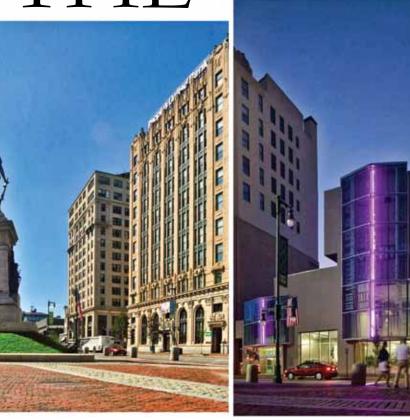
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THE





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Wright Express is doing all the right things," says EVAN LIVADA, founder of Livada Securities, of the South Portland-headquartered credit-card processing firm as he considers this year's list of the top 100 businesses headquartered in Maine.

"They were founded here in 1983, and they've grown by leaps and bounds by making acquisitions all over the world. Two weeks ago, they acquired Fleet One, one of their biggest competitors, for \$369 million. With that announcement,



COMMENTARY BY EVAN LIVADA DATA FROM DUN & BRADSTREET

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the stock popped nine percent."

Even better, "They have a market cap of \$2.7 billion, a big number for a Maine corp." For readers unfamiliar with the business located near Maine Mall, across the street from Clark's Pond Cinemas, "They're huge in the corporate credit-card business. They were the first guys to set up credit cards for gassing up everybody's vehicles. Look at the growth this year: The low for the stock was \$35, and now it's doubled, to \$70."

If you're looking for a business that is quietly taking over the world, consider "Formed Fiber Technologies out of Auburn," a tick below Oakhurst Dairy at \$106 million.

Maine: Carpetmaker for Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Ford, and Lexus.

It isn't difficult describing chocolate milk, but how unglamorous is FFT's product of "needle-punched non-woven fabrics and polyester staple fibers." Sound boring? Get back in the car! "What that means is *they're in just about every automobile in the country,*" from Corvettes to Ford Mustangs. "Think of the cut-piled carpeting in every foot well and trunk in every car in every traffic jam."

The stuff you spill your McDonald's shakes on?

"Someone has to make it! They have plants in Auburn; Sidney, Ohio; and Sumter, South Carolina. With market penetration this deep, this one looks more than just interesting to me."

Renys and Marden's are turtleneck and turtleneck. "Maybe without our Gov. LePage's leadership, they've slept a little bit at Marden's, but I can't imagine they've gone for \$100M to \$49M in one year! In any case, it's nice to see Renys see an increase after they've taken the downtown Portland space where the L.L. Bean outlet store was. Certainly many people appreciate their believing in that spot.

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Insider's tip: "Angus King is on their board."

To those who believe water runs to what is wet; maybe it's true for dollars, too: "Everett J. Prescott is huge in water, sewer, drainage, and stormwater–a big employer."

As for the biggest force at play in the Maine 100, it's play itself: "Without a doubt, tourism is the biggest industry in Maine. As long as we can keep the weather perfect and the price of lobster down. I see that No. 51 on the list is Weathervane Seafoods," Livada says. "It started in 1969 as a little takeout stand for lobster and chowder in Kittery."

Another rising star in the tourism sky, "beyond 60 cruise ships coming into Portland, is Canada revitalizing [and underwriting] the Portland to Nova Scotia ferry connection."

After The Cat skipped town, "it was sad to see Halifax getting farther away, and great to see it coming back to us" as part of the shared Northern Atlantic economy of Maine and the Canadian Maritimes. "Yes, this ferry is going to happen."

Is there something in Livada's crystal ball for us to watch? A dark horse? "Without a

doubt, the boys who are putting the Oxford Casino together are knocking the cover off the ball. They're printing money in Oxford. It's got to be a little boost for Sunday River. That whole area of Route 26 has been suffering a long time. It'll be nice to get a shot in the arm in that area."

1. L.L. BEAN, Freeport, \$1.52B +

- 2. IDEXX LABORATORIES, Westbrook, \$1.2B
- 3. EASTERN MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, Brewer, \$964.01M*
- 4. WRIGHT EXPRESS CORPORATION, South Portland, \$553.1M
- 5. MAINEGENERAL HEALTH, Augusta, \$401.27M*
- 6. OLYMPIA SPORTS, Westbrook, \$183.95M
- 7. DARLING'S, Brewer, \$172.36M
- 8. CIANBRO COMPANIES, Pittsfield, \$163.2M

- 9. YORK HOSPITAL, York, \$148.79M*
- 10. HUTCHINS MOTORS, Augusta, \$141.09M
- 11. BANGOR SAVINGS BANK, Bangor, \$140.14M
- 12. MAINE EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE, Portland, \$122.69M
- 13. CAMDEN NATIONAL CORPORATION, Camden, \$121.43M
- 14. OAKHURST DAIRY, Portland, \$108.4M †
- 15. FORMED FIBER TECHNOLOGIES, Auburn, \$105.9M
- 16. WOODARD & CURRAN, Portland, \$98.73M
- 17. FABIAN OIL, Oakland, \$90.65M
- 18. CENTRAL MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, Lewiston, \$90.5M*
- 19. HAMMOND LUMBER COMPANY, Belgrade, \$90M
- 20. C. N. BROWN, South Paris, \$87.3M

(Continued on page 77)



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The Maine 100 (continued from page 46)

21. AFFILIATED HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, Bangor, \$80.3M[†]

22. HANCOCK LUMBER, Casco, \$76.4M

23. NORTH COUNTRY ASSOCIATES, Lewiston, \$71M

24. CLARK INSURANCE, Portland, \$70M

25. FIRST ATLANTIC CORPORATION, Portland, \$68.4M

26. EVERETT J. PRESCOTT, Gardiner, \$67.5M

27. THE FIRST BANCORP, Damariscotta, \$67.45M

28. MACHIAS SAVINGS BANK, Machias, \$63.63M

29. R. H. RENY, Newcastle, \$63.13M

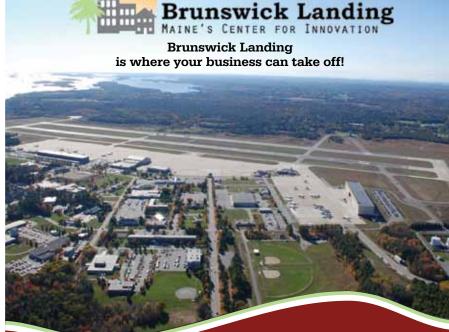
30. KENNEBUNK SAVINGS BANK, Kennebunk, \$59.8M

31. MARDEN'S INC, Waterville, \$59.7M

32. FOREST CITY CHEVROLET, Portland, \$58.2M

33. BAR HARBOR BANKSHARES, Bar Harbor, \$57.69M

34. NORTHEAST BANCORP, Lewiston, \$57.64M



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35. M W SEWALL & CO., Bath, \$55.5M

36. BANK OF MAINE, Portland, \$52.6M

37. SOUTHWORTH INTERNATIONAL GROUP, Falmouth, \$47.2M

(TIE) LEPAGE BAKERIES, Auburn, \$47.2 M

39. SACO AUTO HOLDINGS, Saco, \$46.1M

40. NORTHERN MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, Fort Kent, \$46M*

41. STONEWALL KITCHEN, York, \$44.4M

42. GORHAM SAVINGS BANK, Gorham, \$43.33M

43. REDLON & JOHNSON, Portland, \$43.3M

44. CREATIVE APPAREL ASSOCIATES, Belmont, \$42.97M

45. WHITE ROCK DISTILLERIES, Lewiston, \$41.6M

46. BUTLER BROTHER'S SUPPLY DIVISION, Lewiston, \$41.18M

47. DAIGLE OIL, Fort Kent, \$41.1M

48. ANDROSCOGGIN BANCORP, Lewiston, \$40.62M

49. FREIGHTLINER OF MAINE, Bangor, \$40.34M

50. NORWAY BANCORP, Norway, \$40.3M

(TIE) PINE STATE TRADING, Augusta, \$40.3M

52. DRACO, South Portland, \$39.3M

53. SKOWHEGAN SAVINGS BANK, Skowhegan, \$38.5M

54. ELMET TECHNOLOGIES, Lewiston, \$38.4M

55. SACO AND BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION, Saco, \$37.84M

56. KENNEBEC SAVINGS BANK, Augusta, \$37.26M

57. WEATHERVANE SEAFOODS, Kittery, \$36M

58. PIERCE ATWOOD, Portland, \$35.5M

59. VILLAGE CAR COMPANY, Bangor, \$35M

(TIE) SHAW BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION, Gorham, \$35M

61. GRAVE'S SUPER MARKETS, Presque Isle, \$34.9M

62. CHARLIE'S MOTOR MALL, Augusta, \$34.6M

63. THE EMERY-WATERHOUSE COMPANY, Portland, \$34.5M

64. VIA GROUP, Portland, \$34.2M

65. MAINETODAY MEDIA, Portland, \$34.1M

66. DEAD RIVER COMPANY, South Portland, \$33.7M

67. SARGENT CORPORATION, Stillwater, \$33.2M

68. MAINE OXY-ACETYLENE SUPPLY, Auburn, \$33M

69. ISF TRADING, Portland, \$32.6M

70. JOHN LUCAS TREE EXPERT, Falmouth, \$31.53M

71. R. H. FOSTER ENERGY, Hampden, \$31.1M

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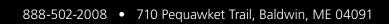
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- 72. POTTLES TRANSPORTATION, Hermon, \$30M
- (TIE) ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES OF PORTLAND, P.A., Portland, \$30M
- 74. BATH SAVINGS INSTITUTION, Bath, \$29.75M
- 75. DAIGLE & HOUGHTON, Fort Kent, \$29M
- 76. HUSSEY CORPORATION, North Berwick, \$28.9M
- 77. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICES, South Portland, \$28.4M
- 78. PRIDE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Burnham, \$28.3M
- 79. MILLER DRUG, Bangor, \$28M †
- 80. JOHN F. MURPHY HOMES, Auburn, \$27.88M
- 81. FORD WHITED TRUCK CENTER, Bangor, \$27.6M
- 82. BANCROFT CONTRACTING CORPORATION, South Paris, \$27.35M
- 83. PARIS FARMERS' UNION, South Paris, \$27.29M
- 84. KATAHDIN TRUST COMPANY, Patten, \$27.09M
- 85. GREENPAGES, Kittery, \$26.6M
- 86. CCB, Westbrook, \$26.19M
- 87. W. D. MATTHEWS MACHINERY, Auburn, \$26.1M
- 88. NELSON & SMALL, Portland, \$25.24M
- 89. BERRY, DUNN, MCNEIL & PARKER, Portland, \$25.1M
- (TIE) KRIS WAY TRUCK LEASING, South Portland, \$25.1M
- 91. HOMESTEAD ENTERPRISES, Newport, \$24.9M
- 92. CENTRAL MAINE MOTORS, Waterville, \$24.5M
- (TIE) MARITIME ENERGY, Rockland, \$24.5M
- 94. INTERMED, South Portland, \$24.4M
- 95. BHE HOLDINGS, Bangor, \$24.3M
- 96. JF2, Gardiner, \$24.25M
- 97. SANFORD INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS, Sanford, \$24.22M
- 98. LOUIS J PARADIS, Fort Kent, \$23.3M
- (TIE) MAINE DRILLING & BLASTING, Gardiner, \$23.3M
- 100. WRIGHT-PIERCE, Topsham, \$23.1M

KEY TO THE NUMBERS

Companies must be for-profit and headquartered in Maine. All numbers were obtained by Dun & Bradstreet and represent 2011 gross revenues. (Revenue figures are estimates or reports for Calendar Year 2011. Please contact D&B, not *Portland Magazine*, for error corrections.)

SYMBOLS

*Though it's difficult to tell what part of a hospital is nonprofit and for-profit, we'll list them here. Consider Mercy Hospital's turn to a for-profit organization. † Figure provided by annual report.

The following companies made the 2011 Maine 100[™] list but were not included in 2012 due to incomplete information per Dun & Bradstreet. Affiliated Materiel, Alm Composite Systems, Auburn Motor Sales, Bill Dodge Auto Group, Casco Bay Motors, CPM Constructors, Davir, Dennis Beverage, Eastland Shoe, Eldredge Lumber, Hardwood Products, J & S Oil, Johnson & Jordan, Key Plaza Holdings, Labree's, Lee Chrysler Plymouth, Maine Wood Treaters, Medical Mutual Insurance, Nappi Distributors, Nickerson & O'Day, Patriot Mutual Insurance, Penobscot McCrum, Philip E. McPhail, Pleasant River Lumber, PM Construction, PowerPay, Reed & Reed, Rowe Ford Sales, Talmage Solar Engineering, Tex-Tech Industries, TSSD Serives, Viking Lumber, Wolfington Group, Wright-Ryan Construction.

For the online list, visit portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2012/09/maine-100-extras.

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