

H&R Block Financial Advisors Announces Top Equity Picks for 2008

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2008 Top Picks List Selected from Rigorous Fundamental Analysis is

Balanced between Cyclical and Defensive Industries, as Well as Growth

and Value

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 5, 2007--Good stock ideas are often vital in a volatile market and the H&R Block Financial Advisors (HRBFA) 2008 "Top Picks" list, which was released today, highlights equity sectors and stocks the firm believes may prove beneficial next year. With the increasing market volatility, the 2008 stock selections have been geared toward the shifting equity market.

The complete list of 20 equities was compiled by HRBFA's independent internal team of sector analysts and is based upon the team's rigorous analysis around the fundamental factors of valuation, competitive position and market conditions.

The Top Picks list was designed to strike a balance between economic cyclical and defensive industries, as well as growth and value. The list of 20 equities offers diversity from nine different economic sectors. Large-cap companies (greater than \$6 billion in equity market capitalization) dominate the list, which can outperform in a slow growth environment, according to Marc A. Zabicki, CFA, Senior Market Strategist for HRBFA.

"In what could prove to be a volatile market in the coming quarters, we believe the inclusion of some defensive names in the 'Top Picks' list is prudent. However, investors will also find some cyclical or economic-sensitive suggestions that could outperform, should the economy track better-than-expected," said Zabicki.

All equities are selected from separate industry focus lists that analysts at the firm maintain on an ongoing basis. Following are the 20 stocks that represent the Top Picks list for 2008, which are grouped according to sector.

HRBFA 2008 Top Picks:

Company	Ticker	Exchange	Sector
Carnival Corp.	CCL	NYSE	Consumer Discretionary
Kimberly Clark	KMB	NYSE	Consumer Staples
Anheuser Busch	BUD	NYSE	Consumer Staples
Noble Corp.	NE	NYSE	Energy
Superior Energy	SPN	NYSE	Energy
Goldman Sachs Group	GS	NYSE	Financial Services
The Hartford Financial Services	HIG	NYSE	Financial Services
Northern Trust Corp.	NTRS	NASDAQ	Financial Services
State Street Corp.	STT	NYSE	Financial Services
Humana	HUM	NYSE	Health Care
Icon PLC	ICLR	NASDAQ	Health Care
Waters Corp.	WAT	NYSE	Health Care

Chicago Bridge & Iron	CBI	NYSE	Industrials
DRS Technologies	DRS	NYSE	Industrials
Owens Illinois	OI	NYSE	Materials
EMC Corp.	EMC	NYSE	Technology
Jabil Circuit	JBL	NYSE	Technology
Microsoft	MSFT	NASDAQ	Technology
Nokia	NOK	NYSE	Technology
Dominion Resources	D	NYSE	Utilities

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