

The Stable Seventy

Top profit producers sorted by five-year earnings stability rate, then by five-year earnings growth rate and finally by EPS Rating [data through Monday]

Rank '03	Rank '02	Company	Ticker	EPS 5 yr stability factor	EPS 5 yr growth rate	Earn. growth last yr	Earn. growth last qtr	EPS rating	Sales growth last yr	Sales growth last qtr	ROE from continuing operations CEO	Start date as CEO	Start date w/firm
1	1	Patterson Dental	PDCO	1	23	25	19	92	22	18	19 Frechette, Peter L.	1982	1982
2	3	Walgreen	WAG	1	18	15	13	90	16	13	17 Bernauer, David W.	2002	1967
3	4	Biomet	BMET	1	17	15	22	92	16	16	20 Miller, Dane A.	1977	1977
4	5	Jacobs Engineering Group	JEC	1	17	14	15	88	15	19	15 Watson, Noel G.	1992	1965
5	11	Matthews International	MATW	1	17	11	16	87	51	28	22 Kelly, David M.	1995	1995
6	6	Corvel	CRVL	1	15	15	15	88	13	25	22 Clemons, V. Gordon	1988	1988
7	15	Kohl's	KSS	2	34	29	19	97	22	17	17 Montgomery, R. Lawrence	2000	1988
8	16	Capital One Financial	COF	2	31	35	31	99	31	21	22 Fairbank, Richard D.	1988	1988
9	7	Bed Bath & Beyond	BBBY	2	31	25	39	99	22	23	22 Feinstein, Leonard	1971	1971
10	9	Harley-Davidson	HDI	2	28	33	26	98	20	13	24 Bleustein, Jeffrey L.	1997	1991
11	17	Starbucks	SBUX	2	27	20	33	93	24	25	12 Smith, Orin C.	2000	1990
12	N	CardinalHealth	CAH	2	26	22	20	95	15	13	18 Walter, Robert D.	1979	1979
13	70	Education Management	EDMC	2	25	25	21	96	35	35	17 Knutson, Robert B.	1986	1971
14	N	Pfizer	PFE	2	25	20	36	95	12	14	39 McKinnell, Henry A.	2001	1992
15	20	Fiserv	FISV	2	24	16	13	89	17	16	14 Muma, Leslie M.	1999	1984
16	36	ICU Medical	ICUI	2	22	21	19	94	27	16	14 Lopez, George A.	1994	1987
17	N	Sonic	SONC	2	22	18	18	90	21	11	20 Hudson, J. Clifford	1995	1985
18	28	Knight Transportation	KNGT	2	19	14	16	88	14	18	16 Knight, Kevin P.	1993	1990
19	N	Applebees International	APPB	2	18	22	20	93	11	14	21 Hill, Lloyd L.	2000	1994
20	21	Medtronic	MDT	2	18	15	17	90	15	20	24 Collins, Jr., Arthur D.	2001	1992
21	8	Affiliated Computer Services	ACS	3	27	43	26	97	48	24	13 Rich, Jeffrey A.	1999	1989
22	38	99 Cents Only Stores	NDN	3	21	20	22	93	23	22	16 Gold, David	1965	1965
23	N	SunGard Data Systems	SDS	3	19	19	18	93	31	22	15 Conde, Cristobal	2002	1991
24	N	Sterling Bancshares	SBIB	3	16	11	15	83	18	40	16 Bridgewater, J. Downey	2002	1996
25	N	BOK Financial	BOKF	3	15	28	26	94	-1	11	15 Lybarger, Stanley A.	1996	1974
26	N	L-3 Communications	LLL	4	41	21	25	97	71	85	12 Lanza, Frank C.	1997	1997
27	43	Amsurg	AMSG	4	38	27	41	98	24	22	9 McDonald, Ken P.	1997	1993
28	27	Lowe's	LOW	4	27	42	43	98	20	16	15 Tillman, Robert L.	1996	1996
29	26	Radian Group	RDN	4	26	14	14	89	22	14	16 Filipps, Frank P.	1996	1992
30	N	Brinker International	EAT	4	25	15	34	95	20	16	16 McDougall, Ronald A.	1995	1983
31	N	CACI International	CAI	4	24	38	20	92	22	26	12 London, J. P.	1984	1972
32	58	KV Pharmaceutical	KVA	4	24	32	16	92	15	20	21 Hermelin, Marc S.	1975	1974
33	29	Performance Food Group	PFGC	4	23	32	16	93	37	31	9 Gray, C. Michael	2001	1975
34	N	Sysco	SYU	4	22	15	17	92	7	14	28 Schnieders, Richard J.	2003	1982
35	N	WellPoint Health Network	WLP	4	21	40	42	98	40	34	20 Schaeffer, Leonard D.	1992	1992
36	N	StanCorp Financial Group	SFG	4	20	21	12	89	12	20	10 Parsons, Eric E.	2003	1968
37	N	Aflac	AFL	4	19	16	24	92	7	11	13 Amos, Daniel P.	1983	1973
38	25	Apollo Group	APOL	5	34	45	60	99	31	33	24 Nelson, Todd S.	2001	1987
39	24	FactSet Research Systems	FDS	5	31	20	25	97	17	12	24 Hadley, Philip A.	2000	1985
40	N	Bright Horizons Family Solns	BFAM	5	26	31	30	97	18	18	14 Lissy, David H.	2002	1997
41	N	Expeditors	EXPD	5	25	16	32	93	22	41	23 Rose, Peter J.	1988	1981
42	N	W Holding Company	WHI	5	24	34	48	98	14	25	17 Stipes, Frank C.	1992	1981
43	55	Express Scripts	ESRX	6	41	35	38	99	41	38	16 Toan, Barrett A.	1992	1989
44	N	Virginia Commerce Bancrp	VCBI	6	38	52	90	99	16	21	15 Converse, Peter A.	1994	1994
45	45	D.R. Horton	DHI	6	34	30	21	96	51	50	19 Tomnitz, Donald J.	1998	1983
46	N	Wintrust Financial	WTFC	6	33	20	30	97	24	38	12 Wehmer, Edward J.	1998	1996
47	N	Harbor Fl Bancshares	HARB	6	25	38	33	97	7	12	11 Brown, Michael J.	1976	1976
48	48	Stryker	SYK	6	24	25	24	95	16	17	25 Brown, John W.	1977	1977
49	59	Triad Guaranty	TGIC	6	20	11	11	87	17	17	17 Thompson, Darryl W.	1986	1986
50	N	KB Home	KBH	7	35	30	32	98	10	20	23 Karatz, Bruce	1986	1972
51	51	Cheesecake Factory	CAKE	7	33	22	18	94	21	17	13 Overton, David	1992	1992
52	23	ResMed	RMD	7	32	19	15	90	32	33	23 Farrell, Peter C.	1989	1989
53	37	UnitedHealth Group	UNH	7	31	38	45	99	7	11	24 McGuire, William W.	1991	1988
54	N	Family Dollar Stores	FDO	7	20	14	14	88	14	14	20 Levine, Howard R.	1998	1996
55	N	Quest Diagnostics	DGX	8	62	41	34	99	13	14	14 Freeman, Kenneth W.	1995	1995
56	N	Doral Financial	DRL	8	34	51	49	99	23	30	18 Levis, Salomon	1989	1985
57	N	UCBH Holdings	UCBH	8	33	34	44	98	4	23	16 Wu, Thomas S.	1998	1991
58	N	Greater Bay Bancorp	GBBK	8	33	20	16	94	20	11	20 Kalkbrenner, David L.	1994	1994
59	N	Engineered Support Systems	EASI	8	32	32	35	98	12	33	18 Shanahan, Michael F.	1985	1982
60	N	Renal Care Group	RCI	8	25	20	25	94	20	19	15 Brooks, Sam A.*	1995	1995
61	N	Mohawk Industries	MHK	8	22	24	13	88	31	34	19 Lorberbaum, Jeffrey S.	2001	1995
62	N	Guidant	GDT	8	21	27	30	95	20	25	38 Dollens, Ronald W.	1995	1995
63	53	ITT Educational Services	ESI	8	20	34	29	94	13	13	44 Champagne, Rene R.	1985	1985
64	N	Apollo-Univ Phoenix Onln	UOPX	9	87	121	73	99	81	62	122 Nelson, Todd S.	2001	1987
65	N	Beazer Homes USA	BZH	9	46	30	11	92	46	43	17 McCarthy, Ian J.	1994	1981
66	N	Federal Home Ln Mtg	FRE	9	33	41	39	98	10	13	21 Brendsel, Leland C.	1985	1982
67	62	Centex	CTX	9	23	31	62	97	15	22	18 Hirsch, Laurence E.	1988	1985
68	N	Ryland Group	RYL	10	53	43	55	99	5	12	18 Dreier, R. Chad	1993	1993
69	N	Shuffle Master	SHFL	10	33	22	36	98	17	19	28 Yoseloff, Mark L.	2001	1997
70	N	American Italian Pasta	PLB	10	26	28	13	91	23	16	13 Webster, Timothy S.	1992	1989
Average				5	28	27	28	94	22	23	20	1993	1986

N=New

* Died on March 20, 2003; a new CEO has not been named