

WHAT TO BUY
TECH • REITS • ASIA

WELLS FARGO
ONE SMART BANK

VISA
CREDIT: THE
LEAST OF ITS
PROBLEMS

GE: IT'S WORSE
THAN YOU THINK

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Forbes



The Other Economy

**BEYOND
WALL STREET
THERE'S STILL
CASH, JOBS
AND GROWTH**

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**200 BEST
SMALL COMPANIES**

(PAGE 120)

**METALICO CEO
CARLOS AGUERO**

Best Small Companies | RANKINGS

RANK '08	RANK '07	COMPANY (consecutive years on list) business	RETURN ON EQUITY 5-year average %	GROWTH		SALES Latest 12 months (\$mil)	NET INCOME Latest 12 months (\$mil)	RECENT PRICE (\$)	P/E 2008 estimate	MARKET VALUE (\$mil)
				SALES 5-year average %	EPS 5-year average %					
1	■	GeoResources explores for oil & gas	16	54▲	67▲	77	16	10.84	7	176
2	39	DXP Enterprises (2) manufactures pumps, bearings and industrial parts	30	24▲	56▼	632	22	27.40	15	347
3	36	Team (2) maintains and builds piping systems and vessels	17	42	39	478	24	34.95	23	614
4	5	Quality Systems (8) develops information systems to automate medical practices	32	29	41▼	200	43	42.06	24	1,168
5	6	PetMed Express (3) markets prescription and nonprescription pet medications and products	41▼	26	38	198	20	15.40	17	365
6	■	PetroQuest Energy explores for oil & gas	13	45▼	74▲	295	59	14.04	9	691
7	■	Stanley provides IT services to government agencies	22	32▲	25▲	643	29	35.03	25	821
8	7	LHC Group (2) provides home-based health care services	42▼	45▼	40▼	332	22	28.82	20	515
9	■	Quicksilver Resources explores for oil & gas	25▲	39	85▲	654	519	17.67	13	2,802
10	110	Graham (2) makes and sells industrial vacuum and heating equipment	14▲	16▲	159▼	94	18	23.78	12	240
11	9	Deckers Outdoor (5) markets the UGG, Teva, TSUBO and Simple brands of shoes	20	35▲	88▼	512	62	99.28	15	1,296
12	■	Hittite Microwave develops circuits and modules for voice and data transfer systems	33	40▼	69▼	171	54	31.29	18	973
13	19	K-Tron International (2) designs and markets mechanical sorting and assembly equipment	19	22	41	225	24	127.12	NA	349
14	8	Dynamic Materials (3) provides explosive welding and manufacturing services	29	37▲	61▼	219	26	22.32	12	282
15	15	Middleby (5) manufactures commercial cooking equipment	59▼	17▲	51▼	616	60	53.52	14	907
16	44	Houston Wire & Cable (2) distributes specialty electrical wire and cables	71▼	21▼	116▼	375	29	16.81	10	297
17	■	Berry Petroleum explores for oil & gas	29▲	34	39▼	677	151	36.01	8	1,603
18	■	Comstock Resources explores for oil & gas primarily in Louisiana and Texas	14	35▲	24▲	667	138	46.40	12	2,135
19	■	Transcend Services provides medical transcription services	29▲	30▼	49▲	45	10	10.35	NA	87
20	22	Strayer Education (11) owns and operates universities and online courses	49▼	22	19	354	74	200.09	36	2,856
21	38	Sun Hydraulics (4) manufactures hydraulic valves for fluid power systems	21	22	68▼	184	27	24.39	14	405
22	■	j2 Global Communications provides value-added messaging and communications services	30	36▼	30▼	226	68	22.55	14	988
23	58	II-VI (2) manufactures optical components used to manipulate laser beams	16	20	33▲	316	66	37.82	18 ^a	1,130
24	77	Almost Family (2) provides home nursing services	17	11▲	47	156	11	37.55	20	305
25	80	Comtech Telecommunications (5) develops advanced communications solutions	20	25	38▼	532	76	48.32	17 ^a	1,178
26	■	Liquidity Services provides online-auction marketplace for surplus assets	27▼	34	32▼	245	12	9.79	23	274
27	■	LSB Industries manufactures chemicals and climate-control products	53	16	134▼	641	51	13.74	9	291
28	3	Under Armour (2) designs and markets branded athletic apparel and shoes	41▼	62▼	65▼	676	41	30.82	26	1,512
29	55	Hornbeck Offshore Services (2) provides offshore supply vessels to the oil & gas industry	12	31	35	398	103	37.04	9	958
30	■	Pros Holdings provides pricing analytics software	71▲	13▲	74▼	71	12	8.98	20	234
31	51	Balchem (4) develops nutritional products and ingredients	18	22▲	18▲	224	18	26.73	25	486
32	72	Lufkin Industries (4) manufactures oilfield pumping, power transmission and trailer products	15	24▼	63▼	620	76	73.93	13	1,096

■ Not on last year's list. ▲Recent trend up versus five-year average. ▼Recent trend down versus five-year average. See additional footnotes on page 174. See index on page 195.

DIRECTIONAL INDICATORS: We have inserted arrows to the immediate right of some numbers. If an up arrow appears next to a company's five-year ROE, for example, it means that over the last four quarters its return on equity was more than ten percentage points higher than its five-year average. A down arrow means the opposite. The arrows are intended to make it easier for you to flag companies with significant differences between their long-term and short-term results.

For more information, go to www.forbes.com/200best