

## The new Fast 50: Here are Chicago's fastest-growing companies for 2023

By Sophie Rodgers | June 15, 2023



Credit: Clockwise from top left: Mugsy, Songfinch and Right at School

Entrepreneur Shital Daftari was selling shoes and clothing online when COVID-19 first began to spread through China. Instantly seeing a need, by January 2020 Daftari had pivoted to selling the next big accessory: face masks. Throughout the pandemic, she went on to sell hard-to-source personal protective equipment as well as 50 million COVID testing kits. This decision catapulted her business, SNT Biotech, to a growth rate of 1,188.5% since 2017.

Daftari's is just one of the companies making Crain's Chicago Business' Fast 50 2023 — and it's an impressive list. This year's winners saw five-year median revenue growth of a staggering 793%, up from 593% in [last year's edition](#), and an average revenue increase of 5,752%, driven by the enormous growers topping our list.

With 23 companies not featured in last year's ranking, Crain's 2023 Fast 50 is a testament to the continued strength of Chicago's small and midsize businesses.

Many of these companies were impacted by COVID and its aftermath. Several were radically changed — for the better. Concert promoter Cardenas Marketing Network (No. 47, with over 350% five-year growth) saw a surge in revenue thanks to pent-up demand for live music after

pandemic restrictions were lifted. The 57-employee company made \$390 million in revenue last year.

In general, logistics, tech and financial service companies tend to top the list. There are 11 logistics companies among this year's Fast 50, of which four — Unilogic, Setna iO, OSM Worldwide and OTR Transportation — weren't on last year's list.

And like last year, Chicago's leading cannabis players all made the top 10, thanks in part to expansion into new states.

Read on for our full ranking of Chicago's fastest-growing companies and exclusive profiles on all 50.

Missed your chance to apply for Crain's 2023 Fast 50? To ensure your company submits on time next year, contact Crain's data and research analyst Sophie Rodgers.



Credit: Hyde Park Hospitality

Founder and CEO Marc Brooks, center, and the Hyde Park Hospitality team.

## 24. Hyde Park Hospitality

**5-year growth:** 928%

**Company description:** Airport concessions services and food-service management

**Location:** Chicago

**Year founded:** 2012

**2022 revenue:** \$19.8 million

**Local employees:** 225

**Total employees:** 550

**Profitable?** Yes

Hyde Park Hospitality's diverse services range from provider of airport concessions and lounge operations to food and facilities management services. In addition to making travelers' days

easier and more comfortable, the 11-year-old company brings dining services to schools and corporate cafeterias, including the Chicago Public Schools system. Recently, it added a marquee name to its roster of food-service clients: Meta (formerly known as Facebook). This feather in the company cap has boosted its profile and profits alike.

– Katie Arnold-Ratliff

Link:

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