

Houston-based oil-services firm **Veritas DGC** was the hottest stock of the '90s, with a sizzling 146% annualized return for the past 8½ years. But the top performers list was dominated by companies that rode the decade's technology and financial services boom. The 19 tech winners ranged from big names like **Dell Computer** (up 103% a year) and **Microsoft** (up 56%) to less familiar ones like **Recoton** (up 47%), a Florida firm that supplies electronic equipment for audio systems, which was also one of the best

STOCK ¹ (Symbol)	PRICE June 30	% ANNUALIZED GAIN since Jan. 1, 1990	VALUE of \$1,000 investment ²
1 Veritas DGC (VTS)	\$49.94	145.7%	\$2,080,729
2 Dell Computer (DELL)	92.81	102.7	405,000
3 EMC (EMC)	44.81	82.4	165,462
4 Midcoast Energy Resources (MRS)	23.25	79.2	142,307
5 NBTY (NBTY)	18.38	76.6	126,000
6 Jack Henry & Associates (JKHY)	34.38	74.5	113,837
7 Republic Industries (RII)	25.06	73.1	105,885
8 Theragenics (THRX)	26.06	72.7	104,042
9 Tellabs (TLAB)	71.63	70.2	91,680
10 Clear Channel Communications (CCU)	109.13	69.4	88,194
11 Maxicare Health Plans (MAXI)	6.75	64.9	70,130
12 Professionals Group (PICM)	37.50	60.9	57,043
13 Pre-Paid Legal Services (PPD)	31.56	60.6	56,111
14 Lexford Residential Trust (LFT)	19.13	59.6	53,217
15 Champion Enterprises (CHB)	29.38	57.3	47,000
16 Solectron (SLR)	42.06	56.7	45,627
17 Microsoft (MSFT)	108.38	56.4	44,845
18 HBO (HBOC)	35.25	55.5	42,713
19 American Power Conversion (APCC)	30.00	55.1	41,739
20 WorldCom (WCOM)	48.44	54.9	41,143
21 Westernbank Puerto Rico (WBPR)	16.88	52.8	36,655
22 Best Buy (BBY)	36.13	52.5	36,125
23 Thoratec Laboratories (THOR)	8.25	52.0	35,200
24 Keane (KEA)	56.00	52.0	35,163

TOP 50 STOCKS OF THE '90S

stocks in the bull market period.

Eleven financial services stocks made the top 50, led by **Professionals Group** (up 61%), a tiny (\$133 million market cap) firm that writes liability policies for doctors and lawyers. As if to underscore the massive consolidation that has been driving this industry, 31st-place **Conseco**, with a market cap of \$15 billion, acquired 38th-place **Green Tree Financial**, with a market cap of \$6 billion, on June 30, 1998. —M.F.

25 Dollar General (DG)	39.56	51.4	33,891
26 Parametric Technology (PMTG)	27.13	49.8	31,000
27 Concord EFS (CEFT)	26.13	49.7	30,917
28 Computer Horizons (CHRZ)	37.06	49.7	30,843
29 Maxim Integrated Products (MXIM)	31.69	49.6	30,727
30 USA Waste Services (UW)	49.38	49.1	29,798
31 Conseco (CNC)	46.88	48.8	29,341
32 Cerprobe (CRPB)	13.13	48.7	29,099
33 Iomega (IOM)	5.88	48.5	28,776
34 Irwin Financial (IRWN)	29.06	48.5	28,738
35 Doral Financial (DORL)	17.50	48.2	28,373
36 Gencor Industries (GX)	20.13	48.2	28,302
37 Data Dimensions (DDIM)	17.06	47.6	27,300
38 Green Tree Financial (GNT)	42.81	47.3	26,910
39 TECHNE (TECH)	19.06	47.1	26,522
40 Recoton (RCOT)	33.50	47.0	26,469
41 Charles Schwab (SCH)	32.63	46.3	25,427
42 Paychex (PAYX)	40.69	46.3	25,375
43 SunAmerica (SAI)	57.44	45.8	24,710
44 Linear Technology (LLTC)	60.31	45.3	23,965
45 Electronic Arts (ERTS)	54.00	45.1	23,671
46 Inter-Tel A (INTL)	16.00	44.8	23,294
47 Fidelity National Financial (FNF)	39.81	44.7	23,126
48 ECI Telecom (ECILF)	37.88	44.7	23,079
49 Morgan Keegan (MOR)	25.88	44.3	22,595
50 Tech Data (TECD)	42.88	44.0	22,129
S&P 500 index	—	17.8	—

Notes: ¹With a market cap of at least \$100 million
²Invested Jan. 1, 1990 Source: Prudential Securities