Sep 25, 2020

TreeHouse Foods, Inc. (THS)

$38.76 (As of 09/24/20)

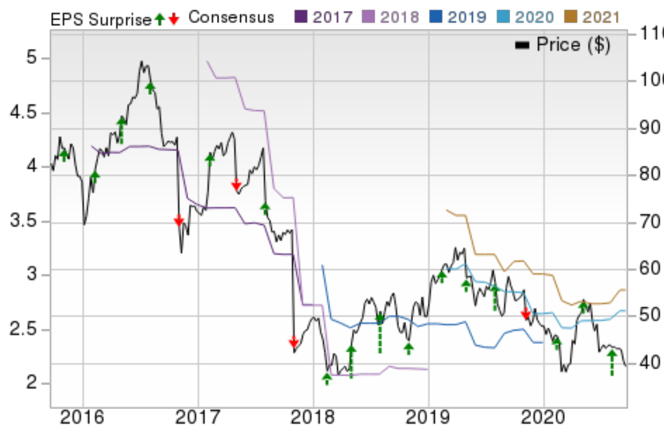
Price Target (6-12 Months): **$45.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months	**Zacks Recommendation:** (Since: 08/11/20) Prior Recommendation: Neutral	**Outperform**
Short Term: 1-3 Months	**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)	**2-Buy**
	Zacks Style Scores:	VGM:C
	Value: B | Growth: C | Momentum: D	

Summary

Though shares of TreeHouse Foods have lagged the industry in three months, the stock is likely to pace up in the near term. The company has been gaining from rising demand due to the coronavirus-led stockpiling and increased at-home consumption. This bolstered the company's second-quarter 2020 results, wherein top and bottom lines grew year over year and the latter beat the consensus mark. Also, the company's retail business catered well to the unexpected rise in demand amid the pandemic. Given the current situation, such trends are likely to continue boosting sales in the near term. This along with other prudent restructuring initiatives led management to raise 2020 view and offer an optimistic guidance for the third quarter. However, softness in the food-away-from-home business and escalated COVID-19 costs remain concerns.

Price, Consensus & Surprise

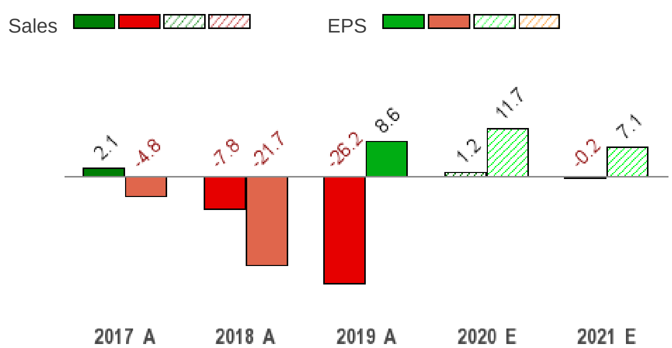


Source: Zacks Investment Research

Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	**$56.03 - $33.84**
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	**530,654**
Market Cap	**$2.2 B**
Year-To-Date Price Change	**-20.1%**
Beta	**0.65**
Dividend / Dividend Yield	**$0.00 / 0.0%**
Industry	**Food - Miscellaneous**
Zacks Industry Rank	**Bottom 35% (162 out of 250)**
Last EPS Surprise	**23.4%**
Last Sales Surprise	**-2.6%**
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	**0.0%**
Expected Report Date	**11/05/2020**
Earnings ESP	**0.0%**
P/E TTM	**14.9**
P/E F1	**14.5**
PEG F1	**2.8**
P/S TTM	**0.5**

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Sales Estimates **(millions of $)**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	1,077 E	1,023 E	1,074 E	1,161 E	4,333 E
2020	1,085 A	1,042 A	1,066 E	1,147 E	4,340 E
2019	1,301 A	1,251 A	1,057 A	1,140 A	4,289 A

EPS Estimates

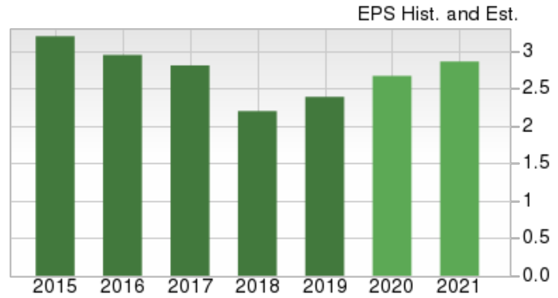
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	$0.36 E	$0.60 E	$0.67 E	$1.23 E	$2.86 E
2020	$0.37 A	$0.58 A	$0.61 E	$1.10 E	$2.67 E
2019	$0.13 A	$0.36 A	$0.55 A	$1.10 A	$2.39 A

*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 09/24/2020. The reports text is as of 09/25/2020.

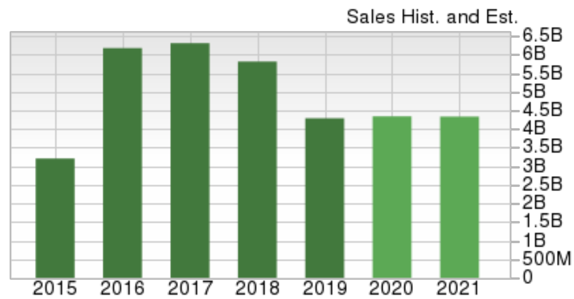
Overview

Oak Brook, Ill-based Treehouse Foods, Inc. is a manufacturer of packaged foods and beverages with more than 50 manufacturing facilities across the United States, Canada and Italy servicing retail grocery, food away from home, and industrial and export customers.



The company manufactures a variety of shelf-stable, refrigerated, and fresh products. The product categories include beverages; salad dressings; snacks; beverage enhancers; pickles; Mexican and other sauces; soup and infant feeding; cereals; dry dinners; aseptic products; jams; and other products. The company also offers natural, organic, and preservative-free ingredients in many categories.

On Aug 1, 2019, the company completed the divestiture of the Snack business to Atlas Holdings.



The company, which was earlier operating under Baked Goods, Beverages and Meal Solutions segments, has reorganized itself into two segments on the basis of market dynamics – Snacking & Beverages, and Meal Preparation. The reorganization took effect from the first quarter of 2020.

- The **Snacking & Beverages** segment includes categories with increased market growth potential. These particularly include Bars, Broth, Powdered & Liquid Beverages, Griddle, Candy, Cookies & Crackers, Tea, Pita, Pretzels, and Other Blends. The segment will be focused on driving revenues, and undertaking research, development and commercialization per the changing consumer trends. Notably, the Snacking & Beverages division generated revenues of $1.7 billion in 2019.

- The **Meal Preparation** unit consists of categories — including Bouillion, Cheese & Pudding, Pickles, Pourable & Spoonable Dressings, Hot Cereal, Preserves, Red Sauces, Refrigerated Dough, Non-Dairy Creamer, Pasta & Dry Dinners, Sauces, Single Serve Coffee, and Syrup. The segment will be concentrated on enhancing productivity, efficiency and cash flow. In 2019, the unit produced revenues of $2.6 billion.

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

▲ **COVID-19-Led Demand Aids Q2 Results, Optimistic View:** Although shares of TreeHouse Foods have declined 8.3% in three months against the industry's growth of 3.9%, the stock is likely to pace up in the near term. The company has been benefiting from rising demand due to coronavirus-led stockpiling and increased at-home consumption. This bolstered the company's second-quarter 2020 results, wherein both top and bottom lines advanced year over year and the latter beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate. The company's retail business catered well to the unexpected rise in demand amid the pandemic. This compensated for softness in the food-away-from-home business and distribution losses. Further, adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations rose 13.1% on productivity gains and improved channel mix.

TreeHouse Foods is gaining on increased demand amid coronavirus-led higher at-home consumption. Apart from this, the company has been benefiting from its portfolio refining initiatives.

Management remains pleased with its second-quarter performance amid the coronavirus crisis. This alongside expectations of continued rise in demand conditions and prudent reorganization actions prompted management to raise its guidance for 2020 and offer a decent third-quarter view. Revenues are now expected to be toward the upper end of its previously guided range of $4.10-$4.40 billion. Additionally, adjusted earnings from continuing operations are expected in the range of $2.55-$2.75 per share compared with $2.40-$2.65 forecasted earlier. Net sales for the third quarter of 2020 are expected in a band of $1.04-$1.08 billion, nearly flat (on a year-over-year basis) at the midpoint. Organic sales are likely to rise 2%. Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations is anticipated in a band of $112-$127 million, suggesting almost a 6% increase at the midpoint. Further, management expects adjusted earnings from continuing operations of 55-65 cents, suggesting a roughly 9% increase at the midpoint.

▲ **Healthy and Organic Products Offerings:** The company focuses on organic foods, as consumers appear to be more interested in foods described as being "better for you," which include fresh or freshly prepared foods, and natural, organic, or specialty foods. The company expects sustained growth in these areas and continues to focus on consumer's needs by developing new formulations, packaging, and sizes.

▲ **Focus on Refining Portfolio:** TreeHouse Foods has always been focused on expanding its product offerings through acquisitions. In February 2016, the company acquired Private Brands business for $2.7 billion. The Private Brands Business is a leading manufacturer of private label refrigerated and shelf stable products in the bars, bakery, cereal, condiments, pasta, and snacks categories. The addition of Private Brands has added to the revenues and has helped the company to lower debt. The company's other acquisitions include Flagstone Foods, PFF Capital Group, Inc. ("Protenergy"), Cains Foods, L.P., Associated Brands, and Naturally Fresh, Inc.

On the flip side, the company remains committed toward exiting underperforming businesses and shifting focus toward areas with high growth potential. To this end, the company completed the divestiture of the Snack business to Atlas Holdings on Aug 1, 2019. Further, TreeHouse Foods inked a deal to offload two of its in-store bakery facilities to Rich Products Corporation, which is likely to help the former focus on core growth areas.

▲ **Debt Analysis:** TreeHouse Foods' long-term debt (including operating lease liabilities) of $2,231.7 million declined 4.6% sequentially at the end of the second quarter of 2020 (Jun 30, 2020). Further, the company's debt-to-capitalization ratio has improved to 0.56 from 0.57 at the end of the first quarter. Moreover, the company's cash and cash equivalents of $293.9 million as on Jun 30 is sufficient to meet its current portion of long-term debt of $15.4 million.

▲ **Diverse Customer Base:** Treehouse Foods sells to a wide and diverse customer base, including the leading grocery retailers and foodservice operators in the United States and Canada, and also a variety of customers that purchase bulk products for industrial food applications. The company supplies to more than 200 food retail customers in North America, including each of the 50 largest food retailers, and more than 500 foodservice customers, including 50 of the 100 largest restaurant chains.

Risks

- **Gross Margin Pressurized:** TreeHouse Foods' gross margin has been contracting year over year for the last few quarters. In the second quarter of 2020, gross margin came in at 18.4%, down 10 basis points (bps) from the year-ago quarter's figure. This was accountable to higher costs incurred in connection with the pandemic, like higher production shifts, increased sanitization measures, supplemental payments and protective equipment. Prior to this, the metric contracted 40 bps during the first quarter of 2020 and 130 bps, 150 bps, 30 bps and 70 bps in the fourth, third, second and first quarters of 2019, respectively.

- **COVID-19 Related Costs:** While management is encouraged about the rise in demand owing to pantry hoarding and increased stay-at-home trends, it incurs incremental costs to cater to the rising demand. Incidentally, the company is witnessing higher costs to increase production shifts and ensure the availability of labor at all manufacturing and distribution facilities. Additionally, costs related to increased sanitization measures and protective equipment, as mentioned above, pose threats to margins.

- **Food Away from Home Sales Soft:** Increased social distancing and at-home consumption has marred the Food Away From Home channel for many companies, including TreeHouse Foods. During the second quarter of 2020, Food Away From Home business went down by nearly $40 million or 47%. Prior to this in first-quarter 2020, the Food Away From Home business witnessed a decline of $11 million. This channel is likely to remain weak, given the continuation of stay-at-home trends. Also, competition from private label brands is a concern.

- **Unfavorable Currency Translations:** TreeHouse foods has manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada and Italy. Thus, the company's overseas subsidiaries buy several raw materials abroad, keeping it exposed to the risk of adverse currency movements. This can hamper overall profitability. Evidently, foreign currency headwinds hurt organic sales during the second quarter of 2020. In fact, currency woes were a headwind upon sales across both the Meal Preparation and Snacking & Beverages segments in said quarter.

Last Earnings Report

TreeHouse Foods Perks Up Guidance on Q2 Earnings Beat

Quarter Ending	06/2020
Report Date	Aug 06, 2020
Sales Surprise	-2.58%
EPS Surprise	23.40%
Quarterly EPS	0.58
Annual EPS (TTM)	2.60

TreeHouse Foods released strong second-quarter 2020 results, wherein both top and bottom lines advanced year over year and the latter beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate. The company's retail business catered well to the unexpected rise in demand amid the coronavirus pandemic, which compensated for softness in the food-away-from-home business and distribution losses. Encouraged by a solid performance, the company raised its financial guidance for 2020.

Adjusted earnings from continuing operations amounted to 58 cents per share that surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 47 cents. Further, the bottom line grew 45% year over year on the back of better operational performance, as the company continued to cater to the burgeoning demand amid the pandemic.

Net sales of $1,041.9 million came below the consensus mark of $1,069 million, while it advanced 1.6% year over year. Organic sales grew 3.7% owing to higher volume/mix, backed by elevated retail demand due to the pandemic, which countered distribution loss impacts and weak demand in the food-away-from-home channel. Also, adverse pricing, divestiture of two in-store Bakery facilities and currency woes partly hurt organic sales. Notably, organic sales improved in both Meal Preparation and Snacking & Beverages segments.

Gross margin came in at 18.4%, down 10 basis points (bps) from the year-ago quarter's figure. This was accountable to higher costs incurred in connection with the pandemic, like higher production shifts, increased sanitization measures, supplemental payments and protective equipment. This was partly compensated by improved channel mix of greater retail business along with elevated throughput at the company's production and distribution centers. In fact, adjusted gross margin expanded 120 bps to 20.1%, thanks to productivity gains across manufacturing and distribution facilities.

Total operating expenses, as a percentage of sales, dropped 3.3 percentage points to 15.9%, courtesy of reduced restructuring costs and SG&A control measures, somewhat negated by elevated employee costs. However, adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations rose 13.1% to $119.2 million on productivity gains and improved channel mix, partially countered by higher employee costs.

Segment Details

Meal Preparation: During the quarter, sales in the segment climbed 1.6% year over year to $657.5 million. The upside was backed by improved volumes/mix, primarily stemming from the coronavirus-led increase in retail demand, which compensated for distribution losses and lower food-away-from-home demand. This was partially mitigated by currency woes. Direct operating income (DOI) margin in the segment rose 1.6 percentage points on better channel mix and a decline in SG&A expenses.

Snacking & Beverages: Net sales rose 1.7% to $367.8 million on improved volumes/mix, courtesy of the coronavirus-led increase in retail demand, which compensated for distribution losses and adverse mix associated with divestitures. Also, adverse pricing and currency woes were deterrents. DOI margin rose 1.5 percentage points due to productivity gains led by pandemic-induced demand.

Other Financial Updates & Guidance

The company concluded the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of $293.9 million, long-term debt (excluding operating lease liabilities) of $2,086.6 million and total shareholders' equity of $1,803.7 million. In the first six months of 2020, cash provided by operating activities of continuing operations amounted to $123.3 million.

Management remains encouraged with its operations amid the pandemic-led burgeoning demand. Also, the company is impressed with its restructuring and reorganization actions, which helped it perform well even amid the crisis. The company remains optimistic about its prospects for the private label space and expects revenues to remain strong in the remainder of 2020. It also expects high costs associated with COVID-19-related safety measures.

All said, the company raised its guidance for 2020. Revenues are now expected to be toward the upper end of its previously guided range of $4.10-$4.40 billion. The company delivered net sales of $4288.9 million (nearly $4.29 billion) in 2019. For 2020, management now expects adjusted earnings from continuing operations of $2.55-$2.75 per share compared with $2.40-$2.65 forecasted earlier. The company recorded EPS of $2.39 in 2019.

Net sales for the third quarter of 2020 are expected in a band of $1.04-$1.08 billion, nearly flat (on a year-over-year basis) at the midpoint. Organic sales are likely to rise 2%. Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations is anticipated in a band of $112-$127 million, suggesting almost a 6% increase at the midpoint. Further, management expects adjusted earnings from continuing operations of 55-65 cents, suggesting a roughly 9% increase at the midpoint.

Recent News

TreeHouse Foods Recalls Some Signature Select Granola Bars – Aug 29, 2020

TreeHouse Foods unveiled that it is voluntarily recalling some Chewy Granola Bars, which are sold under the Signature Select brand. The company is recalling these products as the outer carton suggests the product to be a Chocolate Chip variety. However, some of the individually-wrapped products inside the carton may be of Peanut Butter & Chocolate Chip variety. The recall is aimed at preventing any risk for people prone to any allergy or sensitivity to peanuts.

Valuation

TreeHouse Foods shares are down 20.1% in the year-to-date period and 29.7% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry and the Zacks Consumer Staples sector are down 8.8% and 9.7%, respectively in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and the sector declined 5.2% and 8.5%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 0.5% in the year-to-date period and 9% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 13.79X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 17.89X for the Zacks sub-industry, 19.06X for the Zacks sector and 21.25X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 28.56X and as low as 11.73X, with a 5-year median of 20.26X. Our Outperform recommendation indicates that the stock will perform better than the market. Our $45 price target reflects 16.01X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for THS

Valuation Multiples - THS

		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	13.79	17.89	19.06	21.25
	5-Year High	28.56	22.9	22.37	23.44
	5-Year Low	11.73	14.74	16.62	15.26
	5-Year Median	20.26	18.52	19.56	17.63
P/S F12M	Current	0.51	1.61	9.1	3.94
	5-Year High	1.16	2.05	11.15	4.29
	5-Year Low	0.34	1.41	8.12	3.11
	5-Year Median	0.62	1.74	9.89	3.66
EV/EBITDA F12M	Current	7.97	12.95	35.43	17.11
	5-Year High	13.65	14.65	37.49	18.75
	5-Year Low	7.27	10.81	25.75	12.92
	5-Year Median	9.34	13.08	33.84	15.67

As of 09/24/2020 *Source: Zacks Investment Research*

Industry Analysis **Zacks Industry Rank:** Bottom 35% (162 out of 250)

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Flowers Foods, Inc. **(FLO)**	Outperform	2
Campbell Soup Company **(CPB)**	Neutral	3
Darling Ingredients Inc. **(DAR)**	Neutral	3
Lamb Weston Holdings Inc. **(LW)**	Neutral	4
McCormickCompany, Incorporated **(MKC)**	Neutral	3
TateLyle PLC **(TATYY)**	Neutral	3
Post Holdings, Inc. **(POST)**	Underperform	5
Sysco Corporation **(SYY)**	Underperform	4

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Food - Miscellaneous

	THS	X Industry	S&P 500	CPB	FLO	LW
				Industry Peers		
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Outperform	-	-	Neutral	Outperform	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	2	-	-	3	2	4
VGM Score	C	-	-	B	B	B
Market Cap	2.19 B	3.32 B	22.77 B	14.14 B	4.99 B	9.15 B
# of Analysts	6	3	14	7	3	4
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	1.72%	2.99%	3.40%	1.47%
Value Score	B	-	-	C	B	D
Cash/Price	0.13	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.06	0.14
EV/EBITDA	25.33	12.39	12.78	12.47	14.46	14.55
PEG F1	2.80	4.89	2.82	11.11	NA	8.36
P/B	1.21	2.24	3.12	5.51	3.73	38.13
P/CF	6.32	11.61	12.37	11.54	14.30	16.58
P/E F1	14.76	17.78	20.56	15.99	19.31	30.09
P/S TTM	0.51	1.25	2.34	1.63	1.17	2.41
Earnings Yield	6.89%	5.24%	4.60%	6.26%	5.18%	3.32%
Debt/Equity	1.16	0.54	0.70	1.94	0.77	12.47
Cash Flow ($/share)	6.13	2.68	6.93	4.06	1.65	3.78
Growth Score	C	-	-	A	A	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	-8.24%	5.17%	10.41%	-2.54%	2.64%	11.76%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	11.72%	2.45%	-4.56%	-0.78%	27.08%	-16.70%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-1.33%	4.49%	5.26%	7.36%	1.85%	-13.39%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	5.96%	6.08%	8.49%	2.72%	1.66%	8.09%
Current Ratio	1.48	1.62	1.35	0.78	1.58	2.25
Debt/Capital	53.64%	35.90%	42.92%	66.03%	43.44%	92.58%
Net Margin	-4.51%	2.97%	10.25%	18.73%	2.29%	9.65%
Return on Equity	8.12%	9.73%	14.59%	40.53%	18.50%	183.08%
Sales/Assets	0.83	1.02	0.50	0.70	1.29	1.02
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	-8.61%	0.00%	-1.44%	-3.98%	5.02%	-2.29%
Momentum Score	D	-	-	C	F	C
Daily Price Change	0.28%	0.38%	0.21%	3.61%	1.07%	-1.35%
1-Week Price Change	-2.99%	0.15%	0.79%	-0.13%	0.43%	7.91%
4-Week Price Change	-11.33%	-3.78%	-5.64%	-12.16%	-4.81%	0.35%
12-Week Price Change	-10.11%	3.64%	1.89%	-5.09%	6.13%	-1.24%
52-Week Price Change	-29.66%	-1.75%	-2.71%	0.24%	2.97%	-14.84%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	530,654	162,544	2,095,310	3,416,383	826,433	990,228
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.14%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	3.49%	2.28%	4.08%	2.35%	11.93%	-6.72%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.92%	0.00%	0.00%

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Zacks Stock Rating System

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

Zacks Recommendation

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

Zacks Rank

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

Zacks Style Scores

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

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

Value Score	B
Growth Score	C
Momentum Score	D
VGM Score	C

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.