

THE 200 BEST SMALL COMPANIES IN AMERICA

Rank '97	Company (consecutive years on list) business	Recent price		Profitability			Growth				Sales	Net income	Market value*	
		'96	Est 1998 EPS	Return on equity 5-year average	latest 12 mos	Debt/equity	5-year average	Sales latest 12 mos	EPS 5-year average	latest 12 mos	latest 12 mos (\$mil)	latest 12 mos (\$mil)	(\$mil)	
53	Kitty Hawk ¹ air freight ■ charter services	\$19.50	\$1.45	27.2%	17.1%	36%	22%	15%	33%	62.3%	\$130	\$10.0	\$204	
													air freight	
54	K&G Men's Center ¹ men's ■ apparel stores	18.75	0.75	27.0	17.0	1	32	53	36	28.2	100	5.3	190	
														retail
55	Datastream Systems (2) ¹ industrial software for 34 Windows-based computer systems	36.75	1.47	26.8	25.7	9	72	86	97	32.4	49	8.5	337	
														computer software
56	Nature's Sunshine Products (7) vitamins, herbs & 56 other nutritional products	24.38	1.24	26.7	29.3	0	26	15	28	28.0	265	18.5	450	
														medical products
57	Fastenal (10) retails metal fasteners 55 & construction materials	54.00	1.60	26.6	28.5	0	38	36	40	18.8	339	35.9	2,049	
														retail
58	Thrustmaster ¹ manufactures game ■ controllers for PC-based games	16.88	0.88	26.6	16.8	0	66	75	14	133.4	35	2.7	72	
														leisure & entertainment
59	General Employment Enterprises personnel placement ■ services	11.68	NA	26.4	47.1	0	24	26	144	50.0	27	2.3	47	
														business services
60	Barnett ¹ direct marketer & distributor of ■ plumbing, electrical & hardware products	21.50	0.90	26.3	29.1	0	17	26	28	31.0	160	12.0	320	
														retail
61	RehabCare Group (3) develops & manages physical 69 rehabilitation clinics	26.06	1.57	26.1	20.8	13	26	37	21	33.3	138	8.1	150	
														medical services
62	ACT Manufacturing ¹ contract manufacturer of ■ electronic equipment & components	32.88	2.10	26.0	28.2	62	70	106	56	150.0	306	13.3	298	
														electronics
63	Crossmann Communities (2) ¹ builds low-priced, 54 single-family homes	22.88	2.26	25.9	28.3	0	39	33	38	39.2	263	16.9	250	
														construction
64	Knight Transportation (3) ¹ short-to-medium-haul 28 truckload carrier in western US	29.06	1.28	25.8	19.1	0	42	32	46	23.6	88	8.8	288	
														trucking
65	Viasat ¹ designs, manufactures advanced digital satellite ■ telecommunications & networking equipment	22.06	0.80	25.6	16.4	6	69	64	75	96.3	53	3.9	172	
														telecomm equip
66	Fossil ¹ designs, markets & distributes fashion ■ watches, sunglasses & leather accessories	20.56	1.44	25.4	20.5	6	30	17	11	29.9	222	15.3	277	
														consumer products
67	Mitcham Industries ¹ leases oilfield ■ equipment	22.00	1.54	25.3	31.1	18	56	210	51	52.7	27	4.7	162	
														business services
68	Pre-Paid Legal Services (2) legal service 73 reimbursement plans	31.00	1.15	25.3	33.2	0	32	57	52	51.1	75	15.1	681	
														financial services

Stock prices as of Oct. 3. ■ Not on last year's list. *Includes all share classes. ¹Initial public offering within last five years. NA: Not available or not applicable. NM: Not meaningful.

Sources: William O'Neil & Co.; Market Guide via OneSource Information Services; IBES Express.