Feb 22, 2021

Regal Beloit (RBC)

$134.28 (As of 02/19/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$141.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 12/28/20) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**2-Buy**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:A
	Value: B | Growth: B | Momentum: A	

Summary

Regal Beloit's fourth-quarter 2020 earnings and revenues beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 13.4% and 6.5%, respectively. The company is likely to benefit from business-restructuring initiatives, reorganization actions (80/20), cost-saving measures and supply-chain efforts. Also, its commitment toward rewarding shareholders handsomely boosts its strength. For first-quarter 2021, the company predicts earnings of $1.55-$1.75 per share, suggesting 26% (at the mid-point) growth year over year. However, the company's exposure to international markets and persistent forex woes as well as adverse impacts of divestitures is a concern. Moreover, weakness across general industrial and alternative energy end markets might affect the top line in the near term. In the past three months, Regal Beloit's shares have underperformed the industry.

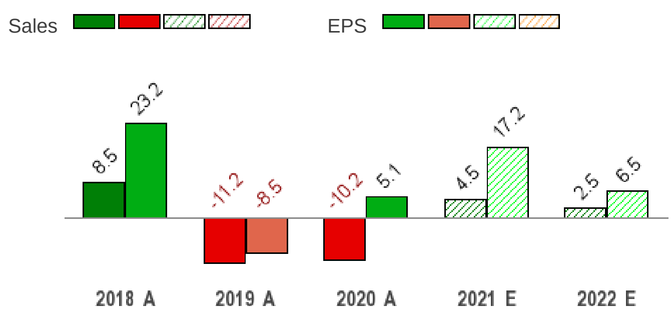
Price, Consensus & Surprise

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$146.97 - $51.99**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**285,550**
Market Cap	**$5.5 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**9.3%**
Beta	**1.39**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$1.20 / 0.9%**
Industry	**Manufacturing - Electronics**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Top 36% (90 out of 253)**
Last EPS Surprise	**13.4%**
Last Sales Surprise	**6.5%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**0.0%**
Expected Report Date	**NA**
Earnings ESP	**5.6%**
P/E TTM	**23.3**
P/E F1	**19.9**
PEG F1	**2.0**
P/S TTM	**1.9**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates **(millions of $)**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					3,115 E
2021	760 E	742 E	770 E	745 E	3,039 E
2020	734 A	634 A	758 A	781 A	2,907 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022					$7.20 E
2021	$1.60 E	$1.68 E	$1.79 E	$1.69 E	$6.76 E
2020	$1.31 A	$0.95 A	$1.73 A	$1.78 A	$5.77 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and sales estimates, is as of 02/19/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 02/22/2021.

Overview

Headquartered in Beloit, WI, Regal Beloit Corporation is a leading manufacturer of electrical and mechanical motion control products. The company offers an array of electric motors, blowers, electric generators, transfer switches, gearboxes, power generation components and controls.

The company has manufacturing, sales and service facilities throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Asia while it markets products to a diversified customer base across the globe — including OEMs, distributors and end users.

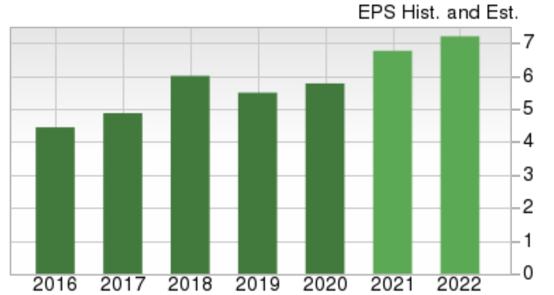
In December 2019, Regal Beloit restructured its business into four segments to improve transparency, focus and accountability. Currently, the company reports operations under these segments — Climate Solutions, Commercial Systems, Industrial Systems, and Power Transmission Solutions. Details on these segments are provided below:

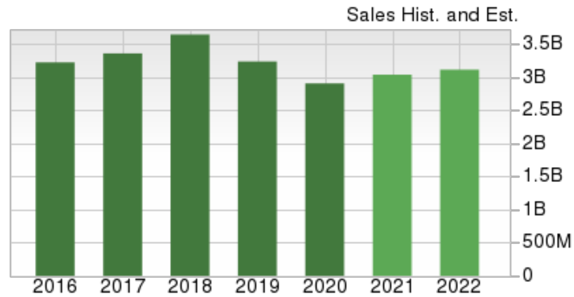
- **Climate Solutions** (28.8% of revenues generated in fourth-quarter 2020) segment designs and manufactures small motors and controls for HVAC applications for residential and light commercial industry; water heaters; and commercial refrigeration.

- **Commercial Systems** (29%) segment manufactures medium motors, commercial & industrial equipment and air moving solutions. Products are mainly used in water pumps, pool and spa, and commercial HVAC markets.

- **Industrial Systems** (17.9%) segment is engaged in manufacturing large motors, alternators, automatic transfer switches and switchgear solutions. These products are primarily used in general industrial equipment, agriculture, oil and gas, data center and power generation markets.

- **Power Transmission Solutions** (24.3%) segment manufactures modular plastic belts, helical and worm gearing, belt and chain drives, mounted and unmounted bearings, conveying chains, couplings, hydraulic pump drives and other products. These products are mainly used in special machinery, beverage, energy, aerospace, bulk handling, metals and general industrial markets.





Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

Improving order trends, business restructuring and simplification initiatives and cost-control measures might be beneficial for Regal Beloit in the quarters ahead. Also, it has a policy of rewarding shareholders handsomely.

- In fourth-quarter 2020, Regal Beloit's earnings surpassed estimates by 13.4%. Also, the bottom increased 42.4% on a year-over-year basis on sales and margin improvements. The company is effectively dealing with difficulties related to the pandemic and sees improvement from the experience in the past few quarters. For the first quarter of 2021, it anticipates earnings to be $1.55-$1.75 per share, reflecting growth of 26% (at the mid-point) from the year-ago quarter's reported figure. Also, analysts have become increasingly bullish about the company over the past seven days. Its earnings estimates for the first-quarter 2021 have increased from $1.55 per share to $1.60 on account of one upward estimate revision versus none downward. In addition, earnings estimates for 2021 have increased from $6.69 per share to $6.76 over the same time frame.

- In fourth-quarter 2020, Regal Beloit's revenues surpassed estimates by 6.5%. Notably, the company's net sales improved 5.7% year over year or were up 4.9% organically, driven by strength in its pool pump, data center, North America residential HVAC and commercial refrigeration end-markets. The company is hopeful from improved order trends — with orders in the fourth quarter increasing 3% with 7% increase in January. Based on product line, the orders for North America HVAC rose 16% in the fourth quarter on a daily basis, while pool orders too reflected impressive growth of 12%. In addition to improved orders, the company's cost-control measures, existing business restructuring and supply-chain efforts as well as reorganization actions (80/20) might aid performances. Notably, it expect to realize annualized cost savings of $25 million in 2021. In addition, Regal Beloit's deal with Rexnord Corporation to combine operations with the latter's Process & Motion Control segment will boost its product line and enhance its position as a major provider of power transmission solutions apart from strengthening its market presence and shareholder value.

- Regal Beloit is committed toward rewarding shareholders handsomely through dividend payments. It distributed dividends worth $48.7 million in 2020. Notably, its quarterly dividend rate currently is at 30 cents per share (a hike of 7% was announced in April 2019). In addition to dividend, the company also rewards shareholders through the repurchase of its common shares. In 2020, it repurchased shares worth $25 million. However, the company made no buybacks in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2020, due to the pandemic. Exiting 2020, the company has authorization up to $210 million left under its $250-million share-buyback program approved in October 2019. Further, the company's ability of repay the financial obligations seems to have strengthened in the fourth quarter, with times interest earned improving from 6.3 in the third quarter of 2020 to 7.3 in the fourth quarter.

Reasons To Sell:

- In the past three months, Regal Beloit's shares have gained 8.7% compared with the industry's growth of 16.1%. In fourth-quarter 2020, Regal Beloit's organic sales dropped 1.9% year over year for Power Transmission Solutions, owing to persistent weakness across general industrial market in North America as well as oil and gas and alternative energy end markets. The weakness might adversely impact the company's top-line in the near-term.

- Regal Beloit believes in making acquisitions to expand businesses, which, in turn, consume significant resources and expose it to integration risks. Divestments are done in the best interest of shareholders. However, business divestment may hurt near-term results. For instance, the divested businesses adversely impacted the company's 2020 sales by 1.4%.

- International businesses exposed Regal Beloit to risks arising from unfavorable movements in foreign currencies and geopolitical issues. In 2020, negative foreign exchange impact lowered sales by 0.4%. Persistence of forex woes might be concerning.

Weakness across general industrial market in North America might affect its performance in the near-term. Also, risks related to divestments and movements in foreign currencies might be concerning.

Last Earnings Report

Regal Beloit Q4 Earnings Top Estimates, View Solid

Quarter Ending	12/2020
Report Date	Feb 16, 2021
Sales Surprise	6.45%
EPS Surprise	13.38%
Quarterly EPS	1.78
Annual EPS (TTM)	5.77

Regal Beloit delivered impressive results for the fourth quarter of 2020, with earnings surpassing estimates by 13.4%. This was the company's sixth consecutive quarter of better-than-expected results. Also, its quarterly sales beat estimates by 6.5%.

Adjusted earnings in the reported quarter were $1.78 per share, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $1.57. Also, the bottom line grew 42.4% from the year-ago quarter's reported figure of $1.25 on sales and margin improvements.

For 2020, the company's adjusted earnings were $5.77 per share, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $5.57. The figure was also above the year-ago number of $5.49.

Revenue Details

In the reported quarter, Regal Beloit's net sales were $780.5 million, increasing 5.7% year over year. Organic sales in the quarter increased 4.9% and movement in foreign currencies benefited the company by 0.8%.

Also, the top line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $733.2 million.

Regal Beloit reports results under four segments — **Climate Solutions**, **Commercial Systems**, **Industrial Systems** and **Power Transmission Solutions**. A brief discussion on the segments is provided below:

Revenues from Climate Solutions totaled $224.5 million, rising 8.8% year over year. It represented 28.8% of net sales. The results were affected by forex woes of 0.5% and divestiture impact of 0.1%, while gained from organic sales growth of 9.4%.

Commercial Systems' revenues, representing 29% of net sales, were $226.4 million, up 12.1% year over year. Organic sales in the reported quarter increased 10.1%, while movement in foreign currencies benefited by 1.9%.

Industrial Systems generated revenues of $139.8 million, reflecting year-over-year growth of 1.3%. It represented 17.9% of the quarter's net sales. Organic sales increased 0.1% year over year and foreign currency movements benefited the company by 1.2%.

Power Transmission Solutions' revenues, representing 24.3% of net sales, were $189.8 million, down 1% year over year. Organic sales dipped 1.9% and foreign currency movements benefited results by 0.9%.

For 2020, the company's net sales totaled $2.9 billion, decreasing 10.2% year over year. The top line was in line with the Zacks Consensus Estimate.

Margin Picture

In the reported quarter, Regal Beloit's cost of sales increased 3.5% year over year to $567 million. It represented 72.7% of net sales versus 74.2% recorded in the year-ago quarter. Gross profit increased 12.3% year over year to $213.5 million, while margin increased 160 basis points (bps) to 27.4%. Operating expenses of $127.8 million decreased 0.5% year over year and represented 16.4% of net sales in the quarter.

Adjusted operating profit was $100.4 million, up 29.5% year over year, while margin increased 240 bps to 12.9%. Interest expenses in the quarter were down 31.2% year over year to $8.6 million. Adjusted effective tax rate in the quarter was 21.9% versus 22.2% in the year-ago quarter.

Balance Sheet and Cash Flow

Exiting the fourth quarter of 2020, Regal Beloit had cash and cash equivalents of $611.3 million, reflecting a 25.4% increase from $487.5 million recorded in the last reported quarter. Long-term debt was flat sequentially at $840.4 million.

In 2020, the company's net repayments under the revolving credit facility totaled $17.7 million and that for long-term debts was $50.4 million.

In the year, Regal Beloit generated net cash of $435.4 million from operating activities, reflecting year-over-year growth of 6.6%. The company's capital investment for purchasing property, plant and equipment decreased 48.6% from the year-ago figure to $47.5 million. Free cash flow was $387.9 million, up from $316.1 million in 2019.

Free cash flow (as a percentage of adjusted net income) was 190.3% in 2020 and 174.8% in the fourth quarter of 2020.

In 2020, the company paid out dividends totaling $48.7 million to shareholders and repurchased shares worth $25 million (no buybacks were made in the second, third and fourth quarters).

Outlook

The company provided financial projections for the first quarter of 2021. It predicts adjusted earnings per share of $1.55-$1.75 for the quarter, suggesting a mid-point increase of 26% from the year-ago quarter's reported figure.

Capital expenditure for 2021 is expected to be $57 million; effective tax rate is likely to be 21%, and net interest expenses are anticipated to be $28 million. Free cash flow (as a percentage of adjusted net income) will likely be more than 100%.

Recent News

Regal Beloit to Buy Rexnord's Process & Motion Control Unit

On **Feb 16, 2021**, Regal Beloit announced that it has signed an agreement with Rexnord Corporation to combine operations with the latter's Process & Motion Control (PMC) segment. Notably, the deal values the PMC segment at about $3.69 billion.

Rexnord's PMC segment is engaged in designing and manufacturing a wide range of mechanical components used in complex systems, primarily in end markets like mining, general industrial applications, agriculture, petrochemical, aerospace, energy, food and beverage, among others.

The deal will involve Rexnord to spin off its PMC operating segment and simultaneously merge it with Regal Beloit in a Reverse Morris Trust transaction. Post the deal, which is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2021, Regal Beloit's shareholders will own 61.4% of the combined entity ("New Regal"), while rest 38.6% will be owned by Rexnord's shareholders.

Notably, the transaction will combine Regal Beloit and Rexnord PMC segment's advanced power transmission portfolios. This is likely to boost Regal Beloit's product line and enhance its position as a major provider of power transmission solutions, apart from strengthening its market presence and shareholder value. As noted, within three years of completion, the deal is likely to generate cost savings of $120 million for Regal Beloit.

Dividend

On **Jan 25, 2021**, Regal Beloit's board of directors approved the payment of a quarterly cash dividend of 30 cents per share to shareholders of record as of Apr 1, 2021. The disbursement will be made on Apr 16, 2021.

Valuation

Regal Beloit's shares have increased 36.9% in the past six months and 54.6% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry have increased 31.5% in the past six months while the Zacks Industrial Products sector is up 28.2%. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and the sector are up 37.9% and 31.2%, respectively.

The S&P 500 Index has moved up 14.8% in the past six months and 23.3% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 19.68x forward 12-month earnings per share, which compares to 25.54x for the Zacks sub-industry, 23.44x for the Zacks sector and 22.68x for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 21.21x and as low as 8.89x, with a 5-year median of 13.44x. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our price target of $141 reflects 20.67x forward 12-month earnings.

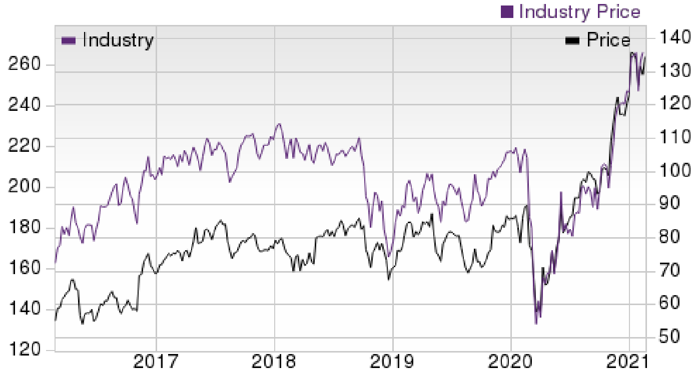
The table below shows summary valuation data for RBC.

Valuation Multiples - RBC

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	19.68	25.54	23.44	22.68
	5-Year High	21.21	26.24	23.44	23.8
	5-Year Low	8.89	13.62	12.64	15.3
	5-Year Median	13.44	18.03	17.94	17.84
P/Sales F12M	Current	1.79	3.72	3.57	4.55
	5-Year High	1.9	3.72	3.57	4.55
	5-Year Low	0.68	1.61	1.62	3.21
	5-Year Median	0.98	2.16	2.12	3.68

As of 02/19/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 36% (90 out of 253)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
IIVI Incorporated **(IIVI)**	Outperform	2
ABB Ltd **(ABB)**	Neutral	2
Altra Industrial Motion Corp. **(AIMC)**	Neutral	3
Cummins Inc. **(CMI)**	Neutral	3
Nidec Corp. **(NJDCY)**	Neutral	2
Panasonic Corp. **(PCRFY)**	Neutral	2
Timken Company The **(TKR)**	Neutral	2
Rexnord Corporation **(RXN)**	Underperform	4

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Manufacturing - Electronics

Industry Peers

	RBC	X Industry	S&P 500	ABB	AIMC	RXN
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Underperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	2	-	-	2	3	4
VGM Score	A	-	-	C	B	C
Market Cap	5.45 B	3.65 B	27.94 B	65.35 B	3.71 B	5.58 B
# of Analysts	4	3.5	13	4	3	5
Dividend Yield	0.89%	0.30%	1.41%	1.71%	0.42%	0.78%
Value Score	B	-	-	C	B	C
Cash/Price	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.07
EV/EBITDA	11.81	15.88	14.71	32.30	13.92	45.86
PEG F1	1.99	2.06	2.38	3.97	1.19	2.85
P/B	2.12	3.99	3.87	4.08	1.96	3.99
P/CF	14.86	19.91	15.57	21.85	11.65	17.98
P/E F1	19.86	25.07	20.85	24.60	17.92	23.63
P/S TTM	1.88	2.85	3.10	2.50	2.15	2.82
Earnings Yield	5.03%	3.63%	4.73%	4.08%	5.58%	4.23%
Debt/Equity	0.33	0.29	0.66	0.30	0.78	0.85
Cash Flow ($/share)	9.04	2.20	6.64	1.38	4.92	2.58
Growth Score	B	-	-	D	B	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	3.81%	4.14%	9.32%	-1.05%	16.26%	9.64%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	17.16%	21.50%	13.98%	25.00%	11.11%	-2.39%
Current Cash Flow Growth	0.16%	-0.69%	2.02%	-17.07%	74.66%	5.44%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	1.95%	2.98%	7.55%	-5.30%	29.14%	3.01%
Current Ratio	2.25	2.45	1.38	1.25	2.33	2.82
Debt/Capital	24.59%	22.58%	41.22%	23.18%	43.79%	46.03%
Net Margin	6.51%	6.51%	10.60%	19.69%	-1.47%	7.41%
Return on Equity	9.73%	8.58%	14.86%	14.81%	10.27%	16.08%
Sales/Assets	0.64	0.75	0.51	0.58	0.42	0.57
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	4.53%	6.38%	6.63%	6.43%	5.14%	6.11%
Momentum Score	A	-	-	B	F	F
Daily Price Change	3.83%	1.77%	0.55%	1.55%	4.12%	1.51%
1-Week Price Change	-1.85%	1.67%	1.44%	2.43%	-6.09%	-0.79%
4-Week Price Change	0.50%	1.74%	1.51%	-0.07%	1.18%	12.33%
12-Week Price Change	10.12%	13.52%	6.62%	13.52%	-1.14%	20.88%
52-Week Price Change	49.98%	39.38%	8.08%	24.03%	64.33%	31.06%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	285,550	252,194	2,033,954	1,779,992	373,107	813,543
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.82%	-6.16%	-1.72%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.00%	0.79%	0.71%	2.73%	-6.16%	-1.72%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	0.00%	2.94%	2.08%	2.94%	-6.16%	-5.09%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	6.68%	6.59%	0.23%	NA	-8.02%	-0.65%

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	B
Momentum Score	A
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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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.