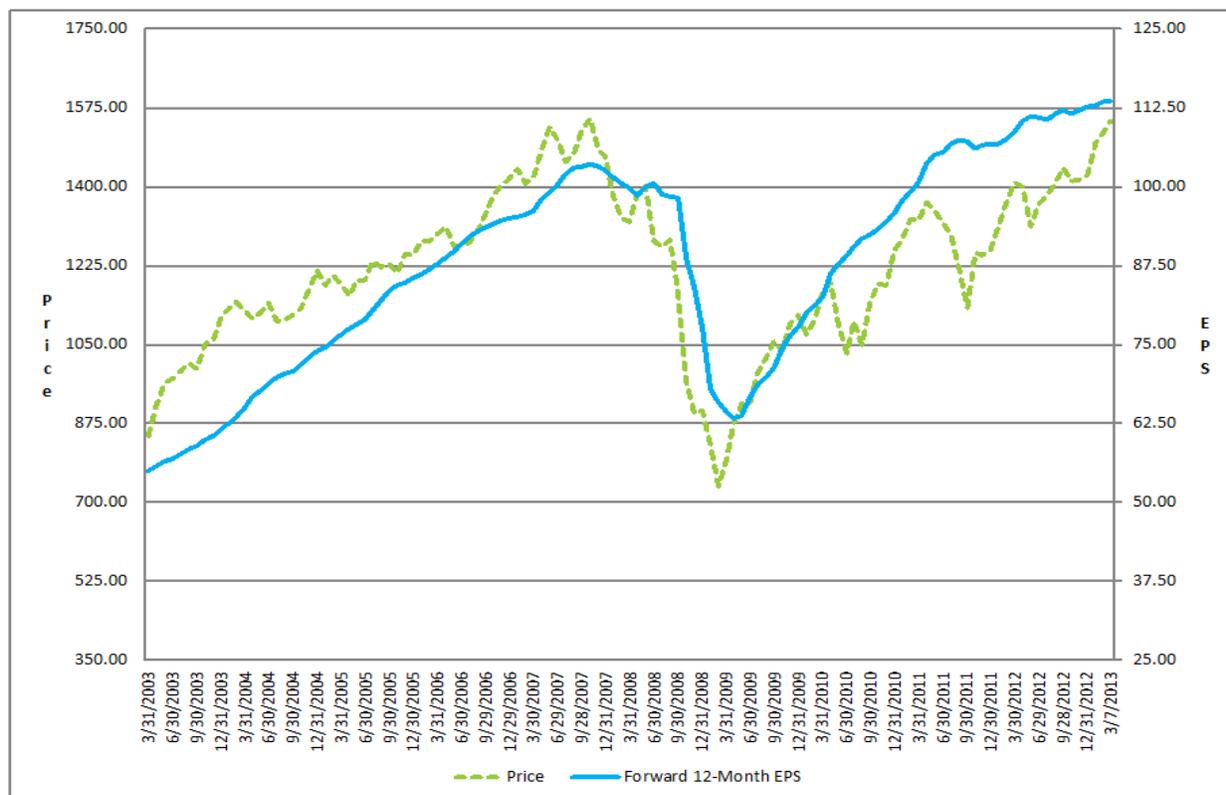


Key Metrics

- + **Earnings Growth:** The estimated earnings growth rate for Q1 2013 is -0.6%. If the final number is negative, it will mark the second year-over-year decline in earnings for the index in the past three quarters.
- + **Earnings Revisions:** On December 31, the earnings growth rate for Q1 2013 was 2.2%. All ten sectors have recorded a decrease in expected earnings growth, led by the Materials, Consumer Discretionary, and Information Technology sectors.
- + **Earnings Guidance:** For Q1 2013, 82 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 25 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- + **Valuation:** The current 12-month forward P/E ratio is 13.4. This P/E ratio is between the 5-year average (12.8) and 10-year average (14.2).
- + **Earnings Scorecard:** Of the 489 companies that have reported earnings to date for Q4 2012, 71% have reported earnings above the mean estimate and 64% have reported revenues above the mean estimate.

S&P 500 Forward 12-Month EPS vs. Price: 10-Year



All data published in this report is available on FactSet. Please contact media_request@factset.com or 1-877-FACTSET for more information.

Topic of the Week:

Dow 30 Companies Continued to See Revenues Decline in Q4

Although the DJIA hit record high levels this past week, many are concerned about issues that could potentially derail the current rally. One of those issues is the continued weak economic conditions in Europe. At this point in time, all 30 companies in the DJIA have now reported earnings results for Q4 2012. Many companies in the DJIA specifically commented on the difficult conditions they faced in Europe during the quarter in either their earnings release or conference call. In terms of revenue growth from Europe, what did these companies report for numbers for the fourth quarter? How did the numbers for Q4 2012 compare to prior quarters.

Overall, eleven of the 30 companies in the DJIA provided revenue growth numbers for Europe. Of these eleven companies, ten reported a year-over-year decline in revenues from Europe. This matches the total from the previous quarter (Q3 2012). Two of these ten companies reported double-digit declines: Hewlett-Packard and Pfizer. Two of these ten companies have now recorded four consecutive quarters of declines in year-over-year revenue growth: McDonald's and Caterpillar. Johnson & Johnson was the only company (of the eleven) that reported growth in revenues in Q4 2012 in Europe.

While these numbers clearly show companies in the DJIA are still facing difficult conditions in Europe, there may be a silver lining. On a sequential basis, six of the eleven companies recorded smaller declines in sales growth relative to Q3 2012, while Johnson & Johnson reported sales growth in Q4 2012 after a 3% decline in Q3 2012.

Dow 30: Revenue Growth in Europe in Q4 2012



*EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa)

^Comparable Store Sales

+Pharmaceutical Sales

Q1 2013 Earnings Season: Overview

Slight Drop in Earnings Growth This Week; Estimates Cuts for Quarter at Average Levels

The estimated earnings growth rate for Q1 2013 is -0.6% this week, slightly below last week's growth rate of -0.5%. The decrease in the growth rate can be attributed to small downward estimate revisions for companies in the Energy sector. As a result, the estimated earnings growth rate for the sector fell to 4.5% from 4.8% during the week.

Materials, Consumer Discretionary, and Information Technology Sectors: Largest Drop in Growth

The estimated earnings growth rate of -0.6% today for the index is below the estimate of 2.2% at the start of the quarter (December 31). All ten sectors have witnessed a decrease in expected earnings growth over this time frame, led by the Materials, Consumer Discretionary, and Information Technology sectors.

The projected earnings growth rate for the Materials sector is 1.0% today, down from an expectation of 7.2% at the start of the quarter. Companies in the Steel sub-industry in this sector have recorded significant cuts to estimates over this time frame, including U.S. Steel (to -\$0.15 from \$0.27), Nucor (to \$0.38 from \$0.61), and Allegheny Technologies (to \$0.24 from \$0.38).

The estimated earnings growth for the Consumer Discretionary sector is 2.1%, below an estimate of 7.3% on December 31. Companies that have witnessed substantial reductions in estimates during this time include Abercrombie & Fitch (to -\$0.04 from \$0.14), J.C. Penney (to -\$0.65 from -\$0.30), and Amazon.com (to \$0.09 from \$0.35)

The predicted earnings growth rate for the Information Technology sector is -3.1%, down from a projection of growth of 1.4% at the beginning of the quarter. Companies in semiconductor industries have recorded large declines in earnings estimates since December 31, including Teradyne (to \$0.03 from \$0.17), NVIDIA (to \$0.10 from \$0.21), and Lam Research (to \$0.36 from \$0.51).

Decrease in Bottom-Up EPS Estimate for Index: In-Line with Long-Term Average

However, the aggregate cuts to estimates for the quarter on a per share basis are in-line with the trailing 10-year average. The bottom-up EPS estimate for Q1 2013 has declined 2.9% over the first two months of the quarter (to \$25.57 from \$26.34). Over the past ten years (40 quarters), the average change in the bottom-up EPS estimate over the first two months of the quarter has been -3.0%.

EPS Guidance: High Percentage (77%) Issued for Q1 to date

The reduction in the earnings growth rate for the quarter can be attributed in part to the high percentage of companies that have issued negative EPS guidance for the quarter, particularly in the Materials and Consumer Discretionary sectors.

Of the 107 companies that have issued EPS guidance for the first quarter, 82 have issued projections below the mean EPS estimate and 25 have issued a projection above the mean EPS estimate. Thus, 77% (82 out of 107) of the companies that have issued EPS guidance to date for Q1 2013 have issued negative guidance. This percentage is well above the five-year average of 61%.

At the sector level, the Materials (100%), Health Care (88%), Consumer Staples (80%), and Consumer Discretionary (79%) sectors have the highest percentages of companies issuing negative guidance (with a minimum of five companies issuing EPS guidance in the sector). The Materials and Consumer Discretionary sectors have also recorded the largest declines in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter.

Slight Year-Over-Year Earnings Decline (-0.6%) Projected for Q1 2013

The estimated earnings growth rate for Q1 2013 is -0.6%. If this is the final growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the second year-over-year decline in earnings for the index in the past three quarters. Four of the ten sectors are predicted to report lower earnings relative to a year ago, led by the Energy and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, the Utilities, Financials, and Consumer Discretionary sectors are expecting the highest earnings growth rates.

Energy: Lowest Earnings Growth (-4.8%)

The Energy sector has the lowest earnings growth rate at -4.8%. Five of the seven sub-industries in the sector are expected to see a year-over-year decrease in earnings, led by the Coal & Consumable Fuels (-99%) sub-industry. On the other hand, the Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing sub-industry (55%) is predicted to have the highest earnings growth of any sub-industry in the sector.

Information Technology: Apple vs. Microsoft

The Information Technology sector has the second lowest earnings growth of any sector at -3.1%. Four of the eight industries in this sector are projected to see a decline in earnings, led by the Semiconductor & Semiconductor Equipment (-25%) and Computers & Peripherals (-19%) industries. At the company level, Apple is the largest detractor to earnings growth for the sector, as the company is expected to report a year-over-year decline in EPS for the second consecutive quarter. If Apple is excluded, the earnings growth rate for the sector improves to 1.0%. On the other hand, Microsoft is the largest contributor to earnings growth in the sector. If Microsoft is excluded, the earnings growth rate for the sector falls to 6.7%.

Utilities: Highest Earnings Growth (7.4%) Due to Small Group of Companies

The Utilities sector has the highest earnings growth of any sector at 7.4%. All four industries in this sector are predicted to report earnings growth. However, four companies are driving the growth in the sector: Duke Energy, NRG Energy, Northeast Utilities, and Edison International. If these four companies are excluded, the earnings growth rate for the sector falls to -1.9%.

Financials: Bank of America vs. AIG

The Financials sector has the second highest earnings growth rate of any sector at 2.9%. This marks a drop in earnings growth for the sector from the 16.6% growth reported in Q4 2012 and the 11.7% growth reported in Q3 2012. Only four of the eight industries in the sector are predicted to see earnings growth, led by the Diversified Financial Services (29%) industry. At the company level, Bank of America is the largest contributor to earnings growth. In fact, Bank of America is expected to be one of the largest contributors to earnings growth for the Financials sector for all of 2013. If Bank of America is excluded, the earnings growth rate for Q1 drops to -1.7%. On the other hand, AIG is the largest detractor to earnings growth for the sector. If this company excluded, the earnings growth rate for the sector improves to 7.8%.

Consumer Discretionary: Homebuilders Expecting Highest Growth

The Consumer Discretionary sector has the third highest earnings growth rate at 2.1%. At the sub-industry level, 21 of the 32 sub-industries are projected to report growth for the quarter. The Homebuilding (233%) and Leisure Products (184%) sub-industries are expected to see the highest earnings growth, while the Computer & Electronics Retail (-84%) and Education Services (-69%) are expected to see the lowest earnings growth.

Slight Year-Over-Year Revenue Growth (0.4%) Projected for Q1 2013

The estimated revenue growth rate for Q1 2013 is 0.4%, down from an estimate of 0.9% at the start of the quarter. Only two of the ten sectors are predicted to report a decline in revenues: Energy and Materials. On the other hand, the Utilities and Health Care sectors are expected to report the highest revenue growth for the quarter.

The Utilities sector has the highest revenue growth rate at 7.1%. At the company level, Duke Energy and NRG Energy are the largest contributors to earnings growth. If these two companies are excluded, the growth rate for the Utilities sector drops to 2.6%.

The Health Care sector has the second highest revenue growth rate at 6.3%. At the company level, Express Scripts is the largest contributor to revenue growth. The company's revenue estimate for Q1 2013 includes the results of Medco, while the year-ago revenue actual is stand alone. Excluding this company, the revenue growth rate for the sector falls to 1.6%.

The Energy sector has the lowest revenue growth rate of all ten sectors at -12.5%. At the company level, Conoco Phillip is the largest detractors to growth in the sector. For Conoco Phillips, revenues for Q1 2013 are stand alone for Conoco Phillips, while the year-ago revenues include Phillips 66. Excluding Conoco Phillips, the revenue growth rate for the Energy sector improves to -2.0%.

Global Themes: Europe vs. Emerging Markets

Europe is reporting a decline in economic growth relative to last year. According to FactSet Economics, the European Union recorded a decrease in GDP of 0.6% in Q4 2012, compared to growth of 0.8% in Q4 2011. During the fourth quarter earnings season, many companies stated that economic conditions were still weak in Europe.

"The decline in Ford Europe's fourth quarter pre-tax results was more than explained by unfavorable volume and mix. The industry for the 19 markets Ford tracks in Europe was 13.5 million units, the lowest quarterly SAAR since 1995." – Ford Motor (Jan. 29)

Economic growth in countries in emerging markets has also been decreasing over the past year. According to FactSet Economics, two of the four "BRIC" countries recorded slower GDP growth and one country recorded constant growth during this time. For Q4 2011, China, India, and Brazil recorded GDP growth of 8.9%, 5.8% and 1.4%, respectively. By Q4 2012, GDP growth rates for China, India, and Brazil had fallen to 7.9%, 4.1% and 1.4%.

However, the 7.9% GDP growth reported by China reflected a sequential improvement relative to the GDP growth reported for Q3 2012 (7.4%). A number of companies have stated that they saw strength in emerging markets in the fourth quarter, or that they expect stronger economic growth and demand for goods in emerging markets (particularly China) in 2013.

"Growth in China is showing signs of picking up with positive implications for the rest of Asia. The general consensus of our business leaders on China is the economy is improving and this will continue through 2013." –DuPont (Jan. 22)

Will revenue growth continue to be weak in Europe? Will revenue growth improve in emerging markets (China)? These will be themes to monitor during the upcoming earnings season

Domestic Themes: Housing Market vs. Fiscal Policy

In the U.S., the housing market continues to show signs of recovery. During the fourth quarter earnings season, a number of companies commented on the positive impact of this development on revenue and earnings growth.

*“In the U.S., we expect demand to be up 2% to 3% for the year as we're increasingly optimistic about a more structural demand recovery and we do continue to see very positive trends in U.S. housing.”
–Whirlpool (Jan.31)*

On the other hand, companies have also commented on the negative impact of fiscal policy issues such as the increase in the payroll tax and the impact of continuing resolutions and sequestration as impediments to earnings growth for the fourth quarter.

“The first three weeks of December were soft, given our Black Friday success and the additional shopping days this year, but we rebounded with double-digit positive comps the week of Christmas and continued with strength into the first part of January. In the last couple of weeks of the quarter, we began to see an impact from the increase in payroll taxes and the delay in the income tax refunds.” –Wal-Mart (Feb. 21)

“The IS&GS business segment has been impacted by the continuing downturn in the federal information technology budgets and the impact of the continuing resolution that was effective on Oct. 1, 2012, the start of the U.S. Government’s fiscal year.” –Lockheed Martin (Jan. 24)

Will the improving housing market continue to boost revenue growth in Q1? Will fiscal policies continue to have a negative impact on revenue and earnings growth? These will be themes to monitor during the upcoming earnings season.

Analysts Cutting Estimates, but Still See Double-Digit Earnings Growth in 2nd Half

Since the start of the first quarter (December 31), analysts have also reduced earnings growth expectations for Q2 2013 (to 4.9% from 6.3%), Q3 2013 (to 10.1% from 10.4%), and Q4 2013 (to 15.7% from 17.3%).

Despite the estimate cuts, analysts are still calling for double-digit earnings growth in Q3 2013 (10.1%) and Q4 2013 (15.7%). However, analysts are predicting much lower revenue growth rates for both Q3 (4.6%) and Q4 (1.9%) compared to the earnings growth rates.

Valuation: Forward P/E at 13.4, Between 5-Year Average and 10-Year Average

The current forward 12-month P/E ratio for the index is 13.4. This 13.4 P/E ratio is above the prior 5-year average forward 12-month P/E ratio of 12.8, but below the prior 10-year average forward 12-month P/E ratio of 14.2.

Companies Reporting Next Week: 2

During the upcoming week, one S&P 500 company is scheduled to report earnings for Q4 2012 and one S&P 500 company is scheduled to report earnings for Q1 2013.

Q4 2012: Scorecard

Q4 2012 Earnings: Above, In-Line, Below Estimates

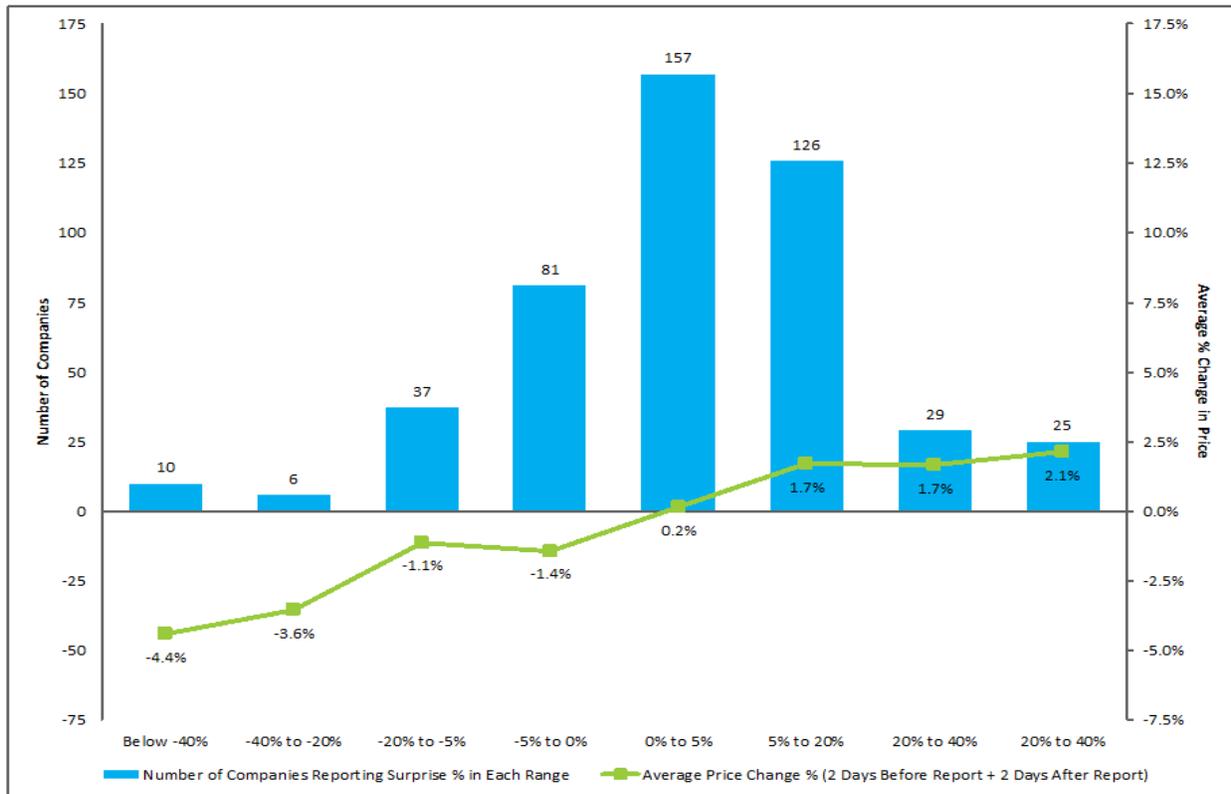


Q4 2012 Revenues: Above, In-Line, Below Estimates

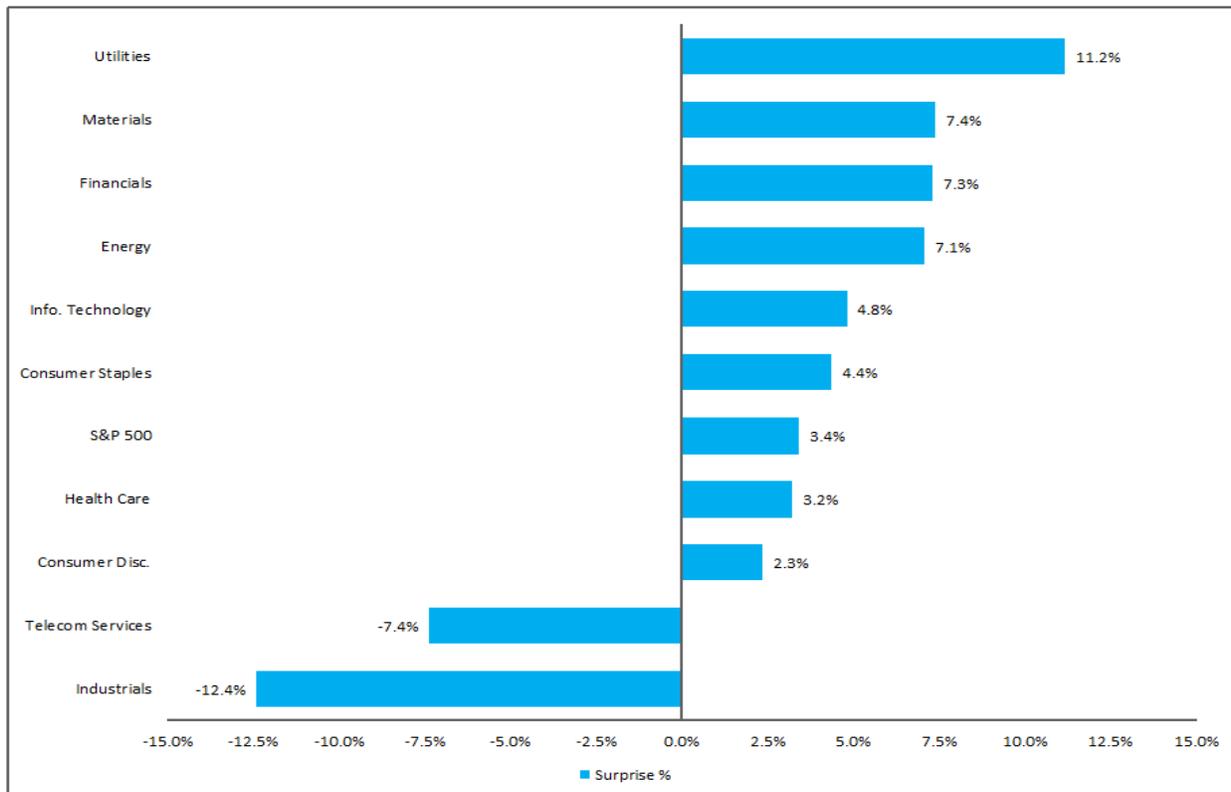


Q4 2012: Scorecard

Q4 2012: Surprise % vs. Average Price Change %

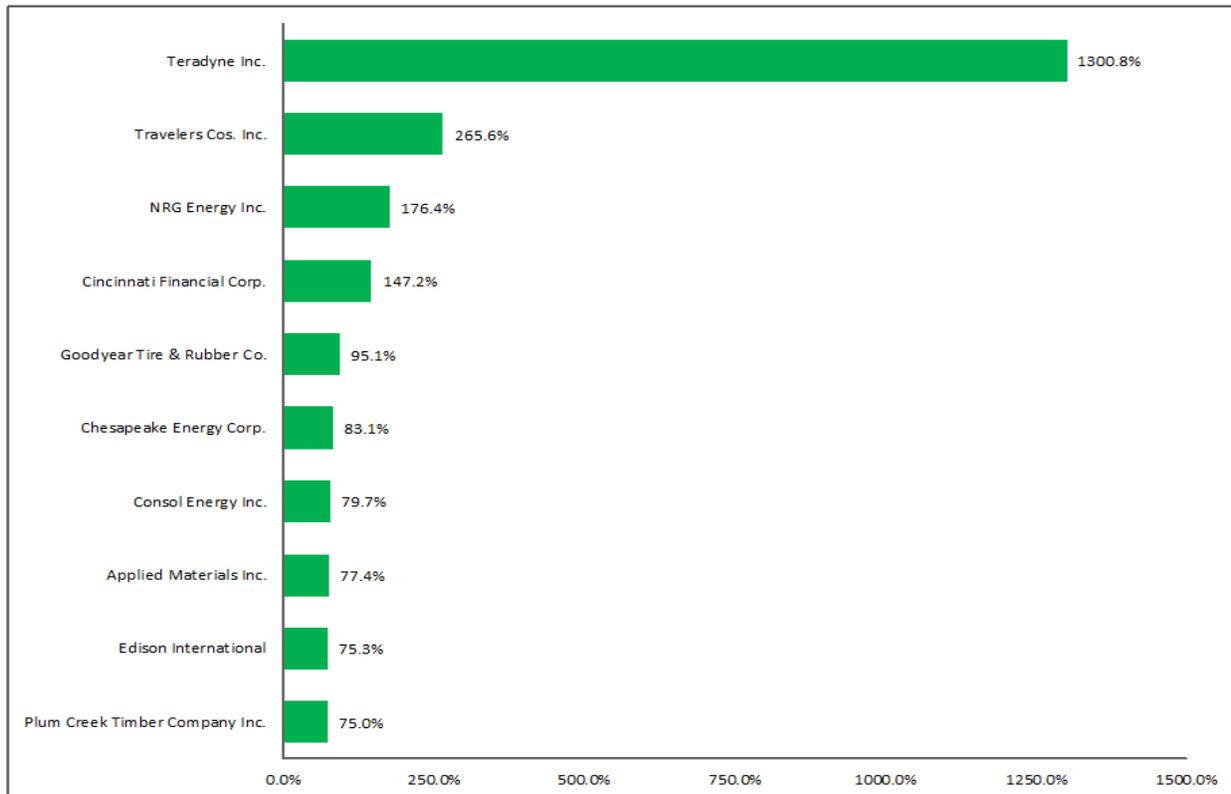


Q4 2012: Sector Level Surprise %

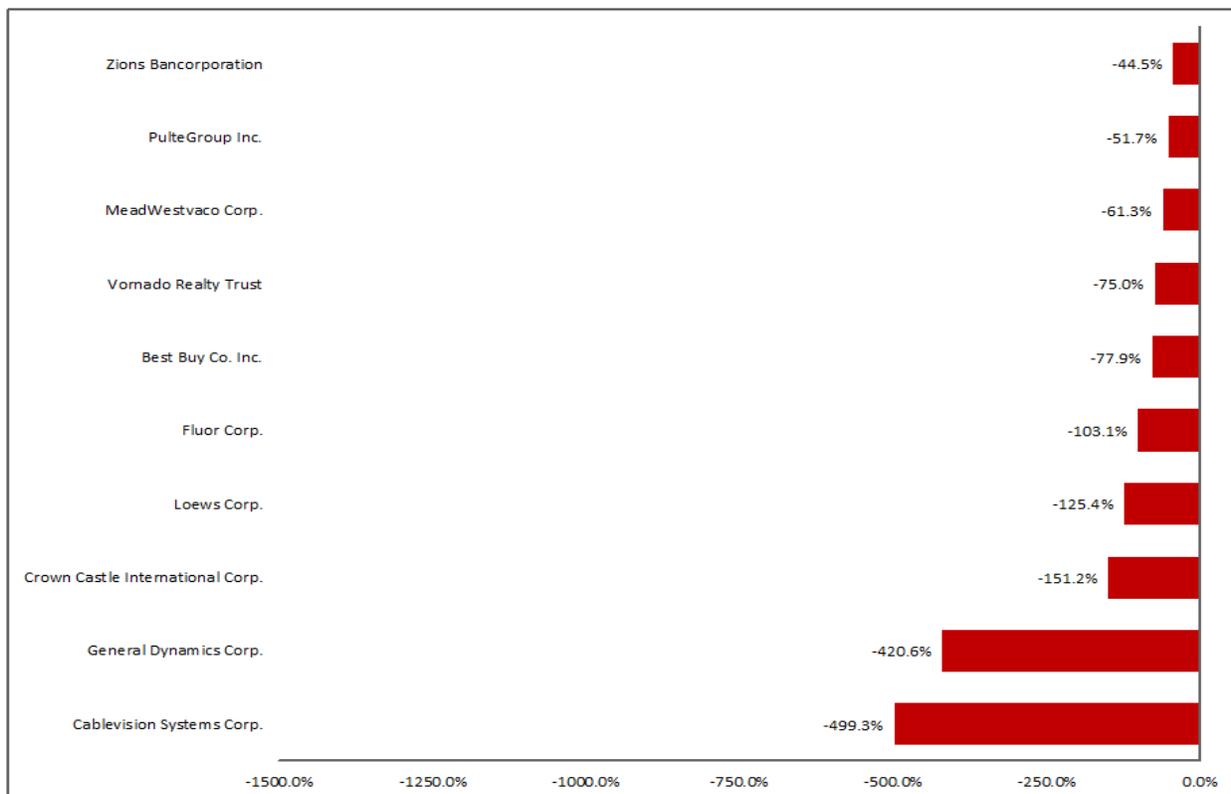


Q4 2012: Scorecard

EPS Surprise %: Top 10 Companies

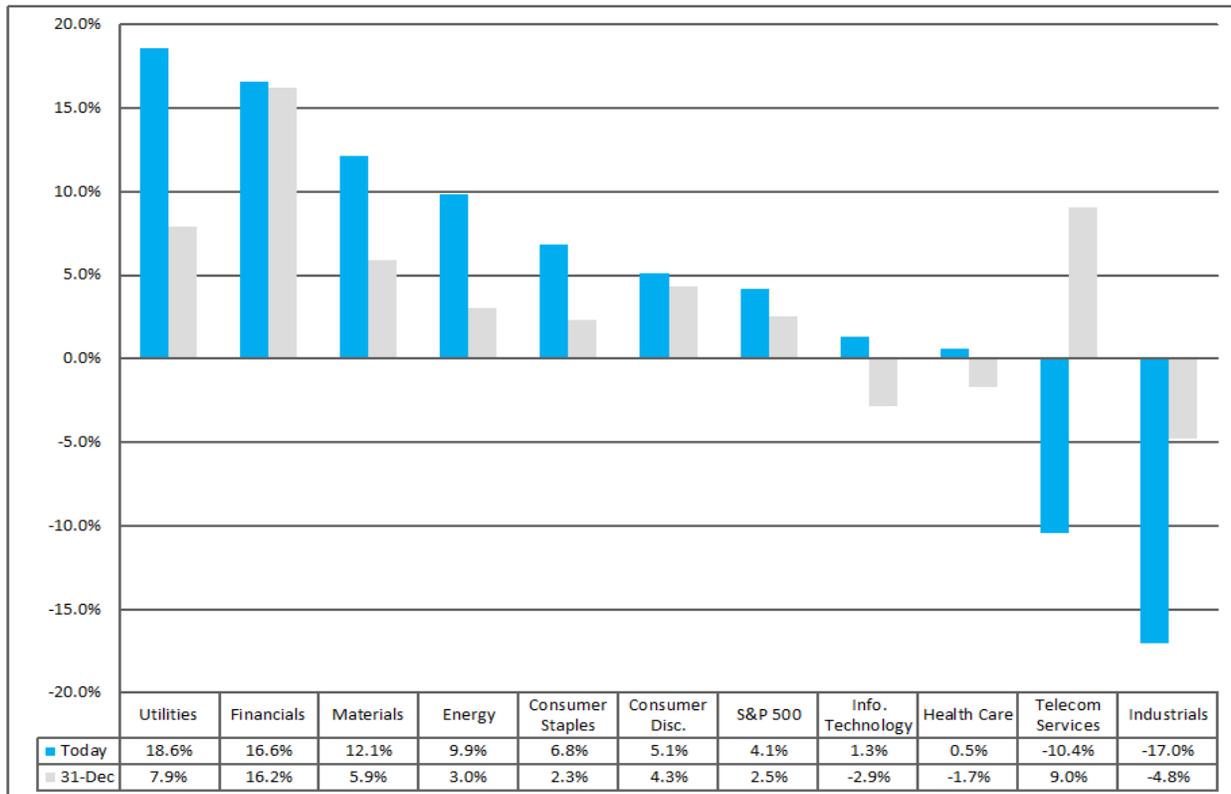


EPS Surprise %: Bottom 10 Companies

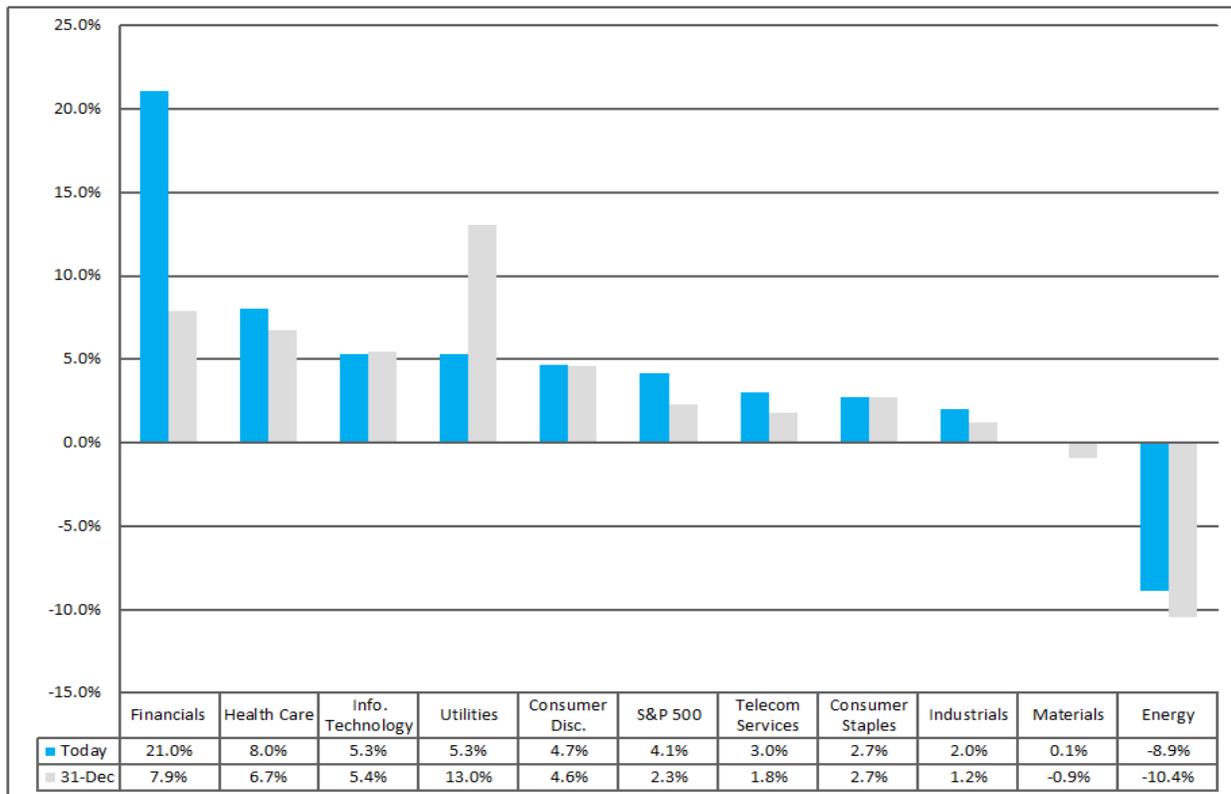


Q4 2012: Growth

Q4 2012 Earnings Growth



Q4 2012 Revenue Growth

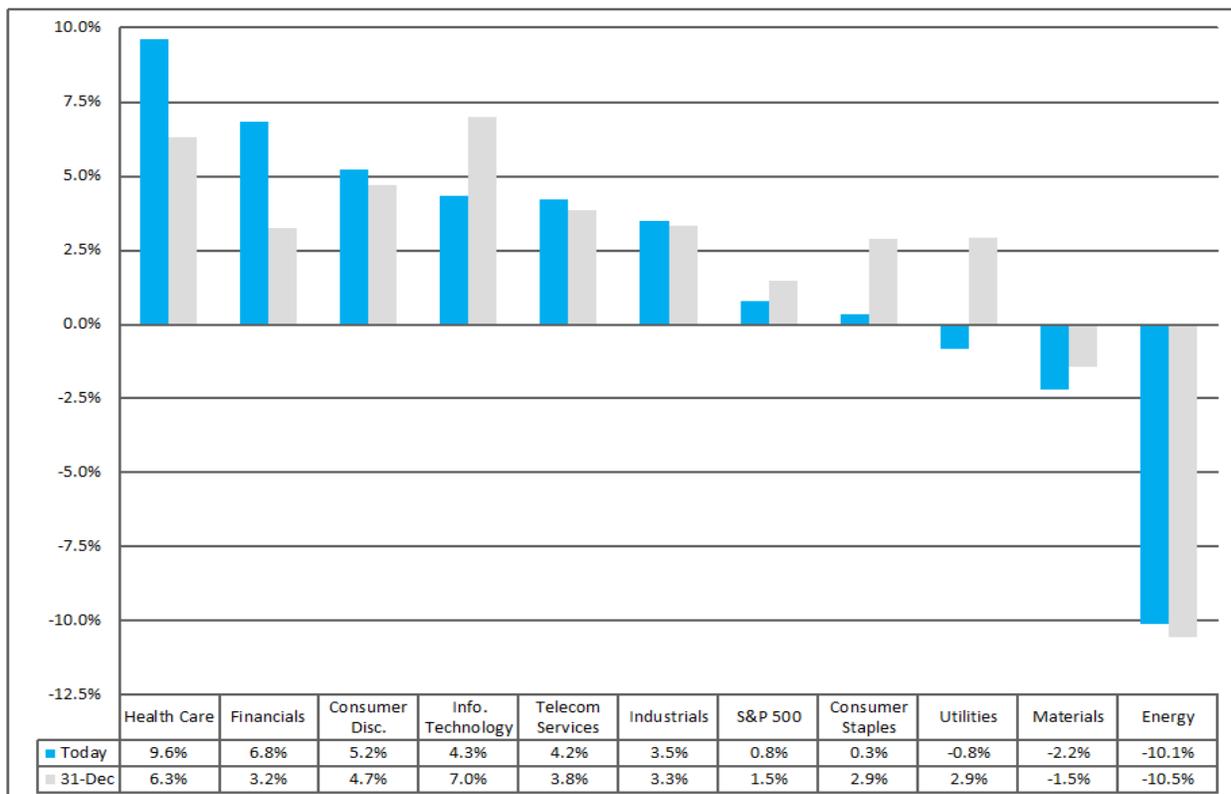


CY 2012: Growth

CY 2012 Earnings Growth

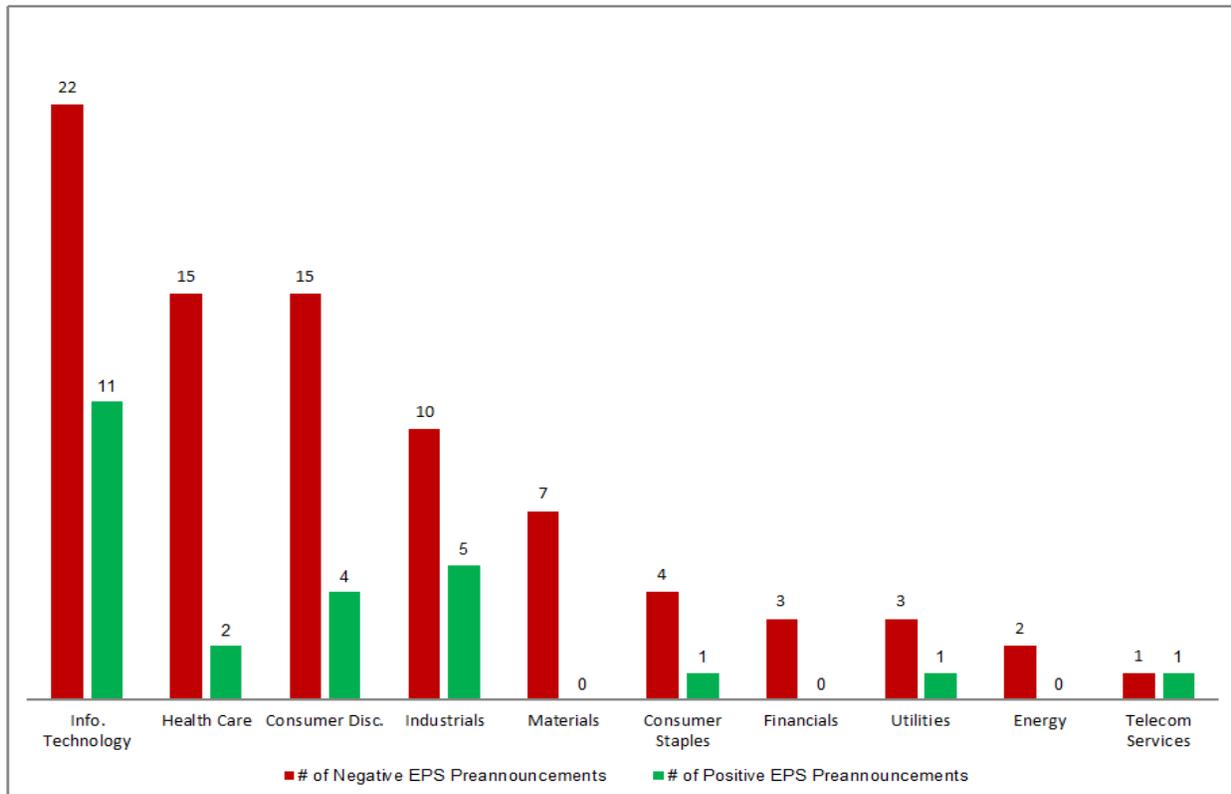


CY 2012 Revenue Growth



Q1 2013: Guidance

Number of Positive & Negative EPS Preannouncements: Q1 2013

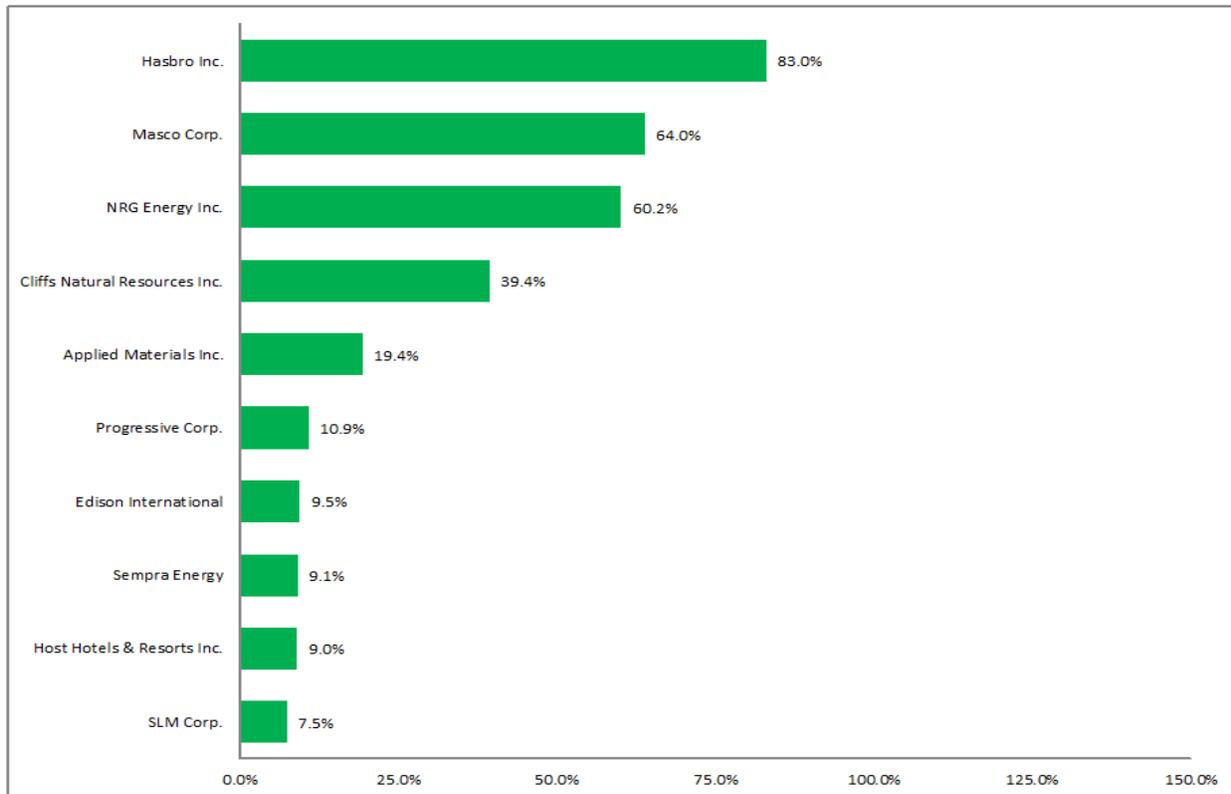


Percentage of Positive & Negative EPS Preannouncements: Q1 2013

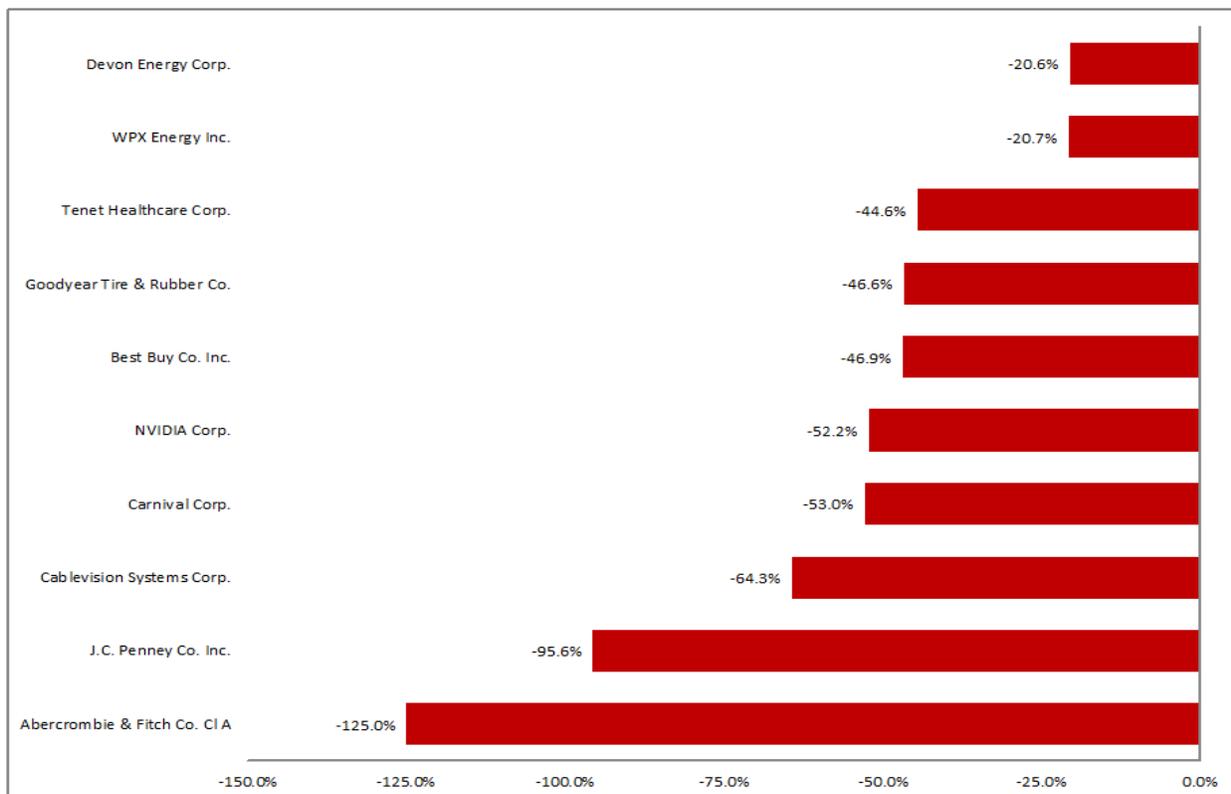


Q1 2013: EPS Revisions

Highest Upward Change (Trailing 4-Weeks) in Mean EPS Estimate: Top 10 Companies

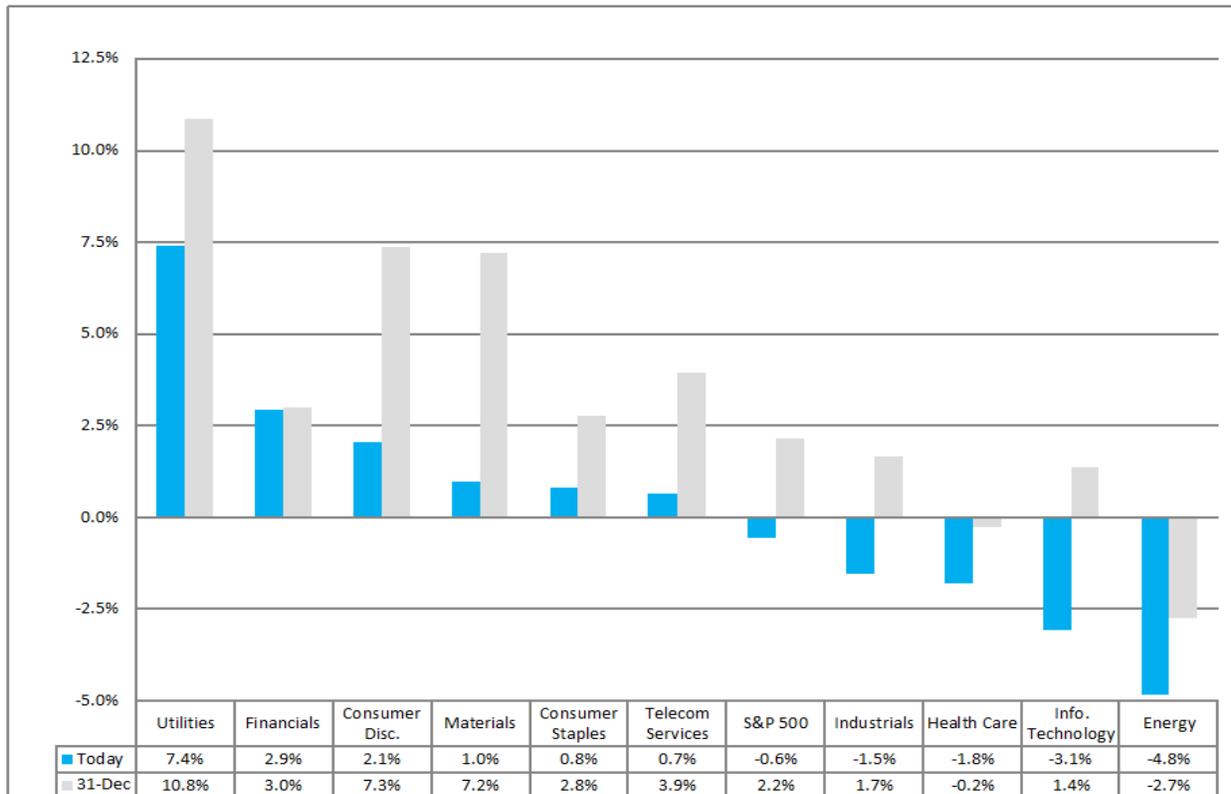


Highest Downward Change (Trailing 4-Weeks) in Mean EPS Estimate: Top 10 Companies



Q1 2013: Growth

Q1 2013 Earnings Growth

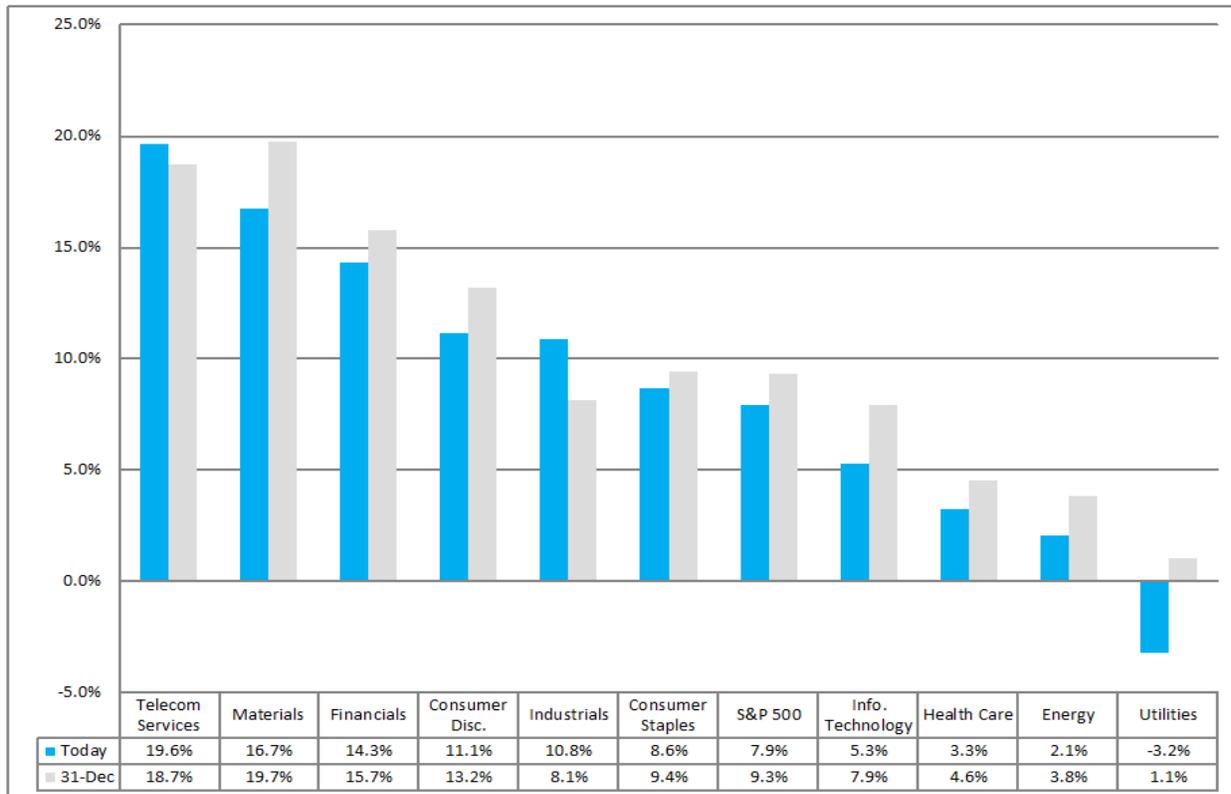


Q1 2013 Revenue Growth

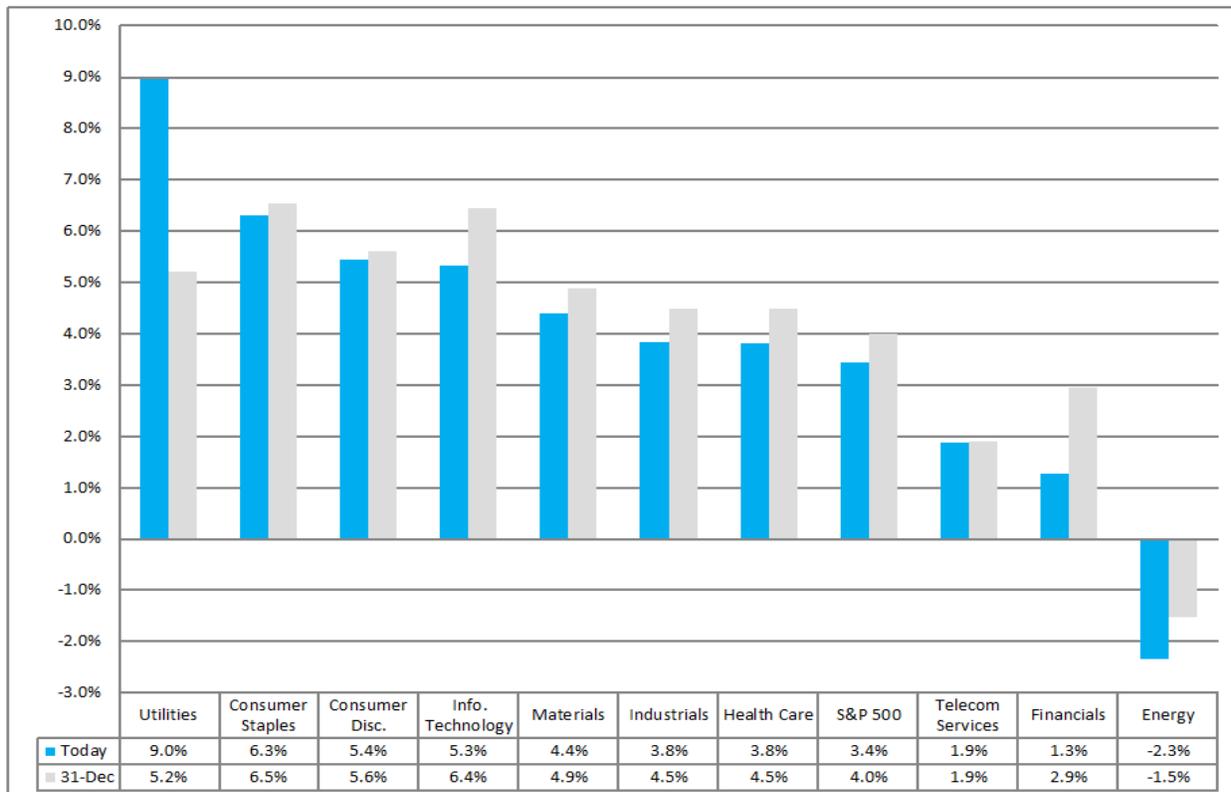


CY 2013: Growth

CY 2013 Earnings Growth

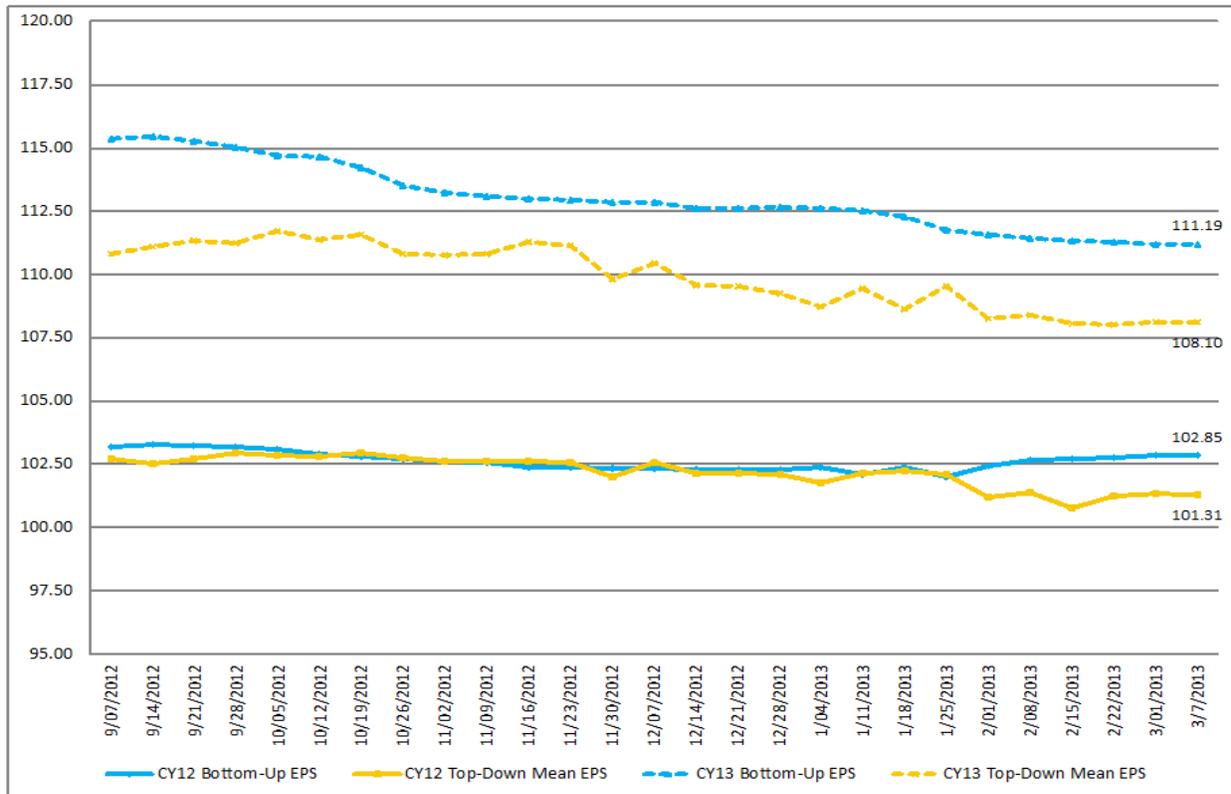


CY 2013 Revenue Growth

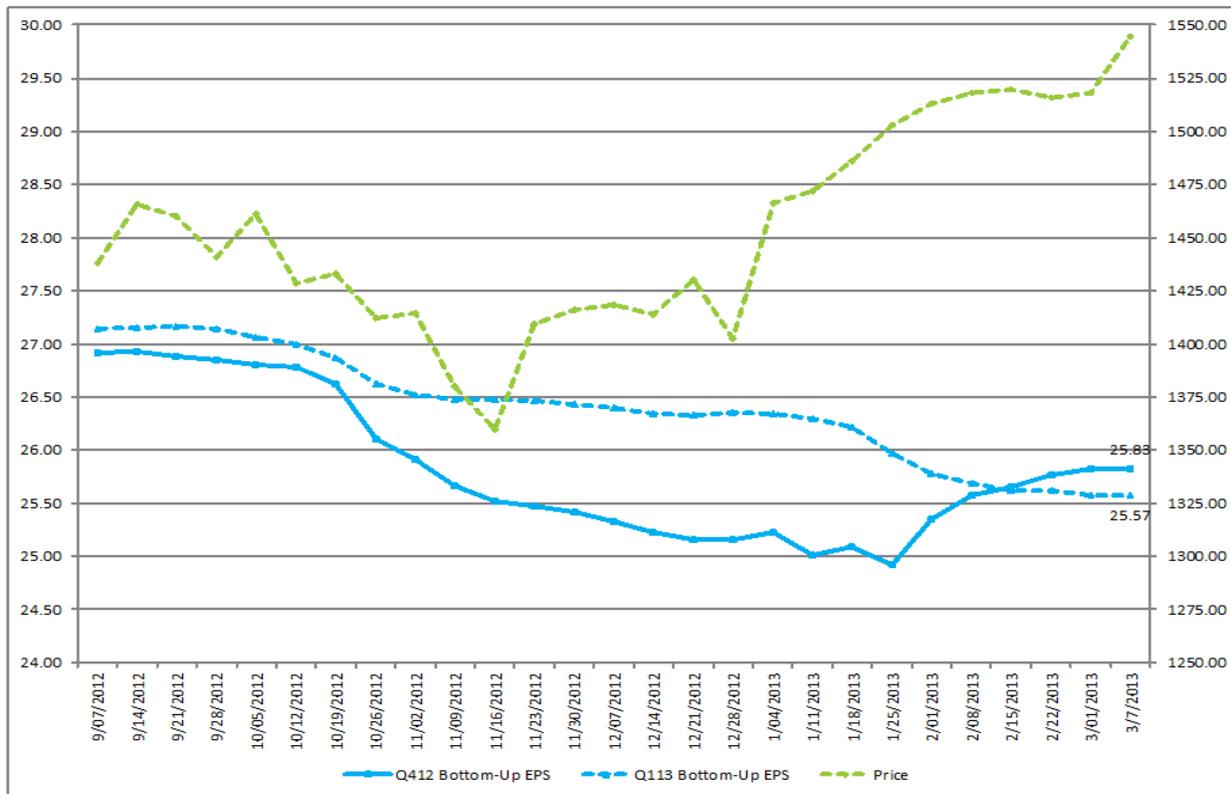


Bottom-up Estimates: Revisions

CY Bottom-Up EPS vs. Top-Down Mean EPS (Trailing 26-Weeks)

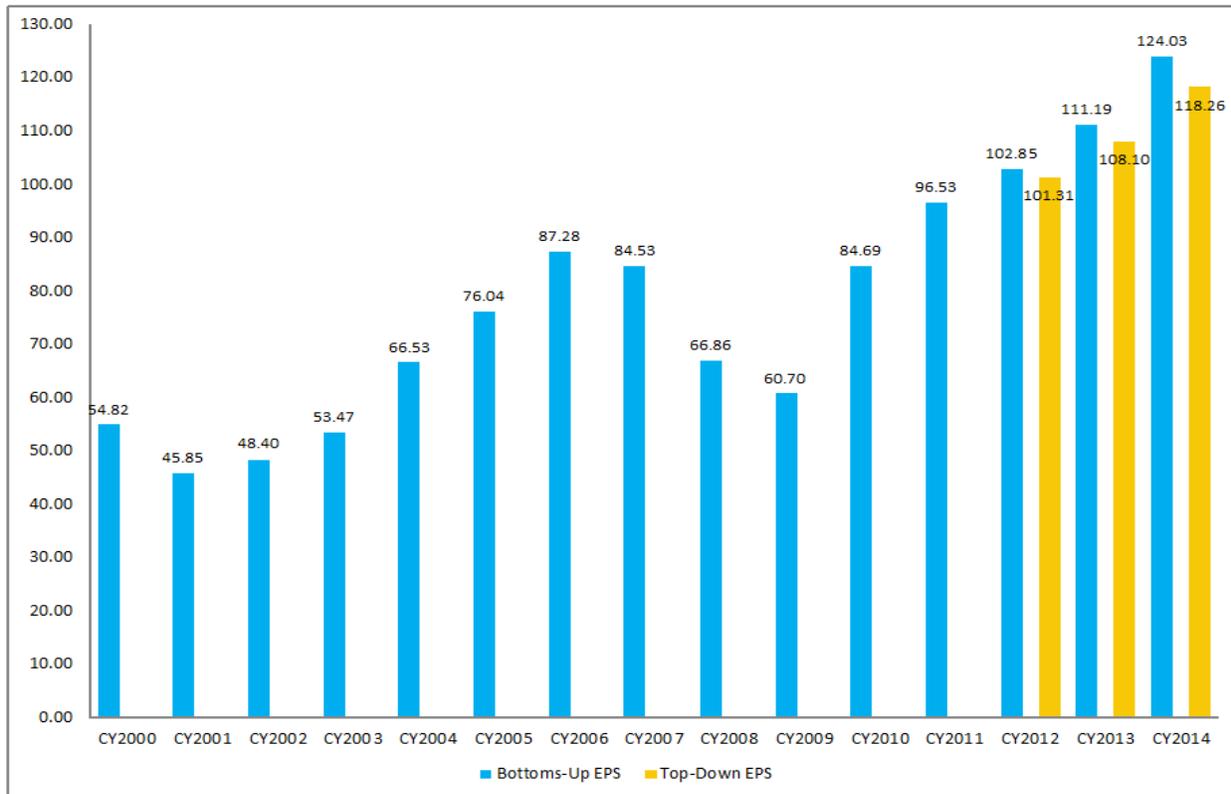


Change in Q412 and Q113 Bottom-Up EPS vs. Price (Trailing 26-Weeks)

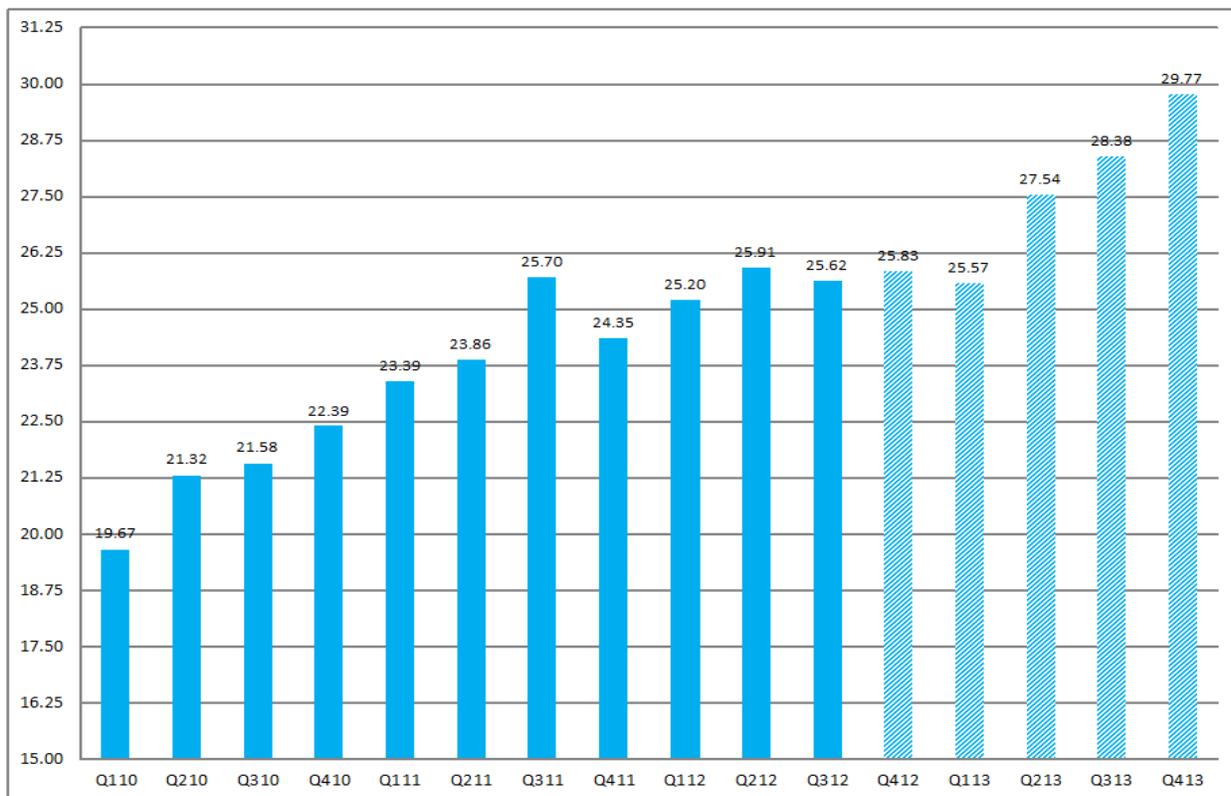


Bottom-up Estimates: Current & Historical

Calendar Year Bottom-Up EPS Actuals & Estimates

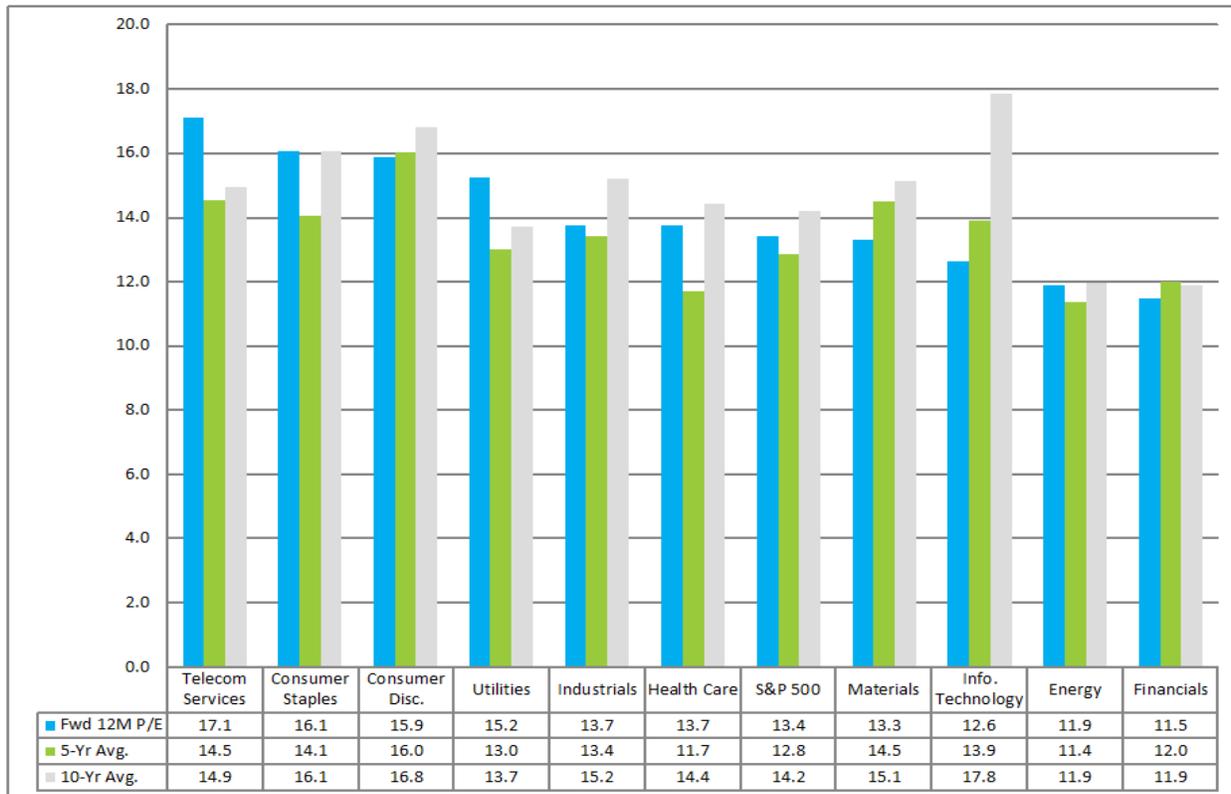


Calendar Year Bottom-Up EPS Actuals & Estimates

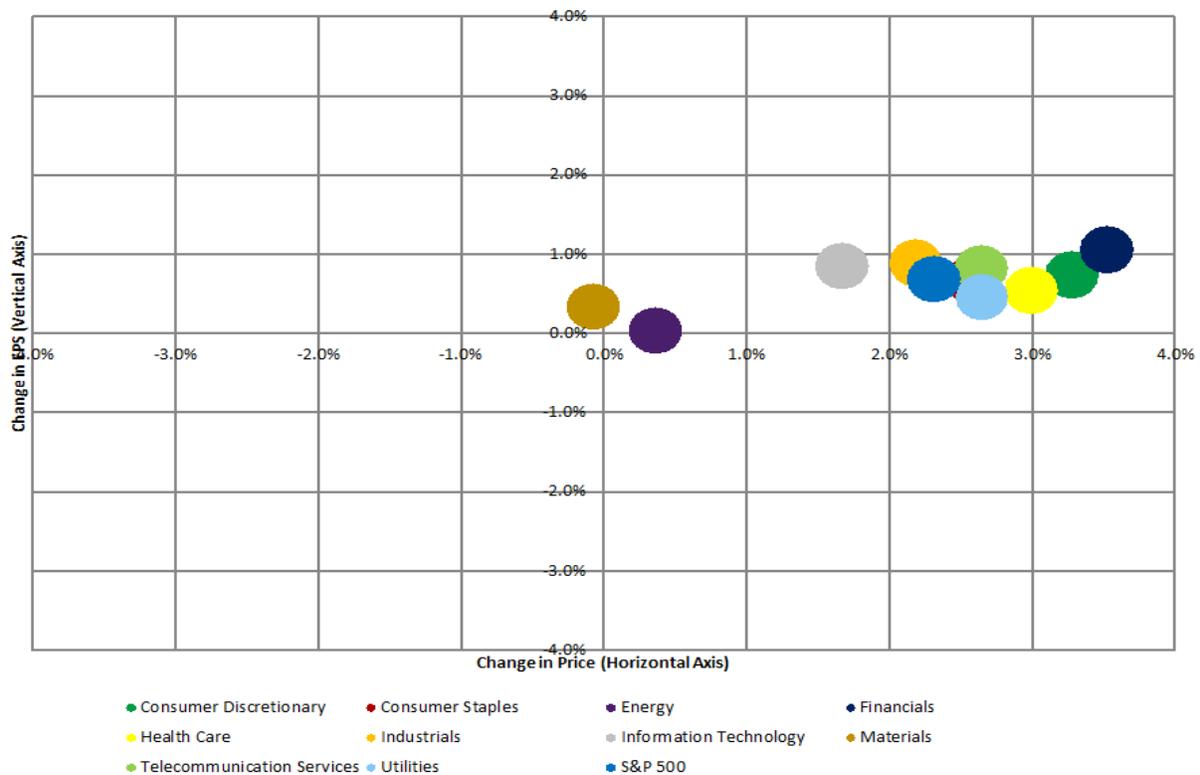


Price / Earnings Ratio: Sector Level

Sector-Level Forward 12-Month P/E Ratios

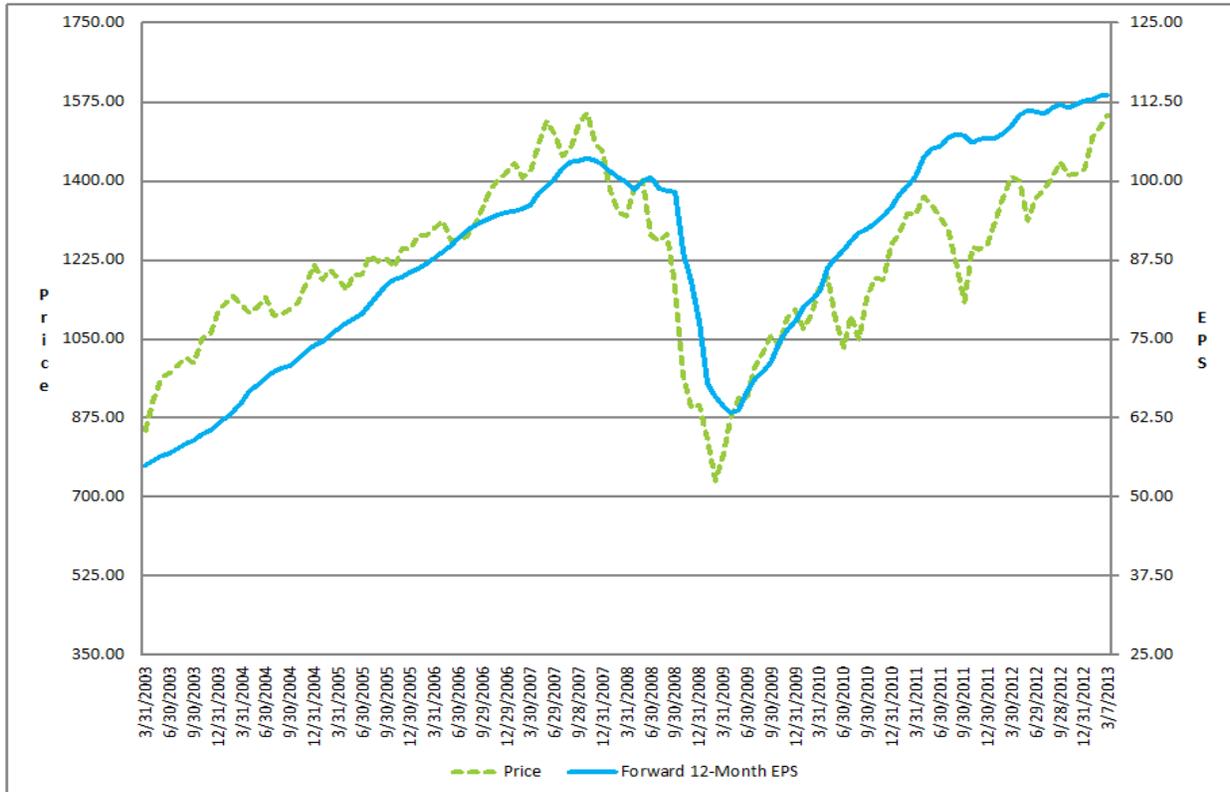


Sector-Level Change in Price vs. Change Forward 12M EPS: 1-Month

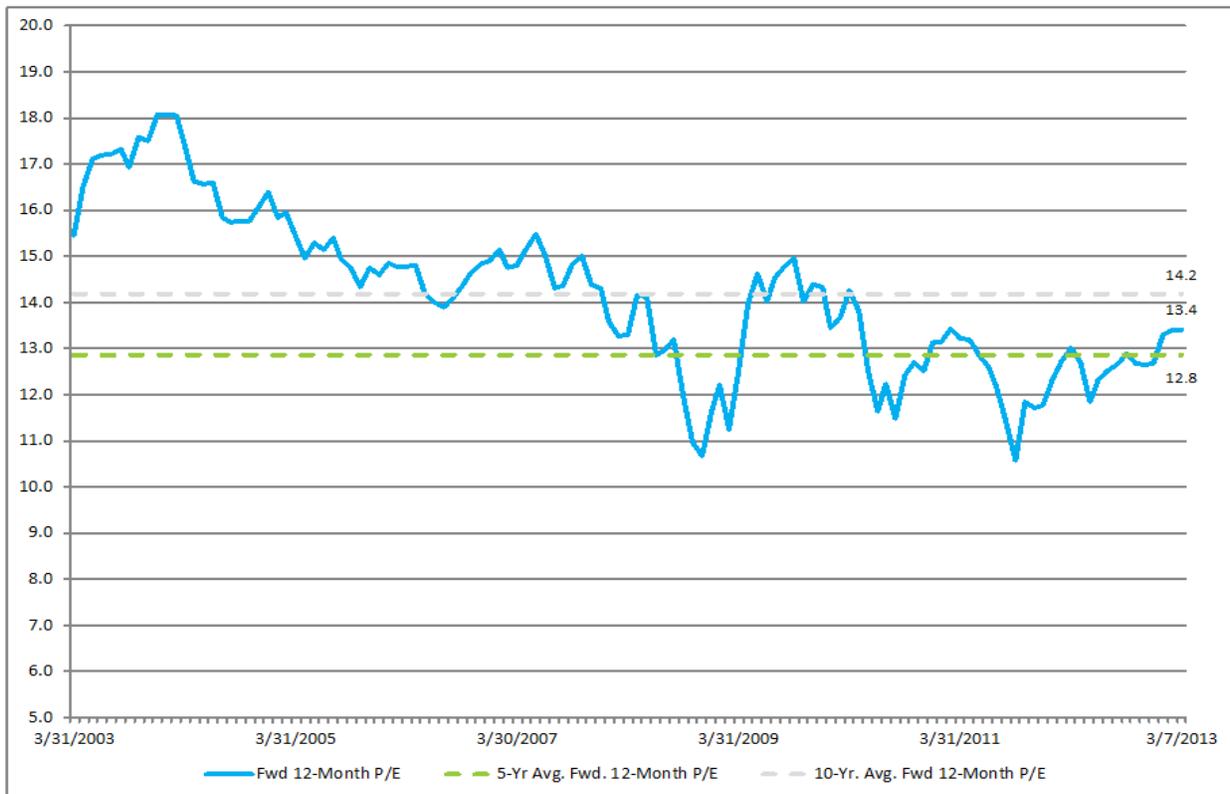


Price / Earnings Ratio: Long-Term Averages

Change in Price vs. Change in Forward 12M EPS: 10-Year



Forward 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Year



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