

# [***Former Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi Dies At 86***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68FJ-18P1-DXVP-5001-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

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**Length:** 579 words

**Byline:** Alison Durkee, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Reports emerged the billionaire was diagnosed with leukemia in April.

**Body**

**Topline**

Former Italian prime minister and billionaire Silvio Berlusconi died Monday at the age of 86, Italian media report, a media mogul and longtime fixture in Italian ***politics*** despite repeated scandals who passed away two months after reports emerged he had been diagnosed with leukemia.

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Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi waves to reporters as he arrives at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome on February 9, 2021.

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**Key Facts**

Berlusconi died in Milan at the San Raffaele hospital, according to Italian media cited by theBBC, and no official cause for his death has yet been given.

The Italian politician was publicly confirmed to have been diagnosed withleukemiain April, when he was hospitalized for a lung infection, and his death comes after Berlusconi was in thehospitalfor scheduled tests on Friday.

Berlusconi had a broader history of health issues, including undergoing heart surgery in2016, and was hospitalized with a serious case of Covid-19 in 2020, andagainin April 2021 as he suffered long-term effects from the coronavirus.

Berlusconi gained prominence as a media mogul through his media company Finvest before entering ***politics*** in the 1990s, going on to lead Italy s Forza Italia party and serve multiple terms as prime minister between 1994 and 2011.

A wave of tributes to Berlusconi poured in as news of his death broke, with former Italian PM Matteo Renzisaying his impact on political but also economic, sporting and television life was unprecedented and AC Monza, the football team Berlusconi owned,acknowledgingthe void that can never be filled, according to translations by theBBC.

**Crucial Quote**

An era is over, an era is closing, Italian defense minister Guido CrosettosaidMonday, as translated by theBBC, saying Berlusconi s death left a huge void. I loved him so very much.

**Forbes Valuation**

**Forbes**has valued Berlusconi and his five children s wealth at$6.9 billionas of Monday, based on his media empire Finvest and stakes in media, publishing and banking firms.

**Key Background**

Berlusconi was Italy s longest-serving leader following World War II, though his tenure in ***politics*** was marred by repeated scandals, including a conviction for tax fraud that led to him being briefly banned from serving in public office until 2018. The Italian PM was also well known for his notorious bunga bunga parties, which led to years oflitigationand Berlusconi s conviction lateroverturned for paying a 17-year-old dancer for sex. Despite his history of scandals, Berlusconi returned to Italian ***politics*** following his ban being lifted and was a sitting senator at the time of his death, elected to the European Parliament in 2019 and Italy s Parliamentlast year. He had continued to draw controversy, however, particularly as hespoke outin favor of Russian President Vladimir Putin amid the war with Ukraine. As a media mogul, Berlusconi built up a tranche of media networks under his Finvest holding company, including major Italian broadcasterMediaset. Prior to owning AC Monza, Berlusconi was also the longtime owner of football clubAC Milan, which won five Champions League titles under his ownership before Berlusconi sold the club in 2017.

**Further Reading**

Silvio Berlusconi & family(Forbes)

Former Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi Reportedly Diagnosed With Leukemia Amid Hospital Stay(Forbes)

Silvio Berlusconi obituary: Italy's flamboyant bounce-back politician(BBC)

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