Sempra Energy (SRE)

$127.41 (As of 01/01/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **$135.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 08/12/20) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5) Zacks Style Scores: Value: C | Growth: F | Momentum: C	**3-Hold** VGM:F

Summary

Sempra Energy appears to be well-positioned for growth, given stable earnings from its utility subsidiaries. It expects to make long-term investments of $22.8 billion in infrastructural development. The company is making notable progress in LNG development projects. Sempra LNG and its joint venture with IEnova expect to make capital expenditures and investments of approximately $2.4 billion during 2020-2024. In the past year, the company's shares outperformed the industry. However, Sempra Energy has a current ratio of 0.84 as of Sep 30, 2020, which being less than 1, indicates that this utility may face difficulty in paying off its short-term obligations. The impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a slowdown of its capital spending, which could worsen if conditions deteriorate or fail to improve in the near term.

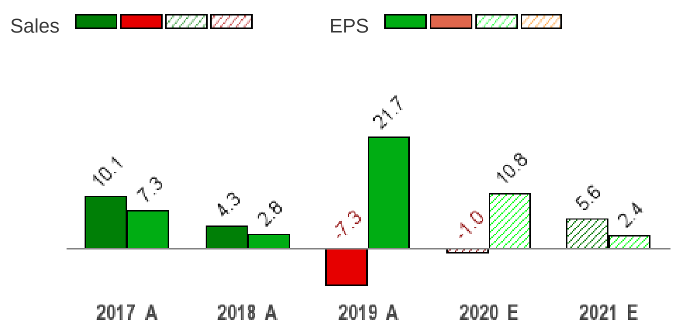
Price, Consensus & Surprise

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$161.87 - $88.00**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,488,694**
Market Cap	**$36.8 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**-15.9%**
Beta	**0.60**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$4.18 / 3.3%**
Industry	**Utility - Gas Distribution**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 21% (201 out of 255)**
Last EPS Surprise	**-10.9%**
Last Sales Surprise	**1.6%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**0.1%**
Expected Report Date	**02/25/2021**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**16.8**
P/E F1	**17.0**
PEG F1	**2.2**
P/S TTM	**3.3**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021					11,318 E
2020	3,029 A	2,526 A	2,644 A	2,887 E	10,717 E
2019	2,898 A	2,230 A	2,758 A	2,943 A	10,829 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	$1.57 E	$2.97 E	$1.59 E	$1.70 E	$7.69 E
2020	$3.08 A	$1.65 A	$1.31 A	$1.47 E	$7.51 E
2019	$1.92 A	$1.10 A	$1.50 A	$1.55 A	$6.78 A

*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, except sales and EPS estimates, is as of 01/01/2021. The reports text and the analyst-provided sales and EPS estimates are as of 01/04/2021.

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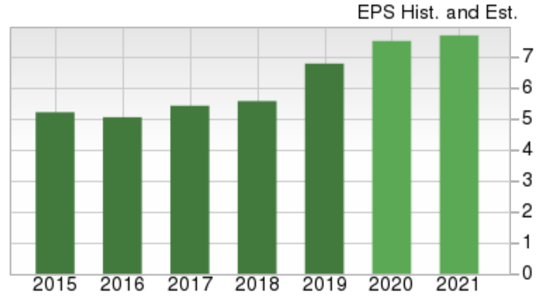
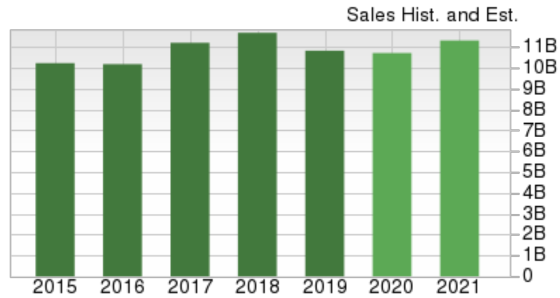
Overview

Sempra Energy is a southern California-based energy services holding company involved in the sale, distribution, storage and transportation of electricity and natural gas. The company has recently reorganized its subsidiaries under two operating groups: Sempra Utilities and Sempra Infrastructure. The Sempra Utilities group includes the company's utility operations: Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Sempra South American Utilities. The Sempra Infrastructure group includes the company's energy infrastructure development activities, investments and operations: Sempra Mexico, Sempra LNG & Midstream and Sempra Renewable.





San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E): SoCalGas is a regulated public utility that owns and operates a natural gas distribution, transmission and storage system that supplies natural gas to a population of approximately 22 million, covering a 24,000 square mile service territory that encompasses Southern California and portions of central California.Segment earnings amounted to $767 million in 2019, compared with $669 million in 2018.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas): SoCalGas is a regulated public utility that owns and operates a natural gas distribution, transmission and storage system that supplies natural gas to a population of approximately 22 million, covering a 24,000 square mile service territory that encompasses Southern California. Segment earnings amounted to $641 million in 2019, compared with $400 million in 2018.

Sempra Texas Utility: Segment earnings amounted to $528 million in 2019, compared with $400 million in 2018..

Sempra Mexico: Segment earnings amounted to $253 million in 2019, compared with $237 million in 2018.

Sempra Renewables: Segment earnings amounted to $59 million in 2019, compared with $328 million in 2018.

Sempra LNG: The segment reported losses of $6 million in 2019, compared with $617 million in 2018.

Parent and Other: The segment reported losses of $515 million in 2019 against earnings of $620 million in 2018.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

> Systematic investments in infrastructure development should bode well for Sempra Energy's growth. Also the company's progress in LNG terminal projects are appreciating

- Sempra Energy appears to be well positioned, given its stable earnings from utility subsidiaries. Moreover, the company continues with systematic investments in its infrastructure development projects. For the 2020-2024 period, the company expects to make investments of approximately $22.8 billion including $8.9 billion for SDG&E, $9 billion for SoCalGas, $0.7 billion for Sempra Texas Utility, $1.9 billion for Sempra Mexico and $2.3 billion for Sempra LNG. Through these investments, the company aims at vigorously modernizing its electric transmission lines and substation infrastructure. In November 2020, Sempra Energy's subsidiary, Oncor Electric Delivery Company (Oncor), announced its 2021-2025 capital plan of $12.2 billion. This reflects a $300-million increase over Oncor's previous 2020-2024 capital plan and is driven by new growth capital required across the system, investments to enhance the safety and reliability of service, and continued investments in technology and innovation.

- As significant worldwide demand growth for LNG continues to rise, Sempra Energy is well positioned with strategically-located opportunities in North America. Sempra Energy is engaged in advance commercial discussions with potential partners for its LNG development projects. In March 2020, the company finalized an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract with Bechtel Corporation for its proposed Port Arthur LNG liquification project. In August, Phase 1 of the Cameron LNG export facility in Louisiana, reached full commercial operations under Cameron LNG's tolling agreements, which marked the start of full run-rate earnings and cash flows. Sempra Energy's share of full run-rate earnings from the Phase 1 project is expected between $400 million and $450 million annually, with no commodity or volumetric exposure.

  To this end, it is imperative to mention that the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects U.S. LNG exports to be averaging 8.4 Bcf/d in 2021, a 31% increase from 2020's projected figure, as facilities gradually ramp up to full production. Sempra will certainly play an important role in the nation achieving this target, with the second and third trains of its Cameron LNG facility set to come into service this year. Moreover, in this regard, from 2020 through 2024, Sempra LNG and its joint venture with IEnova expect to make capital expenditures and investments of approximately $2.4 billion.

- Sempra Energy has consistently been paying dividends at increasing rates, courtesy of its solid cash flow from operations. Notably, its cash flow from operating activities came in at $3,088 million at the end of 2019. Furthermore, the company hiked its dividend by 8% in February 2020. On average, Sempra has grown its dividend by more than 10% annually for the last decade, which is one of the highest dividend growth rates in the utility industry, per its management. Currently, the company sustains its annual dividend increase target at 8-9% over the next several years. Its efforts to maximize shareholder value through the payment of regular dividends will likely retain investors' interest in the stock. Further, in the past year, shares of Sempra Energy have outperformed the industry. Its shares have dropped 14.4% compared with the industry's decline of 25%.

Reasons To Sell:

> Impact of Covid-19 pandemic and unfavorable financial ratios could hurt the company's performance in the future.

- Sempra Energy has a long-term debt of $21,770 million as of Sep 30, 2020, higher than $20,535 million as of Jun 30, 2020. As of Sep 30, 2020, its cash equivalents were $3,543 million, while its current debt stood at $3,662 million. So, both long-term and current debts lie above the company's cash balance. This reflects a weak solvency position on the company's part and makes us skeptical about its ability to duly meet its obligations.

  Moreover, the company has a current ratio of 0.84 as of Sep 30, 2020, which being less than 1, indicates that this utility may face difficulty in paying off its short-term obligations. Further, its times interest earned ratio is 2.4 as of Sep 30, 2020, compared to 2.6 as of Jun 30, 2020. Such unfavorable financial ratios make us all the more skeptical about the firm's ability to meet debt obligations in the near future.

- A comparative analysis of the company's forward 12-month Price/Sales ratio indicates a relatively gloomy picture that might be a cause for investors' concern. Consequently, the stock currently has a trailing 12-month Price/Sales ratio of 3.32. The level compares unfavorably when compared to its historical levels. Also, the company's Price/Sales ratio has been above the industry's ratio of 2.15 in the past year.

- The impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a slowdown of capital spendings made by Sempra Energy, which could worsen if conditions deteriorate or fail to improve in the near term. For instance, the company's final investment decision for Phase 1 of the proposed ECA LNG JV natural gas liquefaction project got delayed due to the closure of non-essential activities in Mexico, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, a final investment decision for the proposed Port Arthur LNG liquefaction export project has been delayed from 2020 to 2021 due to the pandemic-induced uncertainty in the energy and financial markets. Notably, if this or other projects under development are further delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other related factors, the performance and prospects of its LNG export business could be negatively impacted. Overall, this could have a material adverse effect on Sempra Energy's operations and due to the ongoing pandemic, chances of a stark rebound from this crisis seem very bleak, over the near term.

Last Earnings Report

Sempra Energy Q3 Earnings Miss, Revenues Decline Y/Y

Quarter Ending	09/2020
Report Date	Nov 05, 2020
Sales Surprise	1.55%
EPS Surprise	-10.88%
Quarterly EPS	1.31
Annual EPS (TTM)	7.59

Sempra Energy's third-quarter 2020 adjusted earnings per share (EPS) came in at $1.31, which missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $1.47 by 10.9%. The bottom line also declined 12.7% from $1.50 reported in the prior-year quarter.

Barring one-time items, the company generated GAAP earnings of $1.21 per share compared with GAAP earnings of $2.84 reported in third-quarter 2019.

The year-over-year deterioration can be primarily attributed to lower revenues generated in the reported quarter.

Total Revenues

In the quarter under review, total revenues of $2,644 million decreased 4.1% year over year on lower contributions from both its Utilities (down 4%) and Energy-related businesses (down 4.7%). The top line, however, surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $2,604 million by 1.5%.

Segment Update

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E): Quarterly earnings amounted to $178 million compared with the year-ago quarter's $263 million.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas): This segment incurred loss of $24 million in the third quarter of 2020 against earnings of $143 million registered in the prior-year quarter.

Sempra Texas Utility: Earnings in this segment came in at $209 million in the reported quarter compared with $212 million in the year-ago quarter.

Sempra Mexico: The segment recorded net earnings of $50 million compared with $84 million in the year-ago quarter.

Sempra LNG: The segment reported earnings of $71 million compared with the year-ago quarter's $2 million.

Parent and Other: Quarterly loss at this division declined to $126 million from the year-ago quarter's loss of $139 million.

Financial Update

As of Sep 30, 2020, Sempra Energy's cash and cash equivalents totaled $3,515 million compared with $108 million as of Dec 31, 2019.

Long-term debt and finance leases amounted to $21,770 million as of Sep 30, 2020, compared with $20,785 million at 2019-end.

Cash flow from operating activities was $1,629 million at the end of third-quarter 2020, down from $2,118 million at the end of third-quarter 2019.

In the reported quarter, the company's total capital expenditures, investments and acquisitions were $1,204 million compared with $997 million in the third quarter of 2019.

2020 Guidance

Sempra Energy updated its adjusted EPS guidance for 2020. The company now expects to generate earnings at the high-end of its prior guided range of $7.20-$7.80 per share. The Zacks Consensus Estimate for full-year earnings stands at $7.68 per share, above the midpoint of the company-projected view.

Recent News

On **Nov 23, 2020**, Sempra Energy announced that as its subsidiaries, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) have unveiled the creation of a Hydrogen Blending Demonstration Program. This program would be the first in California and among the first in the nation.

Blending hydrogen with natural gas is part of a multi-pronged strategy both the aforementioned subsidiaries of Sempra Energy are undertaking to decarbonize their natural gas grid. The vision is to leverage surplus renewable electricity generated in the middle of the day to produce green hydrogen, which then can be injected into the natural gas grid for storage and use. Power-to-gas technology is being developed to do just that. SoCalGas, in partnership with the National Fuel Cell Research Center, and University of California Irvine, is leading the way in developing this technology, launching the first power-to-gas demonstration project in the United States in 2015. Hydrogen blending is another important milestone for providing the clean fuel needed to achieve California's climate goals while maintaining an affordable, resilient and reliable energy system.

On **Nov 21, 2020**, Sempra Energy’s subsidiary, - Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) and the Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) commemorated the installation of YLWD's new natural gas-powered electricity generator located at the water district's Elk Mountain Booster Pump Station. The generator was installed to provide back-up power in the event of power loss from wildfires, Public Safety Power Shutoffs, and other emergencies.

In case of an emergency, such as an earthquake or wildfire, the generator produces 500 kWh electricity to power three pumps that boost water into higher elevations and maintain water service to many of Yorba Linda's 68,000 residents as well as emergency services in the area.

On **Nov 17, 2020**, Sempra Energy announced that its subsidiary ECA Liquefaction (ECA LNG), a joint venture between Sempra LNG and Infraestructura Energética Nova, S.A.B. de C.V. (IEnova), has reached a final investment decision (FID) for the development, construction and operation of the ECA LNG Phase 1 natural gas liquefaction-export project in Baja California, Mexico. ECA LNG Phase 1 is currently the only liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project in the world to reach FID in 2020.

Valuation

Sempra Energy’s shares are up 5.8% in the past six months although down 14.4% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Utilities sector are up 5.8% and 11.6% in the past six months, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry is down 25% whereas the sector is down 5.8%.

The S&P 500 index is up 19.2% in the past six months and 17.9% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 15.8X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 15.4X for the Zacks sub-industry, 13.5X for the Zacks sector and 23.1X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 24.9X and as low as 12.2X, with a 5-year median of 20X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our $135 price target reflects 16.7X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for SRE

Valuation Multiples - SRE

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	15.79	15.4	13.49	23.14
	5-Year High	24.92	23.03	15.39	23.79
	5-Year Low	12.18	13.24	11.4	15.3
	5-Year Median	20	24.61	13.86	17.82
P/S F12M	Current	3.25	1.82	2.87	4.5
	5-Year High	4.02	2.41	3.2	4.5
	5-Year Low	1.72	1.15	1.79	3.21
	5-Year Median	2.59	1.8	2.14	3.67
EV/EBITDA F12M	Current	13.24	9.93	9.49	17.21
	5-Year High	15.32	12.8	14.82	18.81
	5-Year Low	9.32	8.41	7.19	12.96
	5-Year Median	12.83	10.76	8.82	15.69

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

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 21% (201 out of 255)

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
ONEOK, Inc. **(OKE)**	Outperform	2
Atmos Energy Corporation **(ATO)**	Neutral	3
Consolidated Edison Inc **(ED)**	Neutral	4
ONE Gas, Inc. **(OGS)**	Neutral	3
Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated **(PEG)**	Neutral	3
Southwest Gas Corporation **(SWX)**	Neutral	4
UGI Corporation **(UGI)**	Neutral	3
NewJersey Resources Corporation **(NJR)**	Underperform	5

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Utility - Gas Distribution

	SRE	X Industry	S&P 500	ATO	OGS	OKE
				Industry Peers		
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Outperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	2
VGM Score	F	-	-	D	D	D
Market Cap	36.75 B	3.67 B	25.84 B	12.03 B	4.08 B	17.06 B
# of Analysts		3	13	5		
Dividend Yield	3.28%	3.28%	1.48%	2.62%	2.81%	9.74%
Value Score	C	-	-	C	C	C
Cash/Price	0.10	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.03
EV/EBITDA	13.28	12.48	14.72	13.00	11.96	11.78
PEG F1	2.19	2.73	2.84	2.68	3.87	5.96
P/B	1.70	1.76	3.65	1.73	1.85	2.78
P/CF	10.19	8.67	14.00	11.52	11.03	9.03
P/E F1	16.82	16.56	22.36	18.99	21.28	27.55
P/S TTM	3.30	1.82	2.86	4.26	2.72	1.98
Earnings Yield	6.04%	5.65%	4.34%	5.27%	4.70%	3.62%
Debt/Equity	1.00	1.01	0.70	0.67	0.72	2.32
Cash Flow ($/share)	12.50	4.07	6.93	8.28	6.96	4.25
Growth Score	F	-	-	D	D	F
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	9.20%	7.57%	9.71%	8.95%	9.61%	18.27%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	24.80%	0.00%	0.00%	6.48%	3.09%	-54.36%
Current Cash Flow Growth	12.92%	10.96%	5.22%	12.01%	10.48%	11.06%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	8.55%	8.52%	8.33%	11.56%	9.29%	22.18%
Current Ratio	0.84	0.77	1.38	0.60	0.64	1.57
Debt/Capital	46.69%	49.63%	41.97%	40.02%	41.83%	69.86%
Net Margin	34.85%	8.25%	10.40%	21.32%	12.63%	7.24%
Return on Equity	11.02%	9.11%	15.07%	9.04%	8.69%	18.38%
Sales/Assets	0.17	0.26	0.50	0.19	0.26	0.39
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.96%	0.00%	0.00%
Momentum Score	C	-	-	D	F	C
Daily Price Change	1.26%	0.72%	0.87%	2.05%	1.15%	0.68%
1-Week Price Change	-3.67%	-1.04%	-0.44%	-2.46%	-2.17%	-2.68%
4-Week Price Change	-3.48%	-0.29%	1.88%	-1.13%	-1.70%	-0.29%
12-Week Price Change	0.55%	3.87%	11.31%	-1.41%	3.87%	30.50%
52-Week Price Change	-14.56%	-19.70%	6.87%	-13.54%	-16.94%	-49.31%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,488,694	330,654	1,719,058	893,181	210,868	3,171,027
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.11%	0.00%	0.00%	0.08%	-0.09%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	0.67%	0.20%	3.68%	-0.12%	2.12%	7.03%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.16%	-0.41%	-0.27%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Stock Rating System

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

Zacks Recommendation

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

Zacks Rank

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

Zacks Style Scores

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

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

Value Score	C
Growth Score	F
Momentum Score	C
VGM Score	F

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

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.