



[Steve Watkins](#)

Staff Reporter- *Cincinnati Business Courier*

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

[Vantiv](#) Inc.'s acquisitions have vaulted it to the second slot among the nation's largest payment processors, according to a new ranking from industry analysis publication Nilson Report.

Symmes Township-based Vantiv (NYSE: VNTV) had been the third-largest processor the prior year, but it cranked out 28 percent growth in the number of merchant transactions it processed last year, according to the Nilson Report. Vantiv processed 15.5 billion purchase transactions last year. It jumped ahead of Bank of America by more than 1 billion transactions, but Vantiv still trails front-running [First Data](#) by 2.3 billion.

Vantiv's growth is no fluke. It has posted average annual growth of 15.4 percent over the past five years in the merchant processing category.

See Also

- [Vantiv CFO adds new top title](#)
- [Vantiv signs deal to back Apple Pay](#)
- [Vantiv adds new top executive](#)

A big acquisition fueled much of its growth. Vantiv [paid \\$1.7 billion in June to buy Mercury Payment Systems](#). That had a huge effect on Vantiv's transactions. In the third quarter, the first full quarter with Mercury in the fold, its merchant revenue soared 42 percent. But its organic growth – excluding acquisitions – was just 7 percent.

"The most recent Nilson Report data confirms our progress in winning market share," Vantiv CEO [Charles Drucker](#) said in a news release. "Our strategy to grow transactions through both geographic expansion and in high-growth channels and verticals is clearly working."

Vantiv also remains the nation's largest processor of PIN-based debit card transactions, the Nilson Report said. And it processed 20.1 billion total transactions last year, up 18 percent from the prior year.

Vantiv's stock has gained 11 percent so far this year, while the stock market as a whole has been flat. Vantiv shares dipped 10 cents to \$37.60 in mid-afternoon trading on Wednesday.

Watkins covers banking and finance, insurance and sports business

Related links:

[Stock Market](#), [Public Companies](#), [Mergers and Acquisitions](#)

Industries:

[Banking & Financial Services](#)

We Recommend

Promoted by Taboola



[Kroger executive sells \\$2 million in stock](#)



[Analyst raises Kroger price target](#)



[Is Kroger a better stock than Whole Foods?](#)

From Around The Web



[Service Providers That Will Meet Your Expectations](#)
Fiverr.com



[Learn How One Man Used 5 Stocks To Retire At 42](#)
Newsmax



[5 Banking Services That Will Be Obsolete in 10 Years](#)
GOBankingRates.com

[x](#)

Send this to a friend

Email address of friend (insert comma between multiple addresses):

Your email address:

Copy Me

Add a brief note: