

SunPower Corp. (SPWR)

\$30.51 (As of 03/04/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$33.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:
Neutral

(Since: 12/28/20)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:D

Value: D

Growth: B

Momentum: D

Summary

SunPower continues to witness growth in both residential and commercial solar markets. The solar-plus-storage market's rapid expansion is boosting its growth. SunPower is set to be the largest North American downstream DG solar pure play. Looking ahead, the company expects its new homes growth rate to exceed 40% over the next few years, considering its leading market share and strong backlog. Its shares have outperformed the industry in the past year. However, China's persistent trade and currency disputes with the United States have the potential to hurt SunPower's growth trajectory. As the solar industry and many of its customers have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, its business activity and demand have also been negatively impacted. A comparative analysis of its P/E TTM ratio reflects a relatively gloomy picture.

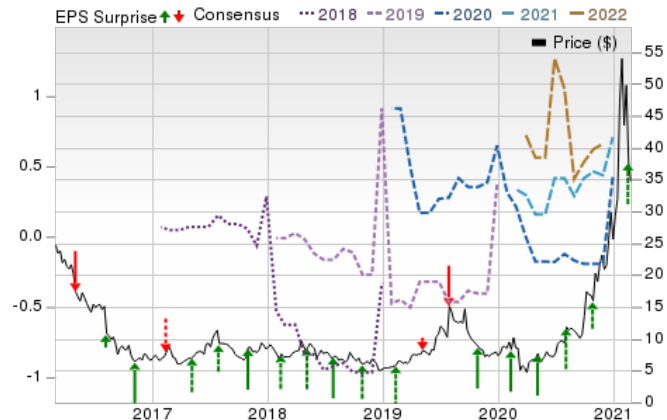
Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$57.52 - \$3.32
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	6,527,395
Market Cap	\$5.3 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	22.0%
Beta	2.15
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$0.00 / 0.0%
Industry	Solar
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 26% (188 out of 254)

Last EPS Surprise	40.0%
Last Sales Surprise	-3.9%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	32.2%
Expected Report Date	05/06/2021
Earnings ESP	-66.7%

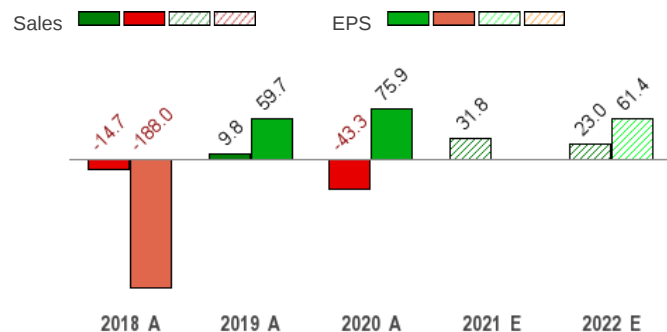
P/E TTM	NA
P/E F1	69.3
PEG F1	2.0
P/S TTM	3.8

Price, Consensus & Surprise



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	410 E	444 E	482 E	518 E	1,831 E
2021	309 E	353 E	391 E	429 E	1,489 E
2020	454 A	353 A	275 A	342 A	1,130 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$0.12 E	\$0.17 E	\$0.21 E	\$0.24 E	\$0.71 E
2021	\$0.03 E	\$0.09 E	\$0.14 E	\$0.18 E	\$0.44 E
2020	-\$0.10 A	-\$0.22 A	-\$0.04 A	\$0.14 A	-\$0.07 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, except sales and EPS estimates, is as of 03/04/2021. The report's text, and the analyst-provided sales estimates, EPS estimates and price target are as of 03/05/2021.

Overview

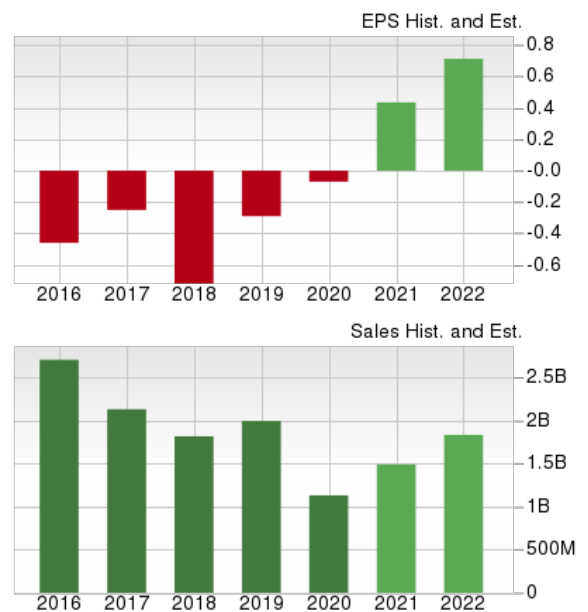
San Jose, CA-based SunPower Corporation, incorporated in 1985, designs, develops, manufactures, markets and sells high-performance solar electric power technology products, systems and services worldwide for residential, commercial and utility-scale power plant customers. The company's semiconductor-based solar cells and solar panels, which convert sunlight into electricity, are manufactured using proprietary processes and technologies.

SunPower provides wide array of products and services – solar power products (solar panels, balance of system components and inverters), solar power systems (commercial roof and ground mounted systems, and utility systems), utility-scale solar power system construction and development, services and solutions (operations and maintenance, and residential leasing program), research and development, and supplier relationships, manufacturing, and panel assembly.

The company offers a complete set of residential solutions that deliver value to homeowners and its dealer partners. The company has developed the capability to deliver AC panels with factory-integrated microinverters. The AC system architecture, as compared with DC systems, facilitates direct panel installation, eliminating the need to mount or assemble additional components on the roof or the side of a building, driving down system costs, improving overall system reliability, and providing improved, cleaner design aesthetics.

The company currently has two primary segments – the **Residential, Light Commercial** Segment and the **Commercial and Industrial Solutions** Segment.

Revenues from the Residential, Light Commercial Segment were \$848.1 million in 2020, which represented 75% of the company's total revenues. On the other hand, revenues from the Commercial and Industrial Solutions Segment amounted to \$254.8 million, comprising 23% of the company's total revenues.



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ SunPower is one of the most forward-integrated solar companies, having more than a decade of experience in designing, manufacturing and supplying large-scale solar systems. The company continues to witness growth in residential and commercial markets. SunPower delivered a strong performance within the residential market in the fourth quarter, wherein both demand and installation activities witnessed an increase. The company added more than 13,000 customers during the quarter, bringing its total customer base to more than 350,000, led by higher demand. Moreover, the company witnessed a solid year-over-year increase in new home installs during the fourth quarter, for which strong quarterly bookings resulted in a record backlog of more than 180 megawatts. Looking ahead, the company expects its new homes growth rate to exceed 40% over the next few years, considering its leading market share and strong backlog.

SunPower's focus on enhancing its market share, expanding its storage pipeline and its solid financial position should boost the stock's growth

In fact, U.S. residential solar growth is set to accelerate over the next five years driven by the recent extension of the ITC, the increasing affordability of solar, as well as broader acceptance of solar as an integral part of combating climate change. Considering this, the company expects revenue growth from residential market to exceed 40% in 2021, driven by strong momentum from rapid new homes growth along with accelerating storage sales exiting 2020. Such solid prospects may have boosted investor's confidence in the stock. Notably, in the past year, SunPower's stock has soared 265.7% compared with the industry's 94.8% growth.

- ▲ The company also boasts a significant opportunity in the commercial direct market as many corporations are expanding their green energy procurement activities. Notably, fires and storms challenge the grid, which along with rolling blackouts and shut-offs continue to boost storage demand. As a result, SunPower expects to see rapid adoption of its products over the next several years in both commercial and residential markets. With the largest installed base in the U.S. residential and commercial market, more than 500 channel partners in a leadership position in new homes and commercial direct, SunPower is forecast to be the largest North American downstream distributed generation (DG) solar pure play.

SunPower's leading position in the solar market offers its stock a strong financial position. Evidently its cash and cash equivalents were \$232.8 million at the end of fourth-quarter 2020, down sequentially from \$341 million. However, its long-term debt stood at \$56.4 million as of Dec 31, 2020, while current debt stands at \$60 million. Therefore, as both long-term and current debt values of the company lie much below its cash reserve, this reflects a solid solvency position on the company's part.

- ▲ Over the past few years, the solar-plus-storage market has been expanding rapidly. According to Wood Mackenzie's estimate, global energy storage capacity is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 31%, recording 741 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of cumulative capacity by 2030. Naturally this offers expansion opportunity for stocks like SunPower that are involved in solar storage. To this end, the company pledges to increasingly attach Helix and Equinox storage to its commercial and residential solar systems, which is expected to enhance its revenues and margins. Notably, the company's Helix storage solution continues to gain traction, with average attach rates being more than 30% as of Dec 31, 2020. To enhance its share in the solar and storage market, worth \$65 billion, SunPower currently aims to capitalize on increasing demand for front of the meter storage solutions, through continued investment in its Helix Storage platform. Moreover, the company is developing new digital services that enable customers from solar and storage to monitor and take control of energy use in their homes and electric vehicles

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ For past few years, U.S.-based solar stocks have been affected by China's persistent trade and currency disputes with the United States. Both the countries have been engaged in a trade dispute for over a year, imposing duties on billions of dollars' worth of goods from one another. Tensions, however, escalated after the Trump administration implemented 10% tariffs on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports starting Sep 1, 2019. These tariffs include certain solar power system components and finished products, including those purchased from SunPower's suppliers for use in the company's products and business. In response, China's currency devaluation has now become a threat to U.S.-based companies that do business in the country. The United States and China may continue taking additional retaliatory measures in response to actions taken by the other country, which may result in changes to existing trade agreements and terms including additional tariffs on imports from China or other countries. Such trade tensions between China and the United States have the potential to harm SunPower's business significantly.
- ▼ As the solar industry and many of SunPower's customers have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, its business activity and demand have also been negatively impacted, especially since the second quarter of 2020. As of February 2021, COVID-19 cases continue to rise in certain areas of the United States and worldwide, and as a result, many jurisdictions are restricting or planning to restrict businesses and economic activities. In this context, SunPower believes that the most significant elements of uncertainty are the intensity and duration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on project installation and commercial and consumer spending. These might affect the ability of the company's sales channels, supply chain, and distribution centers to operate with minimal disruption in the near term, especially if local governments impose new measures and restrictions in jurisdictions in which it operates.
- ▼ A comparative analysis of the company's historical P/S TTM ratio reflects a relatively gloomy picture, which might be a cause for investors' concern. Evidently, the stock has a current trailing 12-month P/E ratio of 5.56. This level lies near the high end of its past year's range. Moreover, the company's P/S TTM ratio remained much above the industry's P/S TTM ratio of 4.18 in a year.

Unfavorable valuation, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic along with trade dispute between China and America are headwinds for the company.

Last Earnings Report

SunPower Q4 Earnings Top Estimates, Revenues Miss

SunPower reported adjusted earnings of 14 cents per share in fourth-quarter 2020, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 10 cents by 40%. The bottom line, however, declined 39% year over year from 23 cents.

For 2020, the company reported an adjusted loss of 7 cents per share, narrower than the Zacks Consensus Estimate of a loss of 22 cents. The company had incurred a loss of 14 cents per share in the prior year.

Quarter Ending **12/2020**

Report Date	Feb 17, 2021
Sales Surprise	-3.89%
EPS Surprise	40.00%
Quarterly EPS	0.14
Annual EPS (TTM)	-0.22

Operational Results

For the quarter under review, SunPower's adjusted revenues came in at \$341.8 million, lagging the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$356 million by 4%. Moreover, the top line declined 15.6% from \$404.8 million in the year-ago quarter.

The reported figure was below the midpoint of the company's expectation of \$330-\$370 million. The year-over-year downside can be primarily attributed to lower revenues from declining solar power systems and components sales and also from lower solar services sales.

For 2020, the company recorded adjusted revenues of \$1.12 billion, lagging the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.29 billion by 13.2%. However, the top line improved 2.8% from last year's \$1.09 billion.

Total operating income in the quarter was \$24 million compared with an operating income of \$30.8 million reported in the year-ago quarter.

Total operating expenses amounted to \$51.2 million during the fourth quarter compared with operating expenses of \$55.3 million in the year-ago quarter.

Financial Position

SunPower had cash and cash equivalents of \$232.8 million as of Jan 3, 2021, compared with \$302 million as of Dec 29, 2019.

Long-term debt was \$56.4 million as of Jan 3, 2021, compared with \$112.3 million as of Dec 29, 2019.

In 2020, net cash outflow from operating activities totaled \$187.4 million compared with cash outflow of \$270.4 million in 2019.

Guidance

For first-quarter 2021, the company expects to generate adjusted revenues of \$270-\$330 million. The Zacks Consensus Estimate for first-quarter revenues is pegged at \$343.5 million, higher than the company's guided range.

Adjusted EBITDA is estimated to be in the range of \$10-\$20 million. Additionally, it anticipates deployment of 115-145MW in the same period.

Recent News

On **Feb 3, 2021**, SunPower Corp announced the new mySunPower app, the company's new experience for homeowners to review and manage their energy generation, consumption, and battery storage settings from a mobile device. The new mySunPower app for monitoring will be available for download for SunPower Equinox customers on Feb. 16 on the Apple App Store and Google Play and will be available to all of SunPower's 285,000 monitoring customers by spring 2021.

Designed to integrate seamlessly with SunPower's existing homeowner platform, the mySunPower app makes it possible to optimize energy use, save money, and become less dependent on traditional energy providers in the face of rolling blackouts, natural disasters, and the impacts of climate change.

On **Jan 26, 2021**, SunPower announced its plans to launch SPRI presence in seven new markets across six states by the end of Q2 2021. SPRI enables local companies and entrepreneurs to create or expand their solar energy companies without the complex and asset-heavy roles often associated with a traditional solar dealer business.

On **Jan 7, 2021**, SunPower Corp. announced that it will close SunPower Manufacturing Oregon, LLC, its solar panel manufacturing plant in Hillsboro, Ore.

Valuation

SunPower Corp's shares are up 182% in the past six months period and 265.7% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are up 31.7% in the past six months period, while stocks in the Zacks Oils-Energy sector are up 34%. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is up 94.8% whereas the sector is up 12%.

The S&P 500 index is up 10.9% in the past six months period and 29.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 3.5X of forward 12-month sales, which compares to 4.6X for the Zacks sub-industry, 0.9X for the Zacks sector and 4.4X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 6.2X and as low as 0.3X, with a 5-year median of 0.5X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$33 price target reflects 3.7X forward 12-month sales.

The table below shows summary valuation data for SPWR

Valuation Multiples - SPWR					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/S F12M	Current	3.47	4.61	0.92	4.4
	5-Year High	6.22	4.92	1.46	4.4
	5-Year Low	0.27	0.54	0.6	3.21
	5-Year Median	0.5	0.98	0.98	3.68
EV/SALES F12M	Current	3.84	5.01	1.14	4.2
	5-Year High	6.2	5.01	2.17	4.36
	5-Year Low	0.2	0.4	0.73	2.72
	5-Year Median	0.6	0.94	1.33	3.56

As of 03/04/2020

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 26% (188 out of 254)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Canadian Solar Inc. (CSIQ)	Neutral	3
First Solar, Inc. (FSLR)	Neutral	3
JinkoSolar Holding Company Limited (JKS)	Neutral	4
Sunnova Energy International Inc. (NOVA)	Neutral	3
Sunrun Inc. (RUN)	Neutral	4
SolarEdge Technologies, Inc. (SEDG)	Neutral	3
Renesola Ltd. (SOL)	Neutral	3
Sunworks, Inc. (SUNW)	Neutral	3

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Solar				Industry Peers		
	SPWR	X Industry	S&P 500	JKS	RUN	SUNW
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	4	4	3
VGM Score	D	-	-	C	F	D
Market Cap	5.33 B	356.76 M	26.64 B	1.80 B	10.82 B	264.81 M
# of Analysts	6	3	13	1	8	1
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.43%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Value Score	D	-	-	B	F	F
Cash/Price	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.83	0.06	0.02
EV/EBITDA	7.57	12.79	15.34	1.85	-70.34	-36.63
PEG F1	2.01	1.78	2.27	NA	NA	NA
P/B	13.11	3.08	3.76	0.99	1.57	35.14
P/CF	323.18	35.23	15.31	6.56	46.31	NA
P/E F1	69.34	46.32	20.37	11.59	248.47	NA
P/S TTM	3.76	5.72	3.15	0.36	11.74	6.06
Earnings Yield	1.41%	1.30%	4.82%	8.63%	-0.02%	-1.08%
Debt/Equity	1.18	0.44	0.67	0.43	0.73	0.48
Cash Flow (\$/share)	0.10	0.05	6.78	6.24	1.15	-1.18
Growth Score	B	-	-	F	F	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	NA%	-17.75%	9.32%	-17.75%	-36.99%	NA
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	721.43%	60.36%	14.54%	6.65%	97.32%	85.00%
Current Cash Flow Growth	49.98%	6.72%	0.74%	49.75%	6.72%	772.39%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	-47.64%	10.05%	7.37%	15.10%	39.50%	10.06%
Current Ratio	1.49	1.25	1.39	1.04	1.26	1.13
Debt/Capital	54.09%	31.21%	41.42%	30.29%	44.97%	32.52%
Net Margin	33.48%	-3.29%	10.59%	2.75%	-18.80%	-33.07%
Return on Equity	-50.10%	-4.15%	14.75%	7.53%	-0.57%	-133.44%
Sales/Assets	0.81	0.66	0.51	0.72	0.11	1.66
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	4.55%	30.82%	7.02%	30.72%	48.22%	NA
Momentum Score	D	-	-	A	F	C
Daily Price Change	-5.10%	-7.17%	-1.49%	-11.09%	-5.65%	-17.40%
1-Week Price Change	-7.92%	-12.30%	-1.51%	-11.70%	-8.64%	-17.25%
4-Week Price Change	-22.08%	-25.24%	0.04%	-34.49%	-27.71%	-48.01%
12-Week Price Change	47.78%	47.78%	3.94%	-28.87%	-7.22%	153.07%
52-Week Price Change	234.44%	173.50%	22.81%	77.83%	150.80%	1,533.82%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	6,527,395	603,709	2,051,279	2,274,532	5,445,130	4,697,149
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-104.04%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	32.17%	0.00%	0.04%	0.00%	-104.04%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	13.16%	2.94%	2.17%	-3.55%	-101.73%	0.00%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	NA%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-74.36%	0.00%

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	B
Momentum Score	D
VGM Score	D

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

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

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

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Periods:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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