Cars.com Inc.

CARS

NYSE; business equipment; SIC 7374, Services-Computer Processing & Data Preparation; CIK 0001683606

D

fourth fifth of 497 graded peers in business equipment

rank 353 of 497; percentile 71.0; sampling error 2.2 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

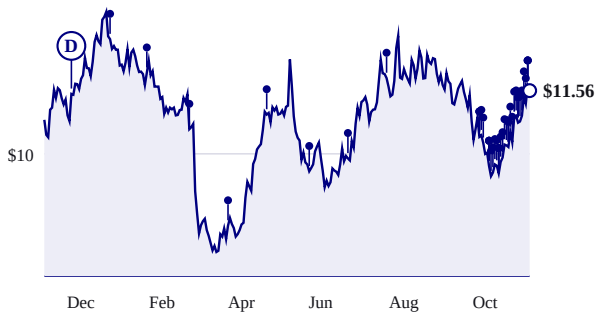
D, the sloth



Scoreboard

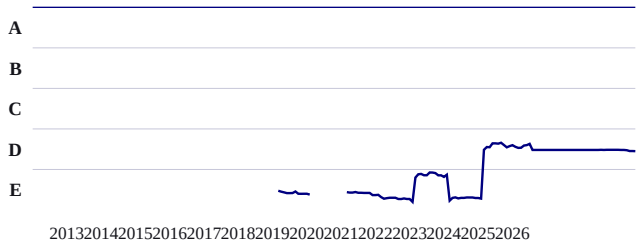
Profitability	C percentile 51.7
Solvency	D percentile 66.2
Growth and financing	C percentile 52.4
Reliability	0.91 AUC filers with $591M to $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.94; 160 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	1.01% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	$591M to $2.67B assets total assets $1.1B
Standard universe	inside revenue above $1M and assets above $10M
Warnings	none triggered not computable: distress
Inputs computable	10 of 14
Graded from	filings received through Feb 26, 2026 251 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 6, 2026
Last close	$11.56 2026-11-03; market equity $618.8M; 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 Feb 26, 2026

. Cars.com Inc. (NYSE:CARS) is a trusted audience-powered and data-driven technology platform that simplifies buying and selling cars. The flagship Cars.com marketplace connects millions of consumers to dealerships across the U.S., powering the car buying experience with artificial intelligence ("AI") shopping tools and comprehensive vehicle reviews and content. Our interconnected ecosystem of products enables dealers and OEMs to sell more cars by efficiently leveraging our marketplace, dealer websites, trade and appraisal tools and proprietary in-market media solutions. Learn more at www.carscommerce.inc.

The fourteen inputs

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

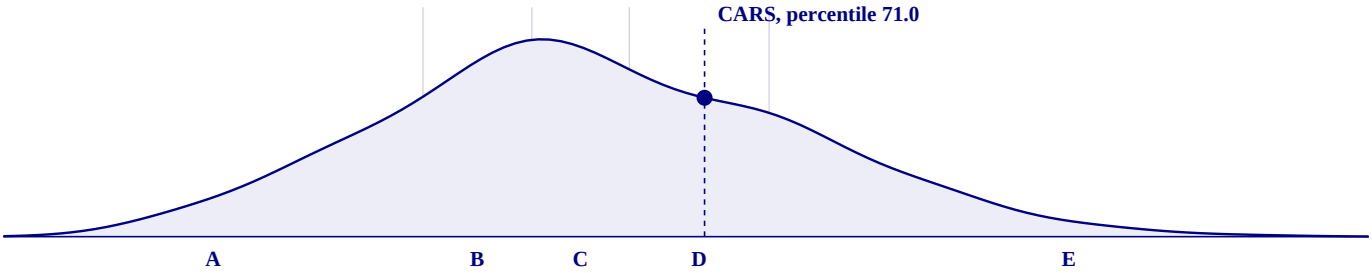
Input	Value	Peer median	Percentile, 0 to 100	Pct	Peers	Period end
Profitability, sleeve percentile 51.7						
Gross profitability	not computable	28.7%				
latest aligned inputs end 2018-12-31; latest annual assets end 2025-12-31						
Return on invested capital	3.9%	11.6%		68.4	134	2025-12-31

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Accruals ratio	(12.1%)	(7.4%)	35.0	618	2025-12-31
Gross margin stability, five years	not computable	2.3 pts			
five annual gross margins are required; found 2					
Solvency, sleeve percentile 66.2					
Twelve-month failure probability	not computable	0.06%			
latest liabilities, cash plus short-term investments, book equity, and shares are required					
Altman Z double-prime	(1.06)	2.16	62.5	564	2025-12-31
Net debt to EBITDA	4.47x	1.08x	82.9	147	2025-12-31
Interest coverage	not computable	3.77x			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Current ratio	1.87x	2.01x	53.3	662	2025-12-31
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 52.4					
Revenue growth, three-year compound	3.4%	6.4%	58.7	536	2025-12-31
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	5.2%	18.2%	68.9	265	2025-12-31
Reinvestment rate	(68.1%)	14.3%	74.0	224	2025-12-31
Asset growth, three years	1.2%	5.1%	58.6	561	2025-12-31
Net share issuance, one year	(8.2%)	0.5%	2.0	408	2026-02-23

Among 497 peers

business equipment; 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
348	Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC)	70.0	D	
349	i3 Verticals, Inc. (IIIV)	70.2	D	fortress balance sheet
350	Magnachip Semiconductor Corp. (MX)	70.4	D	fortress balance sheet
351	Bruker Corp. (BRKR)	70.7	D	
352	Bruker Corp. (BRKRP)	70.7	D	
353	Cars.com Inc. (CARS)	71.0	D	
354	DigitalOcean Holdings, Inc. (DOCN)	71.2	D	
355	Blackbaud Inc. (BLKB)	71.4	D	
356	Dropbox, Inc. (DBX)	71.6	D	
357	Mercury Systems Inc. (MRCY)	71.8	D	
358	Unity Software Inc. (U)	72.0	D	

What the price implies

at the 2026-11-03 close; none of these enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	(4.4%)	(2.0%)	47
Distance from 52-week high	(14.4%)	(32.7%)	75
EBIT to enterprise value	5.8%	1.6%	83
Free cash flow yield	23.8%	2.8%	96
Book value to price	0.72	0.27	82
Sales to price	1.17	0.31	79

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Composite equity issuance, five years	(23.1%)	4.2%	10
Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	(0.31)	(0.29)	47

Diagnostics

shown on every report; none enters the grade

Measure	Value
Piotroski F-score None 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	fail
Current ratio improved	pass
No new shares issued	pass
Gross margin improved	fail
Asset turnover improved	pass
Cash, filings, liquidity	
Cash and equivalents	$33.3M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	$151.6M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	90 (10-Q received Aug 6, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$6.4M

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:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$662.1M	2018-12-31	2021-02-25	10-K	21-008812
2	cost of revenue	us-gaap:CostOfRevenue	$90.4M	2018-12-31	2020-02-26	10-K	20-006776
3	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$2.6B	2018-12-31	2020-02-26	10-K	20-006776
4	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	$60.2M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
5	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	$34.3M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
6	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	$14.3M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
7	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$455.0M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
8	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$472.5M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
9	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$56.2M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
10	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$460.0M	2024-12-31	2025-02-27	10-K	25-029023
11	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$511.5M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
12	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$50.7M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
13	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	$20.1M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
14	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$151.6M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
15	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.1B	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
16	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.1B	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
17	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$211.6M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
18	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$113.4M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
19	retained earnings	us-gaap:RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit	-$941.5M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
20	liabilities	us-gaap:Liabilities	$589.9M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
21	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:Depreciation	$29.0M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
22	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$723.2M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
23	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$719.2M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
24	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$689.2M	2023-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
25	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$653.9M	2022-12-31	2025-02-27	10-K	25-029023
26	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$4.3M	2025-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
27	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$152.5M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
28	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$3.0M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
29	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$136.7M	2023-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546

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30	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$1.3M	2023-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
31	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$128.5M	2022-12-31	2025-02-27	10-K	25-029023
32	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$1.8M	2022-12-31	2025-02-27	10-K	25-029023
33	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$214.3M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
34	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$116.9M	2024-12-31	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
35	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.2B	2023-12-31	2025-02-27	10-K	25-029023
36	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.0B	2022-12-31	2024-02-22	10-K	24-018824
37	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	58,636,763	2026-02-23	2026-02-26	10-K	26-076546
38	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	63,847,460	2025-02-20	2025-02-27	10-K	25-029023

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