

Inside The Ranking

The S&P 500 represents a huge universe, accounting for some 74% of the market capitalization of all U.S. stocks. The numbers we used to rank them in our proprietary formula are shown in these tables, along with a wealth of additional financial information. For full rankings of the S&P 500 companies go to www.BusinessWeek.com/BW50.

GLOSSARY & FOOTNOTES

Companies on this list are from the Standard & Poor's 500. Each company is ranked by ten criteria: one-year total return; three-year total return; one-year sales growth; three-year average annual sales growth; one-year profit growth; three-year average annual profit growth; net profit margins; and estimated long-term earnings growth, with additional weight given to a company's sales and debt-to-capital ratio. A company's composite rank is calculated using the sum of all of its ranks.

MARKET VALUE

Share price on Feb. 28, 2006, multiplied by the latest available common shares outstanding.

TOTAL RETURN (1 YEAR)

Annual dividend per share, reinvested, plus Feb. 28, 2006, share price, as a percent of Feb. 28, 2005, share price.

TOTAL RETURN (3 YEAR)

Annual dividend per share, reinvested, plus Feb. 28, 2006, share price, as a percent of Feb. 28, 2003, share price.

SALES

Latest available sales through the most recent 12 months ended Jan. 31, 2006. Includes all sales and other operating revenues. For banks, this includes revenues for all banking operations.

SALES THREE-YEAR AVERAGE CHANGE

Calculated using the least-squares method. Data for 2005 and 2004 are as reported by company in 2005.

PROFITS

Latest available profits through the most recent 12 months ended Jan. 31, 2006. Net income from continuing operations before extraordinary items.

PROFITS THREE-YEAR AVERAGE CHANGE

Calculated using the least-squares method. Data for 2005 and 2004 are as reported by company in 2005. If results for one of the earliest three years are negative or not available, the average is for two years.

NET MARGINS

Net income from continuing operations before extraordinary items as a percent of sales.

RETURN ON INVESTED CAPITAL

Net income available for shareholders as a percent of debt and equity funds.

LONG-TERM EARNINGS GROWTH

The median estimate by analysts of the annual growth rate of earnings compiled by Thomson First Call. For most companies, this is for the next 3-5 years.

RECENT SHARE PRICE

Price for a single share of a company's most widely traded issue of common stock as of the close of trading Feb. 28, 2006.

HIGH/LOW PRICE

Trading range for the company's common stock, Feb. 27, 2005, to Feb. 28, 2006.

P-E RATIO

Price-earnings ratio based on latest 12 months' earnings and Feb. 28, 2006, stock price.

DIVIDEND YIELD

Annual dividend rate as a percent of the Feb. 28 stock price.

ESTIMATED EARNINGS PER SHARE

Diluted earnings per share, excluding extraordinary profit or loss, divided by number of common and common equivalent shares.

EARNINGS PER SHARE ESTIMATES

Analysts' consensus estimates for 2005 compiled as of Feb. 28, 2006, by Thomson First Call.

(a) Data as of September, 2005.

(b) Data as of October, 2005.

(c) Total return from Oct. 3, 2005.

(d) Total return from Jan. 3, 2006.

(e) Two-year growth rate.

(x) Sales include excise taxes.

(y) Sales include other income.

(z) Sales include excise taxes and other income.

NA=not available. NC=not calculable. NM=not meaningful. NR=not ranked. INC=incomplete.

† Because *BusinessWeek* is owned by The McGraw-Hill Companies, the S&P 500

Scoreboard does not include a forecast of the company's earnings.

Note: Compustat data provided by Standard & Poor's, from sources such as statistical services, registration statements, and company reports that S&P believes to be reliable but are not guaranteed by S&P or *BusinessWeek* as to correctness or completeness. This material is not an offer to buy or sell any security.

Additional data: Thomson First Call.

THE BUSINESSWEEK 50 THE TOP PERFORMERS OF THE S&P 500

RANK		COMPANY	MARKET VALUE			SALES			PROFITABILITY		
2006 RANK	2005 RANK		FEB. 28, 2006 \$ MIL.	TOTAL RETURN (1 YEAR)	TOTAL RETURN (3 YEAR)	12-MONTH 2005 \$ MIL.	CHANGE FROM 2004 %	3-YEAR AVERAGE CHANGE %	12-MONTH 2005 \$ MIL.	CHANGE FROM 2004 %	3-YEAR AVERAGE CHANGE %
1	14	Apple Computer AAPL	57916.3	52.7	812.6	16190.0	66	40.9	1605.0	216	318.7
2	35	WellPoint WLP	50714.0	25.8	157.6	45136.0	117	47.5	2463.8	157	60.3
3	22	Caremark Rx CMX	22117.9	30.0	184.9	32991.3	28	78.3	932.4	55	11.4
4	5	UnitedHealth Group UNH	79076.3	27.8	181.3	45365.0 ^y	22	22.6	3300.0	28	35.3
5	166	Schlumberger SLB	67712.2	53.9	186.4	14309.2	25	4.1	2199.0	117	135.0
6	6	Occidental Petroleum OXY	36809.9	32.4	227.6	15208.0	34	26.9	5272.0	102	65.3
7	129	Halliburton HAL	34884.0	56.5	252.6	20994.0 ^y	3	19.6	2357.0	512	163.7
8	13	Qualcomm QCOM	77814.0	32.0	179.1	6024.0	19	21.5	2250.0	23	64.6
9	106	Amgen AMGN	92387.5	22.5	38.1	12430.0	18	30.6	3674.0	55	27.5
10	63	Aetna AET	28891.5	39.8	385.0	22491.9 ^y	13	4.8	1634.5	35	57.4
11	64	Lowe's LOW	53453.1	16.4	75.0	43243.0	19	17.8	2771.0	27	22.8
12	200	Burlington Northern Santa Fe BNI	29220.3	58.5	230.3	12987.0	19	13.4	1531.0	94	23.6
13	143	Motorola MOT	53303.1	37.8	194.0	36843.0	18	11.0	4599.0	110	126.9
14	8	Yahoo! YHOO	45851.0	-0.7	207.5	5257.7	47	80.6	1896.2	126	168.8
15	116	Goldman Sachs Group GS	61767.9	31.0	109.3	43391.0	45	24.1	5626.0	24	39.8
16	151	Lehman Brothers Holdings LEH	39616.2	61.2	169.6	32420.0	53	24.4	3260.0	38	48.5
17	47	Gilead Sciences GILD	28627.1	80.2	266.3	2028.4	53	62.1	813.9	81	127.8 ^e
18	153	Jabil Circuit JBL	7759.3	47.2	127.9	8095.4	23	29.3	252.8	40	97.5
19	83	Best Buy BBY	26387.4	50.7	184.1	29382.0	10	12.3	1018.0	16	20.1
20	229	EMC EMC	33425.7	10.7	89.7	9664.0	17	22.2	1133.2	30	51.1
21	163	Baker Hughes BHI	23225.3	45.0	126.7	7185.5	18	13.8	874.4	66	66.4
22	139	Texas Instruments TXN	47658.2	13.2	80.3	13392.0	6	18.0	2324.0	25	39.3
23	46	Cisco Systems CSCO	124516.5	16.2	44.8	25946.0	10	11.4	5581.0	4	21.8
24	33	Starbucks SBUX	27861.3	40.2	209.8	6713.8	20	24.8	523.9	24	33.8
25	55	Intel INTC	121931.4	-12.9	22.5	38826.0	13	13.2	8664.0	15	39.8
26	—	D. R. Horton DHI	10649.8	5.0	284.1	14246.7	28	24.5	1539.6	49	51.0
27	—	National Oilwell Varco NOV	10615.2	34.3	170.6	4644.5	100	41.8	286.9	149	57.0
28	242	JPMorgan Chase JPM	143442.8	16.8	102.9	79902.0	40	23.1	8483.0	90	56.5
29	188	Merrill Lynch MER	70693.6	33.6	135.1	47783.0	46	19.1	5116.0	15	25.6
30	4	Valero Energy VLO	33211.1	51.7	463.8	81362.0	51	42.5	3590.0	99	234.5
31	2	ConocoPhillips COP	83993.7	12.3	158.5	162405.0	37	45.9	13640.0	68	158.2
32	54	Marathon Oil MRO	25873.4	52.3	231.8	58596.0	30	28.7	3051.0	143	75.1
33	117	Prudential Financial PRU	38481.0	36.5	165.8	31708.0 ^y	13	5.8	3602.0	49	131.5
34	42	Microsoft MSFT	279018.1	8.1	29.5	41359.0	7	10.5	13057.0	31	18.0
35	350	Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold FCX	9318.2	28.0	230.1	4179.1	76	27.4	995.1	392	71.0
36	—	Weatherford International WFT	14990.0	44.7	115.4	4333.2	38	22.9	466.2	38	77.9
37	19	eBay EBAY	56251.6	-6.5	104.3	4552.4	39	54.9	1082.0	39	64.1
38	—	Coventry Health Care CVH	9685.6	41.7	373.5	6611.2	24	22.2	501.6	49	49.3
39	74	CVS CVS	23069.3	14.3	132.1	37006.2	21	15.2	1224.7	33	18.4
40	39	FedEx FDX	32588.3	10.1	110.7	30851.0	13	13.4	1575.0	21	33.5
41	71	Franklin Resources BEN	26506.2	51.3	229.6	4505.5 ^y	25	22.0	1135.6	47	38.8
42	—	Lennar LEN	9431.5	-0.6	149.7	13867.0	32	23.6	1344.4	42	34.1
43	17	Coach COH	13668.7	28.7	299.9	1933.9	27	32.7	454.6	46	58.3
44	61	Staples SPLS	17925.0	17.7	116.0	16078.9	11	11.5	834.4	18	25.2
45	345	NVIDIA NVDA	8067.5	62.6	273.5	2375.7	18	8.5	302.6	202	47.8
46	107	Norfolk Southern NSC	20978.0	44.5	179.7	8472.0	16	10.8	1281.0	39	47.4
47	23	Caterpillar CAT	49027.0	56.5	230.0	36339.0	20	22.8	2854.0	40	55.9
48	237	McKesson MCK	16563.8	45.7	107.3	85876.8	10	16.0	776.0	NM	14.8 ^e
49	82	Hartford Financial Services HIG	24891.3	16.4	140.6	27083.0	19	18.5	2274.0	8	33.4 ^e
50	89	Home Depot HD	89526.6	6.4	84.7	81511.0	12	11.9	5838.0	17	16.7

INVESTMENT DATA										
ESTIMATED LONG-TERM GROWTH %	NET MARGIN 2005	NET MARGIN 2004	RETURN ON INVESTED CAPITAL	RECENT SHARE PRICE \$	12-MONTH HIGH/LOW \$	P-E RATIO	DIVIDEND YIELD	EARNINGS PER SHARE 2004	ESTIMATED EARNINGS PER SHARE 2005	INDUSTRY GROUP
20.0	9.9	5.2	19.2	68	86/33	37	0.00	1.86	2.13	Technology Hardware & Equip.
15.0	5.5	4.6	7.9	77	80/58	19	0.00	3.94	4.57	Health-Care Equip. & Svcs.
20.0	2.8	2.3	10.9	50	54/37	24	0.00	2.05	2.30	Health-Care Equip. & Svcs.
17.0	7.3	7.0	15.3	58	65/44	23	0.05	2.48	2.90	Health-Care Equip. & Svcs.
17.5	15.4	8.8	18.8	115	132/65	32	0.87	3.62	4.95	Energy
10.0	34.7	22.9	28.9	92	98/64	7	1.57	12.89	10.69	Energy
15.0	11.2	1.9	25.3	68	82/40	15	0.88	4.54	3.99	Energy
20.0	37.4	36.1	18.8	47	49/32	36	0.76	1.32	1.49	Technology Hardware & Equip.
15.0	29.6	22.4	16.2	75	87/56	26	0.00	2.93	3.46	Pharmaceuticals & Biotech
15.5	7.3	6.1	14.5	51	52/34	19	0.04	2.70	2.75	Health-Care Equip. & Svcs.
17.0	6.4	6.0	15.5	68	70/51	20	0.35	3.46	4.02	Retailing
16.5	11.8	7.2	9.4	79	82/46	20	1.02	4.01	4.76	Transportation
10.0	12.5	7.0	22.5	21	25/14	12	0.75	1.82	1.30	Technology Hardware & Equip.
25.7	36.1	23.5	20.4	32	44/31	25	0.00	1.28	0.54	Software & Svcs.
13.4	13.0	15.3	4.3	141	146/95	13	0.99	11.21	11.86	Diversified Financials
12.0	10.1	11.1	4.0	146	150/86	13	0.66	10.87	11.35	Diversified Financials
19.0	40.1	33.9	24.8	62	64/34	36	0.00	1.72	2.07	Pharmaceuticals & Biotech
25.0	3.1	2.7	9.9	38	41/26	31	0.00	1.22	1.65	Technology Hardware & Equip.
16.5	3.5	3.3	18.8	54	56/32	27	0.59	2.02	2.64	Retailing
20.0	11.7	10.6	9.3	14	15/11	30	0.00	0.47	0.66	Technology Hardware & Equip.
17.5	12.2	8.6	15.1	68	78/42	27	0.77	2.56	3.57	Energy
20.0	17.4	14.8	18.9	30	35/23	21	0.40	1.39	1.47	Semiconductors
15.0	21.5	22.8	24.3	20	20/17	23	0.00	0.87	1.05	Technology Hardware & Equip.
22.0	7.8	7.6	23.4	36	37/22	55	0.00	0.65	0.70	Consumer Svcs.
15.0	22.3	22.0	22.6	21	29/20	15	1.94	1.40	1.23	Semiconductors
15.0	10.8	9.2	14.1	34	43/27	7	1.17	4.84	5.42	Consumer Durables & Apparel
25.0	6.2	5.0	5.7	61	78/39	34	0.00	1.81	3.04	Energy
10.0	10.6	7.8	3.7	41	42/33	17	3.31	2.38	3.37	Diversified Financials
12.1	10.7	13.6	3.4	77	78/52	15	1.30	5.16	5.99	Diversified Financials
4.4	4.4	3.4	17.7	54	64/29	9	0.45	6.10	7.54	Energy
6.0	8.4	6.8	21.1	61	71/48	6	2.36	9.63	9.75	Energy
7.0	5.2	2.8	20.6	71	78/43	8	1.87	8.49	9.69	Energy
13.0	11.4	8.6	11.6	77	79/55	12	1.01	6.46	5.63	Insurance
12.0	31.6	26.0	29.5	27	28/24	22	1.34	1.20	1.32	Software & Svcs.
15.0	23.8	8.5	30.5	51	65/32	11	2.47	4.67	3.39	Materials
25.0	10.8	10.8	7.7	43	46/24	29	0.00	1.47	2.26	Energy
25.0	23.8	23.8	10.8	40	48/31	51	0.00	0.78	1.02	Software & Svcs.
15.0	7.6	6.3	15.1	60	62/41	19	0.00	3.10	3.47	Health-Care Equip. & Svcs.
13.0	3.3	3.0	12.2	28	32/24	20	0.55	1.45	1.57	Food & Staples Retailing
15.0	5.1	4.8	12.5	107	109/77	21	0.30	5.12	6.52	Transportation
13.8	25.2	21.4	15.6	103	104/64	24	0.47	4.35	4.85	Diversified Financials
15.0	9.7	9.0	17.0	60	69/50	7	1.07	8.17	9.35	Consumer Durables & Apparel
20.0	23.5	20.4	33.4	36	37/25	30	0.00	1.18	1.24	Consumer Durables & Apparel
17.0	5.2	4.9	16.8	25	25/19	22	0.90	1.12	1.25	Retailing
20.0	12.7	5.0	20.8	47	51/21	29	0.00	1.65	2.36	Semiconductors
15.0	15.1	12.6	8.1	51	51/30	16	1.25	3.11	3.29	Transportation
10.0	7.9	6.7	11.8	73	74/41	18	1.37	4.04	4.95	Capital Goods
13.5	0.9	-0.3	11.3	54	55/35	22	0.44	2.50	2.62	Health-Care Equip. & Svcs.
12.0	8.4	9.3	11.3	82	89/65	11	1.94	7.44	8.50	Insurance
13.0	7.2	6.8	19.7	42	44/35	15	1.42	2.72	3.07	Retailing