



# Best Stocks for the Next **30** Days



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# Introduction

The predictive ability of the Zacks #1 rank cannot be denied. An average annual gain of 26% since 1988. Beating the S&P 500 by nearly three times during that period. Earning a 43.8% total return from 2000-2002 when the stock markets suffered record declines.

Now, in this report, you'll receive highlights on 7 stocks from the more than 200 companies that compose the coveted Zacks #1 Ranked list of Strong Buys. Remember only 5% of all stocks covered by the proprietary Zacks Rank system have the promise and potential to beat the market in the next 30 days like these #1 stocks.

Inside this report, you'll discover the company financials, earnings data and analysis of these 7 promising companies.

The return numbers presented assume no transaction costs. Details of how Zacks calculates performance for the Zacks Rank Portfolios and strategies is available at: [www.zacks.com/performance](http://www.zacks.com/performance).

# Bojangles', Inc. (BOJA)

Bojangles', Inc. (BOJA) is a chicken chain that's famous for its freshly baked, made-from-scratch butter-milk biscuits. BOJA was one of many restaurant chains to go IPO in 2015.

This Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy) didn't disappoint in the third quarter, as earnings of \$0.23 beat the Zacks Consensus Estimate by 5 cents.

The company beat the Zacks Consensus in its first three quarters as a public company. Comparable restaurant sales, which is the key metric for restaurant chains, rose 4.1% year over year. Comparables had risen 5.3% in the third quarter of 2014. It has grown comparable restaurant sales for 22 consecutive quarters. The company expects to grow its restaurant count by 8% in 2015. In November, Bojangles liked the trends it was seeing and raised its full year guidance. For investors looking for a fast growing restaurant chain with rising earnings estimates, Bojangles is one to keep on the short list.



# Darden (DRI)

Darden (DRI) is a restaurant operator with brands that include Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse and Bahama Breeze, among many others.

Through its subsidiaries, the company owns and operates more than 1,500 restaurants and serves more than 320 million meals a year. Recently Darden spun off the Four Corners Property Trust REIT, which owns the real estate that the Olive Garden locations are situated on.

The result is a very happy shareholder cashing in not only on a 3.4% dividend from Darden but also plenty of future potential income from FCPT. Last quarter, Darden's EPS came in at 54 cents, versus our Zacks Consensus Estimate at 42 cents. That marked the sixth consecutive earnings beat for shares of Darden and underscores its status as a Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy).



# General Motors (GM)

Ultra-low interest rates and plunging gas prices have been fueling demand for new vehicles in the US, and General Motors (GM) is one of the biggest beneficiaries of this trend.

The stock was recently upgraded to a Zacks Rank # 1 (Strong Buy). With strong sales for the month of November, auto sales this year appear to be on track to beat the earlier record set in 2000.

GM sold about 229,000 vehicles in the US in November and about 346,000 vehicles in China, which is the biggest market for them. The company reported excellent operating results for Q3, beating the Zacks Consensus Estimate for earnings by a wide margin. Analysts raised estimates, sending the Zacks Consensus Estimates higher. The company has delivered a beat in three out of the last four quarters.



# JA Solar Holdings (JASO)

JA Solar Holdings (JASO) is a fast growing manufacturer of high-performance solar cells that is advancing solar photovoltaics as a financially viable yet sustainable solution to balance the world's environment and energy needs.

In their most recent quarter, the company posted exceptional year over year results; Operating profit up +57.8%, Net Income rose +66.4%, Earnings per diluted share improved +73.3%, Net Revenues were up 26.4%, shipments of modules and module tooling rose 54.8%, and total shipments increased 43.5%.

With Congress extending the full 30% solar tax credit by 3 years, and continuing at a lower rate for another 3 years after that, larger and more profitable solar projects are now being considered and implemented. This extension will help both the top and bottom lines for JA Solar over the next 6 years.



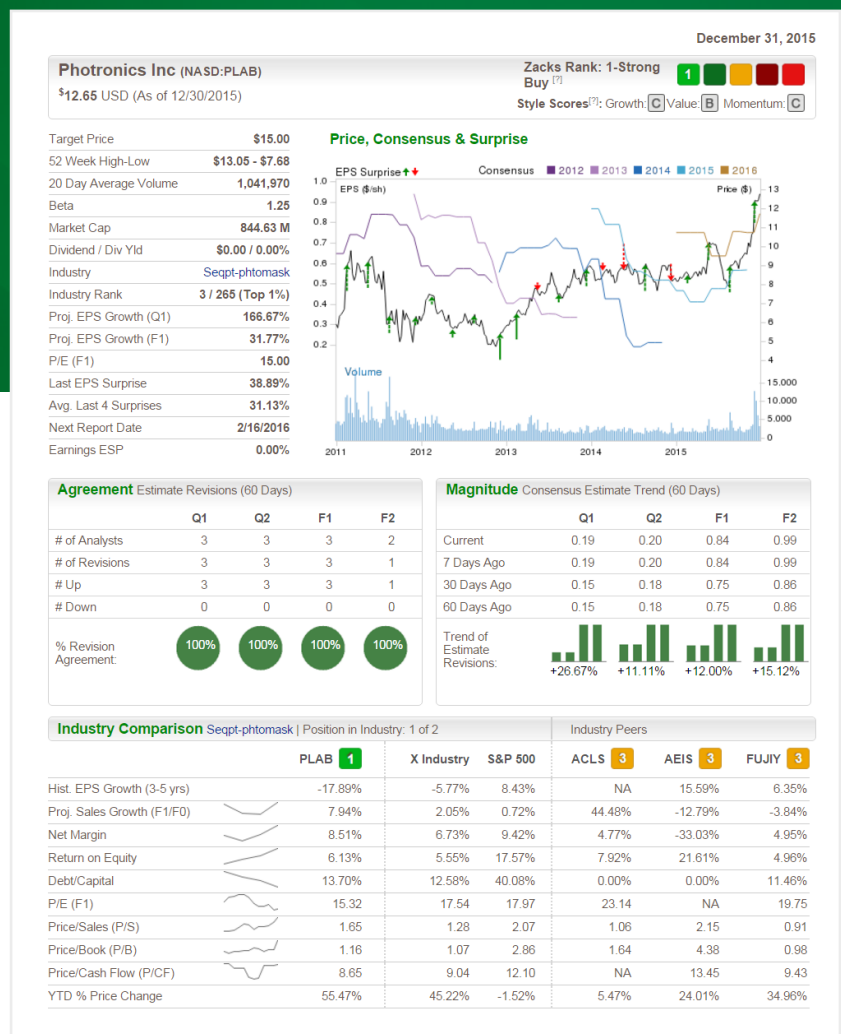


# Photronics (PLAB)

Photronics (PLAB) makes and sells photomasks, which are high precision photographic quartz plates containing microscopic images of electronic circuits.

Photomasks are used in the manufacture of semiconductors and flat panel displays (FPDs), as well as for use as masters to transfer circuit patterns onto semiconductor wafers and flat panel substrates during the fabrication of integrated circuits.

The company has beaten the Zacks Consensus Estimate in each of the last four quarters. The positive earnings surprise percentages were 16%, 27%, 41% and 39%. Analysts have also been increasing estimates, which pushed the stock to a Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy). Even more importantly, the last two quarters have seen the company post beats on the topline too.

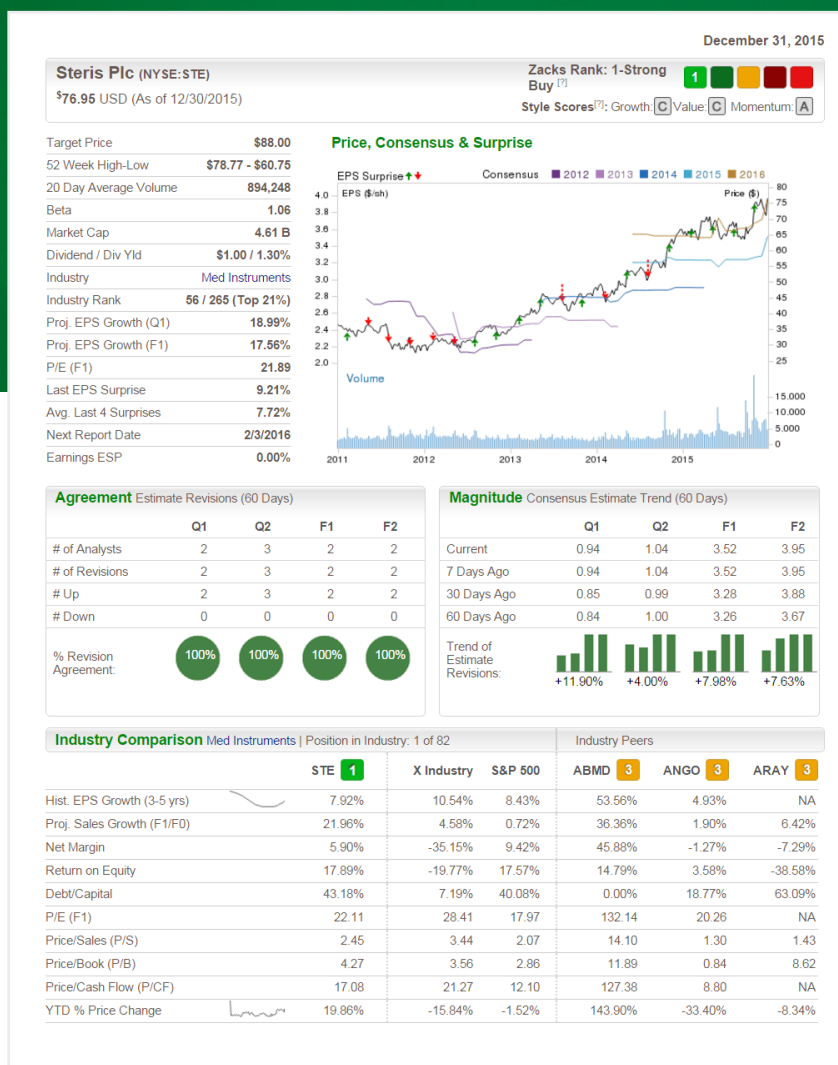




# Steris Plc (STE)

Steris Plc (STE) provides infection prevention, contamination control, microbial reduction, and procedural support products and services for healthcare, pharmaceutical, scientific, research, industrial and governmental customers. In their most recent quarter, revenues improved 6% year over year with growth in all three segments.

STE recently completed two major acquisitions: General Econopak for \$175 million, and Synergy Health for \$1.9 billion. Over the past 30 days, earnings estimates have all increased, which explains the company's status as a Zacks Rank #1 (Strong Buy). Due to its tax inversion, Steris decreased their tax rate by 10% and has been able to increase overall revenues in every segment before they have complete synergy with both of their new acquisitions. Management is expecting high single digit revenue growth for the remainder of 2016, and increased overall volume in all three segments.

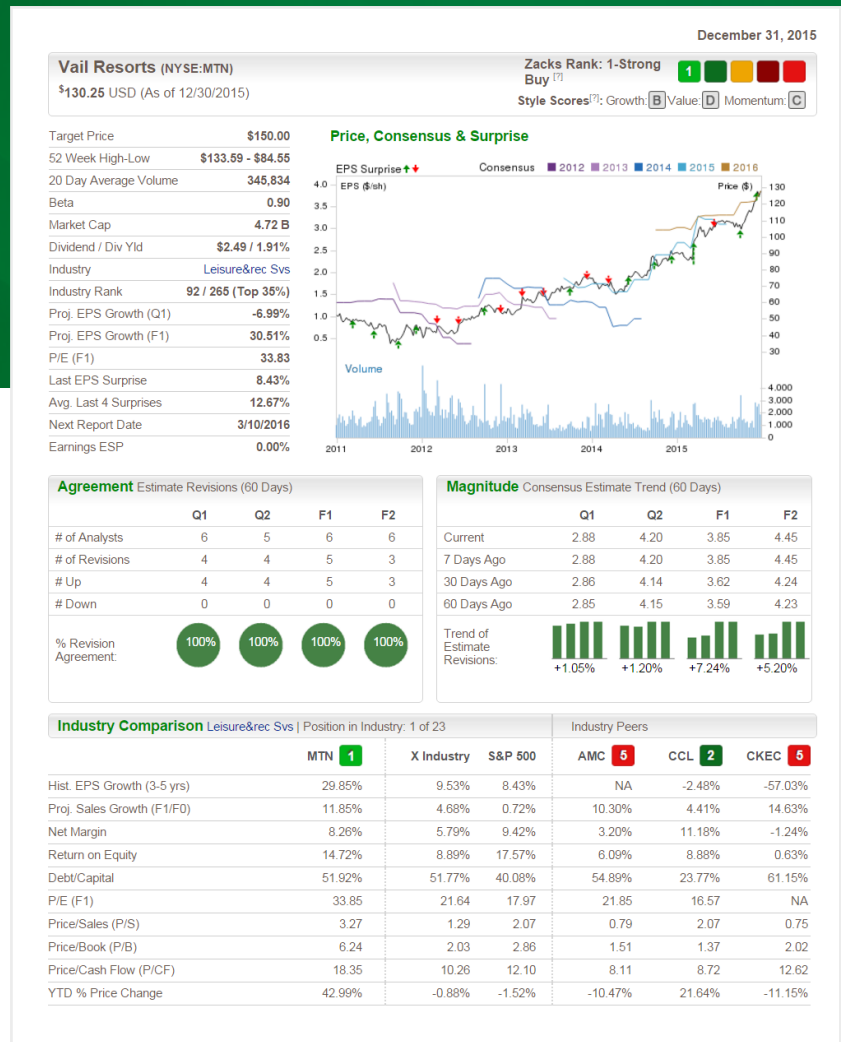


# Vail Resorts (MTN)

Vail Resorts (MTN) became a Zacks #1 Rank Strong Buy back in October after the company's Q4 FY2015 earnings beat expectations.

Shares have steadily climbed a mountain from \$105 to all-time highs above \$130 last week. It certainly helps that they delivered another earnings beat on December 7 for their Q1 FY2016 quarter.

But, the primary reason for the Zacks #1 Rank was the continuously rising EPS estimates from the analyst community over the past 30-90 days. For the current fiscal year ending in July, the full-year EPS consensus rose over 15% in the past 90 days. And next year's projections rose 15.5%. November snowstorms in the West allowed Vail Resorts to open its Colorado, Utah and California ski resorts prior to schedule. The pre-Thanksgiving opening of these resorts is expected to boost Vail's top line in the coming quarter as the company cashes in on the demand for skiing early in the season, especially for those eager to schedule holiday trips.



# What to Do Next

In addition to the hand-selected picks included in this special report, you can move yourself way ahead of the crowd in any market environment with the following:

- As part of this free report, you will now receive our free daily e-newsletter, *Profit from the Pros*. Each morning, Executive Vice President Steve Reitmeister will summarize the market, what it means for investors and what to do next. Plus you get links to articles featuring some of our top stock, ETF and mutual fund recommendations. Be sure to look for it in your email inbox before the markets open every day.
- Now you should bookmark our homepage to take advantage of one of the most complete investment websites around. Go there now:

[www.zacks.com](http://www.zacks.com)

- Even better, get all Zacks' private buys and sells through our *Zacks Ultimate* program. Watch our trades and market insights from all of Zacks' private portfolios from growth to value to momentum stocks, from insider moves to big earnings surprises, from options to ETFs, even trades EVP Steve Reitmeister makes in his personal account, and much more. This see-everything arrangement is unique: one month, one dollar, not one cent of further obligation.

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