

Answer Key: Reading a Stock Table

A stock table lists information about stocks traded through the stock market. You can find stock tables online or in major newspapers. At first glance, a stock table looks like a lot of abbreviated information that's confusing. Once you know the symbols and abbreviations, you can easily read a stock table.

EXAMPLE

52W H	52W L	T	Name	Div	PE	L	H	Close	Chg
33.15	20.90	T	AT&T Inc	1.64	13	25.59	25.85	25.62	+0.07
55.84	37.44	KO	CocaCl	1.64	18	49.17	49.75	49.34	-.05
28.83	17.70	DTV	DirecTV	---	20	24.38	25.27	24.69	-.15
34.85	15.14	DIS	Disney	.35	15	25.60	26.83	26.69	+1.32
67.00	45.79	MCD	McDnlds	2.00	15	54.79	55.40	55.20	+0.36
63.85	46.25	WMT	WalMart	1.09	14	48.94	49.50	49.29	+0.31

The Symbols:

52W H—52-week high. This is the highest closing price of the stock in the past 52 weeks (or one year).

52W L—52-week low. This is the lowest closing price of the stock in the past 52 weeks (or one year).

T—Ticker abbreviation for the company.

Name—Name of the company.

Div—Dividend payment per year, per share.

PE—Price-to-earnings ratio. This is the stock price divided by the earnings per share for the past four quarters (or one year).

L—The lowest selling price of the company's stock on that day before closing.

H—The highest selling price of the company's stock on that day before closing.

Close—The final selling price of the company's stock on that day at closing.

Chg—The percentage change of the stock value from the close of the previous day to the close of this day.



(continued)

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Questions:

1. Which stock had the biggest gain on this day? Which lost the most?

Answer: Disney with a +1.32 gain. Biggest loser is DirecTV with a -.15 loss.

2. Which stock had the highest price per share in the past year? The lowest?

Answer: McDonald's had the highest price per share at 67.00. The lowest was Disney at 15.14 per share.

3. Which stock has lost the most money between its one-year high and the day's price?

Answer: WalMart. Take 63.85 minus 49.29 and you get 14.56. When you do this for all the stocks listed, this is the highest number.

4. Which stock has lost the least amount of money between its one-year high and the day's price?

Answer: DirecTV. Take 28.83 minus 24.69 and you get 4.14. When you do this for all the stocks listed, this is the lowest number.

5. Which stock interests you most? Why?

Answer: Answers will vary by person. Just make sure they make a logical choice.

This was the information of six major U.S. stocks at the close on Friday, August 7, 2009.