**The Walgreen Company (Walgreens) is the largest[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walgreens" \l "cite_note-files.shareholder.com-3)**[**drug retailing**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharmacy)**chain in the**[**United States**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)**. As of January 31, 2014, the company operated 8,678 stores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. Employees are at 176,000 as of 2012.**

**Walgreens began in 1901 in Chicago by Charles R Walgreen. Grew to 20 stores by 1919. Between 1920 and 1930, it expanded to 397 stores, primarily by selling whiskey for medicinal purposes during prohibition. Grew gradually in the 30s, 40s and 50s; started massively expanding in the 1960s by purchasing other pharmacy chains.**

**Purchased Happy Harry’s chain in the northeast in 2006, Duane Reede in New York City in 2010, and Kerr Drug (North Carolina) in 2013.**

**Walgreens provides access to consumer goods and services, photo development, plus pharmacy, health and wellness services in the United States through its retail drugstores, Walgreens runs several online stores including www.walgreens.com** [**www.Beauty.com**](http://www.Beauty.com)**, www.**[**Drugstore.com**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drugstore.com)**and** [**www.VisionDirect.com**](http://www.VisionDirect.com)

**Prescription services – 14 different languages, all the standard languages and also including Arabic, Chinese, Tagalog, Russian just to name a few. Large print labels and easy open caps are available for senior or handicapped patients. Has a mail order pharmacy that provides up to a 90 day supply of your prescription directly to your door. Fills more prescriptions than any other retail chain. Average of 18-22% more than any other chain depending on the area of the US.**

**Annual Medication Review: A face to face review to make sure that you are not duplicating any medication therapy, ensure that you are being treated in the most cost efficient manner to the patient and provide recommendations to changes to your therapy you can provide and discuss with your doctor.v**

**Specialty Pharmacy: Provides custom medication and delivery for specialized medications, including cancer treatment, crohn’s disease, cystic fibrosis, AIDS, Organ transplant and many others.**

**Immunization services – Provides more immunizations and more kinds of immunizations than anyother pharmacy chain, including normal vaccines such as Flu, Shingles, Pneumonia, Hepatitis A and B, MMR (Measles Mumps and Rubella), TDAP (Whooping Cough), and Chickenpox, as well as travel vaccines such as Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Rabies, Polio, and Japenese Encephalitis.**

**At Walgreens wellness centers, infusion services can be provided to provide medication, special fluids or nutrients via IV directly into the body via blood vessels, muscles or the spinal cord. In addition, we have comprehensive therapy management programs for antibiotics, bleeding disorders, heart failure, IG therapy, and home nutrition support for patients unable to eat normally.**

**In recent news: Cut ties with Express Scripts PBM (Pharmacy Benefit Manager) in March 2011 due to Express Scripts selling medical information to data mining companies, who then sold it to pharmaceutical companies.  On July 19, 2012, Walgreens and Express Scripts announced a multi-year pharmacy network agreement that includes rates and terms under which Walgreens would participate in the broadest Express Scripts retail pharmacy network available to new and existing clients as of September 15, 2012.**

**In September 2012, the U.S.**[**Drug Enforcement Administration**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_Enforcement_Administration)**(DEA) accused Walgreens of endangering public safety by dispensing too much Oxycodone. The DEA said that Walgreens failed to maintain proper controls to ensure it didn't dispense drugs to addicts and drug dealers. The DEA also said that six of Walgreens' Florida pharmacies ordered in excess of a million oxycodone pills a year. In contrast, in 2011, the average pharmacy in the U.S. ordered 73,000 oxycodone tablets a year according to the DEA. The Florida Walgreens distribution center was closed, as well as the six stores. Had to pay $80 million in fines, and the stock crashed to around $30 per share.**

**Publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange as WAG. Net income was 2.127 billion in 2012.  
Currently trading at 66.13 as of 04/21/2014. Pays a $1.26 dividend which is 1.9%. Earnings per share trailing twelve months is 2.84. Price to earnings ratio is 23.29.**

**In conclusion, Walgreens offers more services, prescription and otherwise, as well as more stores and more 24-hour pharmacies than any of its competitors. If you’re looking for a pharmacy to fill your prescriptions, Walgreens could be the choice for you.**