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IBD Weekly Special

INSIDE THE 100

New IBD 100 Ranks Nation's Top Innovators

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It's been two years since the economy peaked. Growth has slogged back in recent months under the weight of war and the lingering tech meltdown. But it feels nothing like the 1990s.

Thankfully, it's only a matter of time before America's entrepreneurial spirit prevails. It always does.

The Investor's Business Daily 100, which makes its debut today and will appear every Monday, reflects the innovation and growth of America's leading companies.

These 100 enterprises aren't necessarily the biggest operations, often the overriding criterion in other corporate rankings. But they are dynamic.

They're generating robust earnings and sales growth despite the slack economy. Other fundamentals, such as return on equity and pre-tax margins, are far higher than the bulk of the thousands of public companies that trade in the U.S.

The smart money on Wall Street recognizes their value. Their share prices have largely defied the baddest bear market in decades.

Some of the names are well-known, such as Yahoo, the leading Internet portal, and biotech pioneer Amgen.

But the ranking is not a popularity contest or a measure of which CEO can bloat his balance sheet with profitless sales.

Behind the superior numbers, you'll find innovative products and services. Some companies are defining new industries. Others stand far above peers in mature businesses, thanks to obsessive efficiency.

Near the top of this week's ranking, you'll find Biosite. Earnings more than doubled last quarter, thanks to a new testing method – Triage BNP – that uncovers congestive heart failure before it kills.

Pixar revolutionized animated movies with its computer-generated characters. The maker of the celebrated "Toy Story" debuts its latest feature in May, when "Finding Nemo" hits theaters.

Ryland is among the nation's leading home builders. Low interest rates are opening the doors of new houses to millions of Americans. Ryland leverages this trend with stock buybacks, boosting the value of the company to shareholders.

IBD highlights key facts, figures and headlines for each company to give you a quick idea of the source of its strength. Subscribers can log on to IBD's archives at investors.com to find the complete stories on many of these firms.

Rank	Company	Symbol	Price	% Off High	EPS Rtg	Rel Str Rtg	Annual EPS Est % Chg	Last Qtr EPS % Chg	Next Qtr EPS % Chg	Last Qtr Sales % Chg	ROE	Pre-tax margin	Mgt Own %	Otrs of Rising Spnsrshp
1	Hi-Tech Pharmacal Targeting large, growing diabetic population with products like sugar substitute sans aspartame.	HITK	29.38	0	98	99	.. +85	..	+70	15	17	40	1	
2	Garmin Makes direction-finders using GPS tracking, Flight deck picked 3/31 by Cessna for new bizjet	GRMN	35.50	-5	99	95	+13 +62	+24	+44	27	39	47	4	
3	Biosite Has tripled sales growth. Chest-pain screener catches heart failure early. Q4 was best in years.	BSTE	40.51	-10	99	95	+56 +107	+94	+89	11	..	15	4	
4	Apol-uvv Phnx Ont Web-based version of U of Phoenix, now with 63,000 degree enrollees, up 27% since fall period.	UOPX	45.10	-1	99	93	+63 +73	+56	+62	46	33	2	3	
5	eBay Online auctioneer Net's biggest success story: fastest growth, widest margins, sturdiest stock.	EBAY	88.29	-4	99	93	+53 +100	+72	+89	11	33	28	17	
6	Dick's Sporting Goods 54-year-old chain is 6-month-old IPO. Latest qtr beat estimates. Stock broke to new high 4/1.	DKS	24.08	-10	98	96	+11 +31	+24	+16	46	5	14	0	
7	Eon Labs Germany's Hexal owns 75% of generic-drug firm. Stock defies downgrade, adverse FDA ruling.	ELAB	27.48	-3	98	95	+3 +48	+16	+67	99	32	77	2	
8	Sanfilippo Jhn B Son Last qtr's net blew away estimates for nut distributor. Another acceleration expected this qtr.	JBSS	15.24	-4	96	98	+58 +71	+133	+19	8	4	3	0	
9	Rollins Parent of Orkin pest control. 3-for-2 split followed Jan. dividend hike. Insiders bought big in '02.	ROL	22.85	-5	99	95	.. +100	..	+3	31	7	53	1	
10	Doral Financial No. 1 mortgage lender in Puerto Rico, where housing backlog is 5 years. Expanding in NYC.	DRL	36.40	-4	99	92	+27 +48	+33	+37	22	..	20	11	
11	Coach Logoed, nonleather goods boost sales. Best quarter gains in 2 years seen despite big year-ago.	COH	38.50	-4	98	93	+52 +39	+81	+31	43	19	3	9	
12	Taro Pharmaceut Israeli generic-drug maker relies on many products, not few blockbusters, for stellar sales.	TARO	42.38	-6	98	93	+30 +29	+32	+43	18	25	..	2	
13	Quality Systems Medical groups use software to manage network, business operations. Latest sales best in years.	QSII	25.50	-7	97	93	+33 +36	+21	+30	14	19	46	2	
14	Portfolio Recovery Net tripled in '02 after doubling in '01 for collector of charged-off consumer debt. IPO in Nov.	PRAA	21.87	-14	99	90	+14 +243	+26	+67	21	33	19	0	
15	Apollo Grp A Operates University of Phoenix, which educates working adults. Stock defied bear market.	APOL	51.52	-2	99	89	+42 +60	+30	+33	27	26	36	11	
16	Career Education For-profit school operator has beaten profit estimates for at least 12 straight periods.	CECO	51.85	-1	99	88	+28 +48	+35	+42	19	15	3	16	
17	FTI Consulting Bankruptcy accountant also bucked bear. 32 funds with new positions. 3-2 split due 5/7.	FCN	45.59	-6	98	89	+57 +210	+119	+197	17	26	2	7	
18	Teva Pharm Adr Another Israeli-based maker of generic drugs. Its version of Augmentin may be one of biggest.	TEVA	44.92	-2	97	92	+24 +52	+41	+36	26	20	..	4	
19	Biovail Canada firm proves Street wrong by turning off-patent Cardizem hypertension drug into cash cow.	BVF	40.90	-27	97	92	+27 +30	+19	+34	30	40	18	1	
20	Open Text Company's software lets people work together online. Sales forecast to return to double digits.	OTEX	27.99	-7	96	91	+22 +33	+11	+8	16	14	9	2	
21	Central Euro Dist Company expects FY 2003 earnings per share of \$2.15-\$2.20, higher than previous expectations.	CEDC	22.51	-36	95	96	+56 +178	+41	+99	27	4	44	2	
22	Yahoo Triple-digit growth has resumed for Internet portal. Q1's 300% gain beat views.	YHOO	24.43	-3	94	95	+67 +300	+133	+47	5	19	19	2	
23	Joseph Banks Cloth Men's apparel chain has opened 10 of the 50 stores planned for '03. Sees 500 stores over 3-5 years.	JOSB	27.54	-1	94	94	+16 +27	+12	+16	14	..	12	0	
24	Boston Comm Provides subscriber services to prepaid cell phone carriers. Verizon accounts for half of sales.	BGCI	16.08	-4	92	96	+88 +999	+367	+48	6	14	15	2	
25	Mid Atlantic Md Q1's expected EPS gain would break HMO's streak of four quarters of accelerating profit.	MME	40.79	-6	99	89	+18 +112	+42	+28	31	6	7	4	
26	Port Financial Corp Small regional Massachusetts bank winning customers as giant rivals consolidate.	PORT	48.65	-2	99	88	+17 +82	+53	+6	7	..	17	10	
27	Corinthian Colleges After-tax margin has risen to 12% level in the past four quarters.	COCO	39.87	-5	99	88	+56 +75	+36	+56	30	19	8	12	
28	UCBH Hold San Francisco-based institution sports highest EPS Rating among Western banks.	UCBH	23.97	-2	99	86	+21 +45	+29	+35	19	32	5	15	
29	Chico's Fas March same-store sales for the women's clothing retailer rose 12.4% vs. 7.6% estimate.	CHS	21.60	-10	99	86	+22 +42	+17	+36	37	..	12	1	
30	W Holding Company Puerto Rico banks have outperformed for years. Tax breaks for them and customers are a reason.	WHI	19.35	-3	98	87	+28 +48	+35	+25	18	25	36	8	