

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NEW DISCLOSURES PROVE IT – AHCO HAS NEGATIVE ORGANIC GROWTH**

We are short AHCO and believe that its downside is again around 50%, in large part due to its negative organic growth. However, we no longer have to argue our case with complex arithmetic and assumptions. **There is now nothing more to debate – organic growth in both Q1 and Q2 2021 was indeed negative, more than 1,000 basis points below management’s claims. A new SEC filing disclosure confirms it.**

This disclosure is brand new, provided for the first time just this past Friday afternoon. In its Q221 10-Q, AHCO chose (was forced?) to disclose its full inorganic contribution to its quarterly results in its 10-Q for the three months ended June 30, 2021.

**The just-released 10-Q shows an ex-B2B organic decline of -4% for the six months ended 6/30/21:**

and oxygen concentrators. Excluding this revenue, net revenue was \$1,089.2 million and \$394.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively, an increase of \$695.2 million. The increase in net revenue was driven primarily by acquisitions completed after January 1, 2020, which increased net revenue by \$711.2 million. This increase in net revenue was partially offset by

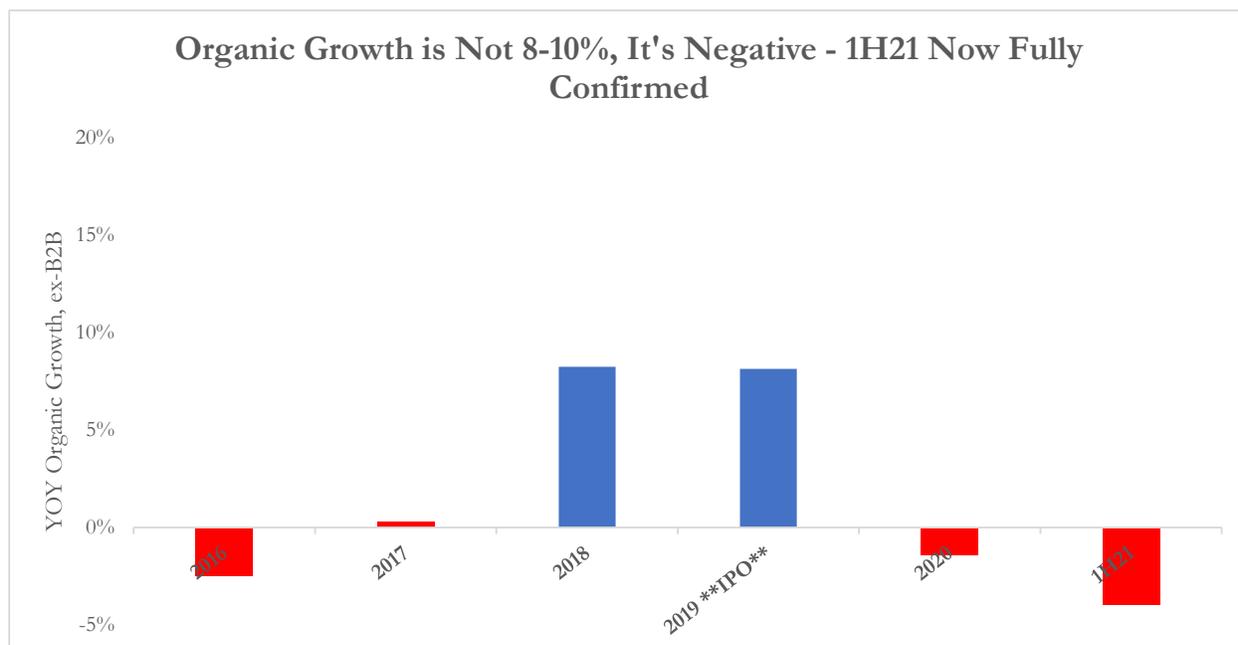
AHCO quietly uploaded its 10-Q to the SEC website just before 5:30pm this past Friday. Prior to uploading it, AHCO asserted to investors in its earnings release and associated conference call that its organic growth rate was 10%. Analysts published notes celebrating this “fact,” and continue to forecast 8-10% organic growth going forward. The following Monday the company hosted a non-deal roadshow to market its stock and announced the hiring of a new investor relations professional. 10-Qs can get lost in the shuffle under normal conditions, but AHCO seems to have put in some elbow grease to make sure this one did.

On earnings day last week, AHCO stock surged 16% and squeezed out many shorts when management got on its call and proclaimed these silly growth rates. The analyst community breathed a sigh of relief in print, albeit premature. What incredibly awkward timing, then, for the company to quietly release a 10-Q the next day that comprehensively and concisely proves that organic growth is negative after all.

This report is a brief update to our first one, but it is equally important. Here, we will explain what has just changed with the new 10-Q and why AHCO investors are (again) being walked off a cliff by management and Street analysts. And unlike before, you don’t have to do any complex math. **You just have to open the 10-Q and scroll down to page 49.** Even a sophisticated Wall Street analyst can do that, right?

*We recommend reading this brief update in conjunction with our full 43-page report, available here:*  
<https://jehoshaphatresearch.com/jehoshaphat-research-is-short-adapthealth-corp-ahco/>

## FULL UPDATE TO JULY REPORT



### Management Talked Loudly About “10% Organic Growth” on the Q2 Call and Press Release...

- *“As detailed and defined in our Q2, 2021 earnings supplement, AdaptHealth’s organic growth for the quarter was 10.1% supporting our long range organic growth estimate of 8% to 10%.” – CFO*
- Throughout the call, management threaded the needle through a variety of conflicting, mostly absurd, ideas:
  - According to their “pro forma” definition of organic growth, the number is 10%
  - Analysts asking about “traditional” or “same-store” organic growth are wasting their time, because it is useless for evaluating their business
  - The “pro forma” definition of organic growth is somehow useful in spite of everyone else’s definition being useless
  - “Same-store” organic growth is extremely difficult, “almost impossible” to calculate
  - AHCO was able to calculate their “pro forma” definition but not the “same-store” definition
- Management also claimed, ridiculously, that they had voluntarily improved their organic growth disclosure in Q121, prior to our report being published. While this is technically true – they did add a nuance of disclosure by quantifying all, instead of just some, current-period deals – it is laughable when viewed in context, because the disclosure added in Q121 did not quantify all contributions and is therefore useless as a barometer of Q121 organic growth. (This is like you asking how tall someone is and getting the answer, “more than three feet.”)
- Sell-side analysts were placated by the happy talk. Organic growth percentage estimates have not budged, and the stock went up 16%. However, just one day later...

### ...Management Quietly “Admitted” in an SEC Filing That True Organic Growth Was Negative in At Least the Last Two Quarters (Validating Our Methodology for Earlier Quarters as Well)

- Just to be clear: Management has admitted nothing explicitly. What they’ve done is caved to pressure – probably from their lawyers after those lawyers read our report and spoke to other lawyers – to put a

complete inorganic growth number into their 10-Q, finally. This is essentially the same thing, but it arguably allows the company to save face by confirming with one hand and denying with the other. (Jim Chanos once called this “differential disclosure” in a widely circulated video about short selling.)

Following are two screenshots:

The first is from the Q121 10-Q (before our report):

compared to \$191.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2020, an increase of \$290.7 million or 151.8%. The increase in net revenue was driven primarily by (i) acquisitions completed during the three months ended March 31, 2021, which contributed net revenue of \$142.6 million during the period, (ii) net revenue contributed by acquisitions completed after March 2020 and prior to the beginning of the current reporting period, and (iii) organic growth resulting from stronger CPAP resupply sales and demographic growth in core markets. The increase is also partially due to the impact in the 2020 period of reduced

The second is from the Q221 10-Q (after our report):

and oxygen concentrators. Excluding this revenue, net revenue was \$608.4 million and \$203.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively, an increase of \$404.7 million. The increase in net revenue was driven primarily by acquisitions completed after April 1, 2020, which increased net revenue by \$405.3 million. This increase in net revenue was partially offset by planned

The new disclosure in the latest 10-Q is so subtle that you could almost miss it: The company has gone from quantifying only the revenues contributed by this quarter’s deals, to quantifying the revenues contributed by all deals in the past twelve months. (If you don’t have the latter, there’s no way you can calculate organic growth.)

**With the new numbers, including the YTD disclosures on Page 1 of this update, organic growth ex-B2B is easily quantified: -8% in Q121 and just under 0% in Q221.** Also, we now have further confidence in our original report’s methodology that calculated negative organic growth in Q320 and Q420, and that calculated around zero over time. We knew our math was basically right, but now it’s a little tighter. And as we’ve said before, the best comp to this business, Apria (APR), has low-single-digit organic growth over time. The 8-10% fiction was created to sell stock.

- This new disclosure is enough for anyone to understand with virtually no work done: organic growth for AHCO is flat to (deeply) negative. **We didn’t have that ironclad confirmation before. We have it now. From here it’s just a question of when the market begins to price it in.**
- Incredibly, the sell-side continues to miss this. Some members of the analyst community apparently didn’t even bother to open the 10-Q before putting out their follow-up detail notes. This kind of thing creates short opportunities for those who pay closer attention. Here is Jefferies with a note published after the Q2 10-Q was already available:



**EQUITY RESEARCH**  
AdaptHealth Corp. (AHCO)

**AdaptHealth**  
**10% Organic Growth, Check. \$300MM Acquired Revs, Check. Guidance Raise, Check**  
August 10, 2021

**Key Takeaway**  
 AHCO's Q2 results, coupled with mgmt's disclosure that it had acquired \$300MM+ of revenues YTD and the corresponding FY21 guidance raise that reflects both key earnings drivers, underscore the company's robust growth and ability to deliver earnings upside surprises. With its accelerating growth story (driven by further expansion in the higher-growing diabetes business) and margin expansion opportunity, AHCO shares look compelling at <12x FY22 EBITDA-PtCapEx.

**Thesis Review: AHCO Is Showing That It's The Same Story Investors Loved Earlier This Year.** AHCO shares pulled back in recent months as investors questioned the validity of the company's robust growth story and its ability to consistently beat expectations as a result of 1) the departure of its former co-CEO, 2) a Q1 rev/earnings miss, and 3) a short report questioning organic growth and cash flows. Our view is that all these concerns have been refuted by the company's Q2 earnings release and mgmt's moves to address overhanging issues, and we expect the stock to grind higher from here as AHCO continues to execute and demonstrate its robust organic growth, ability to continue boosting results through M&A, and delivering high teens to 20%+ EBITDA growth that translate to positive earnings surprises.

- Organic Growth:** AHCO reported Q2 organic growth of 10.1%, that is at the high end of the long-term guidance ranges mgmt had previously provided. While some have questioned AHCO's organic growth math, mgmt's articulation of the components of its growth computation and the rationale behind it (i.e., greater view into the true organic growth of the business – both legacy and recently-acquired) should highlight to investors how the company is indeed growing across its business lines at a very robust pace. Given secular tailwinds in its key product categories and continued share gains, we expect AHCO to sustain its

**Target | Estimate Change**

USA | Healthcare Services

RATING	BUY
PRICE	\$24.87 <sup>^</sup>
MARKET CAP	\$3.4B
PRICE TARGET (PT)	\$50.00 (FROM \$48.00)
UPSIDE SCENARIO PT	\$65.00
DOWNSIDE SCENARIO PT	\$20.00

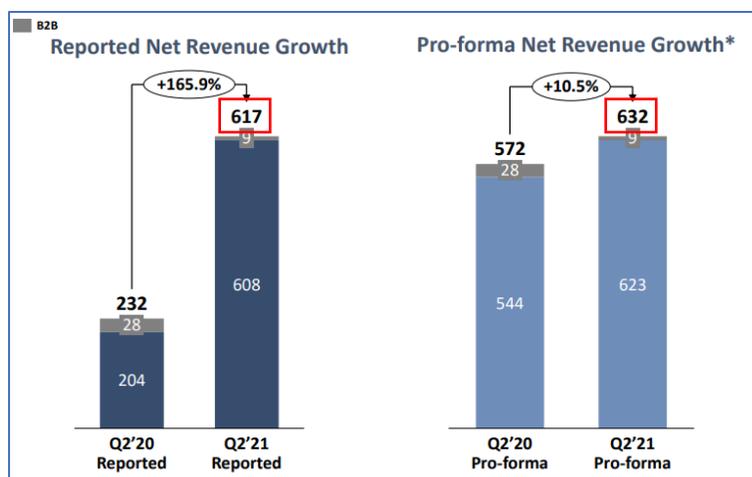
<sup>^</sup>Prior trading day's closing price unless otherwise noted.

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E
USD EPS	0.17	0.75	↓ 1.38	↓ 1.49
Prev.			1.79	1.52
FY P/E	NM	33.2x	18.0x	16.7x

We aren't highlighting Jefferies because we want to bash them. We've done business with Jefferies in the past and like the firm (and know they can do better than this). We picked out poor Jefferies to include in our report just as one example, to highlight the fact that so much of the market is, once again, oblivious to AHCO's actual organic growth. But this time, the facts are right in front of us. **We think the market will figure this out soon, with or without our help.**

**Street Numbers Haven't Budgeted. They Implicitly Reflect 9%+ Organic Growth**

- The 2022 guidance event is clearly at risk. For Q422, which is an entirely organic number, the Street is modeling 9% YOY growth. For 2023, also entirely organic, double-digit growth is forecasted. Management says organic growth is 8-10%, and the Street mindlessly plugs it in.
- **We continue to believe that AHCO is sandbagging the inorganic contribution of its recently acquired businesses. For instance, with Spiro, it's clearer than ever that this business is far bigger than management is claiming.** This was suggested by the investor deck, but we needed the 10-Q to verify it. First, consider the pro forma information:



Q221 would have had \$15m more in revenues (\$632 vs \$617m) had the Q221 deals been completed on the first day of the quarter.

Next, consider the disclosure about the Q221 deals in the 10-Q. This tells us that other than Spiro, the only other sizeable acquisition in the quarter was Healthy Living, a diabetes product provider. Diabetes providers command far higher multiples than regular HME providers like Spiro. Healthy Living was acquired on June 1 for \$50m. If Healthy Living was purchased for the same multiple as Solara, another diabetes provider that AHCO bought for approximately 2x revenues, then it's a \$25m/year, or \$6m/quarter, or \$2m/month, business.

Healthy Living was bought on June 1, meaning it contributed one month to Q221. If Healthy Living is a \$2m/month business, then including it since the first day of the quarter would have added \$4m to Q2 revenues. Given the relative insignificance of the other deals in the quarter, this logic implies that the other \$11m of the \$15m pro forma addition is from Spiro. I.e., Spiro – bought on April 30 – would be an \$11m/month business, or \$132m a year.

In our original report, on page 15, we speculated that Spiro was a \$122m per year business. We now have another data point suggesting about the same.

Why does this matter? Because management continues to say that Spiro, which was bought at the end of the fourth month of 2021, is going to contribute less than \$40m to 2021:

*“The next [guidance] raise was the last call, we’ve talked about Spiro and there’s also -- there is some dollars in there for the CMS oxygen fee schedule rate increases that were in effect April 1st, that was a \$40 million raise...”* - AHCO CFO on Q2 earnings call

If Spiro is a \$122-132m business or anywhere close to it, it's obviously going to contribute a lot more than “under \$40m” in eight months...it would contribute more like \$80m+ under this math.

**To get right to the point: This kind of game is why management has been able to raise guidance in surprising ways. They buy a business doing X in revenues, they raise guidance by X, then they say the**

**acquired business is only doing 0.5x, and the rest is...organic growth! Except it's not. This is the "guidance raise" investors just bought on Q2 earnings.**

- For how much longer can sell-side analysts look the other way on organic growth now that it's plainly disclosed in the SEC filings? If you're a client of an analyst who is modeling 8-10% organic growth, try asking him (and they are all "him"s) whether he's read a 10-Q lately. Or, ask the new AHCO IR guy, who was a Buy-rated analyst at RBC until...about two weeks ago.

**After Its Biggest-Ever Earnings Bounce Driven by False Promises, AHCO is Back to \$24/Share!**

- Our report catalyzed a (relatively) great deal of introspection by the sell-side on the question of organic growth, and drove investors to revisit their assumptions about this issue as well. AHCO's stock price fell ~15% over the ensuing weeks as the investment community digested our claims and, apparently, found them compelling.
- When the company reported earnings and claimed, *No, our organic growth is indeed 10%*, the finicky market bid the stock back up to the mid-20s/share. As of now the stock price continues to approximate that level. **Only three weeks after our report, the stock is back to the level at which it sat before anyone was questioning organic growth – because management "came out strong."**
- The only question now is, *Who are you going to believe: Management, or your hyn' eyes?*
- We continue to believe that from the mid-20s, AHCO has approximately 50% downside (not much has fundamentally changed about this company in the few weeks since we last issued our price target).
- As of this writing, borrow cost for AHCO shares (reported by prime brokers to us) has fallen to GC levels – implying that the short interest has come down quite a lot as well, from already low levels.

**DISCLAIMER**

**This report is not investment advice.** By reading, downloading or printing this report you agree to the following Terms of Service. Use of this research is at your own risk. In no event should Jehoshaphat Research or any affiliated party be liable for any direct or indirect trading losses caused by any information on this site. You further agree to do your own research and due diligence, consult your own financial, legal, and tax advisors before making any investment decision with respect to transacting in any securities covered herein. You should assume that as of the publication date of any short-biased report or letter, Jehoshaphat Research (possibly along with or through our members, partners, affiliates, employees, and/or consultants) has a short position in all stocks (and/or options of the stock) covered herein, and therefore stands to realize significant gains in the event that the price of any stock covered herein declines. Likewise, you should assume that as of the publication date of any long-biased report or letter, Jehoshaphat Research (possibly along with or through our members, partners, affiliates, employees, and/or consultants) has a long position in all stocks (and/or options of the stock) covered herein, and therefore stands to realize significant gains in the event that the price of any stock covered herein rises. Following publication of any long or short report or letter, we intend to continue transacting in the securities covered herein, and we may be long, short, or neutral at any time hereafter regardless of our initial recommendation, conclusions, or opinions. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any security, nor shall any security be offered or sold to any person, in any jurisdiction in which such offer would be unlawful under the securities laws of such jurisdiction. Jehoshaphat Research is not registered as an investment advisor in the United States nor does it have similar registration in any other jurisdiction. To the best of our ability and belief, all information contained herein is accurate and reliable, and has been obtained from public sources we believe to be accurate and reliable, and who are not insiders or connected persons of the stock covered herein or who may otherwise owe any fiduciary duty or duty of confidentiality to the issuer. However, such information is presented “as is,” without warranty of any kind – whether express or implied. Jehoshaphat Research makes no representation, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any such information or with regard to the results to be obtained from its use. All expressions of opinion are subject to change without notice, and Jehoshaphat Research does not undertake to update or supplement this report or any of the information contained herein. If you are in the United Kingdom, you confirm that you are subscribing and/or accessing Jehoshaphat Research materials on behalf of: A) a high net worth entity (e.g., a company with net assets of GBP 5 million or a high value trust) falling within Article 49 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the “FPO”); or B) an investment professional (e.g., a financial institution, government or local authority, or international organization) falling within Article 19 of the FPO. The failure of Jehoshaphat Research to exercise or enforce any right or provision of these Terms of Service shall not constitute a waiver of this right or provision. If any provision of these Terms of Service is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the parties nevertheless agree that the court should endeavor to give effect to the parties’ intentions as reflected in the provision and rule that the other provisions of these Terms of Service remain in full force and effect, in particular as to this governing law and jurisdiction provision. You agree that regardless of any statute or law to the contrary, any claim or cause of action arising out of or related to use of this website or the material herein must be filed within one (1) year after such claim or cause of action arose or be forever barred.