

## The 200 Best Small Companies in America

By Kurt Badenhausen and Christina Settini. Electronically reprinted from October 14, 2009



Courtesy of MSCI

### 18. MSCI

Manhattan outfit sells financial data and tools, under the MSCI and Barra brands, to investment firms. Products include stock indexes and portfolio management software.

Our list of the 200 Best Small Companies in America began with a search for companies that show both sales and earnings growth. Candidates must have annual revenue between \$5 million and \$750 million, be publicly traded for at least a year and have a stock price no lower than \$5. Rankings are based on earnings growth, sales growth and return on equity in the past 12 months and over five years; we dropped companies with fuzzy accounting or looming legal troubles. We also compared the stock performance of each company with that of its peers. Shares of last year's list members outpaced the Russell 2000 small-cap index by 10 percentage points. Here are the top 20.

#### Rank Company Name

1. Lumber Liquidators
2. Allegiant Travel
3. Quality Systems
4. LHC Group
5. Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
6. Transcend Services
7. Rackspace Hosting
8. NVE
9. American Public Education
10. American Science & Engineering

#### Rank Company Name

11. Dolby Laboratories
12. HMS Holdings
13. Synaptics
14. Jos. A. Bank Clothiers
15. PetMed Express
16. Medifast
17. Orion Marine Group
18. MSCI
19. InterDigital Inc.
20. Capella Education