

The Timken Company (TKR)

\$80.66 (As of 04/14/21)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$85.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 02/04/21)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: B

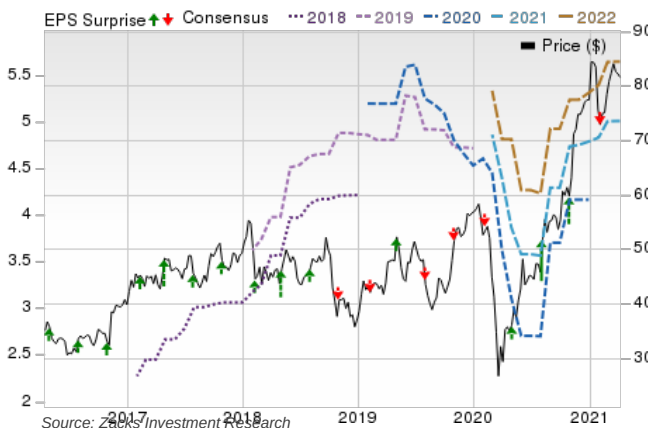
Growth: B

Momentum: F

Summary

Timken guides adjusted earnings per share to be between \$4.70 and \$5.10 in 2021 backed by improving industrial markets, new business wins and strong growth in renewable energy and marine. The mid-point of the range reflects year-over-year growth of 20%. Investment in the wind and solar businesses, and acquisitions to expand its product offerings will drive growth. The company's diversity in terms of end market, customer and geography, product innovation, and engineering expertise provide it with a competitive edge. Timken's efforts to enhance liquidity and reduce costs will also stoke growth. However, lingering impact of the pandemic remains a concern. Timken expects to incur higher costs related to manufacturing footprint initiatives. Higher steel and other raw materials costs will likely impact Timken's margins in the near term.

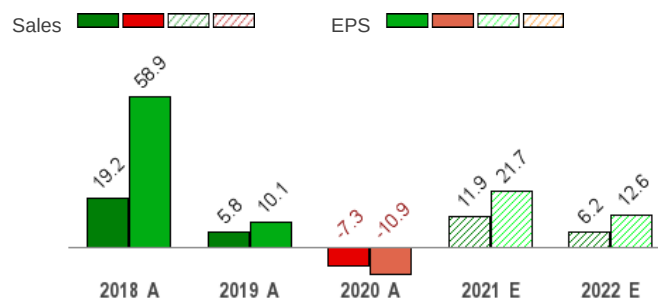
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$87.92 - \$32.10
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	479,487
Market Cap	\$6.1 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	3.3%
Beta	1.78
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$1.16 / 1.4%
Industry	Metal Products - Procurement and Fabrication
Zacks Industry Rank	Bottom 13% (221 out of 254)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	-7.7%
Last Sales Surprise	2.2%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-0.4%
Expected Report Date	04/28/2021
Earnings ESP	-1.3%
P/E TTM	19.5
P/E F1	16.2
PEG F1	1.9
P/S TTM	1.7

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	1,042 E	1,044 E	1,032 E	1,023 E	4,172 E
2021	987 E	989 E	979 E	966 E	3,930 E
2020	923 A	804 A	895 A	892 A	3,513 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$1.35 E	\$1.52 E	\$1.47 E	\$1.24 E	\$5.62 E
2021	\$1.20 E	\$1.34 E	\$1.32 E	\$1.14 E	\$4.99 E
2020	\$1.11 A	\$1.02 A	\$1.13 A	\$0.84 A	\$4.10 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 04/14/2021. The report's text and the analyst-provided price target are as of 04/15/2021.

Overview

The Timken Company is a global manufacturer of bearings, friction management products, and mechanical power transmission components. The company serves a wide variety of end markets, including aerospace, automotive, construction, consumer, defense, energy, industrial equipment, health, heavy industry, machine tool, positioning control, power generation and rail markets.

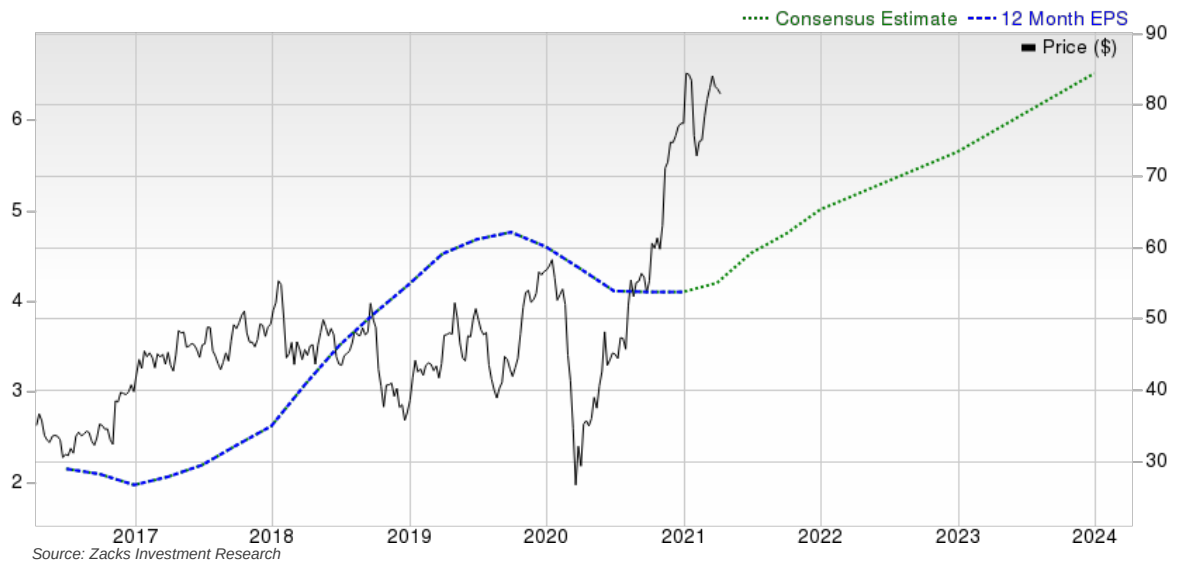
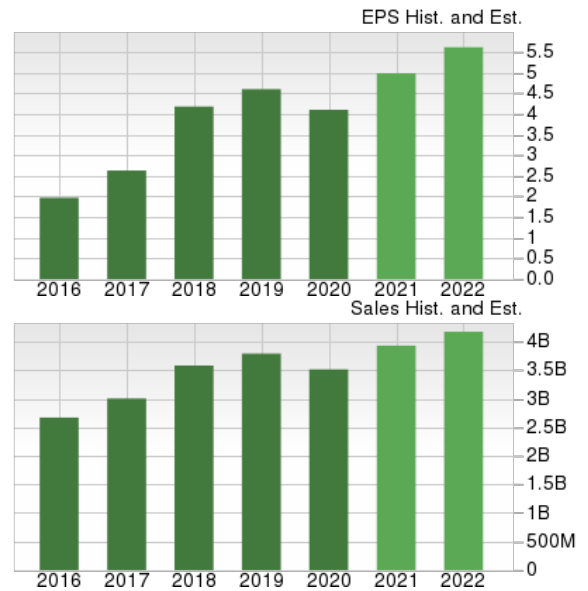
The company's portfolio features many strong brands, such as Timken, Philadelphia Gear, Drives, Cone Drive, Rollon, Lovejoy, Diamond, BEKA, and Groeneveld. Timken's global footprint consists of 125 manufacturing facilities, 21 technology and engineering centers, and 68 distribution centers and warehouses. The company employs more than 18,000 people across 42 countries.

Timken reports its operations through two segments: Mobile Industries and Process Industries.

Mobile Industries (48% of 2020 revenues) serves Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) customers that manufacture off-highway equipment for the agricultural, mining and construction markets; on-highway vehicles, including passenger cars, light trucks, and medium- and heavy-duty trucks; rail cars and locomotives; outdoor power equipment; rotorcraft and fixed-wing aircraft; and other mobile equipment. The segment also provides aftermarket sales and services.

Process Industries (52%) serves OEM and end-user customers in industries that place heavy demand on the fixed operating equipment they make or use in heavy and other general industrial sectors. This includes metals, cement and aggregate production; coal power generation and renewable energy sources; oil and gas extraction and refining; pulp and paper and food processing; automation and robotics; and health and critical motion control equipment. Other applications include marine equipment, gear drives, cranes, hoists and conveyors. This segment also supports after-market sales and service needs of customers.

During 2018, the company completed three acquisitions — ABC Bearings Limited, Apiary Investments Holdings Limited and Rollon S.p.A. In 2019, Timken completed the acquisition of BEKA Lubrication, and The Diamond Chain Company. In 2020, the company acquired Aurora Bearing Company.



Reasons To Buy:

▲ Backed by improving industrial markets, an active pipeline of new business wins and continued outperformance in sectors including renewable energy and marine, Timken expects revenue growth of 12% in 2021. It anticipates adjusted earnings per share between \$4.70 and \$5.10 in 2021. The mid-point of the guided range reflects year-over-year growth of 20%.

▲ Timken continues to pursue strategic acquisitions to broaden its portfolio and capabilities across diverse markets, with a focus on bearings, adjacent power transmission products, and related services. In 2018, the company acquired Rollon, Cone Drive and ABC Bearings and divested the ICT Business. In 2019, Timken completed the acquisition of BEKA Lubrication and the Diamond Chain Company. The acquisition of BEKA Lubrication strengthened the company's global leadership in the automatic lubrication systems market sector. It also expanded its geographic reach in Europe and Asia. It enhanced the company's position in lucrative markets such as wind and food and beverage.

Timken will benefit from its actions to enhance liquidity, reduce costs and generate strong cash flow. Acquisitions and efforts to boost market share and market offerings will also contribute to growth.

The Diamond Chain acquisition augments Timken's leadership in high-performance roller chains for industrial markets. These acquisitions have strengthened the company's global presence in growing markets, particularly China and Europe. These buyouts are expected to deliver significant cost and revenue synergies, going ahead. In November 2020, the company purchased all assets of Aurora Bearing Company in a bid to expand its offerings in the engineered bearings space.

▲ Timken continues to measure a balanced approach to stoke growth, margins, returns and cash flow through industrial cycles. Timken's board of directors approved a 4% hike in the company's quarterly cash dividend to 29 cents per share during 2020. This marks the 394th consecutive quarterly dividend paid on the common shares of the company — one of the longest-running dividend records among NYSE-listed companies. Further, 2020 marked the seventh consecutive year of higher annual dividends.

The company repurchased 1.1 million shares of company stock and returned a total of \$136 million of cash to shareholders in 2020 as dividends and share repurchases. Timken generated strong full-year 2020 net operating cash flow of \$578 million and free cash flow of \$456 million. Timken's total debt to capital ratio has gone down to 0.41 as of Dec 31, 2020 from 0.47 as of Dec 31, 2019. It is also much lower than the industry's total debt to capital ratio is 0.73. The company's times interest earned ratio was 7.2 and its current ratio is 2.36. As of Dec 31, 2020, Timken had strong liquidity of around \$1 billion.

▲ Timken is taking actions to enhance liquidity, reduce costs and generate strong cash flow. During second-quarter 2020, it implemented temporary salary reductions, work furloughs and other actions to reduce costs. Recently, the company began expanding and accelerating certain structural cost reduction initiatives to align its costs with near-term demand expectations and improve its long-term profitability. These actions will help sustain margins amid lower volumes. Timken meanwhile continues to advance its ongoing strategy — footprint, acquisition integration, and driving operational excellence.

▲ Timken's products are essential for efficient and reliable operation of industrial equipment globally. Demand for the company's products will remain strong in the years to come. Its diversity in terms of end market, customer and geography, product innovation, and engineering expertise provide it with a competitive edge. The Wind and Solar sectors continue to perform well and experienced more than 50% year over year growth in 2020. The company has built its presence in the renewable space organically over the last decade, recently complemented through acquisitions. The renewable energy sector is now the company's single largest individual market sector as it generates 12% of total sales.

The global demand for renewable energy is expected to witness a CAGR of around 8% over the next 10 years. The share of electricity generation from renewable is expected to more than double by 2030. Thus, the company is focused on targeted investments in this sector to capitalize on this trend and making it a bigger part of its portfolio in the future. In line with this, Timken recently announced that it will make capital investments of more than \$75 million through early 2022 in an effort to expand renewable energy business.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ The company's operations have been adversely impacted by lower global demand stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, which included various customer shut-downs and government imposed operating restrictions in places. Notably, there is considerable uncertainty at this point regarding the overall impact of the pandemic on its business as a whole. The company anticipates near-term uncertainty and supply chain challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic to impact results until the situation stabilizes.
- ▼ Timken expects to incur higher costs related to manufacturing footprint initiatives. In the Process Industries segment, Timken announced the closure of its chain plant in Indianapolis, IN in February. This plant was part of the Diamond Chain acquisition completed on Apr 1, 2019. The company will transfer the manufacturing of its Diamond Chain product line to its chain facility in Fulton, IL. The chain plant is expected to close by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021. Timken expects to incur approximately \$10 million to \$12 million related to this closure.
- ▼ Steel supply markets are anticipated to remain tight and prices are expected to continue to increase. Further, the imposition of tariffs on certain foreign goods, including steel and other raw materials have led to higher input costs for Timken. This, in turn, will dent margins if the company is not able to pass the price increases to customers.

Timken's results are likely to bear the impact of uncertainty and supply chain challenges owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Costs related to manufacturing footprint initiatives will dent margins.

Last Earnings Report

Timken Q4 Earnings Miss, Revenues Beat Estimates

Timken's fourth-quarter 2020 adjusted earnings per share was 84 cents, which missed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 91 cents by a margin of 8%. The bottom line was flat compared with the prior-year quarter as gains from lower operating expenses, reflecting the impact of cost reduction initiatives, reduced interest and tax rate, were offset by lower volumes due to the COVID-19 pandemic and price/mix and currency.

On a reported basis, the company delivered earnings per share of 69 cents in the reported quarter compared with \$1.48 in the prior-year quarter.

Total revenues in the quarter were \$892 million, down 0.5% from the year-ago quarter on account of lower demand in most end-markets due to the COVID-19. However, this was partially offset by favorable impact of acquisitions, currency translation and pricing. However, the top line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$872 million.

Costs and Margins

Cost of sales was up 2% to \$655 million from the prior-year quarter. Gross profit declined 7% year over year to \$237 million. Gross margin was 26.6% compared with 28.6% in the year-ago quarter.

Selling, general and administrative expenses were down 15% year over year to \$136 million. Adjusted EBITDA inched down 1% year over year to \$144 million. Adjusted EBITDA margin in the quarter was 16.2% compared with 16.3% in the prior-year quarter.

Segment Performance

The Mobile Industries segment revenues declined 3% to \$434 million from \$445 million in the year-ago quarter. This downside was primarily due to lower shipments in the rail, aerospace and automotive sectors, partially mitigated by growth in the off-highway and heavy truck sectors, and benefit of acquisitions. The segment's adjusted EBITDA slipped 11% year over year to \$54 million.

The Process Industries segment revenues rose 2% year over year to \$458 million in fourth-quarter 2020, primarily driven by strong growth in renewable energy, higher marine revenues, positive pricing, benefit of acquisitions and favorable impact of currency translation. However, lower revenues in distribution and other industrial sectors negated some of these gains. The segment's adjusted EBITDA went up 4% year over year to \$102 million.

Financial Position

Timken generated free cash flow of \$456 million in 2020 compared with \$410 million in the prior year. Cash flow from operations was around \$578 million in 2020 compared with \$550 million in the previous year. During the year, Timken returned a total of \$136 million of cash to shareholders through dividends and share repurchases.

Long term debt as of Dec 31, 2020 was \$1.43 billion compared with \$1.65 billion as of Dec 31, 2019. The company ended the year with net debt to adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) at 1.9 times compared to 2.1 times at the end of 2019.

During 2020, Timken announced more than \$75 million in capital investments to increase renewable energy capabilities across its global footprint.

2020 Results

Timken reported adjusted earnings per share of \$4.10 in 2020, down 11% from the prior-year's figure of \$4.60. The bottom line also lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$4.16. Including one-time items, the company delivered earnings per share of \$3.72 in 2020 compared with \$4.71 in 2019.

Sales were down 7% year over year to \$3.51 billion from the prior-year figure of \$3.79 billion. However, the top line surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$3.5 billion.

Guidance for 2021

Backed by improving industrial markets, an active pipeline of new business wins and continued outperformance in sectors like renewable energy and marine, Timken expects strong revenue growth in 2021. The company, however, anticipates some near-term uncertainty and supply chain challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It expects adjusted earnings per share to range between \$4.70 and \$5.10 in 2021. The mid-point of the guided range reflects year-over-year growth of 20%.

Quarter Ending	12/2020
Report Date	Feb 04, 2021
Sales Surprise	2.24%
EPS Surprise	-7.69%
Quarterly EPS	0.84
Annual EPS (TTM)	4.10

Recent News

Timken's First Facility in Latin America Starts Production

On **Dec 18**, Timken announced that it has commenced production at its new manufacturing facility in San Jose Iturbide, Mexico. The facility will produce tapered roller bearings using state-of-the-art technology, and utilize automation to deliver high standards for quality and consistency. It will serve customers across the Americas and globally.

The San Jose Iturbide facility is Timken's only manufacturing plant in Latin America. The company marked its foray in Latin America in 1944 and has been serving the region through offices and warehouses located in Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. The region currently generates around 5% of the company's sales.

Timken to Invest \$75M in Renewable Energy Business

On **Dec 8**, Timken announced that it will make capital investments of more than \$75 million through early 2022 in an effort to expand its renewable energy business. Notably, the latest investment will further support Timken's remarkable growth in the wind and solar businesses in the days to come. In fact, the company's investments in acquisitions and innovations over the last few years have positioned it as a leading supplier and technology partner in the wind and solar energy market.

The company has built a wide range of engineering and innovation centers, and manufacturing facilities across the United States, Europe and Asia to serve its renewable energy customers across the globe.

Timken intends to utilize the above-mentioned investment amount in expanding its state-of-the-art bearings manufacturing facility in Xiangtan, China, as well as scaling-up production capacities at sites in Wuxi, China and Ploiesti, Romania. Apart from this, the company will combine multiple sites into a new, larger campus in Jiangyin, China, to enhance production capacity, extend the product range and boost productivity for precision drives.

Valuation

Timken's shares are up 34.8% in the trailing six-month period and up 140.1% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks Metal Products – Procurement and Fabrication industry and the Industrial Products sector are up 42.6% and 47.5%, in the trailing six-month period, respectively. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and the sector are up 108.3% and 115.7%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 19.7% in the trailing six-month period and 50.1% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 15.54X forward 12-month earnings, which compares with 13.47X for the Zacks sub-industry, 22.74X for the Zacks sector and 23.04X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 22.22X and as low as 5.37X, with a 5-year median of 14.07X.

Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$85 price target reflects 16.38X forward 12-month earnings.

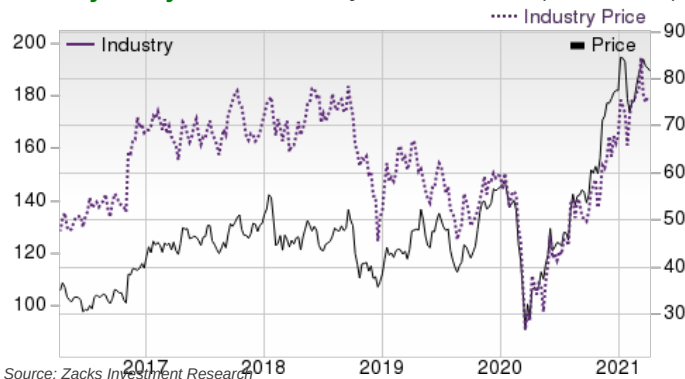
The table below shows summary valuation data for TKR:

Valuation Multiples - TKR					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	15.54	13.47	22.74	23.04
	5-Year High	22.22	20.35	23.02	23.83
	5-Year Low	5.37	6.67	12.69	15.3
	5-Year Median	14.07	12.59	18.15	18
P/S F12M	Current	1.53	2.31	4.65	4.77
	5-Year High	1.73	2.44	4.65	4.77
	5-Year Low	0.48	0.9	1.89	3.21
	5-Year Median	1.04	1.53	2.48	3.71
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	11.28	13.88	33.56	18.48
	5-Year High	12.46	19.17	33.98	18.57
	5-Year Low	5.07	5.25	12.85	9.62
	5-Year Median	8.01	10.5	18.68	13.36

As of 04/14/2021

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Bottom 13% (221 out of 254)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Worthington Industries, Inc. (WOR)	Outperform	2
GrafTech International Ltd. (EAF)	Neutral	3
Mueller Industries, Inc. (MLI)	Neutral	3
NN, Inc. (NNBR)	Neutral	3
Rockwell Automation, Inc. (ROK)	Neutral	3
Century Aluminum Company (CENX)	Underperform	4
CIRCOR International, Inc. (CIR)	Underperform	5
TriMas Corporation (TRS)	Underperform	5

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Metal Products - Procurement And Fabrication				Industry Peers		
	TKR	X Industry	S&P 500	CENX	MLI	WOR
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Underperform	Neutral	Outperform
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	4	3	2
VGM Score	B	-	-	B	A	B
Market Cap	6.07 B	1.01 B	30.05 B	1.35 B	2.50 B	3.46 B
# of Analysts	6	2	12	1	1	1
Dividend Yield	1.45%	0.00%	1.32%	0.00%	1.19%	1.53%
Value Score	B	-	-	C	A	B
Cash/Price	0.05	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.19
EV/EBITDA	11.47	7.00	16.95	-141.34	9.88	11.29
PEG F1	1.92	2.29	2.38	NA	NA	NA
P/B	2.71	2.25	4.03	2.45	3.12	2.33
P/CF	12.66	12.17	17.01	NA	13.75	12.17
P/E F1	16.31	16.92	22.04	29.92	17.66	14.04
P/S TTM	1.73	1.17	3.39	0.84	1.04	1.23
Earnings Yield	6.25%	5.89%	4.48%	3.34%	5.66%	7.12%
Debt/Equity	0.64	0.34	0.66	0.53	0.36	0.48
Cash Flow (\$/share)	6.37	1.99	6.78	-0.33	3.23	5.47
Growth Score	B	-	-	B	A	C
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	22.60%	-2.73%	9.34%	NA	11.58%	-3.96%
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	21.63%	19.78%	15.46%	142.74%	0.81%	97.87%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-6.65%	-31.06%	0.61%	-36.09%	10.66%	15.25%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	8.46%	8.46%	7.37%	NA	9.68%	5.91%
Current Ratio	2.36	2.45	1.39	1.90	2.43	2.65
Debt/Capital	39.19%	26.35%	41.26%	34.54%	26.35%	32.63%
Net Margin	8.10%	2.45%	10.59%	-7.68%	5.82%	22.33%
Return on Equity	15.29%	6.33%	14.86%	-18.27%	19.36%	12.28%
Sales/Assets	0.71	0.75	0.51	1.08	1.68	0.96
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	11.08%	2.85%	7.37%	25.41%	2.46%	5.72%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	C	D	A
Daily Price Change	0.95%	1.46%	0.05%	7.62%	1.39%	1.99%
1-Week Price Change	-0.79%	-0.79%	1.54%	-13.45%	3.97%	-2.81%
4-Week Price Change	-6.03%	-4.47%	2.88%	-8.31%	1.39%	-8.05%
12-Week Price Change	-4.87%	9.24%	9.22%	32.08%	16.93%	20.00%
52-Week Price Change	139.70%	87.68%	55.56%	307.60%	87.07%	181.45%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	479,487	73,756	1,966,901	1,718,605	275,239	353,444
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	-0.43%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	-0.37%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.71%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	4.14%	0.00%	2.05%	-42.53%	0.00%	25.68%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	-0.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	NA	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	F
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.

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.

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

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

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Periods:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P/TB Ratio: The price-to-tangible-book value ratio is calculated as 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.