Central Garden & PET Co.

CENT

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

C

middle fifth of 240 graded peers in shops

rank 111 of 240; percentile 46.0; sampling error 3.0 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

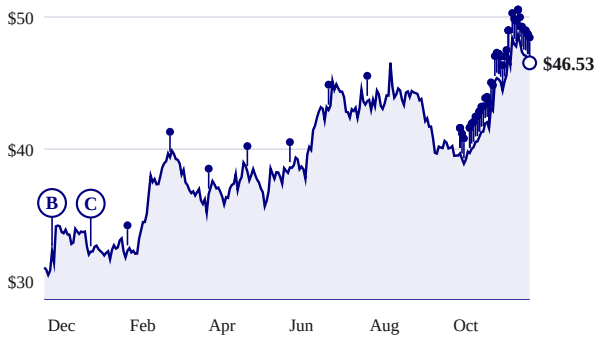
C, the tortoise



Scoreboard

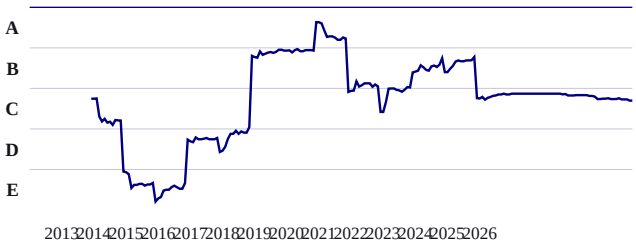
Profitability	C/D percentile 57.6
Solvency	B percentile 30.2
Growth and financing	C percentile 55.9
Reliability	0.94 AUC filers with over $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.97; 61 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	0.52% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	over $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 13
Graded from	filings received through Nov 26, 2025 357 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 6, 2026
Last close	$46.60 2026-11-17; 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 thirteen 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 57.6						
Gross profitability	27.5%	43.7%		73.1	224	2025-09-27
Return on invested capital	9.7%	11.5%		58.1	75	2025-09-27
Accruals ratio	(4.7%)	(4.9%)		56.0	269	2025-09-27
Gross margin stability, five years	1.1 pts	1.2 pts		43.1	203	2025-09-27

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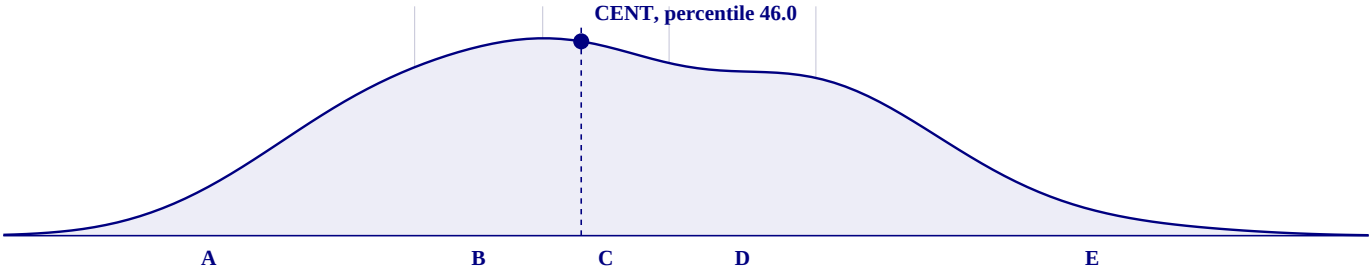
Solvency, sleeve percentile 30.2					
Altman Z double-prime	not computable	1.92			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Net debt to EBITDA	0.92x	1.46x	38.2	90	2025-09-27
Interest coverage	4.33x	2.70x	43.1	52	2025-09-27
Current ratio	3.67x	1.34x	9.1	275	2025-09-27
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 55.9					
Revenue growth, three-year compound	(2.1%)	1.8%	68.4	251	2025-09-27
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	not computable	4.7%			
current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed $100,000					
Reinvestment rate	11.9%	13.3%	51.8	142	2025-09-27
Asset growth, three years	3.4%	3.1%	47.4	252	2025-09-27
Net share issuance, one year	not computable	(0.6%)			
firm-wide XBRL shares cannot be assigned to one ticker class					

Among 240 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
106	Sonic Automotive Inc. (SAH)	43.9	C	
107	US Foods Holding Corp. (USFD)	44.4	C	
108	Cannae Holdings, Inc. (CNNE)	44.8	C	fortress balance sheet
109	Herbalife Ltd. (HLF)	45.2	C	
110	First Watch Restaurant Group, Inc. (FWRG)	45.6	C	
111	Central Garden & PET Co. (CENT)	46.0	C	
112	LKQ Corp. (LKQ)	46.4	C	
113	Honest Company, Inc. (HNST)	46.9	C	
114	Group 1 Automotive Inc. (GPI)	47.3	C	
115	Titan Machinery Inc. (TITN)	47.7	C	fortress balance sheet
116	Boise Cascade Co. (BCC)	48.1	C	

What the price implies

at the 2026-11-17 close; none of these enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	26.8%	(0.8%)	73
Distance from 52-week high	(4.3%)	(23.1%)	92
EBIT to enterprise value	not computable	5.1%	
Free cash flow yield	not computable	3.9%	
Book value to price	not computable	0.36	
Sales to price	not computable	1.61	
Composite equity issuance, five years	not computable	(17.1%)	
Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	0.33	0.08	73
Twelve-month failure probability, CHS model	not computable	0.04%	

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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	104 (10-Q received Aug 6, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$3.5M

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
31	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$381.6M	2023-09-30	2025-11-26	10-K	25-000041

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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

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