

Acme United Corp. (ACU)

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

Acme United Corp. ACU; manufacturing	
Grade	A ▼ A B C D E strongest fifth of 255 graded peers percentile 13.0; sampling error 3.0 points; lower is stronger
Rank	34 of 255
Profitability	B percentile 35.6
Solvency	A percentile 15.2
Growth and financing	C/D percentile 57.6
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 active not computable: distress, fortress balance sheet
Inputs computable	9 of 14
Graded from	filings received through Mar 11, 2026 212 days before the rescans; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 6, 2026
Last close	\$62.08 2026-10-08; market equity \$238.0M
Price used in grade	None



A, the bull
strongest fifth of its sector;
letters are fifths of the 255
graded peers

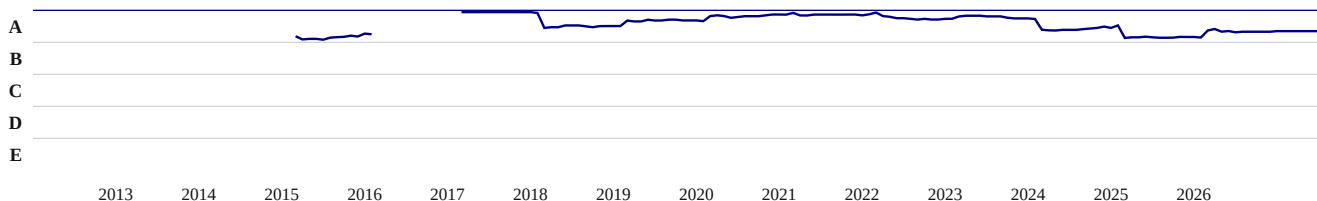
Share price, twelve months to the rescans
split-adjusted close; the letter is fixed at the rescans that set it



Rescans on file: A/B from Mar 21, 2025, A from Apr 21, 2025, A/B from Aug 21, 2025

Letter at every rescans

Jan 21, 2012 to Oct 9, 2026; sector percentile, 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.

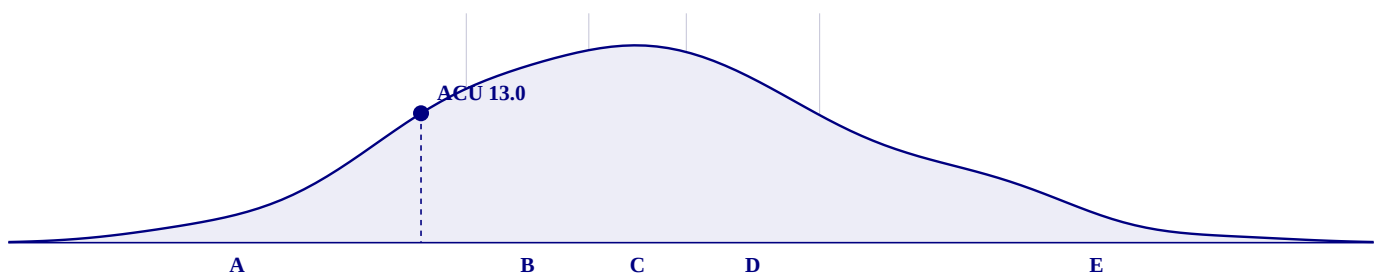
The fourteen inputs

lower percentile is stronger; equal-weighted sleeves

Input	Percentile, 0 to 100	Value	Peer median	Percentile	Peers	Period end
Profitability, sleeve percentile 35.6						
Gross profitability		45.3%	21.9%	8.0	275	2025-12-31
Return on invested capital		not computable	9.7%			one or more required annual facts are missing
Accruals ratio		(4.8%)	(3.6%)	41.7	308	2025-12-31
Gross margin stability, five years		2.5 pts	2.1 pts	57.0	229	2025-12-31
Solvency, sleeve percentile 15.2						
Twelve-month failure probability		not computable	0.04%			latest liabilities, cash plus short-term investments, book equity, and shares are required
Altman Z double-prime		7.65	3.66	14.0	244	2025-12-31
Net debt to EBITDA		not computable	1.78x			one or more required annual facts are missing
Interest coverage		not computable	5.09x			one or more required annual facts are missing
Current ratio		4.21x	2.25x	16.4	325	2025-12-31
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 57.6						
Revenue growth, three-year compound		0.4%	2.1%	58.2	269	2025-12-31
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound		not computable	13.9%			current FCF must be positive and base FCF must exceed \$100,000
Reinvestment rate		66.4%	26.4%	29.7	139	2025-12-31
Asset growth, three years		1.3%	4.4%	63.3	279	2025-12-31
Net share issuance, one year		1.4%	0.01%	79.3	243	2026-02-28

Among 255 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
29	TechnipFMC plc (FTI)	11.0	A	fortress balance sheet
30	Lincoln Electric Holdings Inc. (LECO)	11.4	A	
31	National Presto Industries Inc. (NPK)	11.8	A	
32	Enerpac Tool Group Corp. (EPAC)	12.2	A	
33	Compx International Inc. (CIX)	12.6	A	fortress balance sheet
34	Acme United Corp. (ACU) <	13.0	A	
35	Cummins Inc. (CMI)	13.4	A	
36	Weatherford International plc (WFRD)	13.8	A	
37	Lennox International Inc. (LII)	14.2	A	
38	Park Aerospace Corp. (PKE)	14.6	A	late filer, fortress balance sheet
39	Kadant Inc. (KAI)	15.0	A	

What the price implies

at the 2026-10-08 close; none enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	53.6%	13.7%	79
Distance from 52-week high	(2.9%)	(24.3%)	96
EBIT to enterprise value	not computable	4.1%	
Free cash flow yield	3.2%	3.4%	47
Book value to price	0.51	0.34	64
Sales to price	0.83	0.54	64
Composite equity issuance, five years	4.5%	(9.5%)	73
Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	0.30	(0.00)	79

Diagnostics

not in 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	\$5.0M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	\$26.1M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	64 (10-Q received Aug 6, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	\$1.8M

Sources

each row links to the 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	0001193125-26-102079
2	assets	us-gaap:Assets	\$171.0M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
3	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	\$10.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
4	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	\$18.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079

5	assets	us-gaap:Assets	\$162.2M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
6	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	\$196.5M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
7	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	\$76.4M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
8	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	\$194.5M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
9	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	\$72.2M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	0000950170-25-034843
10	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	\$191.5M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	0000950170-25-034843
11	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	\$63.6M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	0000950170-24-027907
12	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	\$194.0M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	0000950170-24-027907
13	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	\$64.8M	2021-12-31	2023-03-10	10-K	0001564590-23-003422
14	revenue	us-gaap:Revenues	\$182.1M	2021-12-31	2023-03-10	10-K	0001564590-23-003422
15	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	\$96.2M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
16	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	\$22.9M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
17	retained earnings	us-gaap:RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit	\$102.3M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
18	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	\$14.7M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
19	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	\$117.6M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
20	liabilities	us-gaap:Liabilities	\$53.4M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
21	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	\$10.7M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
22	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	\$12.0M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
23	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	\$7.1M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
24	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	\$28.9M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	0000950170-25-034843
25	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	\$4.7M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	0000950170-25-034843
26	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	\$2.9M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	0000950170-24-027907
27	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	\$4.3M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	0000950170-24-027907
28	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:Depreciation	\$3.8M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
29	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesExtraordinaryItemsDeductibleItems	\$13.1M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
30	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	\$2.9M	2025-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
31	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	\$95.5M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
32	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	\$22.9M	2024-12-31	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
33	assets	us-gaap:Assets	\$149.2M	2023-12-31	2025-03-06	10-K	0000950170-25-034843
34	assets	us-gaap:Assets	\$164.4M	2022-12-31	2024-03-07	10-K	0000950170-24-027907
35	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	3,808,225	2026-02-28	2026-03-11	10-K	0001193125-26-102079
36	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	3,754,498	2025-02-28	2025-03-06	10-K	0000950170-25-034843