

Walmart Inc. (WMT)

\$145.97 (As of 12/21/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$153.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

Zacks Recommendation:

Neutral

(Since: 11/09/20)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

Zacks Rank: (1-5)

3-Hold

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:B

Value: B

Growth: C

Momentum: B

Summary

Walmart has outpaced the industry year to date. The company is gaining on rising demand for grocery and general merchandise amid the pandemic. Stay-at-home trends are also boosting e-commerce sales, which soared 79% in the U.S. segment in third-quarter fiscal 2021. During the quarter, the top and bottom lines beat the estimates and grew year over year, with U.S. comp sales rising for the 25th straight time. Comps were fueled by strength in core categories and higher shift toward e-commerce. Clearly, Walmart's efforts to enhance deliveries are yielding results. Also, the company is focused on improving the International unit's performance, evident from its recent plans to sell certain businesses. However, the company is seeing high COVID-19 costs, which are likely to prevail. Also, price investments are hurting gross margin to an extent.

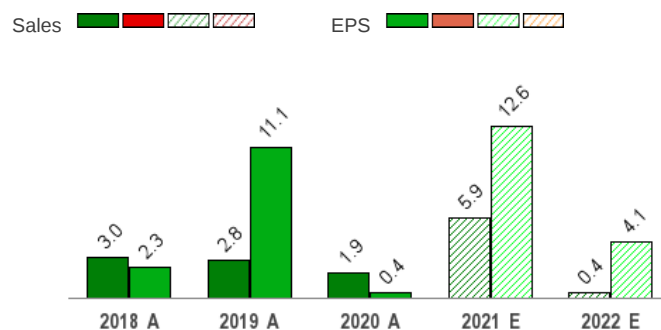
Price, Consensus & Surprise



Data Overview

52-Week High-Low	\$153.66 - \$102.00
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	7,414,986
Market Cap	\$413.0 B
Year-To-Date Price Change	22.8%
Beta	0.42
Dividend / Dividend Yield	\$2.16 / 1.5%
Industry	Retail - Supermarkets
Zacks Industry Rank	Top 46% (118 out of 255)

Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



Last EPS Surprise	12.6%
Last Sales Surprise	1.3%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.2%
Expected Report Date	02/16/2021
Earnings ESP	0.0%
P/E TTM	26.7
P/E F1	26.3
PEG F1	5.6
P/S TTM	0.8

Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	132,760 E	138,151 E	136,882 E	151,347 E	557,003 E
2021	134,622 A	137,742 A	134,708 A	146,058 E	554,694 E
2020	123,925 A	130,377 A	127,991 A	141,671 A	523,964 A

EPS Estimates

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual*
2022	\$1.27 E	\$1.52 E	\$1.36 E	\$1.56 E	\$5.78 E
2021	\$1.18 A	\$1.56 A	\$1.34 A	\$1.47 E	\$5.55 E
2020	\$1.13 A	\$1.27 A	\$1.16 A	\$1.38 A	\$4.93 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 12/21/2020. The reports text is as of 12/22/2020.

Overview

Walmart Inc. has evolved from just being a traditional brick-and-mortar retailer into an omnichannel player. In this regard, acquisitions of Bonobos, Moosejaw and Parcel, partnership with Shopify and JD.com, delivery programs like Walmart + and investment in online e-commerce platform Flipkart are noteworthy. These position the company to keep pace with the changing retail ecosystem and stay firm in the presence of rivals like Amazon and Target. Markedly, Walmart's product offerings include almost everything from grocery to cosmetics, electronics to stationery, home furnishings to health and wellness products, and apparel to entertainment products, to name a few.

This Bentonville-based retailer operates variety stores, discount stores, supercenters, Sam's Clubs and Neighborhood Markets, along with the websites – walmart.com and samsclub.com. The company offers merchandise under its private-label store brands, which comprises of Equate, Faded Glory, George, Great Value, Holiday Time, Mainstays, and others. The company also markets merchandise under licensed brands, such as, Better Homes & Gardens, General Electric and more.

The company operates as Walmart in the United States (its largest segment), including the 50 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. Apart from United States, Walmart has operations in Canada, Chile, China, India, Mexico, Africa and Central America. The company operates in Mexico as Walmex and in India as Best Price. As of Sep 23, 2020, Walmart operated roughly 11,500 stores under 56 banners across 27 countries.

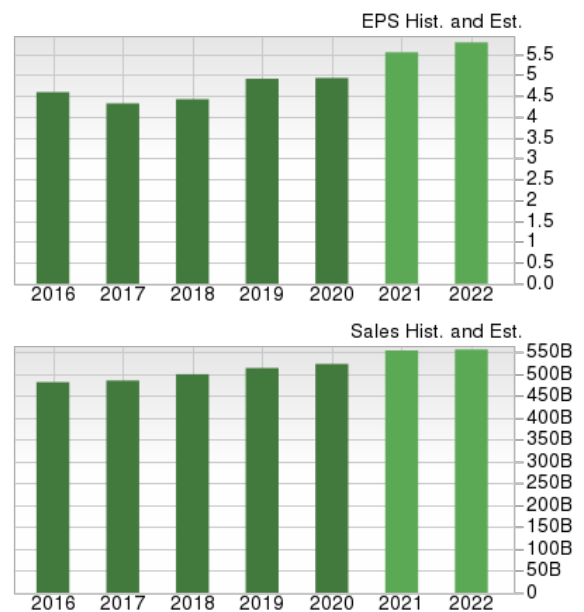
In the third quarter of fiscal 2021, Walmart announced the sale of Asda (the company's UK business), as well as its Argentina business. Additionally, Walmart has announced a deal to divest a major stake in Seiyu (Walmart's subsidiary in Japan).

The company conducts its businesses under three segments:

Walmart U.S. (65.1% of fiscal 2020 revenues) operates retail stores in different formats in the U.S. and also in Puerto Rico.

Walmart International (23%) consists of retail operations outside the United States.

Sam's Club (12%) comprises membership warehouse clubs in 44 states in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, as well as the segment's online re



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ **High Demand Aids Q3 Results, Well Placed for Growth:** Shares of Walmart have gained 23% year to date compared with the industry's growth of 21.2%. The company has been benefiting from burgeoning demand for essential items amid coronavirus. Further, higher stay-at-home trends are boosting e-commerce sales. Such trends drove the company in third-quarter fiscal 2021, wherein both top and bottom lines cruised past the Zacks Consensus Estimate and grew year over year, reflecting continued rise in demand across categories amid the pandemic. E-commerce sales were favorable across the U.S., International and Sam's Club segments.

Walmart is gaining from its sturdy comps record, which in turn is driven by its constant omnichannel efforts. The company has been posting positive comps in the U.S. division for 25 straight quarters.

Total revenues grew 5.2% to \$134.7 billion. On a constant-currency or cc basis, total revenues advanced 6.1% to \$135.8 billion. The consensus mark stood at \$133 billion. Further, adjusted earnings came in at \$1.34 per share, which easily surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.19 and grew 15.5% year on year. Additionally, adjusted operating income at cc rose 16.4% on the back of solid results in all operating segments. The company said that it saw solid underlying productivity in stores as well as e-commerce. Certainly, Walmart appears well placed for growth in the days to come, including the holiday season this year. To this end, the company's unique deals and saving events, along with other initiatives to make the most of consumers; evolving shopping needs this season bode well. Apart from this, the company has been undertaking efforts to increase focus on priority regions, as part of which it recently unveiled the sale of its U.S., Argentina and Japan businesses. These are likely to help Walmart focus on core growth areas and enhance its International performance.

- ▲ **Solid Comps Record:** Walmart has been gaining from its sturdy comps record, which in turn is driven by its constant expansion efforts and splendid e-commerce performance. Walmart has been undertaking several efforts to enhance merchandise assortments. Also, the company has been focused on store remodeling, in an attempt to upgrade them with advanced in-store and digital innovations. Evidently, the company remodeled 205 stores in the third quarter, alongside opening a new store. Walmart is also gaining from its compelling pricing strategy, which helps it draw customers. The third-quarter fiscal 2021 marked Walmart's 25th consecutive quarter of U.S. comps growth. U.S. comps, excluding fuel, improved 6.4% fueled by strength in core categories like general merchandise, food and health & wellness. Walmart continued to see customers consolidating their shopping trips, leading to a bigger average basket size. Further, transaction volumes increased, thanks to extended store hours. Also, the company continued seeing an increased shift toward e-commerce, which boosted comps by 570 bps. Markedly, grocery sales were robust, thanks to solid food comps.
- ▲ **Robust E-Commerce Initiatives:** Walmart's e-commerce business and omni-channel penetration have been increasing, all the more amid the pandemic-led social distancing. Further, management expects these trends to stay even after the current crisis dissipates. The company, on its third-quarter earnings call, said that it has doubled the U.S. store associate count this year that are supporting the company's digital and omnichannel efforts. Certainly, Walmart's combination of robust store network and growing digital capacity is likely to keep it in good shape. The company has long been trying every means to evolve with the changing consumer environment and stay firm amid the growing competition from Amazon. In this regard, Walmart has been taking several e-commerce initiatives, including buyouts, alliances, and improved delivery and payment systems. During the third quarter of fiscal 2021, Walmart unveiled an additional investment in India's Ninjacart, for technology and supply-chain solutions. Apart from this, the company's contracts with Goldman Sachs, Shopify, Green Dot and Microsoft; buyouts of ShoeBuy, Moosejaw and Bonobos among others, are noteworthy. Further, the buyout of major stake in Flipkart has been bolstering its International segment. Walmart, in fact, revealed its strategic partnership with Flipkart, and Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail in the third quarter to improve the fashion experience in India. Apart from this, Walmart is making aggressive efforts to expand in the booming online grocery space, which has long been a major contributor to e-commerce sales. U.S. e-commerce sales soared 79% in the third quarter with strength across all channels, including robust traffic at Walmart.com. Markedly, marketplace and pickup & delivery sales jumped at a triple-digit rate.
- ▲ **Focus on Delivery Services:** Given the rising demand for online grocery, Walmart remains committed to enrich consumers' experiences by providing easy shopping methods and seamless grocery deliveries. In fact, the company's delivery service has become all the more vital amid coronavirus-led social distancing. In the third quarter of fiscal 2021, Walmart took robust strides to strengthen its delivery arm, as evident from its launch of Walmart + membership program; drone delivery pilots in the United States with Flytrex, Zipline and DroneUp; and a pilot with Cruise to test grocery delivery through self-driven all-electric cars. Walmart also unveiled an alliance with Door Dash to deliver prescriptions from pharmacies of Sam's Club, alongside expanding Scan & Go to all fuels stations at U.S. Sam's Clubs. Prior to this, Walmart unveiled Express Delivery during the first quarter at several stores, which helps it deliver orders to customers in less than two hours. In earlier developments, Walmart joined hands with Point Pickup, Roadie and Postmates, alongside acquiring Parcel to enhance its delivery service. Furthermore, the company's store and curbside pickup options add to customers' convenience. As of the fiscal third quarter, Walmart U.S. had 3,600 pickup locations and 2,900 same-day delivery locations.
- ▲ **Financial Flexibility & Solid Dividend Track:** Walmart appears financially stable. The company's debt-to-capitalization ratio of 0.38 at the end of the fiscal third quarter has improved from 0.41 as of the second quarter. The company's long-term debt (including lease obligations) of \$61.6 billion as of the end of third-quarter fiscal 2021 (Oct 31, 2020) remained almost in line with the previous quarter level. Further, Walmart's cash and cash equivalents stood at \$14.3 billion as of the third-quarter end compared with short-term borrowings and current debt (including lease obligations) of \$6.9 billion. Notably, Walmart looks well placed on the dividend-payout front. In the third quarter, the company allocated \$1.5 billion toward dividend payments and \$0.5 billion toward share buybacks. Walmart has a dividend payout of 39.6%, a dividend yield of 1.4% and a free cash flow yield of 5.5%. With an annual free cash flow return on investment of 19.6%, the dividend is likely to be sustainable. As of Jul 31, 2020, S&P's, Moody's and Fitch had assigned credit ratings of AA, Aa2 and AA, respectively on Walmart's long-term debt, which reflects a stable outlook.

Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ **Stock Appears Overvalued:** On considering price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio, Walmart looks overvalued when compared with the industry. The stock has a trailing 12-month P/E ratio of 26.73, which is below the high level of 27.98 scaled in a year. Meanwhile, the trailing 12-month P/E ratio for the industry is currently pegged at 24.75.
- ▼ **COVID-19-Related Costs:** Walmart has been incurring high COVID-19 costs such as higher wages and benefits, along with costs associated with sanitization and other safety measures. The company incurred roughly \$600 million as additional costs related to COVID-19 in the third quarter of fiscal 2021. Management expects pandemic-related costs to prevail for a while now, alongside anticipating some general uncertainties globally.
- ▼ **Price Investments a Threat to Margins:** While Walmart's online strategies have been driving its business, costs associated with investments in e-commerce expansion and technological advancements and Walmart's compelling pricing strategy pose threat to margins. During the third quarter of fiscal 2021, though consolidated gross profit margin expanded year over year, it was adversely impacted by the carryover of last year's price investments.
- ▼ **Macroeconomic Issues:** The company's customers remain sensitive to macroeconomic factors including interest rate hikes, increase in fuel and energy costs, credit availability, unemployment levels, and high household debt levels, which may negatively impact their discretionary spending, and in turn, the company's growth and profitability. Apart from this, Walmart generates a significant amount of net sales outside the United States. Due to high exposure to international markets, the company remains prone to currency fluctuations, which adversely impacted Walmart International segment sales by \$1.1 billion during the fiscal third quarter. Management expects currency headwinds to hurt Walmart's top line by roughly \$1 billion in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021.
- ▼ **Intense Competition:** Walmart faces intense competition from other department, discount, dollar, variety, drug and specialty stores, warehouse clubs, e-commerce businesses and supermarkets, at national, regional and global levels. The company competes on the basis of merchandise assortment, price and quality, among other factors, which may affect its results.

Costs associated with investments in e-commerce expansion and technological advancements; increased COVID-19 expenses and a compelling pricing strategy pose threats to margins.

Last Earnings Report

Walmart Q3 Earnings Beat Estimates on Robust Demand

Walmart posted another strong quarter with the release of its third-quarter fiscal 2021 numbers. During the quarter, both top and bottom lines beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate and increased year over year. Adjusted earnings came in at \$1.34 per share, which easily surpassed the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$1.19. Moreover, earnings grew 15.5% from adjusted earnings per share of \$1.16 reported in the year-ago period.

Total revenues grew 5.2% to \$134.7 billion. On a constant-currency or cc basis, total revenues advanced 6.1% to \$135.8 billion. The consensus mark stood at \$133 billion. The top line continued being driven by the burgeoning demand for products across different categories amid the coronavirus crisis.

Consolidated gross profit margin expanded 50 basis points (bps) to 25%, including favorable contributions from all operating segments. Gross margin was backed by elevated pandemic-led demand. Gross margin in Walmart U.S. grew 33 bps on prudent sourcing efforts, reduced markdowns, better e-commerce margins and enhanced product mix, partly affected by the last year's price investments.

Consolidated operating income grew 22.5% to \$5.8 billion. Adjusted operating income at cc rose 16.4% on the back of solid results in all operating segments. The company said that it saw solid underlying productivity in stores as well as e-commerce. Consolidated operating expenses as a percentage of sales dropped 18 bps to 21.4%. The company incurred roughly \$0.6 million as additional costs related to COVID-19.

Segment Details

Walmart U.S.: The segment's net sales grew 6.2% to \$88.4 billion in the quarter. U.S. comp sales (or comps), excluding fuel, improved 6.4% on the back of a 24% rise in ticket, partly negated by a 14.2% fall in transactions. Comps were fueled by strength in core categories like general merchandise, food and health & wellness. Walmart continued to see customers consolidating their shopping trips, leading to a bigger average basket size. Further, transaction volumes increased, thanks to extended store hours. Also, the company continued seeing an increased shift toward e-commerce.

Sales accelerated in September owing to delayed back-to-school spending, with the momentum continuing in October. Grocery sales were also robust, thanks to solid food comps. E-commerce sales drove comps by 570 bps. E-commerce sales soared 79% with strength across all channels, including robust traffic at Walmart.com. Notably, marketplace and pickup & delivery sales jumped at a triple-digit rate. As of the third quarter, Walmart U.S. had 3,600 pickup locations and 2,900 same-day delivery locations. The company remodeled 205 stores in the quarter, alongside opening a new store. Adjusted operating income at the Walmart U.S. segment grew 9.9% to \$4.6 billion.

Walmart International: Segment net sales rose 1.3% to \$29.6 billion, including currency headwinds of about \$1.1 billion. At cc, net sales grew 5% to \$30.6 billion on the back of WalMex, Canada and Flipkart. The company saw eight out of 10 markets registering positive comps. However, the company continued witnessing pandemic-related operational hurdles, particularly in Central America and Africa. E-commerce sales had a positive contribution of 14% to total segment sales, courtesy of solid omnichannel capacities. Adjusted operating income (at cc) rose 22.4% to \$1.1 billion.

Sam's Club: The segment, which comprises membership warehouse clubs, witnessed a net sales rise of 8.3% to \$15.8 billion. Sam's Club comps, excluding fuel, grew 11.1%. Comps were partially hurt by lower tobacco sales to the tune of around 420 bps. While transactions grew 6.8%, ticket climbed 4%. The segment benefited from solid new member sign-ups as well as renewal rates, especially Plus memberships. E-commerce fueled comps by 230 bps. Markedly, e-commerce sales jumped 41% at Sam's Club on the back of a robust direct-to-home show and increasing contribution from curbside pickup. Segment operating income came in at \$0.4 billion, up 31.8% year over year.

Other Financial Updates & Developments

Year to date in fiscal 2021, the company generated operating cash flow of \$22.9 billion and incurred capital expenditures of \$6.4 billion, resulting in free cash flow of \$16.4 billion. The company allocated \$1.5 billion toward dividend payments and \$0.5 billion toward share buybacks during the third quarter. Walmart ended the quarter with cash and cash equivalents of \$14.3 billion, long-term debt (including lease obligations) of nearly \$61.6 billion and total equity of \$87.5 billion.

During the third quarter, it unveiled the Walmart + membership program; announced Black Friday Deals for Days; unveiled drone delivery pilots in the United States with Flytrex, Zipline and DroneUp; declared a pilot with Cruise to test grocery delivery, introduced Walmart Insurance Services and opened three Walmart Health Centers in Georgia, among many other important developments. The company also announced the sale of Asda, as well as its Argentina business. Additionally, Walmart has announced a deal to divest a major stake in Seiyu (Walmart's subsidiary in Japan) to KKR and Rakuten.

Quarter Ending	10/2020
Report Date	Nov 17, 2020
Sales Surprise	1.28%
EPS Surprise	12.61%
Quarterly EPS	1.34
Annual EPS (TTM)	5.46

Recent News

Walmart unveils Returns Service Called Carrier Pickup by FedEx - Dec 21, 2020

Walmart has unveiled that customers can return products that have been shopped online, through its new service called Carrier Pickup by FedEx. This free service, which will be extended beyond the holiday season, includes products sold and shipped by Walmart.com. Customers can seamlessly initiate the return process through the Walmart App or online, by choosing "Drop off at FedEx" as the return option and dropping their return packages at any FedEx Office location. Certainly, Walmart's alliance with FedEx is likely to make returns easier and improve the experience of customers shopping online.

Apart from this, the company also announced some alterations to the process for customers who still prefer to return their products in store. Per this, even if customers have purchased items in store, from a third-party vendor or online, they can initiate returns online (through the app or Walmart.com). Additionally, Walmart informed that irrespective of how customers prefer to return products, the company will remain focused on accelerating their refunds.

Walmart To Host Livestream Shopping Event With TikTok - Dec 17, 2020

Walmart announced its partnership with TikTok to host an hour-long livestream event today – Dec 18, 2020. This will enable the TikTok community to purchase Walmart fashion items. Notably, users can shop products featured by 10 TikTok creators in the livestream without having to leave the platform. Walmart will be showcasing national brands such as Champion, Jordache, Kendall + Kylie in the event. Along with these, a number of private brands like Free Assembly, Scoop and Sofia Jeans will be featured in the livestream. Impressively, this livestream — Holiday Shop-Along Spectacular — will mark the first time that TikTok will host a shoppable livestream in the United States.

Walmart Offers Bonuses, Supports Workers Amid Pandemic - Dec 3, 2020

Walmart announced that it will reward its U.S.-based associates with more than \$700 million in additional cash bonuses. Additionally, the company extended its COVID-19 emergency leave policy for associates. The latest cash bonus includes \$319 million paid to associates in their Nov 25 paychecks, following the sturdy third-quarter fiscal 2021 performance. It also consists of nearly \$388 million in special cash bonuses to be paid on Dec. 24 in appreciation of associates' continued commitment toward customers during the pandemic.

Management pointed out that both full and part-time associates are eligible for the aforementioned bonuses. Markedly, the special cash bonus on Dec 24 will be received by nearly 1.5 million full- and part-time Walmart and Sam's Club associates working across stores, clubs, distribution centers and fulfillment centers. This will mark the company's fourth special cash bonus paid to its U.S. based associates since the beginning of the pandemic. As a result, Walmart's total quarterly and special cash bonuses in 2020 for its associates now amount to more than \$2.8 billion.

The company also stated that its U.S.-based hourly associates will be eligible for the special cash bonuses. The bonus amounts for its hourly associates will be similar to the previous three special cash bonuses provided during the pandemic. Accordingly, part-time and temporary hourly associates will be receiving \$150 while full-time hourly associates will be provided \$300 worth special cash bonus. Notably, more than 60% of the company's hourly associates work full-time. Moreover, drivers, coaches and assistant managers will be provided with a special cash bonus.

Walmart Boosts Walmart+ Program, Removes Shipping Minimum - Dec 2, 2020

Walmart is eliminating the shipping minimum of \$35 from its recently rolled out Walmart+ program, from Dec 4. Members of Walmart+ can get items shipped for free the next day or within two days, irrespective of the basket total. Also, the prices of all products will remain unchanged, further underscoring the company's everyday low-price commitment. However, delivery of items like groceries from Walmart's stores will continue to carry the \$35 minimum.

Additionally, Walmart unveiled that it is increasing the number of locations that can be used for fuel savings by its Walmart+ members and will include Sam's Club fuel stations across the nation. Consequently, customers can now access fuel discounts at more than 2,000 Walmart, Murphy USA and Murphy Express fuel stations, alongside having access to Sam's Club member pricing at more than 500 Sam's Club locations.

Walmart's Sam's Club Unveils Hiring Plans for Holiday Season – Oct 7, 2020

Sam's Club — a division of Walmart — is hiring 2,000 permanent, full-time supply chain associates to keep up with the expected demand during the holiday season. Apart from this, Sam's Club is adding more days of deals, launching extra newness and outlining unpredictable moments to delight consumers during the entire festive season. Through its Ship from Club program it expects to ramp up order fulfillment during the holiday season. Apart from these, members can opt for contactless shopping options. Further, Sam's Club is offering more days for members to save with holiday savings events that include October Savings Event, November Instant Savings and Cyber Monday Online-Only Savings Event among others. Apart from these, Sam's Club will feature new products at regular intervals in clubs and SamsClub.com to entice consumers throughout the holiday season.

Walmart Ups Health Care Game With Walmart Insurance Services – Oct 6, 2020

Walmart unveiled Walmart Insurance Services, LLC, — a licensed insurance brokerage. The newly-launched service will start offering Medicare insurance plans during this year's Annual Enrollment Period, which begins from Oct 15 and continues till Dec. 7. Notably, Walmart Insurance Services that provides services in all 50 states as well as Washington D.C. will work with a team of licensed insurance agents. Notably, it will float Medicare plans (Part D, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans) that are provided by UnitedHealthcare, Humana, Amerigroup, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and Simply Health among others.

Walmart Focused on Enhancing Growth, Sells Major Asda Stake – Oct 2, 2020

Walmart inked a deal to give away major stake in U.S.-based grocery chain, Asda Group to TDR Capital as well as U.K.-based tycoon brothers Mohsin and Zuber Issa for 6.8 billion pounds.

Walmart's New Store Concept Likely to Up Omnichannel Game – Sep 30, 2020

Walmart unveiled an absolutely fresh look and feel for its stores, which will offer customers digitally-supported shopping experience. Walmart has already tested the new concept in certain stores and is encouraged by the initial response. The company plans to roll out the new concept to more stores this fall and by the end of this fiscal, the concept is expected in about 200 Supercenters and some Health Centers and Neighborhood Markets. The concept is likely to hit nearly 1,000 stores by fiscal 2022.

The updated signage in the interior and outside of the stores will reflect the icon of Walmart app, which will instantly create an omni-shopping concept in customers' minds. Further, inspired by airport navigation systems, the new concept includes thoughtful designs, which will enable customers to move through stores more seamlessly. Finally, the new concept in stores includes self-checkout kiosks and contactless payment solutions such as Walmart Pay. Some stores will also feature the Scan & Go option to facilitate direct customer checkout.

Walmart Braces Up for Holiday Season, Unveils Hiring Plans – Sep 23, 2020

Walmart has announced a slew of measures to address customers' three core shopping patterns, particularly for this holiday season. The retail biggie announced plans to employ more than 20,000 seasonal workers at its countrywide e-commerce fulfillment centers to meet the expected surge in online shopping. Further, the company will continue to take measures like reduced shopping hours, mandatory face coverings, sneeze guards and efficient traffic management at its stores during the holiday season. Moving on, Walmart will continue to provide contactless pickup and safe delivery services such as Express Delivery, Free Next Day or Free Two-Day Shipping as well as Pickup and Delivery. Apart from this, contactless in-store payments through Walmart Pay and benefits from the Walmart+ membership program are noteworthy.

Walmart is making moves to stay equipped with holiday gifts suited for the new normal amid the pandemic. These include athleisure, loungewear, bicycles, exercise equipment and outdoor sporting equipment, among others. These hot selling holiday presents are available at Walmart's stores and website. Notably, such moves are based on a research, per which one out of three Walmart customers in the past six months planned to begin holiday shopping before November.

Valuation

Walmart shares are up 23% in the year-to-date period and 22.7% over the trailing 12-month period. Stocks in the Zacks sub-industry are up 21.2% and the Zacks Retail-Wholesale sector gained 37.9% in the year-to-date period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry was up 21%, while the sector gained 38.8%.

The S&P 500 index is up 17.1% in the year-to-date period and 17.2% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 25.35X forward 12-month earnings, which compares to 23.16X for the Zacks sub-industry, 30.92X for the Zacks sector and 23.05X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 27.24X and as low as 14.46X, with a 5-year median of 19.88X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will perform in line with the market. Our \$153 price target reflects 26.62X forward 12-month earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for WMT

Valuation Multiples - WMT					
		Stock	Sub-Industry	Sector	S&P 500
P/E F12M	Current	25.35	23.16	30.92	23.05
	5-Year High	27.24	24.32	34.06	15.3
	5-Year Low	14.46	15.18	19.08	15.3
	5-Year Median	19.88	18.88	23.62	17.81
P/S F12M	Current	0.74	0.52	1.31	4.35
	5-Year High	0.78	0.52	1.32	4.35
	5-Year Low	0.39	0.33	0.83	3.17
	5-Year Median	0.52	0.41	1.01	3.67
EV/EBITDA TTM	Current	15.27	12.03	19.32	16.82
	5-Year High	15.94	12.53	20.72	16.87
	5-Year Low	6.76	6.25	11.14	9.56
	5-Year Median	8.37	7.32	13.05	13.17

As of 12/21/2020

Source: Zacks Investment Research

Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 46% (118 out of 255)



Source: Zacks Investment Research

Top Peers

Company (Ticker)	Rec	Rank
Companhia Brasileira de Distribuicao (CBD)	Neutral	3
Carrefour SA (CRRFY)	Neutral	3
Jeronimo Martins SGPS SA (JRONY)	Neutral	4
J. Sainsbury PLC (JSAIY)	Neutral	3
The Kroger Co. (KR)	Neutral	3
Marks and Spencer Group PLC (MAKSY)	Neutral	3
Tesco PLC (TSCDY)	Neutral	3
WalMart de Mexico SAB de CV (WMMVY)	Neutral	2

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

Industry Comparison Industry: Retail - Supermarkets				Industry Peers		
	WMT	X Industry	S&P 500	CRRFY	KR	TSCDY
Zacks Recommendation (Long Term)	Neutral	-	-	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Zacks Rank (Short Term)	3	-	-	3	3	3
VGM Score	B	-	-	A	A	A
Market Cap	412.99 B	5.19 B	26.07 B	13.43 B	23.45 B	29.64 B
# of Analysts	14	4.5	13	3	9	3
Dividend Yield	1.48%	1.48%	1.49%	1.07%	2.34%	2.81%
Value Score	B	-	-	A	A	A
Cash/Price	0.03	0.14	0.06	0.25	0.14	NA
EV/EBITDA	13.18	5.92	14.52	NA	5.46	NA
PEG F1	5.53	2.62	2.81	1.26	1.45	3.13
P/B	4.73	1.19	3.62	1.13	2.37	1.75
P/CF	16.49	6.26	13.87	3.58	4.86	6.65
P/E F1	26.16	17.97	22.02	10.83	9.20	17.57
P/S TTM	0.75	0.26	2.83	NA	0.18	NA
Earnings Yield	3.80%	5.56%	4.36%	9.15%	10.88%	5.73%
Debt/Equity	0.52	0.52	0.70	0.71	1.19	NA
Cash Flow (\$/share)	8.85	3.93	6.93	0.92	6.34	1.37
Growth Score	C	-	-	A	A	B
Historical EPS Growth (3-5 Years)	3.78%	3.78%	9.71%	NA	6.09%	NA
Projected EPS Growth (F1/F0)	12.47%	-2.64%	1.22%	16.67%	52.22%	-0.64%
Current Cash Flow Growth	-0.12%	15.86%	5.23%	25.56%	20.55%	24.17%
Historical Cash Flow Growth (3-5 Years)	-0.31%	3.48%	8.33%	3.24%	6.44%	3.98%
Current Ratio	0.84	0.84	1.39	0.79	0.83	NA
Debt/Capital	34.26%	34.26%	41.97%	41.63%	54.28%	NA
Net Margin	3.60%	2.05%	10.40%	NA	2.29%	NA
Return on Equity	19.22%	13.25%	14.99%	NA	27.26%	NA
Sales/Assets	2.29	2.30	0.50	NA	2.78	NA
Projected Sales Growth (F1/F0)	5.86%	0.13%	0.39%	6.46%	8.55%	10.16%
Momentum Score	B	-	-	C	A	F
Daily Price Change	0.01%	-2.19%	-0.77%	-1.97%	-0.23%	-2.78%
1-Week Price Change	-0.71%	0.37%	0.87%	-0.30%	-1.50%	3.09%
4-Week Price Change	-3.29%	-0.06%	1.83%	2.63%	-6.75%	-0.06%
12-Week Price Change	6.35%	8.26%	14.52%	-0.30%	-8.61%	7.61%
52-Week Price Change	22.63%	-1.08%	5.55%	-1.08%	6.61%	-7.54%
20-Day Average Volume (Shares)	7,414,986	116,299	2,035,313	187,937	13,610,331	206,768
EPS F1 Estimate 1-Week Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.11%	-4.32%
EPS F1 Estimate 4-Week Change	0.18%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.52%	-4.32%
EPS F1 Estimate 12-Week Change	3.68%	3.68%	3.79%	1.11%	2.68%	6.53%
EPS Q1 Estimate Monthly Change	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	NA	2.02%	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	C
Momentum Score	B
VGM Score	B

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

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

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

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

4-Week Price Change: This is the percentage change in a stock's closing price over the last 20 trading days or past 4 weeks. This is a 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.