

Forbes

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AMERICA'S **200** BEST SMALL COMPANIES

THE RIGHT STUFF

There is no doubt that Forbes' 200 Best Small Companies in America are the premier publicly traded up and coming outfits. First, all of these companies have stellar track records--over both the long and short term--in growth and profitability. Second, their annual reports and 10-Qs have been examined thoroughly by our statisticians for any balance sheet problems, legal problems or other potential pitfalls that might derail these proven winners. There are no guarantees that all of these companies will eventually blossom into blue chips. But they have passed extremely difficult hurdles to be named one of America's Best Small Companies. To wit: this year less than 1% of those companies eligible for this list made it.

Matthews International Corporation

Business: manufactures memorialization & identification products

Industry: funeral svcs & rel

RANK '01 '00	Company (consecutive years on list) business	PROFITABILITY			GROWTH				SALES latest 12 mos (\$mil)	NET INCOME latest 12 mos (\$mil)	RECENT PRICE	EPS 2002 est	P/E 2002 est	MARKET VALUE ^a (\$mil)
		Return on equity		Debt/ cash flow	Sales		EPS							
		5-year average	latest 12 mos		5-year average	latest 12 mos	5-year average	latest 12 mos						
168 148	Matthews International (2) manufactures memorialization & identification products	21%	22%	37%	11%	1%	16%	11%	\$266	\$30.3	\$22.06	\$1.16	19	\$669

Stock prices as of Sept. 28. ^a Not on last year's list. ^b Includes all share classes.
NA: Not available or not applicable. NM: Not meaningful.

Sources: William O'Neil & Co.; FT Interactive Data, Market Guide and Thomson Financial/IBES via FactSet Research Systems.