Heartland Express Inc.

HTLD

Nasdaq; other; SIC 4213, Trucking (No Local); CIK 0000799233

D

fourth fifth of 316 graded peers in other

rank 241 of 316; percentile 76.2; sampling error 2.7 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

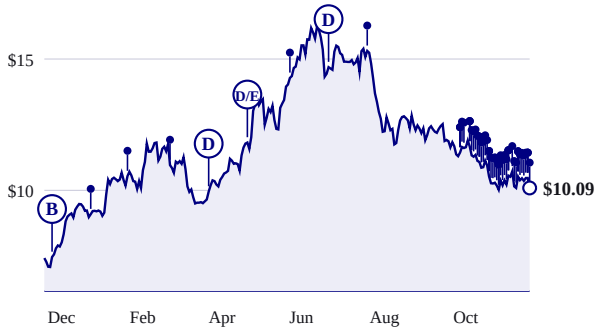
D, the sloth



Scoreboard

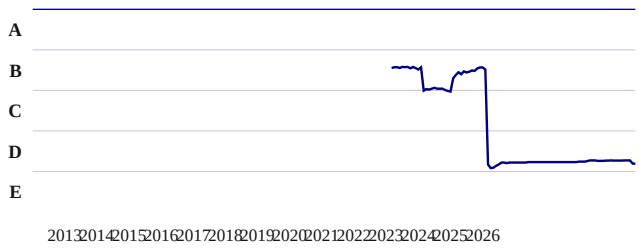
Profitability	C percentile 56.5
Solvency	C percentile 49.1
Growth and financing	D percentile 69.2
Reliability	0.91 AUC filers with $591M to $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.94; 160 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	1.01% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	$591M to $2.67B assets total assets $1.2B
Standard universe	inside revenue above $1M and assets above $10M
Warnings	none triggered not computable: distress
Inputs computable	7 of 13
Graded from	filings received through Mar 3, 2026 260 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Nov 6, 2026
Last close	$10.09 2026-11-17; market equity $776.5M; 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 3, 2026

Heartland Express, Inc. is a holding company incorporated in Nevada, which directly or indirectly owns all of the stock of the following legal entities: Heartland Express, Inc. of Iowa, Heartland Express Services, Inc., Heartland Express Maintenance Services, Inc. (collectively, "Heartland Express"), and Midwest Holding Group, LLC and Millis Transfer, LLC (together, "Millis Transfer"), and Smith Transport, LLC ("Smith Transport"), and certain Mexican entities. Effective December 31, 2025, we integrated and rebranded U.S. operations of Contract Freighters, Inc. ("CFI") into Heartland Express. Effective December 31, 2024, Franklin Logistics, LLC was merged into Smith Transport, LLC.

The thirteen inputs

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

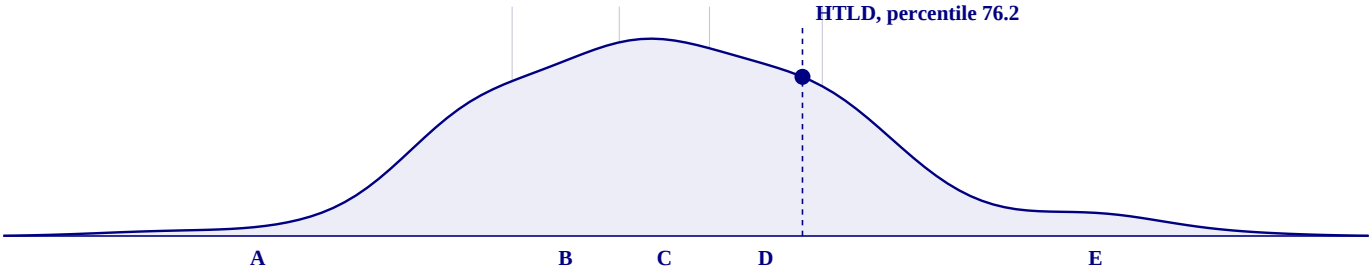
Input	Value	Peer median	Percentile, 0 to 100	Pct	Peers	Period end
Profitability, sleeve percentile 56.5						
Gross profitability	not computable	26.8%				
one or more required annual facts are missing						

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Return on invested capital	(4.7%)	10.0%	90.4	147	2025-12-31
Accruals ratio	(11.2%)	(5.8%)	22.5	459	2025-12-31
Gross margin stability, five years	not computable	2.1 pts			
five annual gross margins are required; found 0					
Solvency, sleeve percentile 49.1					
Altman Z double-prime	not computable	2.06			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Net debt to EBITDA	1.33x	2.36x	34.7	174	2025-12-31
Interest coverage	not computable	2.93x			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Current ratio	1.04x	1.32x	63.4	463	2025-12-31
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 69.2					
Revenue growth, three-year compound	(5.9%)	5.0%	83.3	378	2025-12-31
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	not computable	8.9%			
current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed $100,000					
Reinvestment rate	not computable	13.3%			
NOPAT must exceed $100,000					
Asset growth, three years	(10.6%)	4.0%	88.3	403	2025-12-31
Net share issuance, one year	(1.4%)	(0.5%)	36.1	353	2026-02-18

Among 316 peers

other; 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
236	Warner Music Group Corp. (WMG)	74.6	D	
237	Groupon, Inc. (GRPN)	74.9	D	
238	Maxcyte, Inc. (MXCT)	75.2	D	
239	Insperity, Inc. (NSP)	75.6	D	
240	AIR T Inc. (AIRT)	75.9	D	
241	Heartland Express Inc. (HTLD)	76.2	D	
242	Jeld-Wen Holding, Inc. (JELD)	76.5	D	
243	WillScot Holdings Corp. (WSC)	76.8	D	
244	Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. (NCLH)	77.1	D	
245	Outdoor Holding Co. (POWW)	77.5	D/E	late filer
246	Forrester Research, Inc. (FORR)	77.8	D/E	fortress balance sheet

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	49.9%	0.06%	85
Distance from 52-week high	(37.8%)	(24.7%)	33
EBIT to enterprise value	(6.5%)	4.5%	11
Free cash flow yield	(8.6%)	4.2%	14

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Book value to price	0.97	0.37	84
Sales to price	1.04	0.69	62
Composite equity issuance, five years	(10.4%)	(9.4%)	48
Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	0.28	(0.12)	85
Twelve-month failure probability, CHS model	not computable	0.03%	

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	fail
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	fail
No new shares issued	pass
Gross margin improved	fail
Asset turnover improved	fail
Cash, filings, liquidity	
Cash and equivalents	$48.5M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	$70.0M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	12 (10-Q received Nov 6, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$6.8M

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	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	-$57.4M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
2	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	-$68.1M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
3	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	-$15.7M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
4	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$154.1M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
5	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$755.3M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
6	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$18.5M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
7	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$187.9M	2024-12-31	2025-02-18	10-K	25-000008
8	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$822.6M	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
9	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$12.8M	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
10	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	-$52.5M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
11	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$89.3M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
12	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.2B	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
13	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.3B	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
14	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:DepreciationDepletionAndAmortization	$159.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
15	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$114.6M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
16	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$110.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
17	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$805.7M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
18	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$1.0B	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
19	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$1.2B	2023-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
20	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$968.0M	2022-12-31	2025-02-18	10-K	25-000008
21	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$156.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
22	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$144.3M	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
23	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$109.5M	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
24	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$165.3M	2023-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
25	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$208.6M	2023-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006

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26	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$194.7M	2022-12-31	2025-02-18	10-K	25-000008
27	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$160.6M	2022-12-31	2025-02-18	10-K	25-000008
28	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$129.4M	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
29	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$119.6M	2024-12-31	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
30	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.5B	2023-12-31	2025-02-18	10-K	25-000008
31	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$1.7B	2022-12-31	2024-02-28	10-K	24-000005
32	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	77,454,920	2026-02-18	2026-03-03	10-K	26-000006
33	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	78,549,761	2025-02-15	2025-02-18	10-K	25-000008

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