# Cato Corp.

**CATO**

NYSE; shops; SIC 5621, Retail-Women's Clothing Stores; CIK 0000018255

**E**

**weakest fifth of 257 graded peers in shops**

rank 250 of 257; percentile 97.3; sampling error 2.9 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

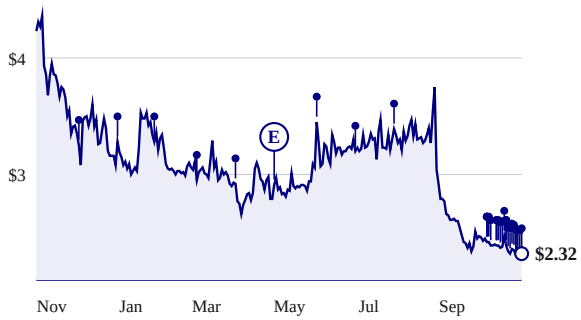
**E, the bear**



## Scoreboard

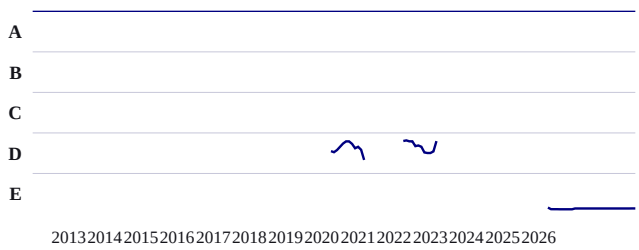
| | |
|---|---|
| **Profitability** | D<br>percentile 65.7 |
| **Solvency** | D/E<br>percentile 77.3 |
| **Growth and financing** | D/E<br>percentile 79.5 |
| **Reliability** | 0.87 AUC<br>filers with $120M to $591M assets; 95% interval 0.83 to 0.90; 206 events, 2020 to 2025 |
| **Peer failure rate** | 1.03% a year<br>Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025 |
| **Size band** | $120M to $591M assets<br>total assets $421.4M |
| **Standard universe** | inside<br>revenue above $1M and assets above $10M |
| **Warnings** | none triggered<br>not computable: dilution, distress, fortress balance sheet |
| **Inputs computable** | 7 of 14 |
| **Graded from** | filings received through Mar 25, 2026<br>212 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 27, 2026 |
| **Last close** | $2.31<br>2026-10-20; market equity $0; no price enters the letter |

**Share price, twelve months to the rescan**




*Split-adjusted close. Each lollipop is a rescan and carries the letter held then.*

**Letter at every rescan, 2012 to 2026**




*Sector percentile at each rescan, stronger toward the top; facts filed by each date only.*

## Business, in the company's words

*opening of Item 1 of the 10-K received Mar 25, 2026*

concept's stores and e-commerce website feature a broad assortment of apparel and accessories, including merchandise is sold under its private label and is produced by various concepts offer fashion with a focus on the latest trendy styles for the entire family at low prices every day. went private and in 1987 again conducted an initial public offering. positioned itself as the every day low price leader in its market service and to assist customers in merchandise selection and wardrobe the purchase of its merchandise more convenient for its customers.

## The fourteen inputs

*lower percentile is stronger; sleeves and inputs within a sleeve carry equal weight*

| Input | Value | Peer median | Percentile, 0 to 100 | Pct | Peers | Period end |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Profitability, sleeve percentile 65.7** | | | | | | |
| Gross profitability | 52.7% | 42.9% | | 32.1 | 241 | 2026-01-31 |
| Return on invested capital | not computable | 10.9% | | | | |
| *one or more required annual facts are missing* | | | | | | |

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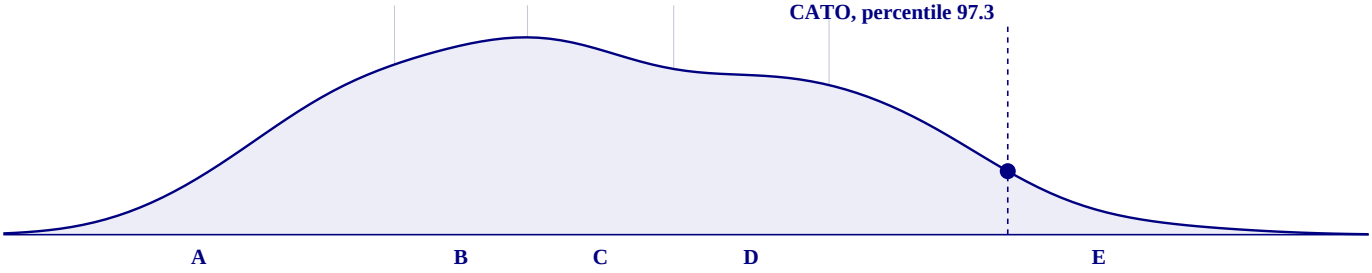
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accruals ratio | (1.0%) | (4.9%) | 84.6 | 287 | 2026-01-31 |
| Gross margin stability, five years | 3.1 pts | 1.2 pts | 80.3 | 219 | 2026-01-31 |
| **Solvency, sleeve percentile 77.3** | | | | | |
| Twelve-month failure probability | not computable | 0.04% | | | |
| *liabilities and a nearby cover-page share count are required at 2026-08-01* | | | | | |
| Altman Z double-prime | not computable | 1.93 | | | |
| *one or more required annual facts are missing* | | | | | |
| Net debt to EBITDA | not computable | 1.84x | | | |
| *one or more required annual facts are missing* | | | | | |
| Interest coverage | (110.12x) | 2.28x | 96.8 | 63 | 2026-01-31 |
| Current ratio | 1.24x | 1.38x | 57.8 | 295 | 2026-01-31 |
| **Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 79.5** | | | | | |
| Revenue growth, three-year compound | (4.9%) | 1.5% | 74.9 | 268 | 2026-01-31 |
| Free cash flow growth, three-year compound | not computable | 5.5% | | | |
| *current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed $100,000* | | | | | |
| Reinvestment rate | not computable | 8.4% | | | |
| *NOPAT must exceed $100,000* | | | | | |
| Asset growth, three years | (8.7%) | 3.3% | 84.1 | 271 | 2026-01-31 |
| Net share issuance, one year | not computable | (0.6%) | | | |
| *two annual share counts are required; found 0* | | | | | |

## Among 257 peers

*shops; letters are fifths of this list*




*Composite score of every graded peer, smoothed; vertical rules are the letter band edges; stronger to the left.*

| Rank | Company | Percentile | Letter | Warnings |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 245 | Krispy Kreme, Inc. (DNUT) | 95.3 | E | |
| 246 | Dolphin Entertainment, Inc. (DLPN) | 95.7 | E | |
| 247 | Andersons, Inc. (ANDE) | 96.1 | E | |
| 248 | Torrid Holdings Inc. (CURV) | 96.5 | E | |
| 249 | Olenox Industries Inc. (OLOX) | 96.9 | E | late filer |
| 250 | Cato Corp. (CATO) | 97.3 | E | |
| 251 | Rent the Runway, Inc. (RENT) | 97.7 | E | |
| 252 | Digital Brands Group, Inc. (DBGI) | 98.0 | E | dilution, short runway, late filer |
| 253 | LiveOne, Inc. (LVO) | 98.4 | E | dilution, late filer |
| 254 | iPower Inc. (IPW) | 98.8 | E | dilution, late filer, fortress balance sheet |
| 255 | Regis Corp. (RGS) | 99.2 | E | |

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## What the price implies

*at the 2026-10-20 close; none of these enters the grade*

| Measure | Value | Peer median | Percentile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month | (38.0%) | 0.2% | 12 |
| Distance from 52-week high | (46.8%) | (20.8%) | 18 |
| EBIT to enterprise value | not computable | 5.3% | |
| Free cash flow yield | not computable | 3.9% | |
| Book value to price | not computable | 0.34 | |
| Sales to price | not computable | 1.64 | |
| Composite equity issuance, five years | not computable | (16.7%) | |
| Relative strength against the sector, log excess return | (0.45) | 0.03 | 12 |

## Diagnostics

*shown on every report; none enters the grade*

| Measure | Value |
|---|---|
| **Piotroski F-score None of 9, period end 2026-01-31** | |
| Return on assets above zero | fail |
| Operating cash flow above zero | fail |
| Return on assets improved | pass |
| Operating cash flow exceeds net income | pass |
| Long-term leverage fell | fail |
| Current ratio improved | pass |
| No new shares issued | fail |
| Gross margin improved | pass |
| Asset turnover improved | pass |
| **Cash, filings, liquidity** | |
| Cash and equivalents | $35.1M |
| Operating cash flow, four quarters | $5.4M |
| Months of runway | not finite |
| Days since last periodic filing | 57 (10-Q received Aug 27, 2026) |
| Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions | $143,868 |

## Sources

*every fact behind the inputs; each row links to its filing index on sec.gov*

| # | Concept | XBRL tag | Value | Period end | Received | Form | Accession |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $653.8M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 2 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $431.6M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 3 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $421.4M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 4 | net income | us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss | -$5.9M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 5 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | -$1.5M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 6 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $452.4M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 7 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $649.8M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 8 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $436.4M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 9 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $708.1M | 2024-02-03 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 10 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $464.3M | 2024-02-03 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 11 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $759.3M | 2023-01-28 | 2025-03-31 | 10-K | 25-000062 |
| 12 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $509.7M | 2023-01-28 | 2025-03-31 | 10-K | 25-000062 |
| 13 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $769.3M | 2022-01-29 | 2024-03-27 | 10-K | 24-000065 |
| 14 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $453.1M | 2022-01-29 | 2024-03-27 | 10-K | 24-000065 |
| 15 | operating income | us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss | -$12.7M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 16 | interest expense | us-gaap:InterestExpense | $115,000 | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 17 | current assets | us-gaap:AssetsCurrent | $193.3M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 18 | current liabilities | us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent | $155.9M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $3.8M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 20 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | -$19.7M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 21 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $7.9M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 22 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $477,000 | 2024-02-03 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 23 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $12.5M | 2024-02-03 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 24 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $13.4M | 2023-01-28 | 2025-03-31 | 10-K | 25-000062 |
| 25 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $19.4M | 2023-01-28 | 2025-03-31 | 10-K | 25-000062 |
| 26 | depreciation amortization | us-gaap:Depreciation | $10.0M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 27 | pretax income | us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc... | -$7.5M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 28 | income tax | us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit | -$1.6M | 2026-01-31 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 29 | current assets | us-gaap:AssetsCurrent | $223.2M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 30 | current liabilities | us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent | $188.2M | 2025-02-01 | 2026-03-25 | 10-K | 26-000041 |
| 31 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $486.8M | 2024-02-03 | 2025-03-31 | 10-K | 25-000062 |
| 32 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $553.1M | 2023-01-28 | 2024-03-27 | 10-K | 24-000065 |

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