



## Earnings Distortion Scorecard: Week of 5/18/20-5/22/20

For the week of 5/18/20-5/22/20, we focus on the [Earnings Distortion Scores](#) for 27 companies.

Our proprietary measure of [earnings distortion](#) (as featured on [CNBC Squawk Box](#)) leverages proprietary data featured in [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#). This paper shows that our adjusted core earnings are:

1. more accurate than “Income Before Special Items” from Compustat, owned by S&P Global (SPGI) and
2. remove significant bias from IBES Street Earnings from Refinitiv, owned by Blackstone (BX) and Thomson Reuters (TRI).

COVID-19 is [not disrupting](#) our data collection and research. Our [Robo-Analyst](#) is more effective than ever.

**Get the best fundamental research**

The paper also shows that investors with [better earnings](#) research have a clear advantage in predicting:

1. Future earnings (Section 3.4)
2. Future stock prices (Section 4.3)

Our Earnings Distortion Scores<sup>1</sup> empower investors to make smarter investments with superior data as well as defend against management efforts to obfuscate financial performance. Earnings distortion for the overall market recently reached [levels not seen since right before the tech bubble](#) and the financial crisis.

### Weekly Earnings Distortion Insights

Figure 1 contains the 15 largest (by market cap) companies that earn a “Beat”, “Miss”, or “Strong Miss” Earnings Distortion Score and are expected to report the week of May 18, 2020.

**Figure 1: Earnings Distortion Scorecard Highlights: Week of 5/18/20-5/22/20**

Company	Ticker	EPS Estimate	Expected Earnings Date	Earnings Distortion Score
Walmart Inc.	WMT	\$1.15	5/19/20	Miss
Home Depot Inc.	HD	\$2.23	5/19/20	Miss
TJX Companies Inc.	TJX	-\$0.09	5/19/20	Miss
Lowe's Companies Inc.	LOW	\$1.29	5/20/20	Miss
McKesson Corp	MCK	\$4.09	5/20/20	Beat
Synopsys Inc.	SNPS	\$0.55	5/20/20	Miss
ZTO Express Inc.	ZTO	\$0.27	5/20/20	Strong Miss
Copart Inc.	CPRT	\$0.66	5/20/20	Strong Miss
Trip.com Group Ltd	TCOM	-\$0.62	5/20/20	Miss
NVIDIA Corp	NVDA	\$1.36	5/21/20	Beat
Medtronic PLC	MDT	\$1.13	5/21/20	Miss
Intuit Inc.	INTU	\$5.33	5/21/20	Miss
Ross Stores Inc.	ROST	\$0.25	5/21/20	Miss
Hormel Foods Corp	HRL	\$0.42	5/21/20	Miss
Agilent Technologies Inc.	A	\$0.58	5/21/20	Beat

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

<sup>1</sup> Earnings Distortion scores on ~3,0000 stocks are also available to clients of our website.



The appendix shows the Earnings Distortion Scores for all the S&P 500 companies, plus those with market caps greater than \$10 billion, that are expected to report the week of May 18, 2020.

**Details: NVIDIA Corporation (NVDA): Beat Earnings Distortion Score**

In fiscal 2020, NVIDIA had -\$220 million in net earnings distortion that cause earnings to be understated. Notable unusual expenses [hidden](#) in NVDA’s 2020 10-K include:

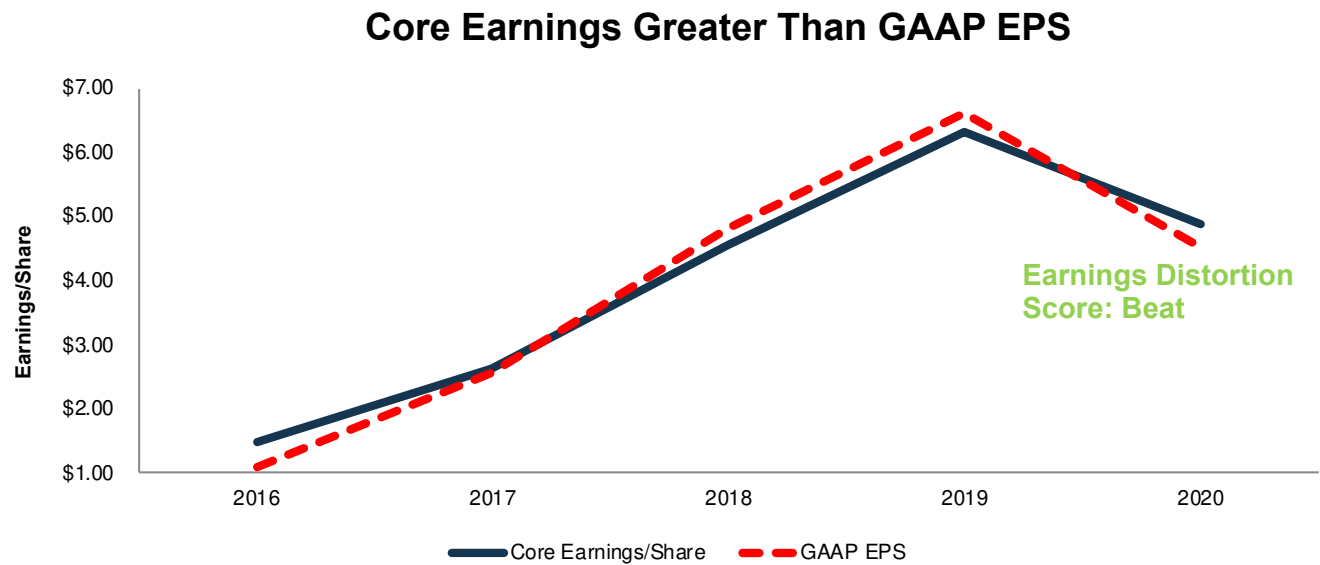
- [\\$161 million](#) in inventory provisions – Page 29
- [\\$30 million](#) in acquisition-related and other costs – Page 67
- [\\$15 million](#) in legal settlement costs – Page 67

In addition, we made a \$12 million adjustment for income tax distortion. This adjustment normalizes reported income taxes and removes the impact of unusual or less persistent items on the taxes applied to core earnings.

In total, we identified -\$0.36/share (8% of GAAP EPS) in net unusual expenses in NVDA’s 2020 GAAP results. After removing this earnings distortion, NVDA’s 2020 core earnings of \$4.88/share are greater than GAAP EPS of \$4.52, per Figure 2.

With understated earnings, NVDA gets our “Beat” Earnings Distortion Score and is likely to beat consensus expectations. While we expect NVDA to beat expectations in the short term, its expensive valuation earns it an Unattractive [Risk/Reward rating](#), which focuses on the long term.

**Figure 2: NVDA Core Earnings Vs. GAAP: Fiscal 2016 – Fiscal 2020**



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 1 shows that NVDA is one of just three companies that earn our “Beat” score for this week.

**How to Make Money with Earnings Distortion Data**

“Trading strategies that exploit {adjustments provided by New Constructs} produce abnormal returns of 7-to-10% per year.” – Page 1 in [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#)

In Section 4.3, professors from HBS & MIT Sloan present a long/short strategy that holds the stocks with the most understated EPS and shorts the stocks with the most overstated earnings.

This strategy produced abnormal returns of 7-to-10% a year. Click [here](#) for more details on our data offerings.

**We Provide 100% Audit-ability & Transparency**

Clients can audit all of the unusual items used in our calculations in the [Marked-Up Filings section](#) of each of our [Company Valuation models](#). We are 100% transparent about what goes into our research because we want investors to trust our work and see how much goes into building the best earnings quality and valuation models.



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*Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Matt Shuler receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, sector, style, or theme.*

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**Appendix: All Major Companies Expected to Report May 18 – May 22**

Figure 3 shows all the S&P 500 companies, plus those with market caps greater than \$10 billion, that are expected to report the week of May 18, 2020.

**Figure 3: Earnings Distortion Scorecard: Week of 5/18/20-5/22/20**

Company	Ticker	EPS Estimate	Expected Earnings Date	Earnings Distortion Score
Walmart Inc.	WMT	\$1.15	5/19/20	Miss
Home Depot Inc.	HD	\$2.23	5/19/20	Miss
TJX Companies Inc.	TJX	-\$0.09	5/19/20	Miss
Advance Auto Parts Inc.	AAP	\$1.83	5/19/20	In-line
Nordstrom Inc.	JWN	-\$0.86	5/19/20	In-line
Kohls Corp	KSS	-\$1.41	5/19/20	In-line
Lowe's Companies Inc.	LOW	\$1.29	5/20/20	Miss
Target Corp	TGT	\$0.90	5/20/20	In-line
Analog Devices Inc.	ADI	\$1.04	5/20/20	In-line
McKesson Corp	MCK	\$4.09	5/20/20	Beat
Synopsys Inc.	SNPS	\$0.55	5/20/20	Miss
ZTO Express Inc.	ZTO	\$0.27	5/20/20	Strong Miss
Copart Inc.	CPRT	\$0.66	5/20/20	Strong Miss
Trip.com Group Ltd	TCOM	-\$0.62	5/20/20	Miss
Vipshop Holdings Ltd	VIPS	\$0.07	5/20/20	Beat
L Brands Inc.	LB	-\$0.37	5/20/20	Strong Beat
NVIDIA Corp	NVDA	\$1.36	5/21/20	Beat
Medtronic PLC	MDT	\$1.13	5/21/20	Miss
Intuit Inc.	INTU	\$5.33	5/21/20	Miss
Ross Stores Inc.	ROST	\$0.25	5/21/20	Miss
Hormel Foods Corp	HRL	\$0.42	5/21/20	Miss
Agilent Technologies Inc.	A	\$0.58	5/21/20	Beat
Splunk Inc.	SPLK	-\$1.30	5/21/20	In-line
Palo Alto Networks Inc.	PANW	-\$0.37	5/21/20	In-line
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co.	HPE	\$0.32	5/21/20	Beat
DXC Technology Co.	DXC	\$0.97	5/21/20	Strong Beat
Deere & Co.	DE	\$1.99	5/22/20	In-line

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings



## ***Footnotes adjustments matter. We are the ONLY source.***

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We provide ratings, models, reports & screeners on U.S. 3,000 stocks, 700 ETFs and 7,000 mutual funds.

**HBS & MIT Sloan research** reveals that:

- **Markets are inefficiently assessing earnings because no one reads the footnotes.**
- **Corporate managers hide gains/losses in footnotes to manage earnings.**
- **Our technology brings the material footnotes data to market for the first time ever.**

Combining human expertise with NLP/ML/AI technologies ([featured by Harvard Business School](#)), we shine a light in the dark corners (e.g. footnotes) of hundreds of thousands of financial filings to unearth critical details.

The HBS & MIT Sloan paper, [Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence](#), shows how our superior data drives uniquely comprehensive and independent debt and equity research.

This [paper](#) compares our analytics on a mega cap company to other major providers. The Appendix details exactly how we stack up.

**Learn [more](#).**

Quotes from HBS & MIT Sloan professors on our research:

### **Get better research:**

*“...the NC dataset provides a novel opportunity to study the properties of non-operating items disclosed in 10-Ks, and to examine the extent to which the market impounds their implications.” – page 20*

### **Pick better stocks:**

*“Trading strategies that exploit cross-sectional differences in firms’ transitory earnings produce abnormal returns of 7-to-10% per year.” – Abstract*

### **Avoid losses from using other firms’ data:**

*“...many of the income-statement-relevant quantitative disclosures collected by NC do not appear to be easily identifiable in Compustat...” – page 14*

### **Build better models:**

*“Core Earnings [calculated using New Constructs’ novel dataset] provides predictive power for various measures of one-year-ahead performance...that is incremental to their current-period counterparts.” – page 4*

### **Exploit market inefficiencies:**

*“These results ... suggest that the adjustments made by analysts and Compustat to better capture core earnings are incomplete. Moreover, the non-core items identified by NC produce a measure of core earnings that is incremental to alternative measures of operating performance in predicting an array of future income measures.” – page 26*

### **Fulfill fiduciary duties:**

*“An appropriate measure of accounting performance for purposes of forecasting future performance requires detailed analysis of all quantitative performance disclosures detailed in the annual report, including those reported only in the footnotes and in the MD&A.” – page 33-34*



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