# Waters Corp.

**WAT**

NYSE; business equipment; SIC 3826, Laboratory Analytical Instruments; CIK 0001000697

**B**

**second fifth of 494 graded peers in business equipment**

rank 159 of 494; percentile 32.0; sampling error 2.2 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

**B, the elk**



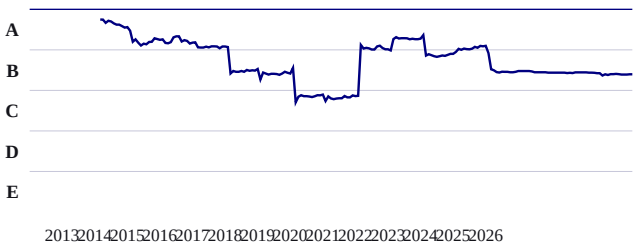
| Scoreboard | |
|---|---|
| **Profitability** | B<br>percentile 37.4 |
| **Solvency** | B<br>percentile 33.4 |
| **Growth and financing** | C/D<br>percentile 58.5 |
| **Reliability** | 0.94 AUC<br>filers with over $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.97; 61 events, 2020 to 2025 |
| **Peer failure rate** | 0.52% a year<br>Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025 |
| **Size band** | over $2.67B assets<br>total assets $5.1B |
| **Standard universe** | inside<br>revenue above $1M and assets above $10M |
| **Warnings** | dilution<br>not computable: distress |
| **Inputs computable** | 12 of 14 |
| **Graded from** | filings received through Feb 23, 2026<br>265 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Nov 10, 2026 |
| **Last close** | $460.58<br>2026-11-13; market equity $45.3B; 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 23, 2026*

Waters Corporation (the "Company," "we," "our," or "us"), a global leader in analytical instruments and software, has pioneered innovations in chromatography, mass spectrometry and thermal analysis serving life, materials and food sciences for more than 65 years. The Company primarily designs, manufactures, sells and services high-performance liquid chromatography ("HPLC"), ultra-performance liquid chromatography ("UPLC" and together with HPLC, referred to as "LC") and mass spectrometry ("MS") technology systems and support products, including chromatography columns, other consumable products and comprehensive post-warranty service plans.

## 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 37.4** | | | | | | |
| Gross profitability | 37.0% | 28.7% | | 33.2 | 550 | 2025-12-31 |
| Return on invested capital | 21.0% | 11.2% | | 26.0 | 132 | 2025-12-31 |

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accruals ratio | (0.2%) | (7.3%) | 85.5 | 613 | 2025-12-31 |
| Gross margin stability, five years | 0.6 pts | 2.3 pts | 5.2 | 422 | 2025-12-31 |
| **Solvency, sleeve percentile 33.4** | | | | | |
| Twelve-month failure probability | not computable | 0.05% | | | |
| *latest liabilities, cash plus short-term investments, book equity, and shares are required* | | | | | |
| Altman Z double-prime | 10.00 | 2.21 | 8.8 | 561 | 2025-12-31 |
| Net debt to EBITDA | 0.92x | 1.09x | 44.1 | 146 | 2025-12-31 |
| Interest coverage | 11.54x | 3.77x | 24.4 | 87 | 2025-12-31 |
| Current ratio | 1.73x | 2.01x | 56.2 | 658 | 2025-12-31 |
| **Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 58.5** | | | | | |
| Revenue growth, three-year compound | 2.1% | 6.4% | 63.4 | 531 | 2025-12-31 |
| Free cash flow growth, three-year compound | not computable | 17.7% | | | |
| *four consecutive annual FCF observations are required; found 1* | | | | | |
| Reinvestment rate | 7.8% | 15.1% | 52.3 | 223 | 2025-12-31 |
| Asset growth, three years | 15.7% | 5.2% | 24.5 | 555 | 2025-12-31 |
| Net share issuance, one year | 65.1% | 0.5% | 93.8 | 406 | 2026-02-19 |

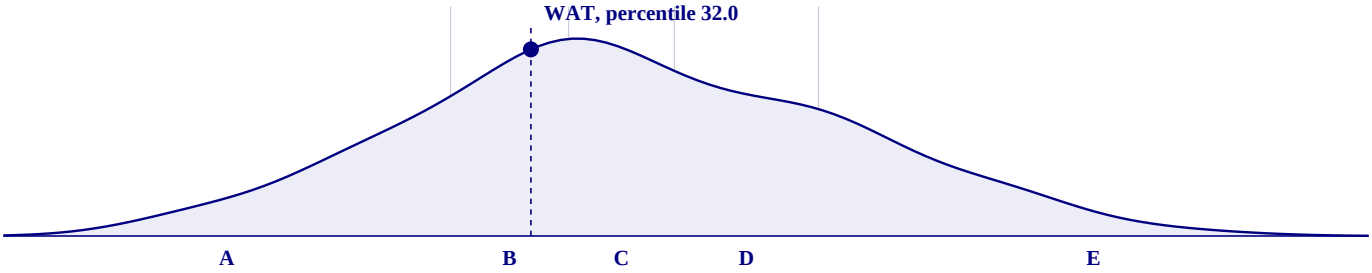
## Warnings

*1 of 7 checks triggered; none of them enters the letter*

| Check | Measured |
|---|---|
| Dilution | split-adjusted year-over-year share growth is 65.1% |

## Among 494 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 154 | Formfactor Inc. (FORM) | 31.0 | B | fortress balance sheet |
| 155 | CTS Corp. (CTS) | 31.2 | B | fortress balance sheet |
| 156 | Where Food Comes From, Inc. (WFCF) | 31.4 | B | fortress balance sheet |
| 157 | Block, Inc. (XYZ) | 31.6 | B | |
| 158 | CarGurus, Inc. (CARG) | 31.8 | B | fortress balance sheet |
| 159 | Waters Corp. (WAT) | 32.0 | B | dilution |
| 160 | TaskUs, Inc. (TASK) | 32.3 | B | |
| 161 | Data Storage Corp. (DTST) | 32.5 | B | short runway, late filer, fortress balance sheet |
| 162 | Transact Technologies Inc. (TACT) | 32.7 | B | |
| 163 | Wetouch Technology Inc. (WETH) | 32.9 | B | late filer |
| 164 | Guidewire Software, Inc. (GWRE) | 33.1 | B | fortress balance sheet |

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## What the price implies

*at the 2026-11-13 close; none of these enters the grade*

| Measure | Value | Peer median | Percentile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month | 25.7% | (2.0%) | 71 |
| Distance from 52-week high | (4.1%) | (35.0%) | 90 |
| EBIT to enterprise value | 1.7% | 1.7% | 52 |
| Free cash flow yield | 1.2% | 2.8% | 34 |
| Book value to price | 0.34 | 0.27 | 57 |
| Sales to price | 0.07 | 0.32 | 10 |
| Composite equity issuance, five years | 45.8% | 4.4% | 83 |
| Relative strength against the sector, log excess return | (0.04) | (0.29) | 71 |

## 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 | pass |
| Operating cash flow exceeds net income | pass |
| Long-term leverage fell | pass |
| Current ratio improved | fail |
| No new shares issued | fail |
| Gross margin improved | fail |
| Asset turnover improved | pass |
| **Cash, filings, liquidity** | |
| Cash and equivalents | $593.0M |
| Operating cash flow, four quarters | $479.6M |
| Months of runway | not finite |
| Days since last periodic filing | 5 (10-Q received Nov 10, 2026) |
| Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions | $336.1M |

## 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... | $3.2B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 2 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $1.3B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 3 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $5.1B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 4 | operating income | us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss | $802.6M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 5 | pretax income | us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc... | $754.9M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 6 | income tax | us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit | $112.2M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 7 | total debt | us-gaap:LongTermDebt | $1.4B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 8 | book equity | us-gaap:StockholdersEquity | $2.6B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 9 | cash | us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue | $587.8M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 10 | total debt | us-gaap:LongTermDebt | $1.6B | 2024-12-31 | 2025-02-25 | 10-K | 25-034579 |
| 11 | book equity | us-gaap:StockholdersEquity | $1.8B | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 12 | cash | us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue | $325.4M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 13 | net income | us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss | $642.6M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 14 | operating cash flow | us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities | $652.6M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 15 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $4.6B | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 16 | revenue | us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA... | $3.0B | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 17 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $1.2B | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 18 | revenue | us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA... | $3.0B | 2023-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $1.2B | 2023-12-31 | 2025-02-25 | 10-K | 25-034579 |
| 20 | revenue | us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA... | $3.0B | 2022-12-31 | 2025-02-25 | 10-K | 25-034579 |
| 21 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $1.2B | 2022-12-31 | 2024-02-27 | 10-K | 24-047491 |
| 22 | revenue | us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA... | $2.8B | 2021-12-31 | 2024-02-27 | 10-K | 24-047491 |
| 23 | cost of revenue | us-gaap:CostOfGoodsAndServicesSold | $1.2B | 2021-12-31 | 2023-02-27 | 10-K | 23-050827 |
| 24 | current assets | us-gaap:AssetsCurrent | $2.1B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 25 | current liabilities | us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent | $1.2B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 26 | retained earnings | us-gaap:RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit | $10.4B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 27 | liabilities | us-gaap:Liabilities | $2.5B | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 28 | depreciation amortization | us-gaap:Depreciation | $88.1M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 29 | interest expense | us-gaap:InterestExpense | $69.5M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 30 | capital expenditure | us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquireProductiveAssets | $112.7M | 2025-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 31 | current assets | us-gaap:AssetsCurrent | $1.7B | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 32 | current liabilities | us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent | $789.8M | 2024-12-31 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 33 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $4.6B | 2023-12-31 | 2025-02-25 | 10-K | 25-034579 |
| 34 | assets | us-gaap:Assets | $3.3B | 2022-12-31 | 2024-02-27 | 10-K | 24-047491 |
| 35 | shares outstanding | dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding | 98,101,871 | 2026-02-19 | 2026-02-23 | 10-K | 26-062604 |
| 36 | shares outstanding | dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding | 59,410,941 | 2025-02-21 | 2025-02-25 | 10-K | 25-034579 |

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