

United Parcel Service (UPS)

\$110.52 (As of 06/25/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$117.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 02/11/19)

Prior Recommendation: Underperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:C

Value: B

Growth: B

Momentum: F

Summary

The surge in e-commerce sales during the coronavirus pandemic is a huge positive for United Parcel Service. Notably, the need for door-to-door delivery of essentials is rising during this unprecedented crisis. The company's robust free cash-flow generation (\$1.6 billion in first-quarter 2020) is also encouraging. Further, we are bullish on its liquidity position. However, coronavirus-induced supply-chain disruptions are concerning. Notably, the Supply Chain and Freight unit performed disappointingly in the March quarter due to sluggishness in economic activity. With COVID-19 cases spiking amid fears of a second wave, UPS' second-quarter results are also likely to be adversely impacted. Additionally, due to this continued uncertainty, the company withdrew its 2020 projections for revenues and earnings per share.

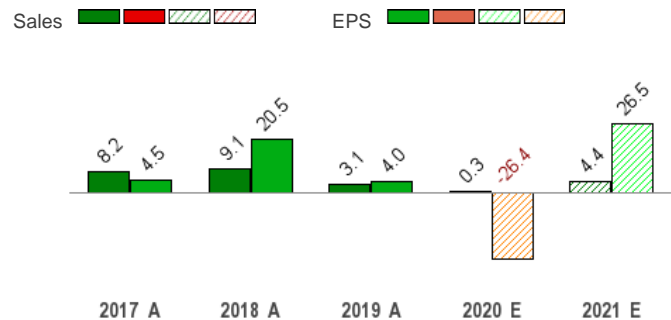
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52 Week High-Low	\$125.31 - \$82.00
20 Day Average Volume (sh)	4,504,743
Market Cap	\$95.3 B
YTD Price Change	-5.6%
Beta	0.83
Dividend / Div Yld	\$4.04 / 3.7%
Industry	Transportation - Air Freight and Cargo
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 19% (48 out of 253)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	-5.0%
Last Sales Surprise	3.5%
EPS F1 Est- 4 week change	-0.7%
Expected Report Date	07/22/2020
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	15.2
P/E F1	20.0
PEG F1	2.3
P/S TTM	1.3

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	18,839 E	19,041 E	19,450 E	22,296 E	77,572 E
2020	18,035 A	17,314 E	17,982 E	20,665 E	74,289 E
2019	17,160 A	18,048 A	18,318 A	20,568 A	74,094 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2021	\$1.32 E	\$1.95 E	\$2.03 E	\$2.16 E	\$7.01 E
2020	\$1.15 A	\$1.06 E	\$1.42 E	\$1.77 E	\$5.54 E
2019	\$1.39 A	\$1.96 A	\$2.07 A	\$2.11 A	\$7.53 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 06/25/2020. The reports text is as of 06/26/2020.

Overview

Based in Atlanta, United Parcel Service is the world's largest express carrier and package delivery company. The company, founded in 1907, provides specialized transportation and logistics services in the United States and internationally.

UPS offers a range of supply chain solutions, such as, freight forwarding, customs brokerage, fulfillment, returns, financial transactions, and repairs. UPS transports millions of packages each business day across the globe. In 2019, the company delivered 21.9 million pieces per day on an average. This translated into 5.5 billion packages in the year.

UPS operates a ground fleet of multiple vehicles in the United States. The company also operates an air fleet of over 500 aircraft. Its primary air hub is in Louisville, KY. Regional air hubs are located in Hartford, CT; Ontario, Canada; Philadelphia, PA, and Rockford, IL. Its international air hub is in Cologne, Germany, while other hubs are located in Miami, FL; Canada; Hong Kong; Singapore; Taiwan; China, and the Philippines.

The company, which expects total operating profits in 2020 to grow in mid to high-single-digits, has the following three core business segments:

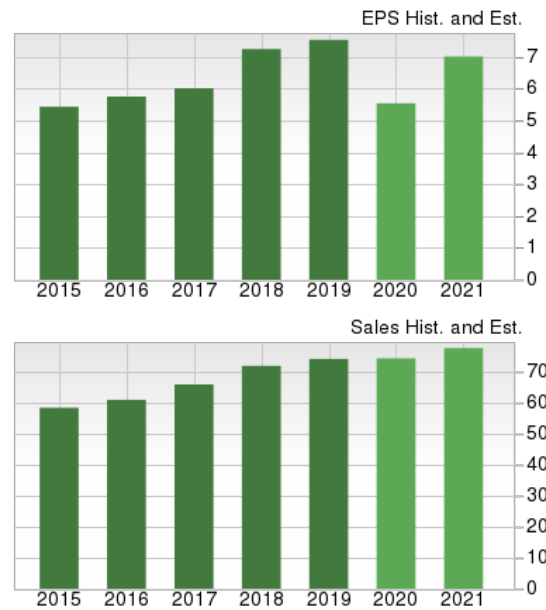
The **U.S. domestic package** operations (accounted for 62.7% of 2019 revenues) involve ground delivery services, deferred air delivery, and next day air services. Segmental revenues are expected to grow between 4% and 7% in 2020.

The **International package** operations (19.2%) encompass delivery of letters, documents and packages to multiple countries and territories worldwide, including shipments outside the U.S. as well as shipments from or to the United States with another country as the destination or origin point. Segmental revenues are expected to increase between 4% and 6% in 2020.

The **Supply chain and freight** segment (18.1%) is engaged in logistics, excess value package insurance, and freight and ancillary services. The segment, which includes the forwarding, logistics, truckload brokerage, UPS Freight and UPS Capital businesses, is expected to witness revenue-growth in the 4-6% band in 2020..

The U.S. Domestic Package and International Package businesses are collectively referred to as the company's global small package operations.

UPS' fiscal year coincides with its fiscal year.



Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ We are encouraged by UPS' solid free cash flow. UPS' free cash flow in 2018 surged to \$6.13 billion, exceeding its expectation. In 2019, UPS generated adjusted free cash flow in excess of \$4.1 billion. Cash from operations were \$8.6 billion. Even in the coronavirus hit first-quarter 2020, UPS generated impressive free cash flow. Robust free cash-flow generation by UPS is a major positive and might lead to an uptick in shareholder-friendly activities. Moreover, UPS exited the March quarter with cash and equivalents of \$9,460 million, above its current debt figure of \$4,931 million. This suggests that it has enough cash to meet its current debt obligations. Moreover, UPS' current ratio at the end of the March quarter stood at 1.22, higher than the industry's reading of 1.2.
 - ▲ The increase in e-commerce sales during the coronavirus pandemic is a huge positive for UPS. E-commerce, which already became part and parcel of daily lives in today's fast-paced world, is witnessing higher demand now amid the pandemic-induced social-distancing protocols, quarantine and lockdowns. Moreover, UPS' decision to impose peak delivery surcharge on companies (Amazon, Best Buy etc) responsible for surge in shipments including oversize items that are testing delivery networks, is aimed at controlling costs. This, in turn, will support UPS' bottom line.
 - ▲ UPS Airlines, UPS' air freight division, is aided by the increase in e-commerce sales amid the plaguing pandemic. In fact, UPS Airlines even expanded its fleet by adding MD-11 and Boeing 747-8 freighter jets. With many passenger airlines (usually carrying freight as well as passenger luggage) currently shrinking their fleets due to tepid air-travel demand, cargo carriers like UPS Airlines are making hay and flying a lot of packages. To meet the swell in e-commerce demand and also to cater to the solid requirement for flying cargos, such carriers are extending their fleet.
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The increase in e-commerce sales during the coronavirus pandemic is a huge positive for UPS.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ The sluggish air freight market due to lackluster demand from China is a negative as UPS as it has Chinese exposure. For instance, UPS joined forces with SF Holding in 2017 to strengthen its footprint in the Chinese market. With the phase one trade deal signed in January, trade tensions between the United States and China might ease. However, volumes are likely to remain weak unless the issue is fully resolved. The coronavirus pandemic is a further setback for the already-struggling air-freight market
 - ▼ Due to the uncertainty over the coronavirus pandemic, the company withdrew its previously-issued 2020 projections for revenues and earnings per share. Moreover, capital expenditures for 2020 are expected to be reduced by roughly \$1 billion from the previous projection. Reduced capital expenditures might dent its long-term growth prospects.
 - ▼ We are concerned about the earnings underperformance in the March quarter. Results were hurt by the coronavirus-induced supply-chain disruptions. With the health peril showing no signs of ending, supply chain disruptions might impact UPS' June quarter results even more. With cases spiking amid fears of a second wave of the virus, UPS' second-quarter results are also likely to be adversely impacted.
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Last Earnings Report

Earnings Miss at UPS in Q1

UPS' first-quarter 2020 earnings (excluding 4 cents from non-recurring items) per share of \$1.15 lagged the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 6 cents. The bottom line also decreased 17.3% year over year. Results were hurt by the coronavirus-induced supply-chain disruptions. Due to the uncertainty over the coronavirus pandemic, UPS withdrew its previously-issued 2020 projections for revenues and earnings per share. With dividends remaining a top priority for the company, it is suspending share buybacks for the current year. Moreover, capital expenditures for 2020 are expected to be reduced by roughly \$1 billion from the previous projection.

However, performance on the top-line front was encouraging despite the coronavirus woes. UPS generated revenues worth \$18,035 million in the quarter, surpassing the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$17,420.3 million. Moreover, the top line improved 5.1% on a year-over-year basis. Results were aided by higher average daily volumes. However, operating profit decreased 26.4% on an adjusted basis in the first quarter due to the domestic package segment's disappointing operating profit.

Segmental Details

U.S. Domestic Package revenues increased 9.3% year over year to \$11,456 million in the first quarter, driven by 8.5% volume growth across all products. Notably, UPS Next Day Air volumes were up 20.5%. This uptrend was attributable to gains pertaining to automated hubs and other transformation investments. Segmental operating profit plunged more than 40% on an adjusted basis to \$401 million in the quarter.

Revenues at the International Package division came in at \$3,383 million, down 2%. International cost per piece dipped 0.5%, mainly owing to currency-related impact. Segmental operating profit came in at \$558 million in the reported quarter on an adjusted basis, reflecting an 8.8% decrease. Supply Chain and Freight revenues fell marginally to \$3,196 million. Operating profits in the segment dropped 25.1% on an adjusted basis to \$158 million in the first quarter. Results were hurt by the sluggishness in economic activity due to the pandemic.

Other Details

Cash from operations were \$2.6 billion at the end of the reported quarter. UPS generated free cash flow of \$1.6 billion on an adjusted basis in the same period. The company's capital expenditures (adjusted) were \$939 million in the quarter.

Quarter Ending 03/2020

Report Date	Apr 28, 2020
Sales Surprise	3.53%
EPS Surprise	-4.96%
Quarterly EPS	1.15
Annual EPS (TTM)	7.29

Valuation

UPS shares have been down 5.6% year to date but up 10.6% over the past year. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry have increased 8.8% in a year's time but decreased 0.5% year to date. Stocks in the Zacks Transportation sector have declined 14.3% and 9.9% year to date and in the past year, respectively. The S&P 500 index is down 4.1% in the year-to-date period but up 5.6% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 15.16X trailing 12-month price to earnings which compares to 15.15X for the Zacks sub-industry, 15.71X for the Zacks sector and 19.66X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 22.27X and as low as 11.44X, with a 5-year median of 18.24X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in-line with the market. Our \$117 price target reflects 16.05X trailing 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for UPS

Valuation Multiples - UPS					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E TTM	Current	15.16	15.15	15.71	19.66
	5-Year High	22.27	20.85	19.57	22.23
	5-Year Low	11.44	11.51	11.63	15.96
	5-Year Median	18.24	17.32	15.53	19.04
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	9.81	9.03	7.16	11.3
	5-Year High	13.33	12.98	11.16	12.85
	5-Year Low	7.85	6.76	5.44	8.25
	5-Year Median	10.35	9.44	7.32	10.83
P/S F 12M	Current	1.26	1	1.2	3.42
	5-Year High	1.68	1.5	1.42	3.44
	5-Year Low	0.95	0.84	0.85	2.53
	5-Year Median	1.4	1.2	1.2	3.02

As of 06/25/2020

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 19% (48 out of 253)



Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings (AAWW)	Outperform	1
Amazon.com, Inc. (AMZN)	Neutral	3
CSX Corporation (CSX)	Neutral	3
Expeditors International of Washington, Inc. (EXPD)	Neutral	3
FedEx Corporation (FDX)	Neutral	3
Union Pacific Corporation (UNP)	Neutral	3
XPO Logistics, Inc. (XPO)	Neutral	3
C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. (CHRW)	Underperform	5

Industry Comparison Industry: Transportation - Air Freight And Cargo				Industry Peers		
	UPS	X Industry	S&P 500	CHRW	FDX	XPO
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Underperform	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	5	3	3
VGM Score	C	-	-	D	A	C
Market Cap	95.29 B	1.15 B	21.24 B	10.41 B	35.56 B	6.90 B
# of Analysts	12	3	14	11	12	12
Dividend Yield	3.66%	0.00%	1.97%	2.64%	1.91%	0.00%
Value Score	B	-	-	C	A	C
Cash/Price	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.03	0.05	0.16
EV/EBITDA	12.99	6.16	12.51	13.30	14.14	8.29
PEG Ratio	2.30	1.97	2.87	3.02	1.21	6.79
Price/Book (P/B)	28.71	1.74	2.90	6.56	1.89	2.57
Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)	10.63	4.25	11.34	15.44	4.75	5.79
P/E (F1)	19.95	14.55	20.76	27.15	14.50	66.93
Price/Sales (P/S)	1.27	0.45	2.18	0.68	0.51	0.42
Earnings Yield	5.01%	6.89%	4.55%	3.69%	6.90%	1.49%
Debt/Equity	8.06	1.66	0.77	0.69	1.66	2.77
Cash Flow (\$/share)	10.39	6.69	7.01	5.01	28.66	13.08
Growth Score	B	-	-	D	A	B
Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)	8.80%	10.29%	10.84%	6.73%	11.78%	61.90%
Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)	-26.44%	7.30%	-10.73%	-32.02%	9.65%	-71.94%
Curr. Cash Flow Growth	4.64%	4.64%	5.46%	-11.01%	-2.30%	2.29%
Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)	7.12%	15.30%	8.55%	5.98%	9.78%	79.21%
Current Ratio	1.22	1.21	1.29	1.44	1.21	1.18
Debt/Capital	88.96%	70.51%	45.14%	40.77%	62.37%	73.21%
Net Margin	5.73%	1.32%	10.53%	3.21%	-0.50%	2.33%
Return on Equity	152.81%	17.05%	16.06%	29.94%	17.05%	15.56%
Sales/Assets	1.33	1.06	0.55	3.27	1.06	1.15
Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)	0.26%	1.46%	-2.70%	-3.97%	2.66%	-9.80%
Momentum Score	F	-	-	D	F	F
Daily Price Chg	0.93%	0.00%	0.93%	-1.55%	0.76%	0.24%
1 Week Price Chg	6.20%	3.81%	0.92%	0.03%	3.70%	5.80%
4 Week Price Chg	10.83%	1.66%	-1.04%	-4.38%	3.78%	-3.64%
12 Week Price Chg	18.79%	16.57%	22.12%	12.19%	16.69%	61.52%
52 Week Price Chg	8.67%	-13.66%	-8.70%	-8.14%	-16.66%	37.47%
20 Day Average Volume	4,504,743	606,337	2,782,477	1,832,148	2,369,613	1,221,953
(F1) EPS Est 1 week change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-1.23%	0.00%
(F1) EPS Est 4 week change	-0.73%	-0.37%	0.00%	0.00%	-5.47%	-24.28%
(F1) EPS Est 12 week change	-28.42%	-11.85%	-12.23%	-22.71%	-15.74%	-75.79%
(Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.11%	-19.11%

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 have an excellent 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	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.

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