for every $1 shareholder equity, which is basically the company's assets minus debt. A company's ROE deemed good or bad depends on what's normal for its peers or industry group.

Sales/Assets Ratio: The sales-to-assets ratio or asset utilization ratio or asset turnover ratio is calculated as a company's annual sales divided by average assets (average of assets at the beginning of the year and at the year's end). This metric helps investors understand how effectively a company is using its assets to generate sales. For example, a sales-to-assets ratio of 2.5 indicates that the company generated $2.50 in sales for every $1 of assets on its books.

The higher the sales-to-assets ratio, the better the company is performing. However, similar to many other ratios, the asset turnover ratio tends to be higher for companies in certain industries/sectors than in others. So, a company's sales-to-assets ratio should be compared with the same for its industry/sector.

Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years): This is the average annual (trailing-12-month) EPS growth rate over the last 3-5 years. This metric helps investors see how a company's EPS has grown from a long-term perspective.

Note: There are many factors that can influence short-term numbers — a recession will reduce this number, while a recovery will inflate it. The longterm perspective helps smooth out short-term events.

Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0): This is the estimated EPS growth rate for the current financial year. It is calculated as the consensus estimate for the current fiscal year (F1) divided by the reported EPS for the last completed fiscal year (F0).

Current Cash Flow Growth: It measures the latest year-over-year change in operating cash flow. Cash flow growth tells an investor how quickly a company is generating inflows of cash from operations. A positive change in the cash flow is desired and shows that more 'cash' is coming in than going out.

Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years): This is the annualized change in cash flow over the last 3-5 years. The change in a longer period helps put the current reading into proper perspective. By looking at the rate, rather than the actual dollar value, the comparison across the industry and peers becomes easier.

Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0): This metric looks at the estimated sales growth for the current year. It is calculated as sales estimate for the current fiscal year (F1) divided by the reported sales for the last completed fiscal year (F0).

Like EPS growth, a higher rate is better for sales growth. A look at a company's projected sales growth instantly tells you what the outlook is for their products and services. However, different sales growth rates are considered good for different industries, so it's better to compare sales growth rates of companies in the same industry group.

EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past week. The change in a company's consensus EPS estimate (or earnings estimate revision) has proven to be strongly correlated with the near-term price movement of its shares. It is an integral part of the Zacks Rank.

If a stock's consensus EPS estimate is $1.10 now versus $1.00 a week ago, that will be reflected as a 10% upward revision. If, on the other hand, it went from $1.00 to 90 cents, that would be a 10% downward revision.

EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past four weeks.

A stock's earnings estimate revision in a 1-week period is important. But it's more meaningful to look at the longer-term revision. And, of course, the 4-week change helps put the 1-week change into proper perspective.

EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year over the past 12 weeks.

This metric essentially shows how the consensus EPS estimate has changed over a period longer than 1 week or 4 weeks.

EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change: The percentage change in the Zacks Consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal quarter over the past four weeks.

While the revision in consensus EPS estimate for the current fiscal year is strongly correlated with the near-term price movement of its shares, the estimate revision for the current fiscal quarter is an important metric as well, especially over the short term, and particularly as a stock approaches its earnings date. If a stock's Q1 EPS estimate decreases ahead of its earnings release, it's usually a negative sign, whereas an increase is a positive sign.