Understanding Stock Quotes

A stock quote provides you with information about a stock's cost and market performance. This information helps you determine whether or not it is a good investment. Financial news and research sites may organize their stock information differently but will provide essentially the same information shown below.

COMPANY	The name of the company.		
SYMBOL	A company's stock symbol can be as short as one letter or as long as five. It is used to identify the company in quotes.		
LAST TRADE	The price of the stock when it was last sold.	CHANGE	The increase or decrease in the stock's price between the Last Trade price and the previous trading day's closing price.
VOLUME	The total number of shares traded so far during the day.	OPEN	The price of the stock at the opening of the market day.
HIGH	This entry shows the highest price the stock has traded at so far during the day.	LOW	This entry shows the lowest price the stock has traded at so far during the day.
CLOSE	The last price a stock sold for on the previous trading day.	P/E Ratio	A company's closing price divided by its latest annual earnings per share
52-WEEK			
HIGH	This is the highest price of the stock within the last 52 weeks.		
LOW	This is the lowest price of the stock in the last 52 weeks		
ANNUALIZED DIVIDEND	A dividend is a portion of the company's profits that it pays to stockholders.	YIELD	A stock's annual dividend payments presented as a percentage of the stock's current price.
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	A company's profit or earnings divided equally among all the shares investors own	Beta	A measure of volatility. A beta of less than 1 is assumed to be less volatile. A beta of 1 or more is more volatile.
Market Cap (measured in billions)	The total current market value of all outstanding shares of a company.		



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