

# AMERICA'S FASTEST-GROWING COMPANIES

100 RANK	COMPANY	EARNINGS PER SHARE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	NET INCOME	REVENUES		STOCK VALUATION				WHAT THEY DO	Companies on list
				Post four quarters (millions)	Annual growth rate	Post four quarters (millions)	Share price 8/26/98	P/E rat.	Total three-year annualized return*		
		Post three years	1997	1998	1998	Change from year earlier	One year horizon				
81	AIRTECH COMMUNICATIONS	67%	\$800.0	45%	\$4,183.0	\$84.00	64	23%	\$34,417	☑	The world's largest wireless company offers service in 13 countries. It even has a small interest in a satellite network that will put cell phones where no cell phone has gone before.
82	COLUMBIA BANCORP SYSTEM	61%	\$10.7	46%	\$81.8	\$18.00	20	43%	\$196	☑	It's the holding company for Columbia Bank, a full-service commercial bank that has 23 branches in Washington State. It plans to open several more this year.
83	DATUM	61%	\$0.8	41%	\$103.0	\$6.00	119	-10%	\$53	☑	Datum's clocks are put in cell phones, and they make satellite-positioning technology too. Some will be accurate till the year 102000.
84	HASTECH	61%	\$17.8	90%	\$636.6	\$20.80	16	40%	\$589	☑	Improved revenues could signal an end to the troubles, including a labor dispute in Spain, that led this telecom infrastructure builder to post losses in 1998's first half.
85	INNOVEX	61%	\$21.7	82%	\$110.8	\$12.56	12	16%	\$201	☑	Ever wonder how wire-shrinking recording heads connect to a disk drive's main circuitry? Innovex does. It makes a small, cheap, flexible connector.
86	AMERICAN ONCOLOGY RESOURCES	59%	\$26.8	101%	\$384.5	\$10.06	18	-10%	\$354	☑	AOR provides nonmedical support services to oncologists who, because of new treatments and cost-saving trends, are increasingly treating cancer in outpatient settings.
87	CONSOLIDATED GRAPHICS	60%	\$21.1	61%	\$285.7	\$61.31	30	92%	\$783	☑	When its latest deals are done, this consolidator of commercial printers will own 47 such companies, with revenues of \$555 million, up from \$231 million in fiscal '98.
88	TRANSOCEAN OFFSHORE	59%	\$233.5	61%	\$874.1	\$27.94	11	34%	\$3,009	☑	Amoco, Exxon, and Shell buy its deepwater oil and natural gas. In August it sold its directional-drilling business to Dailey Energy for \$10 million.
89	TSR	59%	\$3.0	38%	\$66.2	\$6.13	13	45%	\$45	☑	With 25,000 tech personnel on its rolls, it looks like a temp agency for programmers. The company's Catch21 software program fixes Y2K bugs.
90	ACORNSTAFF	59%	\$114.4	121%	\$2,797.5	\$17.44	14	78%	\$2,112	☑	Last year it entered the European market by acquiring three staffing companies producing \$150 million of annual revenues. It also has an in-house consulting arm.
91	SLI	59%	\$27.8	130%	\$622.1	\$15.44	14	52%	\$311	☑	SLI's purchase of European player Sylvania completed its transformation from U.S.-based specialty-lamp company to global producer of a variety of lighting systems.
92	REPUBLIC INDUSTRIES	58%	\$533.3	407%	\$13,845.0	\$18.81	18	23%	\$7,908	☑	Chairman and car man Wayne Huotanga boosted second-quarter profits by 80% at the parent of dealer AutoNation and car renters Alamo and National.
93	DOLLAR TREE STORES	58%	\$58.0	42%	\$713.1	\$36.00	38	72%	\$2,241	☑	All the variety-store chain's merchandise is priced at around \$1 an item, underselling almost everybody. Just in 1997, 151 stores sprung up.
94	DUCOMMUN	57%	\$16.6	33%	\$171.6	\$18.44	13	47%	\$224	☑	Airplane makers are buying subassemblies from fewer companies—good news. Ducommun's five subsidiaries make things like airplane seats and space shuttle fuel-tank skins.
95	SWIFT ENERGY	57%	\$17.6	52%	\$74.6	\$10.13	10	12%	\$162	☑	In July it started other horizontal drillers by scooping up 156 of Sonat Exploration's wells. It is focused on further acquisitions.
96	COMPUWARE	57%	\$224.5	31%	\$1,253.5	\$55.56	35	104%	\$10,032	☑	Sure it does Y2K fixes, but that's not all. Compuware helps large companies test mainframe software and is moving into client-server software.
97	COW COMPUTER CENTERS	56%	\$57.3	43%	\$1,408.1	\$44.75	18	8%	\$1,002	☑	This discount retailer sells microcomputer products numbering 30,000, focusing on small to midsized companies. It sends out over 50 million catalogs a year.
98	ALTERA	55%	\$147.2	33%	\$636.9	\$36.75	25	9%	\$3,303	☑	Alterra makes programmable circuits. Nearly half its sales are overseas, so Japan worries hurt its stock price. But its client base—communications companies—is steady.
99	IBO-TECHNOLOGY	55%	\$15.1	60%	\$69.4	\$8.13	17	30%	\$293	☑	Sales from Ozandria, which combats the wasting from AIDS, are expected to be way up. But disappointing test results sidelined two promising drugs.
100	PRE-PAID LEGAL SERVICES	55%	\$23.0	56%	\$110.9	\$28.31	27	78%	\$716	☑	A benefit offered by unions and employers and available to individuals through AARP, this HMO-like service covers lawyer consultations and trial defenses.

\*12 months ended 8/31/98. †Through 8/31/98. ‡As of 8/21/98.