Central Garden & PET Co.

CENTA

Nasdaq; shops; SIC 5190, Wholesale-Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods; CIK 0000887733

C

middle fifth of 256 graded peers in shops

rank 111 of 256; percentile 43.3; sampling error 2.9 points; lower is stronger

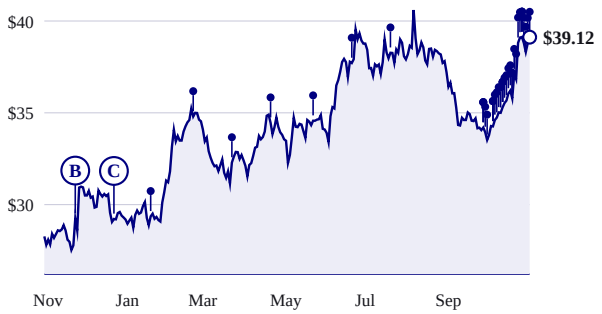
A B C D E

C, the tortoise



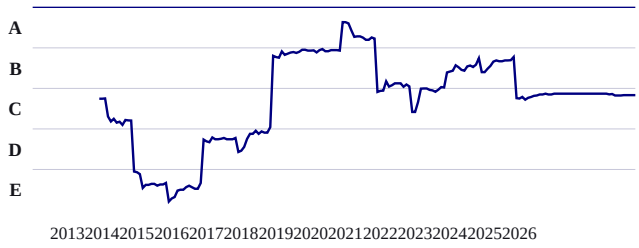
Scoreboard	
Profitability	C percentile 56.4
Solvency	B percentile 29.9
Growth and financing	C percentile 54.5
Reliability	0.94 AUC filers with over $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.97; 61 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	0.52% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	over $2.67B assets total assets $3.6B
Standard universe	inside revenue above $1M and assets above $10M
Warnings	none triggered not computable: dilution, distress
Inputs computable	10 of 14
Graded from	filings received through Nov 26, 2025 339 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 6, 2026
Last close	$39.12 2026-10-30; 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 Nov 26, 2025

Central Garden & Pet Company ("Central") is a market leader in the U.S. pet and garden industries. For more than 40 years, we have delivered innovative, trusted solutions that help lawns grow greener, gardens bloom bigger, pets live healthier, and communities grow stronger. We operate through two reportable segments: Pet and Garden. Our Pet segment offers a broad range of products for dog and cat supplies, including treats and chews, toys, beds and containment, grooming items, waste management and training pads.

The fourteen inputs

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

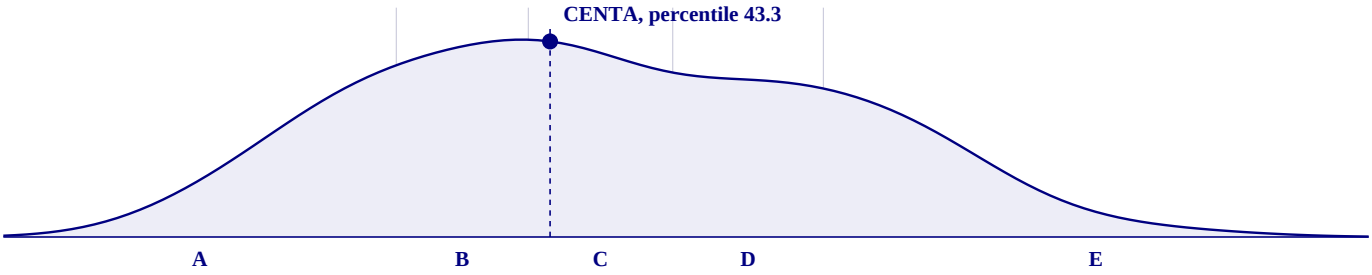
Input	Value	Peer median	Percentile, 0 to 100	Pct	Peers	Period end
Profitability, sleeve percentile 56.4						
Gross profitability	27.5%	42.0%		70.9	240	2025-09-27
Return on invested capital	9.7%	10.9%		56.0	84	2025-09-27
Accruals ratio	(4.7%)	(4.8%)		55.1	285	2025-09-27
Gross margin stability, five years	1.1 pts	1.2 pts		43.5	218	2025-09-27

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.

Solvency, sleeve percentile 29.9						
Twelve-month failure probability	not computable	0.04%				
firm-wide XBRL shares cannot be assigned to one ticker class						
Altman Z double-prime	not computable	1.93				
one or more required annual facts are missing						
Net debt to EBITDA	0.92x	1.84x		38.9	100	2025-09-27
Interest coverage	4.33x	2.28x		41.1	63	2025-09-27
Current ratio	3.67x	1.38x		9.8	293	2025-09-27
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 54.5						
Revenue growth, three-year compound	(2.1%)	1.6%		67.5	267	2025-09-27
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	not computable	5.2%				
current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed $100,000						
Reinvestment rate	11.9%	8.4%		48.7	152	2025-09-27
Asset growth, three years	3.4%	3.4%		47.4	270	2025-09-27
Net share issuance, one year	not computable	(0.6%)				
firm-wide XBRL shares cannot be assigned to one ticker class						

Among 256 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
107	Shoe Station Group Inc. (SHOE)	41.6	B/C	
108	Henry Schein Inc. (HSIC)	42.0	B/C	
109	Wingstop Inc. (WING)	42.4	B/C	
110	H&R Block Inc. (HRB)	42.7	B/C	
111	Central Garden & PET Co. (CENT)	43.3	C	
112	Central Garden & PET Co. (CENTA)	43.3	C	
113	TJX Companies Inc. (TJX)	43.9	C	
114	US Foods Holding Corp. (USFD)	44.3	C	
115	Sonic Automotive Inc. (SAH)	44.7	C	
116	Herbalife Ltd. (HLF)	45.1	C	
117	Cannae Holdings, Inc. (CNNE)	45.5	C	fortress balance sheet

What the price implies

at the 2026-10-30 close; none of these enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	26.0%	0.7%	74
Distance from 52-week high	(3.6%)	(20.3%)	88
EBIT to enterprise value	not computable	5.2%	
Free cash flow yield	not computable	3.9%	
Book value to price	not computable	0.35	
Sales to price	not computable	1.59	
Composite equity issuance, five years	not computable	(16.8%)	

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.

Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	0.25	0.03	74

Diagnostics

shown on every report; none enters the grade

Measure	Value
Piotroski F-score None of 9, period end 2025-09-27	
Return on assets above zero	pass
Operating cash flow above zero	pass
Return on assets improved	pass
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	$996.7M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	$390.3M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	86 (10-Q received Aug 6, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$10.6M

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	$997.3M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
2	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$3.6B	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
3	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	$250.0M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
4	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	$216.8M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
5	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	$52.8M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
6	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$1.2B	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
7	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$1.6B	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
8	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$882.5M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
9	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$1.2B	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
10	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$1.6B	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
11	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$753.5M	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
12	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	$162.8M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
13	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$332.5M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
14	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$3.6B	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
15	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$3.1B	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
16	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$943.7M	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
17	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$3.2B	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
18	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$946.8M	2023-09-30	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
19	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$3.3B	2023-09-30	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
20	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$992.3M	2022-09-24	2024-11-27	10-K	24-000029
21	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$3.3B	2022-09-24	2024-11-27	10-K	24-000029
22	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$970.9M	2021-09-25	2023-11-28	10-K	23-000017
23	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$3.3B	2021-09-25	2023-11-28	10-K	23-000017
24	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:DepreciationDepletionAndAmortization	$84.9M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
25	interest expense	us-gaap:InterestExpense	$57.7M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
26	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$2.0B	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
27	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$538.8M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
28	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$41.4M	2025-09-27	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
29	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$394.9M	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
30	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$43.1M	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.

31	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$381.6M	2023-09-30	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
32	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$54.0M	2023-09-30	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
33	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	-$34.0M	2022-09-24	2024-11-27	10-K	24-000029
34	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$115.2M	2022-09-24	2024-11-27	10-K	24-000029
35	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$1.9B	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
36	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$515.4M	2024-09-28	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
37	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$3.4B	2023-09-30	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041
38	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$3.3B	2022-09-24	2024-11-27	10-K	24-000029

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.