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These 13 companies top the list of Central Florida's best-performing stocks

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An insulation products firm and two timeshare companies firms saw the three biggest increases in their stock prices among Central Florida's biggest publicly traded companies in 2017.

TopBuild Corp. (NYSE: BLD), Hilton Grand Vacations Inc. (NYSE: HGV) and Marriot Vacations Worldwide Corp. (NYSE: VAC) all saw their stocks rise more than 50 percent in a year when the stock market experienced record highs.

Most of Central Florida's publicly listed companies performed well amid broader stock market gains. The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased more than 5,000 points in 2017, the first time in the index's history, and was up more than 25 percent on yearly basis.

But despite most the gains, some of Central Florida's largest publicly traded companies — SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. (NYSE: SEAS), Goldfield Corp. (AMEX: GV) and National Retail Properties (NYSE: NNN) — reported losses.

SeaWorld Entertainment, which is Central Florida's seventh-largest publicly traded company based on 2016 revenue, saw its stock price decline 28 percent in 2017 after its attendance declined amid increasing competition from Walt Disney World



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and Universal Orlando Resort. Investors also soured on the company after it lost its focus when it came under fire for its treatment of its animals.

Miami based-Opko Health had the biggest decline of any publicly traded company in Florida that had market capitalization of more than \$100 million. Run by billionaire Phillip Frost, Opko Health's stock dropped about 47 percent after reporting disappointing earnings due to sluggish sales of its prostate cancer test product and its kidney disease drug.

Yet, most Central Florida stocks performed well. Notably, TopBuild saw its stock price jump more than 100 percent in 2017. The company expects activity to pick up even more as rebuilding begins in Florida and Texas following the busy hurricane season. Further, low interest rates and the strong economy are creating more demand for housing, outpacing the current supply.

Overall, Central Florida's stocks rose 25 percent in 2017, which was above the entire national average of 19 percent. Central Florida had 16 publicly traded companies with a market capitalization, or value of the company's outstanding shares, of more than \$100 million.