



The Stock trading Account USD is up 253.01% since its launch in December 2019!

RIO Stock Trading USD lost just 0.58% during April fairing far better than the Dow Jones which fell 2.20%, the account had limited the loss due to the proactive actions taken to reduce the exposure to stocks last month. Looking back, as we moved through April, I sold several equity positions before the stock market sell-off which tanked the markets. The strategy of moving capital to safety has yet again been proven to be prudent.

PERFORMANCE FOR CALENDER YEARS (%)



The weighting to equities at the end of March was purposely held low at 20.13%, and having bought into the correction by the end of the April the exposure to stocks had risen to 43.28%. As May begun the remainder had been held in cash ready to buy back into any further correction.

The account is currently in profit, having acquired Lockheed Martin stock on the 7th of April and Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation stock on the 8th at 107.58, both have since rallied higher. In addition, I bought Boeing stock on the 9th of April at 141.93, this holding was sold at 203.96 on the 22nd May banking gains for those invested.

During April I had taken full advantage of the sell-off to reposition the account adding several other stocks including Carnival Corporation & PLC which I bought as April drew to a close. Today the repositioning has benefited those invested as the markets bounced back quickly, the market rally was aided by Trump's decision to pause some of the worst tariffs for a period of 90 days.

A closer look at the equities mentioned above

Carnival Corporation & PLC

Carnival Corporation financial reports demonstrate strong growth driven by exceptional consumer demand. In the first fiscal quarter of 2025 (ending 29th February), the company achieved record revenues of \$5.8 billion, a \$400 million increase year-over-year. Net yields rose by an impressive 7.3%, exceeding expectations. This surge in demand significantly boosted profitability, with operating income nearly doubling to \$543 million.

Management noted the extended booking curve at historically high prices, revealing that by the end of Q1 2025, the booked position for the remainder of the year matched the previous record but at better price points, and bookings for 2026 and beyond reached a new high.

Consequently, Carnival has raised its full-year 2025 guidance, projecting adjusted net income of around \$2.49 billion (\$1.83 per share) and adjusted EBITDA of nearly \$6.7 billion, with net yield growth of about 4.7%.

Achieving such targets ahead of schedule underscores accelerated operational efficiency and profitability improvements.

Our analysts highlighted the introduction of new, more efficient ships like the Star Princess (scheduled for delivery in 2025), this as the company strategically retire older, less efficient vessels.

Carnival's status is increasingly one of growth and strategic financial improvement. The potent combination of a rebound in cruising and increased consumer demand when combined with the companies record-setting operational execution this provides a strong foundation for success.

Lockheed Martin

As rising geopolitical tensions worldwide and increased global defence spending drive demand for advanced military technology, defence stocks such as Lockheed Martin LMT have benefited from increased awareness over the past decade. By investing in such companies it offers exposure to stable government contracts, long-term growth prospects, and strategic innovation in aerospace, cybersecurity and missile defense systems. Lockheed, the world's largest defense contractor, is best known for its flagship platforms (such as the F-35 fighter jet) as well as its leadership in missile defence and space systems.

Lockheed has registered a solid 4.5% year-over-year improvement in its sales on the back of better-than-expected performance on contract completions at its Aeronautics, Rotary & Missions and Space business segments in the first quarter of 2025. Looking ahead, we are bullish as this defense contractor looks certain to continue recording solid sales growth, driven by significant contracts clinched during the first quarter and a substantial backlog worth \$172.97 billion as of March 30, 2025.

This steady top-line growth, combined with operational improvements, will likely enable LMT to invest more than \$10 billion in R&D and capital expenditures and return at least \$18 billion to shareholders via dividends and repurchases over the next three years.

Booz Allen Hamilton

Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) came out with quarterly earnings of \$1.61 per share, beating the Consensus Estimate of \$1.59 per share. This compares to earnings of \$1.33 per share a year ago. These figures are adjusted for non-recurring items.

This quarterly report represents an earnings surprise of 1.26%. A quarter ago, it was expected that this defence contractor would post earnings of \$1.48 per share when it actually produced earnings of \$1.55, delivering a surprise of 4.73%.

Over the last four quarters, the company has surpassed consensus EPS estimates three times. The important point being that this company has topped consensus revenue estimates three times over the last four quarters. Booz Allen has outperformed the market so far this year.

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