# Acme United Corp.

**ACU**

NYSE; manufacturing; SIC 3420, Cutlery, Handtools & General Hardware; CIK 0000002098

**A**

**strongest fifth of 255 graded peers in manufacturing**

rank 33 of 255; percentile 12.6; sampling error 3.0 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

**A, the bull**



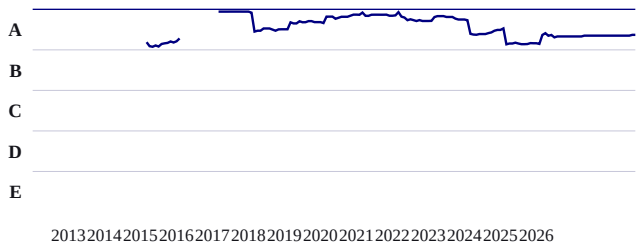
| Scoreboard | |
|---|---|
| **Profitability** | B<br>percentile 35.6 |
| **Solvency** | A<br>percentile 15.2 |
| **Growth and financing** | C/D<br>percentile 57.6 |
| **Reliability** | 0.87 AUC<br>filers with $120M to $591M assets; 95% interval 0.83 to 0.90; 206 events, 2020 to 2025 |
| **Peer failure 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 $171.0M |
| **Standard universe** | inside<br>revenue above $1M and assets above $10M |
| **Warnings** | none triggered<br>not computable: distress, fortress balance sheet |
| **Inputs computable** | 9 of 14 |
| **Graded from** | filings received through Mar 11, 2026<br>227 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 6, 2026 |
| **Last close** | $63.35<br>2026-10-21; market equity $242.9M; 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 11, 2026*

Acme United Corporation, a Connecticut corporation (together, with its subsidiaries, the "Company"), is a leading worldwide supplier of innovative first aid and medical products and cutting technology to the school, home, office, hardware, sporting goods and industrial markets. Its principal products sold across all segments are first aid kits and medical products, scissors, shears, knives, and sharpening tools. The Company sells its products primarily to mass market and e-commerce retailers, industrial distributors, wholesale, contract and retail stationery distributors, office supply superstores, sporting goods stores, and hardware chains.

## 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 35.6** | | | | | | |
| Gross profitability | 45.3% | 21.9% | | 8.0 | 275 | 2025-12-31 |
| Return on invested capital | not computable | 9.7% | | | | |
| *one or more required annual facts are missing* | | | | | | |

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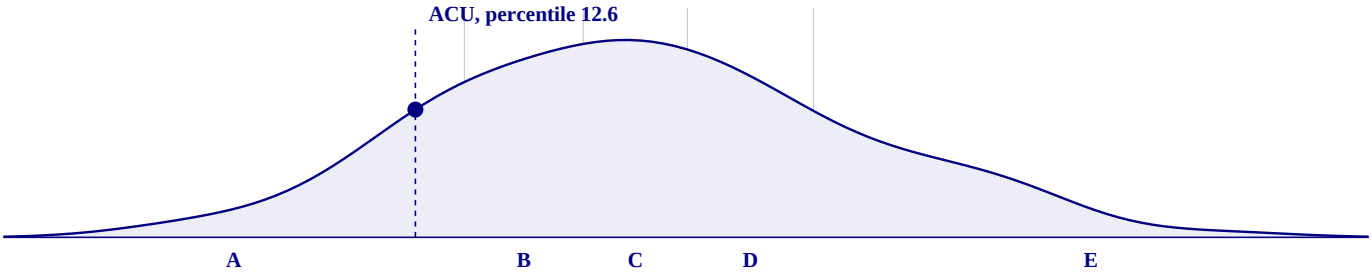
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accruals ratio | (4.8%) | (3.5%) | 41.2 | 307 | 2025-12-31 |
| Gross margin stability, five years | 2.5 pts | 2.1 pts | 57.5 | 229 | 2025-12-31 |
| **Solvency, sleeve percentile 15.2** | | | | | |
| Twelve-month failure probability | not computable | 0.04% | | | |
| *latest liabilities, cash plus short-term investments, book equity, and shares are required* | | | | | |
| Altman Z double-prime | 7.65 | 3.66 | 14.0 | 243 | 2025-12-31 |
| Net debt to EBITDA | not computable | 1.78x | | | |
| *one or more required annual facts are missing* | | | | | |
| Interest coverage | not computable | 5.09x | | | |
| *one or more required annual facts are missing* | | | | | |
| Current ratio | 4.21x | 2.25x | 16.4 | 324 | 2025-12-31 |
| **Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 57.6** | | | | | |
| Revenue growth, three-year compound | 0.4% | 2.2% | 58.6 | 269 | 2025-12-31 |
| Free cash flow growth, three-year compound | not computable | 13.7% | | | |
| *current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed $100,000* | | | | | |
| Reinvestment rate | 66.4% | 26.1% | 29.0 | 139 | 2025-12-31 |
| Asset growth, three years | 1.3% | 4.3% | 63.5 | 278 | 2025-12-31 |
| Net share issuance, one year | 1.4% | 0.01% | 79.3 | 242 | 2026-02-28 |

## Among 255 peers

*manufacturing; 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | TechnipFMC plc (FTI) | 10.6 | A | fortress balance sheet |
| 29 | Lincoln Electric Holdings Inc. (LECO) | 11.0 | A | |
| 30 | Enerpac Tool Group Corp. (EPAC) | 11.4 | A | |
| 31 | National Presto Industries Inc. (NPK) | 11.8 | A | |
| 32 | Compx International Inc. (CIX) | 12.2 | A | fortress balance sheet |
| 33 | Acme United Corp. (ACU) | 12.6 | A | |
| 34 | Weatherford International plc (WFRD) | 13.0 | A | |
| 35 | Cummins Inc. (CMI) | 13.4 | A | |
| 36 | Park Aerospace Corp. (PKE) | 13.8 | A | late filer, fortress balance sheet |
| 37 | Lennox International Inc. (LII) | 14.2 | A | |
| 38 | Kadant Inc. (KAI) | 14.6 | A | |

## What the price implies

*at the 2026-10-21 close; none of these enters the grade*

| Measure | Value | Peer median | Percentile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month | 53.6% | 13.7% | 79 |
| Distance from 52-week high | (1.1%) | (26.9%) | 98 |
| EBIT to enterprise value | not computable | 4.3% | |
| Free cash flow yield | 3.1% | 3.4% | 43 |
| Book value to price | 0.50 | 0.36 | 63 |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sales to price | 0.81 | 0.54 | 63 |
| Composite equity issuance, five years | 4.5% | (9.5%) | 73 |
| Relative strength against the sector, log excess return | 0.30 | (0.00) | 79 |

## Diagnostics

*shown on every report; none enters the grade*

| Measure | Value |
|---|---|
| **Piotroski F-score 6 of 9, period end 2025-12-31** | |
| Return on assets above zero | pass |
| Operating cash flow above zero | pass |
| Return on assets improved | fail |
| Operating cash flow exceeds net income | pass |
| Long-term leverage fell | pass |
| Current ratio improved | pass |
| No new shares issued | fail |
| Gross margin improved | pass |
| Asset turnover improved | fail |
| **Cash, filings, liquidity** | |
| Cash and equivalents | $5.0M |
| Operating cash flow, four quarters | $26.1M |
| Months of runway | not finite |
| Days since last periodic filing | 79 (10-Q received Aug 6, 2026) |
| Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions | $1.9M |

## 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 | gross profit | us-gaap:GrossProfit | $77.4M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 2 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $171.0M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 3 | net income | us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss | $10.2M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 4 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $18.2M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 5 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $162.2M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 6 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $196.5M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 7 | gross profit | us-gaap:GrossProfit | $76.4M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 8 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $194.5M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 9 | gross profit | us-gaap:GrossProfit | $72.2M | 2023-12-31 | 2025-03-06 | 10-K | 25-034843 |
| 10 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $191.5M | 2023-12-31 | 2025-03-06 | 10-K | 25-034843 |
| 11 | gross profit | us-gaap:GrossProfit | $63.6M | 2022-12-31 | 2024-03-07 | 10-K | 24-027907 |
| 12 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $194.0M | 2022-12-31 | 2024-03-07 | 10-K | 24-027907 |
| 13 | gross profit | us-gaap:GrossProfit | $64.8M | 2021-12-31 | 2023-03-10 | 10-K | 23-003422 |
| 14 | revenue | us-gaap:Revenues | $182.1M | 2021-12-31 | 2023-03-10 | 10-K | 23-003422 |
| 15 | current assets | us-gaap:AssetsCurrent | $96.2M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 16 | current liabilities | us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent | $22.9M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 17 | retained earnings | us-gaap:RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit | $102.3M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 18 | operating income | us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss | $14.7M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 19 | book equity | us-gaap:StockholdersEquity | $117.6M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 20 | liabilities | us-gaap:Liabilities | $53.4M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 21 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $10.7M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 22 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $12.0M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 23 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $7.1M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 24 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $28.9M | 2023-12-31 | 2025-03-06 | 10-K | 25-034843 |
| 25 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $4.7M | 2023-12-31 | 2025-03-06 | 10-K | 25-034843 |
| 26 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $2.9M | 2022-12-31 | 2024-03-07 | 10-K | 24-027907 |
| 27 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment | $4.3M | 2022-12-31 | 2024-03-07 | 10-K | 24-027907 |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | depreciation amortization | us-gaap:Depreciation | $3.8M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 29 | pretax income | us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc... | $13.1M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 30 | income tax | us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit | $2.9M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 31 | current assets | us-gaap:AssetsCurrent | $95.5M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 32 | current liabilities | us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent | $22.9M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 33 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $149.2M | 2023-12-31 | 2025-03-06 | 10-K | 25-034843 |
| 34 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $164.4M | 2022-12-31 | 2024-03-07 | 10-K | 24-027907 |
| 35 | shares outstanding | dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding | 3,808,225 | 2026-02-28 | 2026-03-11 | 10-K | 26-102079 |
| 36 | shares outstanding | dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding | 3,754,498 | 2025-02-28 | 2025-03-06 | 10-K | 25-034843 |

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