

THE BEST

Arizona-based firms in which to invest

By MICHAEL GOSSIE

An analysis by Az Business magazine and financial technology company SmartAsset uncovered which Arizona-based stocks have performed the best over the last five years. Az Business and SmartAsset considered four factors in the analysis: stock price, dividends paid, volatility, corporate leadership and stability and found the risk adjusted return of the stocks. The companies were then indexed and ranked. The list below shows the top performing companies in Arizona:

	COMPANY NAME	TICKER SYMBOL	HEADQUARTERS	AVG. ANNUAL RETURN	PERFORMANCE INDEX
1	Microchip Technology	MCHP	Chandler	20.42%	78.24
2	STORE Capital Corporation	STOR	Scottsdale	29.72%	77.18
3	GoDaddy	GDDY	Scottsdale	52.4%	69.83
4	Grand Canyon Education	LOPE	Phoenix	21.8%	68.67
5	Western Alliance Bancorporation	WAL	Phoenix	33.46%	64.52
6	Pinnacle West Capital Corporation	PNW	Phoenix	16.74%	64.38
7	Northern Tier Energy	NTI	Tempe	30.46%	62.83
8	Healthcare Trust of America	HTA	Scottsdale	16.59%	61.47
9	Republic Services	RSG	Phoenix	12.59%	55.27
10	TASER International	TASR	Scottsdale	31.38%	53.46

Fun facts ON TOP STOCKS

- Kiplinger named **Microchip Technology** the “Best Stock in Arizona” for 2018. Over the past 12 months, Microchip’s shares rose 57 percent, compared with a 46 percent gain for the average semiconductor firm. CFRA analyst Angelo Zino rates the stock a “buy” and sees it hitting \$90 over the next 12 months.

- In June, shares of real-estate investment trust **Store Capital** chalked up their biggest one-day gain since going public after the company unveiled a \$377 million investment by a unit of **Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway**. Berkshire Hathaway is now STORE’s third-biggest shareholder with a 9.8 percent stake.

- **Yahoo! Finance** named **Grand Canyon Education** one of the **Top 3 education stocks** for 2018. Shares of Grand Canyon returned more than 100 percent in the last year, outperforming the Zacks School industry. Revenues are also expected to grow 10.5 percent this year.