Stryker Corporation (SYK)

$248.48 (As of 04/05/21)

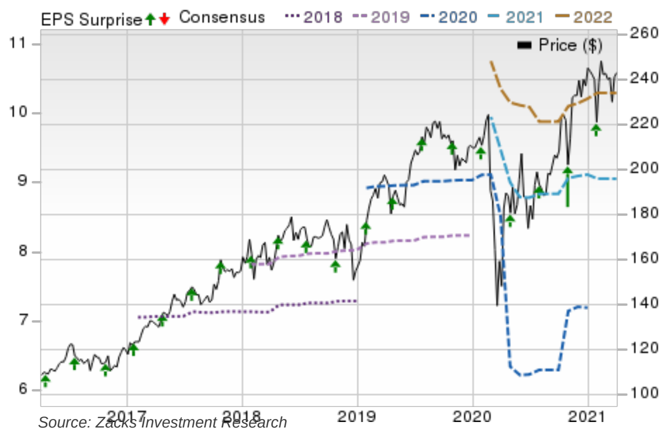
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$261.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 11/26/19) Prior Recommendation: Outperform	**Neutral**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**4-Sell**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:B
	Value: B | Growth: B	Momentum: B

Summary

Stryker remains committed to continued advancement of its new product pipelines. Per management, it is poised to capitalize on the broader resumption of deferrable surgeries. Strength in flagship Mako platform continues to favor the company. Stryker exited fourth-quarter 2020 on a mixed note, wherein earnings surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate while revenues missed the same. Moreover, the company witnessed strong performance across its segments. Growth in international sales is also a positive. Further, expansion in operating margin in the reported quarter buoys optimism. Over the past year, shares of the company have outperformed the industry. However, pricing pressure continues to plague Stryker. Stiff competition in the MedTech space also remains a woe. Further, contraction in gross margin is a headwind.

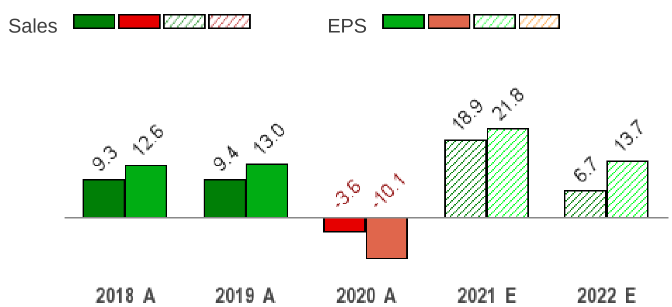
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$250.02 - $164.65**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**1,132,183**
Market Cap	**$91.4 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**-0.9%**
Beta	**0.95**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$2.52 / 1.0%**
Industry	**Medical - Products**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 42% (148 out of 253)**
Last EPS Surprise	**10.2%**
Last Sales Surprise	**-1.0%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**-0.0%**
Expected Report Date	**04/27/2021**
Earnings ESP	**5.5%**
P/E TTM	**32.7**
P/E F1	**27.5**
PEG F1	**3.0**
P/S TTM	**6.4**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates (millions of $)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	4,260 E	4,432 E	4,504 E	4,988 E	18,213 E
2021	3,958 E	4,061 E	4,276 E	4,764 E	17,065 E
2020	3,588 A	2,764 A	3,737 A	4,262 A	14,351 A

EPS Estimates

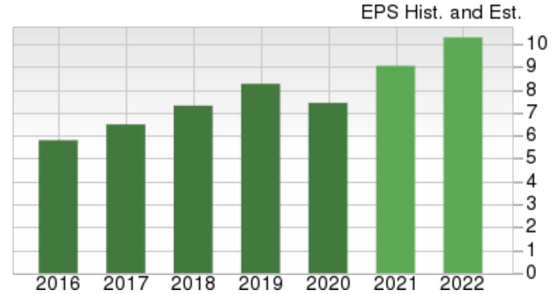
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	$2.27 E	$2.42 E	$2.50 E	$2.97 E	$10.29 E
2021	$1.99 E	$2.07 E	$2.25 E	$2.73 E	$9.05 E
2020	$1.84 A	$0.64 A	$2.14 A	$2.81 A	$7.43 A

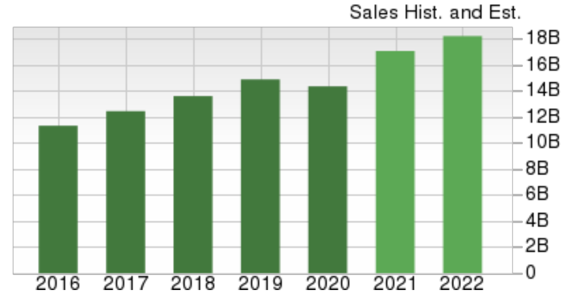
*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and sales estimates, is as of 04/05/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 04/06/2021.

Overview

Headquartered in Kalamazoo, MI, Stryker Corporation (SYK) is one of the world's largest medical device companies operating in the global orthopedic market. The company has three business segments: Orthopaedics, MedSurg, and Neurotechnology & Spine.





Orthopaedic products primarily include implants used in hip and knee joint replacements and trauma and extremities surgeries.

MedSurg products consists of surgical equipment and surgical navigation systems (Instruments); endoscopic and communications systems (Endoscopy); patient handling and emergency medical equipment (Medical); and reprocessed and remanufactured medical devices (Sustainability) as well as other medical device products used in a variety of medical specialties.

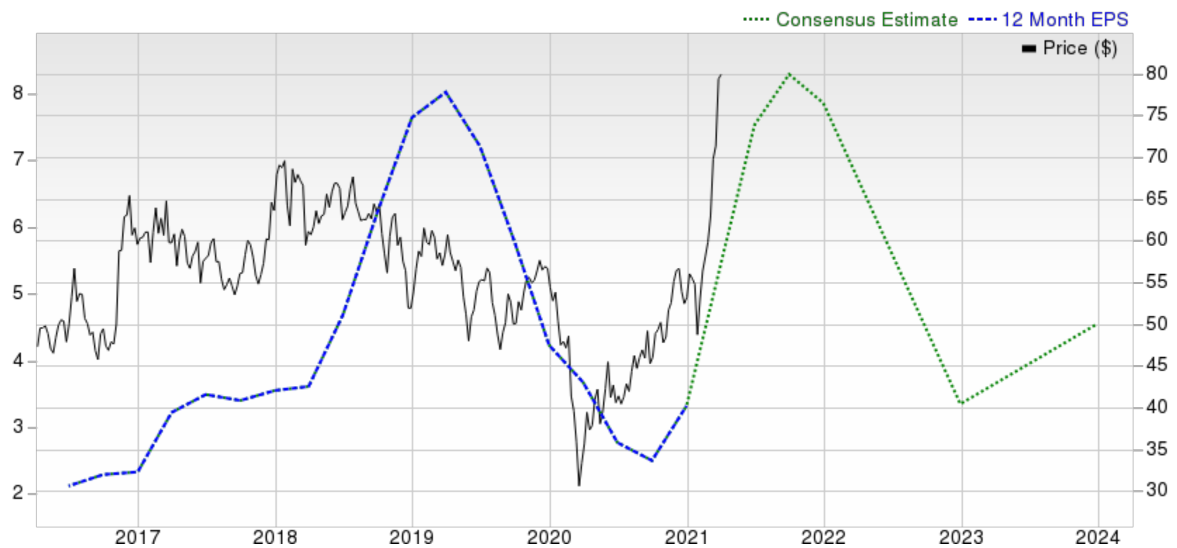
Neurotechnology & Spine division includes both neurosurgical and neurovascular devices. These includes products used for minimally invasive endovascular techniques; traditional brain and open skull base surgical procedures; orthobiologic and biosurgery products, including synthetic bone grafts and vertebral augmentation products; and minimally invasive products for the treatment of acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke.

Spinal implant product offering includes cervical, thoracolumbar and interbody systems used in spinal injury, deformity and degenerative therapies.

2020 at a Glance

Stryker's full-year revenues totaled $14.35 billion.

Full-year Orthopaedic sales grossed $4.96 billion (35% of net sales). MedSurg revenues totaled $6.40 billion (45%) while Neurotechnology & Spine revenues grossed $2.99 billion (20%).



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

> Stryker's flagship Mako Total Knee Platform and a diversified product portfolio should support the growth of its global business.

▲ **Shares Up**: Over the past year, shares of Stryker have gained 49.9% compared with the industry's growth of 26.6%. Solid international growth, strength in robotic-assisted surgery platform — Mako, and diversified product portfolio continue to favor the stock.

Apart from the completion of the Wright Medical buyout, the company also exhibited progress in numerous areas that will offer future growth opportunities. Stryker has managed to establish a structure that is committed toward digital, robotics, and enabling technology where a significant opportunity to create a company-wide unified digital ecosystem, including Mako, presents itself.

▲ **Strength in Robotics – Mako Momentum Continues**: Mako is Stryker's robotic-arm assisted surgery platform. In recent times, Stryker launched the robotic-arm assisted total knee arthroplasty application for use with its Mako System. Notably, this is the first and only robotic technology which can be used for total knee, hip and partial knee replacement procedures. Mako Total Knee utilizes both Stryker's robotic platform and its Triathlon Total Knee System, guided through CT-based 3D modeling of bone anatomy. The system also allows for intra-operative planning and assists in bone resectioning procedures.

Moreover, the company continues to witness strong demand for Mako on the back of its unique features and healthy order book despite financial constraints stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. This, in turn, positions the company well to sustain momentum in robot sales and recon share market gains. During 2020, the company's Mako install base saw a 33% growth, and beat another milestone with more than 100 robots sold and installed in the fourth quarter of 2020. Thereby, the company continues to focus on continued expansion of Mako. This growth reflects demand for Stryker's differentiated Mako robotic technology. For 2021, the company's Mako order book remains solid and is in sync with its aim of continued share gains in both hips and knees. Moreover, the company continues to observe that a growing percentage of both hip and knee replacement surgeries are being performed with a Mako robot, hence raising optimism. Notably, Stryker is upbeat about its recent approvals for Mako TKA in China, Russia and Brazil — all of which offer growth opportunities as these markets continue to show sustained adoption of robotic, digital and enabling technologies.

▲ **Diversified Product Portfolio**: Stryker has a diversified product portfolio. Its wide range of products immunes the company from any significant sales shortfall during economic downturns. Its significant exposure in robotics, Artificial Intelligence for health care and Medical Mechatronics has provided the company with a competitive edge in the MedTech space. Stryker's portfolio includes products like Hip, Knee and Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgeries.

Apart from these, Stryker has been one of the early adopters of the 3D printing technology. The company's FDA-approved Tritanium TL Curved Posterior Lumbar Cage is a 3D-printed interbody fusion cage intended for use as an aid in lumbar fixation.

Meanwhile, Stryker's exclusive navigation platform provides streamlined software solutions that allow surgeons to accurately track, analyze and monitor instrumentation pertaining to a patient's anatomy during surgical procedures to enhance patient outcomes. The company's navigation software platform includes Cranial, Hip, ENT along with Knee and Spine Navigation software.

During the fourth quarter, the company unveiled its ASC (Ambulatory Surgery Center) sales model that leverages the company's portfolio by offering end-to-end solutions to cater to the rising demand and shifts with regard to outpatient setting. Per management, the company's sustained support for customers and focus on innovation positions it well for growth as the pandemic eventually subsides.

In the fourth quarter, Stryker's adjusted R&D expenses were 30.3% of net sales, which was up by 200 basis points (bps) compared with the prior-year quarter. Per management, this is likely to drive new product launches.

▲ **Acquisition-Driven Strategy**: Stryker has been following an acquisition-driven strategy to boost its growth profile. In 2019, the company closed the buyouts of Arrinex, Inc. and OrthoSpace Ltd. While Arrinex buyout will complement the company's ENT portfolio, the addition of OrthoSpace will bolster the already strong product portfolio.

During the fourth quarter of 2019, the company acquired Mobius Imaging — a leader in point-of-care imaging technology — along with its sister company Cardan Robotics in an all-cash transaction for $370 million upfront and up to $130 million of contingent payments related to development and commercial milestones. This transaction is likely to help in allowing Stryker Spine with immediate entry into the intra-operative Imaging segment apart from aligning with Stryker's implant and navigation offering.

Per the fourth-quarter earnings call, Stryker completed the Wright Medical deal and is likely to benefit from the category leadership technique gained in the fastest-growing segment within the orthopaedics market. Further, in January, Stryker announced the acquisition of privately-held OrthoSensor, which is focused on applying digital technologies and big data to total joint replacements. Notably, OrthoSensor's VERASENSE intraoperative sensor has been used with Stryker's Triathlon knee system since 2011. The buyout reflects Stryker's efforts to move to digitalization of sensor technology for joint replacement, thus boosting the company's Orthopaedic business. The addition of the OrthoSensor total joint replacements line-up to its legacy Orthopaedics product range and is expected to help Stryker advance in the field of smart device technologies, including intraoperative sensors, wearables and smart implants.

▲ **Stable Liquidity Position**: Stryker exited the fourth quarter with cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities of $3.02 billion, significantly down from $7.16 billion sequentially. Meanwhile long-term debt was $13.23 billion, up from $12 billion sequentially. Although the quarter's long-term debt was significantly higher than the corresponding cash and cash equivalent level, the company finished the quarter with no current debt on its balance sheet. This is good news in terms of the company's solvency level as, at least during the year of economic downturn, the company is holding sufficient cash for debt repayment.

Per the fourth-quarter earnings call, the company will not repurchase any shares in 2021 and expect capital expenditures to be around $650 million.

Reasons To Sell:

- **Lower Demand for Healthcare Products**: Stryker continues to be challenged by lower demand for health care products. Additionally, lower reimbursements for medical products and services may impose a downward pressure on the prices for the company's products, longer sales cycles and slower adoption of new technologies, which will ultimately impact the top line.
- **Integration Risks**: Stryker continues to acquire a large number of companies. While this improves revenue opportunities, it adds to integration risks thereby putting gross and operating margins under pressure. Frequent acquisitions may impact the company's balance sheet in the form of a high level of goodwill and intangible assets.
- **Pricing Pressures**: An unfavorable pricing environment poses a constant threat to Stryker's core businesses. In fact, pricing in the fourth quarter had an impact of 0.8% on the company's top line.

Challenging global economic conditions and supply-side issues pose major headwinds to Stryker's top-line growth in the near term. Temporary softness in the Spine business is a concern.

Last Earnings Report

Stryker Q4 Earnings Surpass Estimates, Revenues Miss

Quarter Ending	12/2020
Report Date	Jan 27, 2021
Sales Surprise	-0.99%
EPS Surprise	10.20%
Quarterly EPS	2.81
Annual EPS (TTM)	7.43

Stryker Corporation reported fourth-quarter 2020 adjusted earnings per share of $2.81, which beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate of $2.55 by 10.2%. Moreover, the bottom line improved 12.9% year over year.

For the full-year 2020, the company reported adjusted EPS of $7.43, which declined 10% on a year-over-year basis but surpassed the consensus mark by 3.6%.

Revenue Details

The Michigan-based medical device company reported revenues of $4.26 billion, which missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 1%. Nonetheless, the top line rose 3.2% on a year-over-year basis and 2% at constant currency (cc).

For the full-year 2020, the company delivered revenues of $14.35 billion, which not only declined 3.6% from the previous year but also missed the consensus mark by 0.4%.

Revenues by Geography

Revenues in United States were $3.09 billion, up 1.9% year over year. International sales were up 6.6% to $1.16 billion.

Segmental Analysis

Orthopaedic: In the quarter under review, revenues in the segment totaled $1.53 billion, up 4% year over year. The segment's revenues rose 2.8% at cc. The upside can be attributed to strong performance at the Knees, Hips and Trauma and Extremities sub segments, and growth in Mako.

MedSurg: This segment reported sales of $1.85 billion, up 2.3% year over year. Sales at the segment rose 1.5% at cc. Per management, the segment increased 2.5% organically in the reported quarter, courtesy of higher demand for the company's safety related products.

Neurotechnology and Spine: Sales in the segment amounted to $882 million, up 3.5% year over year and 2.1% at cc. Organically, the segment witnessed a rise of 4.3%. Per management, the upside can be attributed to growth in all the neurotech product lines in the fourth quarter.

Margins

In the fourth quarter, adjusted gross profit totaled $2.77 billion, up 1.4% from the year-ago quarter. Adjusted gross margin was 65.1%, down 120 basis points (bps).

Adjusted operating income amounted to $1.25 billion, up 6.4% from the prior-year quarter. Adjusted operating margin was 29.2%, up 90 bps.

Financial Update

The company exited the fourth quarter with cash and cash equivalents of $2.94 billion, compared with $7.08 billion in the prior quarter.

Cumulative net cash provided by operating activities in the fourth quarter were $3.28 billion, reflecting an increase of 49.6% from the year-ago period.

2021 Outlook

The company will continue to track and evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its operations and financial results. With the ongoing recovery from the pandemic, Stryker anticipates organic net sales growth between 8% and 10% from that of 2019.

Adjusted EPS is projected in the band of $8.80 to $9.20 (which includes the previously announced 10 cents of dilution driven by the buyout of Wright Medical for the full year).

Valuation

Stryker's shares are up 1.4% and 49.9% in the year-to-date and trailing 12-month periods, respectively.

Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are up 3.2% in the year-to-date period while that in the Zacks Medical sector are down 3%. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry are up 26.6% while that in the sector are up 14.9%.

The S&P 500 index is up 7.4% in the year-to-date period and 53.8% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 26.5X Forward 12-months earnings, which compares to 26.7X for the Zacks sub-industry, 22X for the Zacks sector and 22.7X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 28.3X and as low as 13.6X, with a 5-year median of 22.1X.

Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our $261 price target reflects 27.8X forward 12-months earnings.

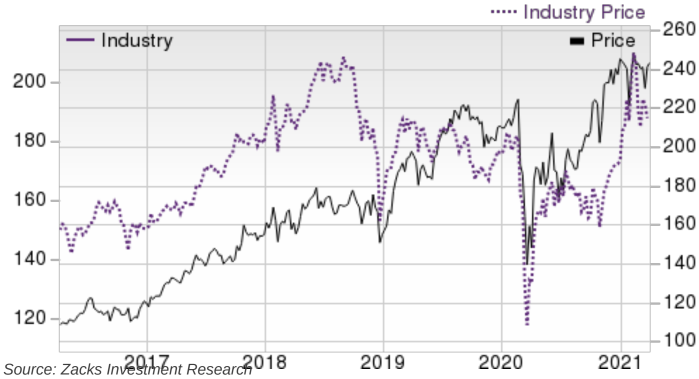
The table below shows summary valuation data for SYK.

Valuation Multiples - SYK

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	26.51	26.7	22.04	22.66
	5-Year High	28.32	31.26	22.85	23.83
	5-Year Low	13.61	17.09	15.88	15.3
	5-Year Median	22.13	22.1	19.24	18
P/S F12M	Current	5.38	3.92	2.63	4.64
	5-Year High	5.58	4.03	3.18	4.64
	5-Year Low	1.11	2.93	2.27	3.21
	5-Year Median	2.19	4.49	2.81	3.71
P/B TTM	Current	7.15	3.61	3.85	6.79
	5-Year High	7.29	3.92	5.12	6.79
	5-Year Low	3.7	2.28	3.03	3.83
	5-Year Median	5.89	2.99	4.36	4.98

As of 04/05/2021 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 42% (148 out of 253)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Owens & Minor, Inc. **(OMI)**	Outperform	1
Baxter International Inc. **(BAX)**	Neutral	3
Boston Scientific Corporation **(BSX)**	Neutral	3
EssilorLuxottica Unsponsored ADR **(ESLOY)**	Neutral	2
Quidel Corporation **(QDEL)**	Neutral	3
Zimmer Biomet Holdings, Inc. **(ZBH)**	Neutral	3
Perrigo Company plc **(PRGO)**	Underperform	5
Smith & Nephew SNATS, Inc. **(SNN)**	Underperform	5

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Medical - Products

	SYK	X Industry	S&P 500	BAX	BSX	ESLOY
				Industry Peers		
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	4	-	-	3	3	2
VGM Score	B	-	-	B	B	C
Market Cap	91.43 B	562.80 M	29.75 B	42.59 B	54.80 B	71.87 B
# of Analysts	15	3	13	11	13	1
Dividend Yield	1.04%	0.00%	1.31%	1.16%	0.00%	0.66%
Value Score	B	-	-	B	C	D
Cash/Price	0.03	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.03	0.14
EV/EBITDA	37.50	-0.78	16.95	19.92	32.43	24.98
PEG F1	2.97	2.58	2.35	2.69	2.70	20.13
P/B	6.98	4.19	3.95	4.88	3.57	0.95
P/CF	25.66	20.87	16.86	17.68	18.24	10.81
P/E F1	27.50	29.06	21.87	24.85	25.18	31.60
P/S TTM	6.37	6.41	3.39	3.65	5.53	NA
Earnings Yield	3.73%	0.64%	4.49%	4.02%	3.97%	3.16%
Debt/Equity	1.01	0.01	0.66	0.66	0.60	0.28
Cash Flow ($/share)	9.68	0.00	6.78	4.82	2.14	7.65
Growth Score	B	-	-	C	B	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	8.45%	5.04%	9.39%	14.44%	4.84%	NA
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	21.76%	36.03%	15.24%	9.80%	59.61%	153.92%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-7.10%	-1.29%	0.44%	-3.94%	-9.43%	-26.53%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	9.18%	8.66%	7.37%	9.99%	8.10%	21.48%
Current Ratio	1.93	3.10	1.39	2.52	1.82	2.22
Debt/Capital	50.28%	12.31%	41.26%	39.87%	37.33%	22.14%
Net Margin	11.14%	-9.39%	10.59%	9.44%	-1.46%	NA
Return on Equity	21.77%	-4.61%	14.86%	19.23%	9.23%	NA
Sales/Assets	0.45	0.50	0.51	0.59	0.32	NA
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	18.91%	14.86%	7.36%	7.37%	15.35%	22.98%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	A	C	A
Daily Price Change	2.28%	0.00%	1.04%	1.14%	1.19%	0.95%
1-Week Price Change	0.82%	0.54%	0.35%	-1.90%	0.94%	1.87%
4-Week Price Change	5.29%	3.37%	5.47%	8.94%	-1.21%	1.97%
12-Week Price Change	2.74%	6.46%	9.17%	3.41%	7.14%	5.34%
52-Week Price Change	49.99%	47.50%	61.87%	0.41%	18.74%	44.46%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	1,132,183	268,890	2,120,273	2,532,958	6,966,342	22,380
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	7.92%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	-0.60%	-0.60%	2.19%	-1.54%	-5.70%	9.28%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	NA

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Stock Rating System

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

Zacks Recommendation

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

Zacks Rank

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

Zacks Style Scores

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

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

Value Score	B
Growth Score	B
Momentum Score	B
VGM Score	B

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 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.