

## Stock Basics: How To Read a Stock Table/Quote

Any financial paper has [stock](#) quotes that will look something like the image below:

52W high	52W low	Stock	Ticker	Div	Yield %	P/E	Vol 00s	High	Low	Close	Net chg
s45.39	19.75	ResMed	RMD			52.5	3831	42.00	39.51	41.50	-1.90
11.63	3.55	Revlon A	REV				162	6.09	5.90	6.09	+0.12
77.25	55.13	RioTinto	RTP	2.30	3.2		168	72.75	71.84	72.74	+0.03
31.31	16.63	RitchieBr	RBA			20.9	15	24.49	24.29	24.49	-0.01
8.44	1.75	RiteAid	RAD				31028	4.50	4.20	4.31	+0.21
s38.63	18.81	RobtHalf	RHI			26.5	6517	27.15	26.50	26.50	+0.14
51.25	27.69	Rockwell	ROK	1.02	2.1	14.5	6412	47.99	47.00	47.54	+0.24

Column 1   Column 2   Column 3   Column 4   Column 5   Column 6   Column 7   Column 8   Column 9   Column 10   Column 11   Column 12

**Columns 1 & 2: 52-Week Hi and Low** - These are the highest and lowest prices at which a stock has traded over the previous 52 weeks (one year). This typically does not include the previous day's [trading](#).

**Column 3: Company Name & Type of Stock** - This column lists the name of the company. If there are no special symbols or letters following the name, it is [common stock](#). Different symbols imply different classes of [shares](#). For example, "pf" means the shares are [preferred stock](#).

**Column 4: Ticker Symbol** - This is the unique alphabetic name which identifies the stock. If you watch financial TV, you have seen the [ticker tape](#) move across the screen, quoting the latest prices alongside this symbol. If you are looking for stock quotes online, you always search for a company by the ticker symbol. If you don't know what a particular company's ticker is you can search for it at: <http://finance.yahoo.com/l>.

**Column 5: Dividend Per Share** - This indicates the annual [dividend](#) payment per share. If this space is blank, the company does not currently pay out dividends.

**Column 6: Dividend Yield** - This states the percentage return on the dividend, calculated as annual dividends per share divided by price per share.

**Column 7: Price/Earnings Ratio** - This is calculated by dividing the current stock price by [earnings per share](#) from the last four quarters. For more detail on how to interpret this, see our [P/E Ratio tutorial](#).

**Column 8: Trading Volume** - This figure shows the total number of shares traded for the day, listed in hundreds. To get the actual number traded, add "00" to the end of the number listed.

**Column 9 & 10: Day High & Low** - This indicates the price range at which the stock has traded at throughout the day. In other words, these are the maximum and the minimum prices that people have paid for the stock.

**Column 11: Close** - The close is the last trading price recorded when the market closed on the day. If the closing price is up or down more than 5% than the previous day's close, the entire listing for that stock is bold-faced. Keep in mind, you are not guaranteed to get this price if you buy the stock the next day because the price is constantly changing (even after the exchange is closed for the day). The close is merely an indicator of past performance and except in extreme circumstances serves as a ballpark of what you should expect to pay.

**Column 12: Net Change** - This is the dollar value change in the stock price from the previous day's closing price. When you hear about a stock being "up for the day," it means the net change was positive.

### Quotes on the Internet

Nowadays, it's far more convenient for most to get stock quotes off the Internet. This method is superior because most sites update throughout the day and give you more information, news, charting, research, etc.

To get quotes, simply enter the ticker symbol into the quote box of any major financial site like [Yahoo Finance](#), [CBS Marketwatch](#), or [MSN Moneycentral](#). The example below shows a quote for Microsoft (MSFT) from

Yahoo Finance. Interpreting the data is exactly the same as with the newspaper. You can find definitions for the additional information boxes like [EPS](#), or [PEG](#), in our [dictionary](#).

MICROSOFT CP (NasdaqNM:MSFT)						
Last Trade 4:00pm - <b>50.05</b>	Change <b>-2.07 (-3.97%)</b>		Prev Cls 52.12	Open 52.53	Volume 32,202,000	<p>MSFT 3-May-2002 (C) Yahoo!</p> <p>Small: <a href="#">1d</a> <a href="#">5d</a> <a href="#">1y</a> <a href="#">none</a></p> <p>Big: <a href="#">1d</a> <a href="#">5d</a> <a href="#">3m</a> <a href="#">6m</a> <a href="#">1y</a> <a href="#">2y</a> <a href="#">5y</a> <a href="#">max</a></p>
Day's Range 49.996 - 52.676	Bid 50.06	Ask 50.09	P/E 43.43	Mkt Cap 271.0B	Avg Vol 29,219,272	
52-wk Range 47.50 - 76.15	Bid Size 1,000	Ask Size 1,000	P/S 10.19	Div/Shr N/A	Div Date 26-Mar-99	
1y Target Est 71.89	EPS (ttm) 1.20	EPS Est 1.82	PEG 2.00	Yield N/A	Ex-Div 29-Mar-99	
<a href="#">Chart</a> , <a href="#">Financials</a> , <a href="#">Historical Prices</a> , <a href="#">Insider</a> , <a href="#">Messages</a> , <a href="#">News</a> , <a href="#">Options</a> <a href="#">Profile</a> , <a href="#">Reports</a> , <a href="#">Research</a> , <a href="#">SEC Filings</a> , <a href="#">Upgrades</a> , <a href="#">more...</a>						