



Stock Prospector Quick Start Guide

What Is Stock Screening?

Screening is a powerful tool used to help investors find companies worthy of study. As with a prospector's search for gold or gems, it is essential that you know what you're looking for. Define your objectives clearly, as they will direct your search.

Always keep in mind that screening is only a starting point and must be followed by solid analysis of the companies unearthed

Specifications

Stock Prospector is designed for the Microsoft Windows Operating systems 2000, XP, or Vista. The following are minimum system requirements:

- 32 Mb RAM
- 45 Mb drive space (including a database of approximately 7,000 companies and industry averages)
- Intel Pentium 200 Mhz or equivalent
- A color display with 800x600 resolution and a mouse are also required.

Installing Stock Prospector

To install **Stock Prospector** from a CD, start Windows and then place the Stock Prospector CD in your CD-ROM drive. The Auto Start installation should automatically run, and you may just follow the on-screen instructions to install.

To install Stock Prospector from the downloadable installation file, simply double-click the installer and follow the prompts until finished.

Registering Stock Prospector

After installing your new **Stock Prospector**, please take a moment to register your program.

As a Registered User of **Stock Prospector**, you will receive the following benefits:

- **Technical Support:** Free technical support from ICLUBcentral for ninety days following the purchase of the software.
- **Updates:** Free software updates for Stock Prospector are downloaded and installed automatically.

Register your copy of Stock Prospector as you install the program. Simply follow the instructions on the screen to do so.

Running Stock Prospector

Once installed, **Stock Prospector** will have been set up to allow you to run the program. To run **Stock Prospector**, double-click the icon on your desktop, or click Start and select Programs. From the list of Program Groups, find and select the **ICLUBcentral** group and click the **Stock Prospector** icon. This will start the program.

Importing data

The initial database contains approximately 1,000 companies. This is only a starting database and is meant to be used to help you learn the program using the **Lab** exercises later in the manual.

To screen for stocks, you'll need to bring data relating to each stock into the program. There are two sources of data that you can use with the program.

One source of data is from **StockCentral.com**. The datafiles offered by StockCentral provide ten years of historical company histories for all U.S. public companies based on source data provided by Morningstar. Data for Stock Prospector is included in the annual subscription to the site, which is available for a nominal annual subscription. A free 45-day trial is available. For more information, please call 1-877-33-ICLUB or visit:

<http://www.stockcentral.com>

BetterInvesting's S&P Data Service also provides data that may also be used in the program. Data is included in the organization's annual membership fee and is provided by Standard & Poor's. For more information on BetterInvesting and their data services, visit:

<http://www.betterinvesting.org>

Importing data from data provider



Use the Import button to download and transfer data directly from your selected data service. This is the fastest and easiest way to import data into Stock Prospector.

You can also click on **File > Import Datafiles > Download Datafiles**.

Once you have selected this option, you will be presented with a screen asking for your selected data subscription and your login name and password. Entered your login and password, click on '**Apply Changes**' to save for future use.

Once you have entered your data subscription information (login and password), review the date of the last import of data, and select '**Start import**' to download the current data as needed.

You may be prompted to connect to the Internet if you use a modem and telephone dial-up connection. Depending on your internet connection speed, after you select 'Start import', you will need to wait between two and five minutes for a high speed connection such as a cable modem or DSL or between twenty minutes and one hour with slow connection speeds such as a dialup ISP.

Once the process is complete, you should see a message that says '**Import complete.**'

Screening for Beginners

Getting Started Quickly

The two labs included in the online manual may be used as tutorials to highlight sections of the program that will be used most often.

Lab 1 deals with the **Wizard** and will show you how quickly you can screen for companies to study. **Lab 2** takes you to a more advanced level to show how to edit criteria and a report in preparation for fully customized searches.

Prospector Wizard

The **Prospector Wizard** guides you step-by-step through finding companies with specific characteristics.

Pre-defined Screen

The easiest and quickest choice is to select from previously defined reports.

Click **'Next'** to perform the screening function you choose. Then, choose how you would like the results sorted, and they will be displayed in the **Company Grid**.

Stock Prospector includes several predefined reports and screening criteria:

- **BetterInvesting 1** – Searches for companies that “fit” BetterInvesting standards.
- **BetterInvesting 2** – Phil Keating’s BetterInvesting Growth Screen methods.
- **ICLUB Growth and Quality** – Searches for companies with high quality and consistently better historical growth than their industry averages.
- The **Growth, Quality, Value, and Safety** screens are simply the **BetterInvesting 1** screen biased towards companies with high growth, quality, value, and safety characteristics, respectively.

Custom Wizard

The **Custom Wizard** enables you to prioritize the characteristics of growth, quality, value, and safety when searching for companies. Criteria and reports will be generated on these items. The results can be scrutinized, saved, and used to help you learn how to build fully customized reports.

In the **Custom Wizard** window, select the characteristics for your search, using the slide controls to prioritize each characteristic you seek. Zero denotes minimal importance and five the most importance. (Be aware that selecting 5 for each characteristic may yield very few or no companies in the screen.) You must set at least one slider to activate the **Custom Wizard**.

The **Custom Wizard** will alter the nature of the criteria and the report for screening your database of companies, according to your settings. If you change your settings, the number of companies screened will change. To view results, click **'Finish'** and save when prompted. Then, retrieve the saved criteria/report by clicking the **'Report'** icon and displaying your **UR (User Report)** list.

Sorting

The next screen allows you to sort the resulting set of companies. Select a data item from the list and choose an ascending or descending sort on that selection.

Viewing the Results

Once the criteria and report are defined, you can complete the screening process with the next button. In a few seconds, the results will be displayed in the **Company Grid**.

To look at details of companies that have been selected by your screen, highlight the company and click the **View Company** icon on the toolbar, or double-click on the company.

You can also right click on a highlighted company and select “**Open <Company> SSG file**” from the pop-up menu. This provides enhanced ability to send SSG data to any stock analysis program that can read a *.SSG datafile. You must have a connection to the Internet so **Stock Prospector** can request the data from your data provider’s website and allow the analysis program to open and use it immediately.

Customer Support

Check here first!

- Select ‘**Help**’ from the **Main Menu**, then pick ‘**Help contents**’ or ‘**Search for help on...**’.
- Check the **User’s Guide** on your **Stock Prospector** CD.
- Review the **README** file located in the program directory.

The fastest way to get your **Stock Prospector** questions answered is to visit the ICLUB-central Support web site (www.iclub.com/support), which includes solutions to common problems, including questions about software installation and operation.

Another great resource is our email newsletter, which frequently includes information on mergers and spin-offs. Subscribe yourself at:

<http://www.iclub.com/clubs/newsletter.asp>

If you can’t find what you’re looking for on our website, remember that your **Stock Prospector** purchase entitles you to ninety days of **Customer Support**. For a quick response, just fill out our online support form (www.iclub.com/support/), and one of our Support Specialists will reply to your question quickly. Remember to have in hand:

1. Precise wording of any error messages displayed on screen.
2. Your **Stock Prospector** version number (from **Help > About Stock Prospector**), the version of Windows you are using; the make, model and amount of memory (RAM) on your computer; the make and model of the printer if you have a printing question.
3. Your **Stock Prospector** serial number and approximate date of purchase.

Advanced Operations Reference

Customized Screening Criteria

The advanced operation of Stock Prospector permits full customization of the search process. The main thrust of this activity occurs in two parts: the **Screen Window** and the **Report Window**.

Screen Window

Defining Your Own Criteria

To define a new criteria expression, click the **Criteria** icon. The **Criteria Selection** window opens with 2 panes.

The left side contains the icons for **Pre-Defined Criteria (PDC)** and **User Criteria (UC)**. Click on an icon to view individual criteria statements pertaining to the icon. Double-click on a statement to add it to the report item list. Continue until all the statements you wish to use are included.

Basically, criteria statements are made up of 3 parts: a report item, an operator, and a value. The pane on the right contains the 3 columns. If you don't see all 3, make the window wider or use the scroll bars. Your criteria choices should be based on your overall objective for your search.

You may select report items from the drop-down list in the right pane (see the **Report Item** column). This list contains all criteria items, in alphabetical order.

In the Criteria column, click with the right mouse button and select **Operators**. From the list provided, select the operator for your criteria statement. The operator can also be typed in from the keyboard.

Lastly, enter a value. Use a decimal fraction for a percentage (.15 for 15%, for example).

For certain report items (exchange, industry, etc.) you can select from a list by clicking with the right mouse button.

You can add additional criteria statements to complete the expression.

Refer to the charts included in this guide or to the **Appendix** of the online manual for more information on the specifics of operators, expressions etc.

Saving User-defined Screening Criteria

Once you have created your screening criteria, the list can be saved with an appropriate name. This new criteria now forms part of the user-defined criteria (with a **UC** icon) and can be used at a future date to compare results using new data. As well, the user-defined criteria can be used as a starting point for generating other criteria lists.

When saving a user-defined screening criteria list, **Stock Prospector** will also generate and save a **User Defined Report** Item list with the same name. The report **Item** list will contain the **Company Name** and the items used in your screening criteria. You can later modify and re-save that report Item list as needed to suit your preferences. See “Creating and saving user-defined reports” below.

There is no limit to the number of screening criteria groups that you can define. We suggest that you define an initial screening criteria list that particularly suits your style of investing and your objectives. Then use this with minor variations to implement or test other possibilities. It is best to work from a criteria list that you know well and use that knowledge to learn more about defining other criteria.

Pro Mode

The **Pro Mode** check box expands the customization of criteria statements to include very complex criteria expressions. As customized criteria can be very detailed, they can be prone to syntax errors such as incorrect placement of commas, quotes, brackets, etc.

Complex expressions are under user control and knowledge. Please refer to one of the many SQL books available on this subject. ICLUBcentral Support does not resolve errors due to user-built expressions.

Importing Pre-Defined Query Files (QDF files)

Stock Prospector version 2.7 includes a number of pre-defined queries (QDF files) that can be imported and used, modified, or saved to the database. These sample queries are located in the **Queries** folder within the **Stock Prospector** program folder. Select **File > Import Query from File** to load these saved queries. Imported queries are not automatically saved to the **Stock Prospector** database. To save an imported query open the **Screening Criteria** window and select **Save**.

Report Window

Stock Prospector automatically fills in the list of report items (columns) based on the selected screening criteria. (New Reports only) To customize a report, click the **Define Report** icon. The window contains two panes, with the Item Groups (IG) and **Report Lists** on the left.

Your objective is to select meaningful items for your custom report. Do this by clicking items from the pane on the left and adding them to the new report on the right.

Click the **Item Group (IG)** icons to expand and show individual items. Click a second time to compress the list.

Use the scroll bar or resize the window to view all items on the list.

The icons in the left pane are defined below. These identify the **Item Group (IG)**, **Previously Defined Report (PDR)**, and **User Report (UR)**. The **ALL** icon contains all the available items in alphabetical order.

The user should note that the number of items used in the report directly affects the time to search for companies and calculate weights.

Report Icons

The following icons on the left pane show the selection of reports and individual items to build customized reports.

IG (Item Group) and **ALL** (database items) are lists of items provided to help with the definition of customized reports.

Altering a Report

It is easiest and fastest to start with a previously defined report and alter it to suit your new search.

Start by selecting a pre-defined or user report. Highlight the report and click Add to add it to a blank list on the right pane. The selected report can then be edited by adding or removing items as desired.

To change the item order of your report, highlight the item and click the up/down button to move it to the new location. Once altered, you may choose to save the new report with its own unique name and description.

The numeral (0 to 5) on the right side of the item indicates the default weight for that item or group (N/A shows that an item does not have a weight rating).

- **Item Group** – All database items are divided into related groups: other, growth, value, quality, safety, projection, proxy, and trend. Item Groups are not reports.
- **Pre-Defined Reports** – These are the beginner reports provided by **Stock Prospector: BetterInvesting1, BetterInvesting2, ICLUB Growth and Quality, Growth, Value, Quality, and Safety.**
- **User Reports** – These are reports that you defined and saved. An example of this is the Dow Jones report.
- **All Database Items** – You can select from this list in alphabetical order. This is not a report.
- **User Defined Item** – These are items that you have defined using **Create** items, in the **Report** window.

Creating a New Report

A new report is created by selecting individual items from any of the item groups on the left pane and building your custom report on the right.

Highlight the item in the reports/items list and then click **Add**. Continue in this way to list all the items you want in your new report. Be sure to use only items that are meaningful to you and that tell you something about a company. Items should focus your search objectives for the characteristics of the companies you want to find.

To change the position of an item in the list, highlight the item and click the up/down buttons to move it to the desired place.

To remove an item from the list, highlight it and click the Remove button.

You can add the contents of a group by highlighting the group icon on the left pane and then clicking Add.

Saving User-defined Reports

Once you have modified a report, it can be saved with an appropriate name. This new report now forms part of the user-defined reports (with a **UR** icon) and can be used at a future date to compare results using new data. As well, the user-defined report can be used as a starting point for generating other reports.

There is no limit to the number of reports that you can define. We suggest that you define an initial report that particularly suits your style of investing and your objectives. Then use this with minor variations to implement or test other possibilities. It is best to work from a report that you know well and use that knowledge to learn more about defining reports.

Data Items

Alphabetical Sort (All Data Items)

#	Item Name	Description
1	% From 52W Hi	Compares current price to 52 week high price. Formula: $(\text{Current Price} - 52\text{W Hi Price}) / 52\text{W Hi Price}$ (Will always be ≤ 0). Price being close to the 52 week high suggests a positive trend. This may show the company to be overpriced.
2	% From 52W Low	Compares current price to 52 week low price. Formula: $(\text{Current Price} - 52\text{W Low Price}) / 52\text{W Low Price}$ (Will always be ≤ 0). Price being near the 52 week low suggests a negative trend.
3	52W Hi Price	Highest share price reached during the last 52 weeks.
4	52W Low Price	Lowest share price during the past 52 weeks.
5	ACE 1Yr Proj EPS	Analysts' consensus EPS. Analysts' forecast of current year's (fiscal year) EPS. See 'Proj 1 Yr EPS Gr' .
6	Analyst 5Yr EPS	Analysts' expectations for EPS extrapolated to calculate EPS 5 years in the future. Formula: $\text{ACE 1Yr Proj EPS} * (1 + \text{Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr})^4$. See 'Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr' .
7	Assets - Millions	Current assets. Indicates company size by measuring its assets.
8	Avg Debt/Equity	Average debt to equity over the last 5 years.
9	Avg PE	Formula: $(\text{Avg 5Yr High PE} + \text{Avg 5Yr low PE}) / 2$. Average Price/Earnings ration for the last 5 years.
10	Avg 5Yr High PE	Average high PE for last 5 years. Calculated from yearly information from OPS data.
11	Avg 5Yr Low PE	Average low PE for last 5 years. Calculated from yearly information from OPS data.
12	Avg 5Yr PTI	Average 5-year PTI. Simple average calculated from OPS data. Pre-tax Income on Sales (i.e. profitability). See 'Trend PTI' .
13	Avg 5Yr ROE	Average 5-year ROE. Simple average calculated from OPS data. Return on Common Equity. See 'Trend ROE' .
14	Avg Div Yield	Historical average dividend yield. Calculated using the last 5 years' annual data from OPS data.

15	Beta	Measure of price volatility in relation to the market. Could be misleading for fast-growing companies.
16	Book Value Gr	Book value per share growth (common equity / number of shares). Growth in book value for the number of years available. Regulated industries (utilities) pay out a fixed amount based on their assets. Book Value is an indication of assets.
17	Buy Below	Lowest third of the price range based on equal (33/33/33%) divisions between Proxy Hi Pr and Proxy Low Pr .
18	Captlztion - Millions	Capitalization = Number of shares * current price. Indication of the company size by market valuation.
19	Cash Flow Gr	Growth in cash flow for number of years of data available. Can be used to confirm EPS growth. In some industries (resources, cable, etc.) cash flow is a better indicator than EPS.
20	CashFlow / Share	Cash flow per share. As provided by OPS data.
21	Com Equity R2 10Yr	Common equity consistency over the last 10 years.
22	Company Name	Company name.
23	Current Div	Current dividend.
24	Current EPS	Current earnings per share – Total of last 4 quarters of reported earnings.
25	Current PE	Current Price/Earnings ratio as available from OPS data. EPS (earnings) is usually for 2 reported quarters plus 2 anticipated quarters.
26	Current Price	Current share price for the date indicated in 'Date Info' .
27	Current Ratio	Current ratio. Current assets / current liabilities. Measure of liquidity. Ratios of 2 or higher are generally considered good.
28	Cur Div Yield	Current dividend yield. For those interested in income from their investment.
29	Currency Name	Defined when importing OPS data. Applicable only for dealing with foreign stocks.
30	Date Info	Date when OPS data was generated.
31	Debt / Capital	As 'Debt / Equity' , except using the working capital.
32	Debt / Equity	Debt to equity ratio. Measure of long term debt for company. For most industries 30% is acceptable. Utilities typically have high ratios.
33	Debt / Equity Rating	Numerical figure derived from trend of 'Debt / Equity' . The numerical equivalent of 'Debt / Equity' , which varies from 6 to 0, where ++ = 6 and -- = 0. For this rating, 4 or <u>lower</u> is best.
34	Div Gr	Growth in dividends for the number of years of data available. For those interested in income from investments.
35	Div Payout	Dividend payout ratio. 5 yr average of ratio for dividends / EPS. An indicator of safety of dividends paid. For most industries look for 60% or less. Exceptions are utilities.
36	Dividend R2 10Yr	Dividend consistency over the last 10 years.
37	EPS Est Flag 1Yr	If True, it indicates that 'ACE 1Yr Proj EPS' was provided from the data provider. If False, it was calculated by Prospector based on internal formula.
38	EPS Est Flag 5Yr	If True, it indicates that 'Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr' was provided from the data provider. If False, it was calculated by Prospector based on internal formula.
39	EPS R2 10yr	EPS consistency. R ² (or R squared) is the coefficient of correlation from the calculation of 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr' . Varies from 1 to 0 where 1 is the most consistent and desirable.

40	EPS R2 3yr	EPS consistency over the last 3 years.
41	EPS R2 5yr	EPS consistency over the last 5 years.
42	EPS Rank - DB	Compares short term growth to the average short term growth of the database.
43	EPS Rank - Indus	Compares short term EPS growth to the average short term growth of the industry.
44	EPS Trend	Difference in % change EPS (last 4 quarters) to weighted growth for the company.
45	EPS Trend – DB	Compares 'EPS Trend' of the company to the trends of the database.
46	EPS Trend – Indus	Compares 'EPS Trend' of the company to the trends of the industry.
47	Exchange	Trading exchange.
48	Exchange Rate	Defined when importing OPS data. Applicable only for dealing with foreign stocks.
49	Hist Share Gr	Growth in average share price for the number of years available, based on yearly data. Comparing this to EPS growth, can suggest whether PE is expanding or contracting. This can indicate whether a stock is getting overpriced.
50	Hist 10Yr EPS Gr	Historical 10-year growth for EPS. Uses a least-squares calculation to determine EPS growth. Long term growth rate. Use 'EPS R2 10yr' to indicate consistency in results.
51	Hist 10Yr Rev Gr	Historical 10-year growth for revenues – Calculation uses the yearly data and a least-squares calculation to determine past growth. Long term growth rate. Use 'Rev R2 10Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
52	Hist 1Yr EPS Gr	Historical 1-year EPS growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr', 'Hist 5Yr EPS Gr' and 'Hist 3Yr EPS Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing).
53	Hist 1Yr Price Gr	Price growth based on Monthly data.
54	Hist 1Yr Rev Gr	Historical 1-year revenue growth. Use with Items 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr', 'Hist 5Yr Rev Gr', and 'Hist 3Yr Rev Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing).
55	Hist 3Yr EPS Gr	Historical 3-year EPS growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr' and 'Hist 5Yr EPS Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'EPS R2 3Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
56	Hist 3Yr Price Gr	Price growth based on Monthly data.
57	Hist 3Yr Rev Gr	Historical 3-year revenue growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr REV Gr' and 'Hist 5Yr REV Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'Rev R2 3Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
58	Hist 5Yr EPS Gr	Historical 5-year growth for EPS. As provided in OPS data. Use with 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'EPS R2 5Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
59	Hist 5Yr Price Gr	Price growth based on Monthly data.
60	Hist 5Yr Rev Gr	Historical 5-year revenue growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'Rev R2 5Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
61	Implied Gr	Formula: Avg 5Yr ROE * (1 – Div Payout) . The growth rate of retained earnings. An indication of future growth can be made from implied growth.
62	Industry	This is industry name. To screen by this use [Industry] = and select name from the list provided.

63	Inside Ownership	Percent ownership by directors and management of the company.
64	Institutional Holdings	Percent ownership by pension and mutual funds and professional managers.
65	Int Coverage	Interest coverage. The ratio of pre-tax income to interest paid on all debt. A ratio of 3 or larger is good.
66	Inventory Turnover	Based on yearly sales and the latest inventory.
67	Last Full Yr	Last year of data, the fiscal year. This is the year of the last full year of data.
68	Last 4Q EPS Gr	Latest 4 quarters EPS growth. Growth of moving yearly EPS compared to the same period a year earlier. Current growth rate. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
69	Last 4Q Rev Gr	Latest 4 quarters revenue growth. Growth of moving 4 quarter revenues compared to the similar period a year earlier. Current growth rate. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
70	Last Quarter Date	Date of the last reported quarter in the OPS data.
71	No Shares - Millions	Number of shares. Measure of possible liquidity of company.
72	Num Yrs of Data	Number of years of sales data available for the company.
73	Payback	The number of years for yearly accumulated EPS to equal current price. Generally between 6 and 10 - the lower the better. However, be suspicious of very low numbers.
74	PE / Avg ROE	Price of Profitability. Formula: Current PE / Avg 5Yr ROE . Values less than 1 indicate good value.
75	PE / Hist EPS Gr	Current PE divided by Historical EPS growth. As provided in OPS data or is equal to: Current PE / Hist 10Yr EPS Gr - (Peter Lynch's formula).
76	PE / Proj EPS Gr	Similar to 'PE / Hist EPS Gr' but using projected EPS. Commonly referred to as the PEG Ratio.
77	Price / Book Value	Current price divided by latest reported book value (per share). Review with 'Book Value Gr' .
78	Price / Cash Flow	Price to cash flow per share. Current price divided by the latest reported cash flow figure. Review with 'Cash Flow Gr' .
79	Price / Sales	Current price divided by the latest sales per share figure. An indication of value for fast growing companies - not susceptible to accounting methods (EPS) and depreciation (BookVI).
80	Price App	Compounded (annualized) appreciation from 'Current Price' to the 'Proxy Hi Pr' .
81	Price in Zone	The % that the 'Current Price' is above the 'Proxy Low Pr' . Zero is at the 'Proxy Low Pr' . 100% is at the 'Proxy Hi Pr' .
82	Price Last Updated	Typically the date of the last share price update, 'Current Price' , or when OPS data was first generated.
83	Price Rank - DB	Compares short term changes to the average short term changes of the database.
84	Price Rank - Indus	Compares short term price changes to the average short term changes of the industry.
85	Price Trend	Difference in % price change (last 12 months) in comparison to the 5 year change.
86	Price Trend - DB	Compares 'Price Trend' of the company to the trends of the database.
87	Price Trend - Indus	Compares 'Price Trend' of the company to the trends of the industry.

88	Price Variance	Statistical variation of yearly prices over the past 10 years.
89	Proj EPS Revision	Calculated only during updates from OPS data. This compares previous ACE EPS, 'ACE 1Yr Proj EPS' to the current value and reports any changes.
90	Proj 1 Yr EPS Gr	Expected EPS growth calculated from 'ACE 1Yr Proj EPS' .
91	Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr	Analysts' consensus EPS growth expected over the next 5 years. See 'Analyst 5Yr EPS' .
92	Proxy Hi Pr	Expected high price 5 years in the future.
93	Proxy Low Pr	Projected low price over the next 5 years based on a statistical assessment of price variation over the previous 5 years.
94	PTI Rating	Numerical figure derived from 'Trend PTI' . The numerical equivalent of 'Trend PTI' , which varies from 6 to 0, where ++ = 6 and -- = 0.
95	Q EPS Gr	Growth of quarterly EPS compared to the same period a year earlier. Current growth. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
96	Q Rev Gr	Quarterly revenue growth. Growth of quarterly revenues compared to the same period a year earlier. Current growth rate. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
97	Quick Ratio	Cash / current liabilities. Measure of liquidity which excludes receivables: ratio of 1 or higher is good. Some industries which deal in cash typically have lower ratios.
98	Rel Value	Relative value. Formula: Current PE / Avg PE . An indication of value based on past PE valuation.
99	Rev R2 10Yr	Revenue consistency. R^2 (or R squared) is the coefficient of correlation from the calculation of 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr' . Varies from 1 to 0 where 1 is the most consistent and desirable.
100	Rev R2 3Yr	Revenue consistency over the last 3 years.
101	Rev R2 5Yr	Revenue consistency over the last 5 years.
102	Rev Rank - DB	Compares short term growth to the average short term growth of the database.
103	Rev Rank - Indus	Compares short term revenue growth to the average short term growth of the industry.
104	Rev Trend	Difference in % revenue change of last 4 quarters growth and the weighted growth for the company.
105	Rev Trend - DB	Compares 'Rev Trend' of the company to the trends of the database.
106	Rev Trend - Indus	Compares 'Rev Trend' of the company to the trends of the industry.
107	ROE Rating	Numerical figure derived from 'Trend ROE' . The numerical equivalent of 'Trend ROE' , which varies from 6 to 0, where ++ = 6 and -- = 0.
108	Quality Rating	Numerical value for company's quality rating. BetterInvesting datafiles use the S&P Quality Rating, which varies from 8 to 0, with 8 being the best. StockCentral datafiles use the Take Stock Quality Rating, which varies from 0 to 10, with 10 being the best, with 3.4 or better considered "acceptable," and 6.7 or better considered "desirable."
109	Sales	Latest sales figure from OPS data. Indication of the company size by sales (revenue).
110	Sell Above	Highest third of the price range based on equal (33/33/33%) divisions between Proxy Hi Pr and Proxy Low Pr .
111	SIC No	Standard Industrial Classification number. A four-digit code: first 2 indicate industry group, second 2 indicate specific industry. As 'Industry' except that it deals with a code.
112	Symbol	Trading symbol.

113	Tax Rate	Average 5 year tax rate. Assess government's effect on profits.
114	Total Return	Compounded (annualized) total return that includes price appreciation and portion contributed from dividends.
115	Trend Debt / Equity	Trend of debt to equity. Derived by reviewing the last 2 years' figures vs. the 5-year average. Item 2C in the SA+ SSG. Indicators are ++, +, --, Even, +-, -, --, where + indicates an increase in debt to equity.
116	Trend PTI	Trend of pre-tax income on sales. Derived by reviewing the last 2 years' PTI figures vs. the 5-year average. Profitability will vary for each industry. Item 2A in the SSG. Best to worst indicators are ++, +, --, Even, +-, -, --.
117	Trend ROE	Trend of return on common equity. Derived by reviewing the last 2 years' ROE figures vs. the 5-year average. How well does management use assets (equity)? Item 2B in the SSG. Best to worst indicators are ++, +, --, Even, +-, -, --.
118	U/D Ratio	The ratio between the 'Current Price' and the 'Proxy Hi Pr' .

The following lists detail the various Report Item Groups (IG) in Stock Prospector. The order of items matches the order listed in Stock Prospector. The numbers to the left of the item name match those in the Alphabetical Sort on the previous pages.

Other Items

22	Company Name	Company name.
112	Symbol	Trading symbol.
47	Exchange	Trading exchange.
62	Industry	This is industry name. To screen by this use [Industry] = and select name from the list provided.
111	SIC No	Standard Industrial Classification number. A four-digit code: first 2 indicate industry group, second 2 indicate specific industry. As 'Industry' except that it deals with a code.
30	Date Info	Date when OPS data was generated.
70	Last Quarter Date	Date of the last reported quarter in the OPS data.
82	Price Last Updated	Typically the date of the last share price update, 'Current Price' , or when OPS data was first generated.
26	Current Price	Current share price for the date indicated in 'Date Info'.
3	52W Hi Price	Highest share price reached during the last 52 weeks.
4	52W Low Price	Lowest share price during the past 52 weeks.
29	Currency Name	Defined when importing OPS data. Applicable only for dealing with foreign stocks.
48	Exchange Rate	Defined when importing OPS data. Applicable only for dealing with foreign stocks.
67	Last Full Yr	Last year of data, the fiscal year. This is the year of the last full year of data.
72	Num Yrs of Data	Number of years of sales data available for the company.
24	Current EPS	Current earnings per share – Total of last 4 quarters of reported earnings.

23	Current Div	Current dividend.
63	Inside Ownership	Percent ownership by directors and management of the company.
64	Institutional Holdings	Percent ownership by pension and mutual funds and professional managers.

Growth Items

Growth items are calculated from data using a least squares regression formula based on a logarithmic function. This method is used because it most closely defines the compounded growth typical of growing companies.

The limitation of this calculation occurs for companies that have unusual data, i.e. negative EPS in one or more years. In these situations the growth calculation can provide misleading answers. To ensure a proper growth figure, check the corresponding R2 (see Quality Group items).

Where insufficient data exists to calculate an historical growth figure no data will be calculated. For example, company with only 3 years of data will not have 5 or 10 year growth figures)

51	Hist 10Yr Rev Gr	Historical 10-year growth for revenues – Calculation uses the yearly data and a least-squares calculation to determine past growth. Long term growth rate. Use 'Rev R2 10Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
60	Hist 5Yr Rev Gr	Historical 5-year revenue growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'Rev R2 5Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
57	Hist 3Yr Rev Gr	Historical 3-year revenue growth. Use with Items 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr', 'Hist 5Yr Rev Gr', and 'Hist 1Yr Rev Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'Rev R2 3Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
54	Hist 1Yr Rev Gr	Historical 1-year revenue growth. Use with Items 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr', 'Hist 5Yr Rev Gr', and 'Hist 3Yr Rev Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing).
69	Last 4Q Rev Gr	Latest 4 quarters revenue growth. Growth of moving 4 quarter revenues compared to the similar period a year earlier. Current growth rate. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
96	Q Rev Gr	Quarterly revenue growth. Growth of quarterly revenues compared to the same period a year earlier. Current growth rate. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
50	Hist 10Yr EPS Gr	Historical 10-year growth for EPS. Uses a least-squares calculation to determine EPS growth. Long term growth rate. Use 'EPS R2 10yr' to indicate consistency in results.
58	Hist 5Yr EPS Gr	Historical 5-year growth for EPS. As provided in OPS data. Use with 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'EPS R2 5Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
55	Hist 3Yr EPS Gr	Historical 3-year EPS growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr' and 'Hist 5Yr EPS Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing). May also be used with 'EPS R2 3Yr' to indicate consistency in results.
52	Hist 1Yr EPS Gr	Historical 1-year EPS growth. Use with 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr', 'Hist 5Yr EPS Gr' and 'Hist 3Yr EPS Gr' to indicate trend of growth (increasing or decreasing).

68	Last 4Q EPS Gr	Latest 4 quarters EPS growth. Growth of moving yearly EPS compared to the same period a year earlier. Current growth rate. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
95	Q EPS Gr	Growth of quarterly EPS compared to the same period a year earlier. Current growth. Compare this with the last 1 or 3 year growth to determine consistency.
59	Hist 5Yr Price Gr	Price growth based on Monthly data.
56	Hist 3Yr Price Gr	Price growth based on Monthly data.
53	Hist 1Yr Price Gr	Price growth based on Monthly data.
34	Div Gr	Growth in dividends for the number of years of data available. For those interested in income from investments.
16	Book Value Gr	Book value per share growth (common equity / number of shares). Growth in book value for the number of years available. Regulated industries (utilities) pay out a fixed amount based on their assets. Book Value is an indication of assets.
19	Cash Flow Gr	Growth in cash flow for number of years of data available. Can be used to confirm EPS growth. In some industries (resources, cable, etc.) cash flow is a better indicator than EPS.
61	Implied Gr	Formula: Avg 5Yr ROE * (1 – Div Payout) . The growth rate of retained earnings. An indication of future growth can be made from implied growth.
49	Hist Share Gr	Growth in average share price for the number of years available, based on yearly data. Comparing this to EPS growth, can suggest whether PE is expanding or contracting. This can indicate whether a stock is getting overpriced.

Value Items

Value is dictated by the current price of the stock. Stock prices can vary substantially over relatively short periods of time. Stock price affects 29 items in the Stock Prospector database.

11	Avg 5Yr Low PE	Average low PE for last 5 years. Calculated from yearly information from OPS data.
10	Avg 5Yr High PE	Average high PE for last 5 years. Calculated from yearly information from OPS data.
9	Avg PE	Formula: (Avg 5Yr High PE + Avg 5Yr low PE) / 2 . Average Price/Earnings ratio for the last 5 years.
25	Current PE	Current Price/Earnings ratio as available from OPS data. EPS (earnings) is usually for 2 reported quarters plus 2 anticipated quarters.
75	PE / Hist EPS Gr	Current PE divided by Historical EPS growth. As provided in OPS data or is equal to: Current PE / Hist 10Yr EPS Gr - (Peter Lynch's formula).
76	PE / Proj EPS Gr	Similar to 'PE / Hist EPS Gr' but using projected EPS. Commonly referred to as the PEG Ratio.
98	Rel Value	Relative value. Formula: Current PE / Avg PE . An indication of value based on past PE valuation.

2	% From 52W Low	Compares current price to 52 week low price. Formula: $(\text{Current Price} - 52\text{W Low Price}) / 52\text{W Low Price}$ (Will always be ≤ 0). Price being near the 52 week low suggests a negative trend.
1	% From 52W Hi	Compares current price to 52 week high price. Formula: $(\text{Current Price} - 52\text{W Hi Price}) / 52\text{W Hi Price}$ (Will always be ≤ 0). Price being close to the 52 week high suggests a positive trend. This may show the company to be overpriced.
79	Price / Sales	Current price divided by the latest sales per share figure. An indication of value for fast growing companies - not susceptible to accounting methods (EPS) and depreciation (BookV1).
78	Price / Cash Flow	Price to cash flow per share. Current price divided by the latest reported cash flow figure. Review with 'Cash Flow Gr'.
77	Price / Book Value	Current price divided by latest reported book value (per share). Review with 'Book Value Gr'.
74	PE / Avg ROE	Price of Profitability. Formula: $\text{Current PE} / \text{Avg 5Yr ROE}$. Values less than 1 indicate good value.
20	CashFlow / Share	Cash flow per share. As provided by OPS data.
28	Cur Div Yield	Current dividend yield. For those interested in income from their investment.
14	Avg Div Yield	Historical average dividend yield. Calculated using the last 5 years' annual data from OPS data.
113	Tax Rate	Average 5 year tax rate. Assess government's effect on profits.
73	Payback	The number of years for yearly accumulated EPS to equal current price. Generally between 6 and 10 - the lower the better. However, be suspicious of very low numbers.

Quality Items

99	Rev R2 10Yr	Revenue consistency. R^2 (or R squared) is the coefficient of correlation from the calculation of 'Hist 10Yr Rev Gr'. Varies from 1 to 0 where 1 is the most consistent and desirable.
101	Rev R2 5Yr	Revenue consistency over the last 5 years.
100	Rev R2 3Yr	Revenue consistency over the last 3 years.
39	EPS R2 10yr	EPS consistency. R^2 (or R squared) is the coefficient of correlation from the calculation of 'Hist 10Yr EPS Gr'. Varies from 1 to 0 where 1 is the most consistent and desirable.
41	EPS R2 5yr	EPS consistency over the last 5 years.
40	EPS R2 3yr	EPS consistency over the last 3 years.
36	Dividend R2 10Yr	Dividend consistency over the last 10 years.
21	Com Equity R2 10Yr	Common equity consistency over the last 10 years.
13	Avg 5Yr ROE	Average 5-year ROE. Simple average calculated from OPS data. Return on Common Equity. See 'Trend ROE'.
12	Avg 5Yr PTI	Average 5-year PTI. Simple average calculated from OPS data. Pre-tax Income on Sales (i.e. profitability). See 'Trend PTI'.
117	Trend ROE	Trend of return on common equity. Derived by reviewing the last 2 years' ROE figures vs. the 5-year average. How well does management use assets (equity)? Item 2B in the SSG. Best to worst indicators are ++, +, -+, Even, +-, -, --.

116	Trend PTI	Trend of pre-tax income on sales. Derived by reviewing the last 2 years' PTI figures vs. the 5-year average. Profitability will vary for each industry. Item 2A in the SSG. Best to worst indicators are ++, +, -, Even, +-, -, --.
107	ROE Rating	Numerical figure derived from 'Trend ROE' . The numerical equivalent of 'Trend ROE' , which varies from 6 to 0, where ++ = 6 and -- = 0.
94	PTI Rating	Numerical figure derived from 'Trend PTI' . The numerical equivalent of 'Trend PTI' , which varies from 6 to 0, where ++ = 6 and -- = 0.
66	Inventory Turnover	Based on yearly sales and the latest inventory.

Safety Items

109	Sales	Latest sales figure from OPS data. Indication of the company size by sales (revenue).
7	Assets - Millions	Current assets. Indicates company size by measuring its assets.
18	Capltztion - Millions	Capitalization = Number of shares * current price. Indication of the company size by market valuation.
71	No Shares - Millions	Number of shares. Measure of possible liquidity of company.
108	S&P Rating	Standard & Poor's rating from OPS data. Numerical value for S&P's Quality rating. Varies from 8 to 0, 8 being the best.
35	Div Payout	Dividend payout ratio. 5 yr average of ratio for dividends / EPS. An indicator of safety of dividends paid. For most industries look for 60% or less. Exceptions are utilities.
32	Debt / Equity	Debt to equity ratio. Measure of long term debt for company. For most industries 30% is acceptable. Utilities typically have high ratios.
8	Avg Debt / Equity	Average debt to equity over the last 5 years.
31	Debt / Capital	As 'Debt / Equity', except using the working capital.
33	Debt / Equity Rating	Numerical figure derived from trend of 'Debt / Equity' . The numerical equivalent of 'Debt / Equity' , which varies from 6 to 0, where ++ = 6 and -- = 0. For this rating, 4 or <u>lower</u> is best.
115	Trend Debt / Equity	Trend of debt to equity. Derived by reviewing the last 2 years' figures vs. the 5-year average. Item 2C in the SA+ SSG. Indicators are ++, +, -, Even, +-, -, --, where + indicates an increase in debt to equity.
15	Beta	Measure of price volatility in relation to the market. Could be misleading for fast-growing companies.
65	Int Coverage	Interest coverage. The ratio of pre-tax income to interest paid on all debt. A ratio of 3 or larger is good.
27	Current Ratio	Current ratio. Current assets / current liabilities. Measure of liquidity. Ratios of 2 or higher are generally considered good.
97	Quick Ratio	Cash / current liabilities. Measure of liquidity which excludes receivables; ratio of 1 or higher is good. Some industries which deal in cash typically have lower ratios.
88	Price Variance	Statistical variation of yearly prices over the past 10 years.

Projection Items

Projection items are flagged to help the user determine the source of the data. Potentially, if the earnings growth is based on calculations, the figures could be misleading. Review both the appropriate growth and R2 items when using projected items.

90	Proj 1 Yr EPS Gr	Projected EPS growth rate calculated from '1Yr Proj EPS' .
91	Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr	Projected EPS growth rate expected over the next 5 years. See '5Yr Proj EPS'.
5	1Yr Proj EPS	Estimated EPS for current fiscal year EPS. See 'Proj 1 Yr EPS Gr'.
6	5Yr Proj EPS	Estimated EPS extrapolated to calculate EPS 5 years in the future. Formula: 1Yr Proj EPS * (1 + Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr) ^ 4 . See 'Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr' .
89	Proj EPS Revision	Calculated only during updates from data. This compares previous 1 Yr Proj EPS' to the current value and reports any changes.
37	EPS Est Flag 1Yr	If True, it indicates that '1Yr Proj EPS' was provided from the data provider. If False, it was calculated by Prospector based on internal formula.
38	EPS Est Flag 5Yr	If True, it indicates that 'Proj 5 Yr EPS Gr' was provided from the data provider. If False, it was calculated by Prospector based on internal formula.

Proxy for Judgment Items

The user is cautioned that proxy items are calculated from formulas and that they are not to be construed as substitutes for appropriate judgment based on knowledge of the company. Normally, judgment is applied based on personal interpretation of data that validates proxy items. No such validation is made or implied within Prospector.

92	Proxy Hi Pr	Expected high price 5 years in the future.
93	Proxy Low Pr	Projected low price over the next 5 years based on a statistical assessment of price variation over the previous 5 years.
17	Buy Below	Lowest third of the price range based on equal (33/33/33%) divisions between Proxy Hi Pr and Proxy Low Pr.
110	Sell Above	Highest third of the price range based on equal (33/33/33%) divisions between Proxy Hi Pr and Proxy Low Pr .
81	Price in Zone	The % that the 'Current Price' is above the 'Proxy Low Pr' . Zero is at the 'Proxy Low Pr.' 100% is at the 'Proxy Hi Pr.'
80	Price App	Compounded (annualized) appreciation from 'Current Price' to the 'Proxy Hi Pr.'
118	U/D Ratio	The ratio between the 'Current Price' and the 'Proxy Hi Pr'.
114	Total Return	Compounded (annualized) total return that includes price appreciation and portion contributed from dividends.

Trend and Rank Items

As with Growth Group items, Rank Items use growth calculation. As a result you are cautioned to assess Trends along with the corresponding R2 items in the Quality Group.

104	Rev Trend	Difference in % revenue change of last 4 quarters growth and the weighted growth for the company.
106	Rev Trend - Indus	Compares 'Rev Trend' of the company to the trends of the industry.
105	Rev Trend - DB	Compares 'Rev Trend' of the company to the trends of the database.
103	Rev Rank - Indus	Compares short term revenue growth to the average short term growth of the industry.
102	Rev Rank - DB	Compares short term growth to the average short term growth of the database.
44	EPS Trend	Difference in % change EPS (last 4 quarters) to weighted growth for the company.
46	EPS Trend – Indus	Compares 'EPS Trend' of the company to the trends of the industry.
45	EPS Trend – DB	Compares 'EPS Trend' of the company to the trends of the database.
43	EPS Rank - Indus	Compares short term EPS growth to the average short term growth of the industry.
42	EPS Rank - DB	Compares short term growth to the average short term growth of the database.
85	Price Trend	Difference in % price change (last 12 months) in comparison to the 5 year change.
87	Price Trend - Indus	Compares 'Price Trend' of the company to the trends of the industry.
86	Price Trend - DB	Compares 'Price Trend' of the company to the trends of the database.
84	Price Rank - Indus	Compares short term price changes to the average short term changes of the industry.
83	Price Rank - DB	Compares short term changes to the average short term changes of the database.

Operators

A search criteria is an expression using operators (such as < or >) and values (text or numbers).

The following operators can be used to define new expressions. Please be aware that this information is provided as a preliminary reference only and is presented here merely to indicate the variety of operators available. The list is not intended to be complete. Additional operators are available but not listed below.

This section is also not intended to be a lesson on using operators or building expressions. Users interested in learning more about SQL (Structured Query Language) can refer to the many books available on this subject. Specifically, we suggest books that reference Microsoft Access database SQL.

Logical Operators

Logical operators are normally set in the 'and/or' column when pro-mode is set. These operators can also be set within a criteria statement.

Operator	Example
AND ¹	Logical operators have seemingly strange operations to beginners. It is not the objective of this manual to explain Boolean operations.
OR	
AND NOT	
OR NOT	

Comparative Operators

Operator	Example
Greater Than >	[Hist 5Yr EPS Gr] > .15
Less Than <	[Rel Value] < 1.0
Equal =	[Exchange] = "NYSE"
Greater Than or Equal >=	[PTI Rating] >= 4
Less Than or Equal <=	[Date Info] <= #12/31/97#
Not Equal <>	² IIF([Cur Price] <> 0, [Cur Div]/[Cur Price], 0)

Quotes "" and the number symbol # are used to indicate text and date information as shown in the above examples.

Mathematical Operators

Operator	Example
Addition +	[Price App] + [Avg Div Yield]
Subtraction -	[Sell Above] - [Cur Price]
Multiplication *	[Rel Value] * 1.1 (relative value X 110%)
Division /	³ [Cur Div] / [Cur Price]
Exponential ^	[Cur EPS] * (1 + Proj 5Yr EPS Gr) ^ 5

Text and Other Operators

Operator	Example
Like	⁴ [Company Name] like "*ADR"
In	[Symbol] in ('T', 'ALD', 'AA')
Between	[Rel Value] between .8 and 1.2

¹ The AND operator is used between statements if none is specified.

² Division by 0 (zero) is an illegal operation. Test for this possibility with the IIF (immediate if) command prior to performing the division.

³ Division by 0 (zero) is an illegal operation. Test for this possibility with the IIF (immediate if) command prior to performing the division.

⁴ The asterisk (*) wild card character is used to denote any number of characters preceding "ADR" This statement finds all companies that are ADRs. ADR stands for American depositary receipts and represent foreign shares traded on American exchanges.