Acme United Corp.

ACU

NYSE; manufacturing; SIC 3420, Cutlery, Handtools & General Hardware; CIK 0000002098

A

strongest fifth of 246 graded peers in manufacturing

rank 31 of 246; percentile 12.2; sampling error 3.0 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

A, the bull



Scoreboard

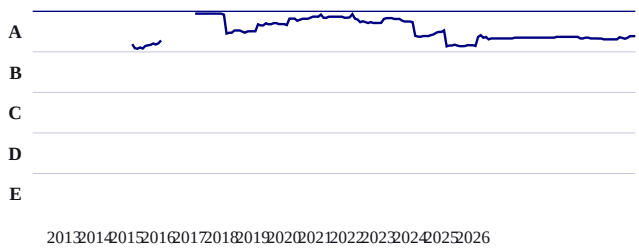
Profitability	B percentile 35.3
Solvency	A percentile 14.6
Growth and financing	C/D percentile 58.0
Reliability	0.87 AUC filers with $120M to $591M assets; 95% interval 0.83 to 0.90; 206 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	1.03% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	$120M to $591M assets total assets $171.0M
Standard universe	inside revenue above $1M and assets above $10M
Warnings	none triggered not computable: distress, fortress balance sheet
Inputs computable	9 of 13
Graded from	filings received through Mar 11, 2026 257 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Nov 10, 2026
Last close	$66.16 2026-11-20; market equity $262.5M; 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 11, 2026

Acme United Corporation, a Connecticut corporation (together, with its subsidiaries, the "Company"), is a leading worldwide supplier of innovative first aid and medical products and cutting technology to the school, home, office, hardware, sporting goods and industrial markets. Its principal products sold across all segments are first aid kits and medical products, scissors, shears, knives, and sharpening tools. The Company sells its products primarily to mass market and e-commerce retailers, industrial distributors, wholesale, contract and retail stationery distributors, office supply superstores, sporting goods stores, and hardware chains.

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 35.3						
Gross profitability	45.3%	22.3%		7.9	267	2025-12-31
Return on invested capital	not computable	9.9%				

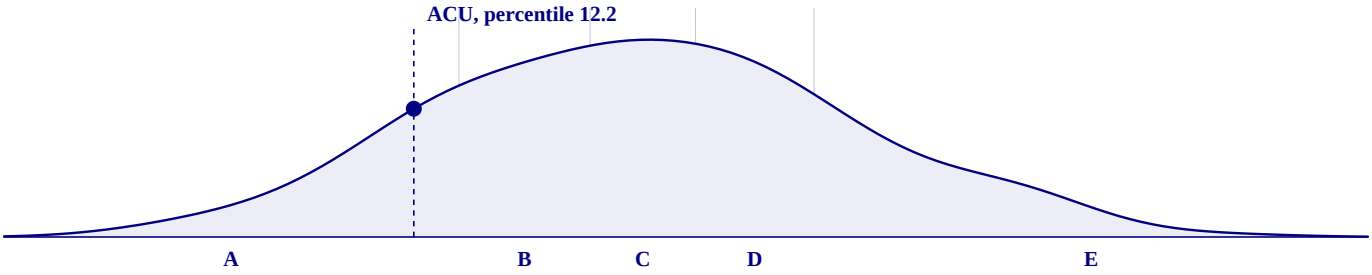
one or more required annual facts are missing

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.

Accruals ratio	(4.8%)	(3.7%)	41.5	288	2025-12-31
Gross margin stability, five years	2.5 pts	2.1 pts	56.6	222	2025-12-31
Solvency, sleeve percentile 14.6					
Altman Z double-prime	7.65	3.74	14.0	223	2025-12-31
Net debt to EBITDA	not computable	1.75x			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Interest coverage	not computable	5.13x			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Current ratio	4.21x	2.30x	15.3	302	2025-12-31
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 58.0					
Revenue growth, three-year compound	0.4%	2.3%	60.0	261	2025-12-31
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	not computable	13.5%			
current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed $100,000					
Reinvestment rate	66.4%	24.5%	29.5	140	2025-12-31
Asset growth, three years	1.3%	4.2%	64.0	265	2025-12-31
Net share issuance, one year	1.4%	(0.04%)	78.7	240	2026-02-28

Among 246 peers

manufacturing; 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
26	Mueller Water Products, Inc. (MWA)	10.2	A	
27	Ennis, Inc. (EBF)	10.6	A	
28	Astronics Corp. (ATRO)	11.0	A	
29	Compx International Inc. (CIX)	11.4	A	fortress balance sheet
30	SPX Technologies, Inc. (SPXC)	11.8	A	
31	Acme United Corp. (ACU)	12.2	A	
32	National Presto Industries Inc. (NPK)	12.7	A	
33	Howmet Aerospace Inc. (HWM)	13.1	A	
34	TechnipFMC plc (FTI)	13.5	A	fortress balance sheet
35	Lincoln Electric Holdings Inc. (LECO)	13.9	A	
36	Axcelis Technologies Inc. (ACLS)	14.3	A	

What the price implies

at the 2026-11-20 close; none of these enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	68.7%	10.0%	87
Distance from 52-week high	(6.5%)	(32.1%)	96
EBIT to enterprise value	not computable	4.5%	
Free cash flow yield	2.9%	3.8%	39
Book value to price	0.48	0.39	58
Sales to price	0.75	0.60	59
Composite equity issuance, five years	7.7%	(9.5%)	75

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	0.44	0.01	87
Twelve-month failure probability, CHS model	not computable	0.04%	

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	fail
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	$7.9M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	$19.1M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	13 (10-Q received Nov 10, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$2.3M

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	$77.4M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
2	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$171.0M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
3	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	$10.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
4	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$18.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
5	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$162.2M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
6	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$196.5M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
7	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$76.4M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
8	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$194.5M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
9	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$72.2M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	25-034843
10	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$191.5M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	25-034843
11	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$63.6M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	24-027907
12	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$194.0M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	24-027907
13	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$64.8M	2021-12-31	2023-03-10	10-K	23-003422
14	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	$182.1M	2021-12-31	2023-03-10	10-K	23-003422
15	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$96.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
16	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$22.9M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
17	retained earnings	us-gaap:RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit	$102.3M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
18	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	$14.7M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
19	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$117.6M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
20	liabilities	us-gaap:Liabilities	$53.4M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
21	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$10.7M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
22	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$12.0M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
23	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$7.1M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
24	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$28.9M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	25-034843
25	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$4.7M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	25-034843
26	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$2.9M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	24-027907
27	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$4.3M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	24-027907
28	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:Depreciation	$3.8M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
29	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	$13.1M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079

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.

30	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	$2.9M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
31	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$95.5M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
32	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$22.9M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
33	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$149.2M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	25-034843
34	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$164.4M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	24-027907
35	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	3,808,225	2026-02-28	2026-03-11	10-K	26-102079
36	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	3,754,498	2025-02-28	2025-03-06	10-K	25-034843

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.