



Zacks Issues Buy Recommendations On the Following 4 Stocks.

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ADTRAN, XTO Energy, CBRL Group, and Newell Rubbermaid.

CHICAGO-(BUSINESS WIRE)-Jan. 7, 2003-Zacks.com releases another list of stocks that are currently members of the coveted Zacks no.1 Ranked list which has produced an average annual return of 34% since inception in 1980 and is up +11.9% through July 1, 2002. Among the no.1 ranked stocks today we highlight the following companies: ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN) and XTO Energy Inc. (NYSE:XTO). Further they announced no.2 Rankings (Buy) on two other widely held stocks: CBRL Group, Inc. (NASDAQ:CBRL) and Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (NYSE:NWL). To see the full Zacks no.1 Ranked list or the rank for any other stock then visit.

<http://www.zacksrank1bw.zacks.com>

Here is a synopsis of why these stocks have a Zacks Rank of 1 (Strong Buy). Note that a no.1 Strong Buy rating is applied to 5% of all the stocks we rank:

ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN) designs, develops, manufactures, markets and services a broad range of high-speed digital transmission products utilized by telephone companies and corporate end-users to implement advanced digital data services over existing telephone networks. Last week, the company announced preliminary operating results for the fourth quarter, and said that earnings, assuming dilution, is expected at 30 cents to 32 cents a share. That result would easily surpass Wall Street's expectations and was the second consecutive quarter that it raised estimates. ADTN said it experienced significantly higher gross margins due to product cost reduction efforts and a favorable product mix. Analysts have bumped up estimates on the company to a good degree over the past three months, by about 16 cents for this year and approximately 14 cents for next. Given its ability to operate effectively in a tough environment and its positive outlook for the fourth quarter, investors may be able to dial up some profits with ADTN.

XTO Energy Inc. (NYSE:XTO) is engaged in the acquisition, development, exploitation and exploration of producing oil and gas properties, and in the production, processing, marketing and transportation of oil and natural gas. XTO recently said that it expects to increase gas production during 2003 by 15% over 2002. This comes after the company's Board of Directors approved a \$400 million development and exploration budget for 2003. XTO said that this new year will be exciting, and remains dedicated to measured growth, financial strength, and new opportunity. Analysts appear to agree with the company, and have raised this year's estimates by about 7 cents over the past three months, while expectations for next year have improved by approximately 21 cents in that same time frame. This news comes after the company reported better than expected earnings and revenue in its third quarter. XTO appears to be heading in the right direction, which could leave investors with a chance to tap into some nice returns.

Here is a synopsis of why these stocks have a Zacks Rank of 2 (Buy). Note that a no.2 Buy rating is applied to 15% of all the stocks we rank:

CBRL Group, Inc. (NASDAQ:CBRL) is a holding company that, through certain subsidiaries, is engaged in the operation and development of the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store(R) and Logan's Roadhouse(R) restaurant and retail concepts. CBRL raised its fiscal second quarter earnings guidance into the mid-40-cent range, which would easily beat the year-ago number of 37 cents while surpassing Wall Street's projections. Furthermore, it sees revenue growth of about 6%. The news came as CBRL said that quarter-to-date (December 19th) same-store restaurant sales at its Cracker Barrel Old Country Store units were about 2% - 2.5% higher than last

year. The past three months have seen estimates for this year and next rise by about 6 cents and approximately 12 cents respectively. The company has an excellent record of surpassing Wall Street's estimates over the past several quarters. With improved results in its second quarter, investors may want to consider adding some country flavor with CBRL to their portfolios.

Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (NYSE:NWL) is a global manufacturer and full-service marketer of name-brand consumer products serving the needs of volume purchasers, including discount stores and warehouse clubs, home centers and hardware stores, and office superstores and contract stationers. The company recently announced that it completed the acquisition of American Saw for \$450 million in cash. NWL said the acquisition reflects its continued expansion and enhancement of the product lines and customer base in the global power tool accessories and hand tools market. As a result, the addition should contribute 4 cents to its 2003 guidance. Therefore, NWL now expects full-year 2003 diluted earnings, excluding charges, of \$1.77 to \$1.87. The new expectation gives the company a better chance to surpass Wall Street's estimates. Analysts have raised NWL's estimates for this year and next only slightly in recent months, but there could be more room for improvement given its new market share and enhanced earnings expectation. NWL may be able to fortify your investment universe.

To truly take advantage of the Zacks Rank, you need to first understand how it works. That's why we created the free special report; "Zacks Rank Guide: Harnessing the Power of Earnings Estimate Revisions." Download your free copy now to prosper in the years to come. <http://freezrguideprbw1.zacks.com>

About the Zacks Rank

For over 20 years the Zacks Rank has proven that "Earnings estimate revisions are the most powerful force impacting stock prices." Since inception in 1980 no.1 Ranked stocks have generated an average annual return of +34.0% compared to the (a)S&P 500 return of only +14.7%. Plus this exclusive stock list has gained +11.9% through 7/1/02, +18.7 in 2001 and +16.2% in 2000; a substantial return compared to the large losses suffered by most investors during that time frame. Also note that the Zacks Rank system has just as many Strong Sell recommendations (Rank no.5) as Strong Buy recommendations (Rank no.1). And since 1980 the no.5 Ranked Strong Sells have under performed the S&P 500 by 89.8% annually. This is a healthy change from traditional Wall Street Brokerage firms who only give stocks Sell ratings less than 1% of the time. Thus, the Zacks Rank system can truly be used to effectively manage the trading in your portfolio.

For continuous coverage of Zacks no.1 Ranked stocks, then get your free subscription to "Profit from the Pros" e-mail newsletter where we highlight no.1 Ranked stocks poised to outperform the market. <http://www.zacksrank2bw.zacks.com/>

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