

200 Global Billionaires

HEREWITH, FORBES' FOURTEENTH ANNUAL LIST OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST. It's been a heck of a year tracking these folks. Skyrocketing stock prices around the globe pushed dozens of technology entrepreneurs into the billionaire stratosphere last winter. Then spring came, and with it a reality check in the stock market. That knocked a good handful of newly minted billionaires back to the ranks of mere centimillionaires.

All told, we found some 470 billionaires—about the same number as last year. We're choosing again to list the 200 richest who are actively running a business or managing their assets. Passive shareholders don't make this cut. The poorest comes in this year at \$1.7 billion—up \$100 million from 1999.

The U.S. still accounts for the largest share of the world's billionaires. But a good number of American fortunes have fallen since last year. Six of the ten richest are from this country, down from seven in 1999. A notable exception: Larry Ellison, who comes in \$37.5 billion higher this year, at \$47 billion. That makes him the world's second-richest man. Bill Gates is the richest individual for the sixth year in a row.

Elsewhere in the world, the money engines were busy cranking. Five new billionaires emerged in Japan despite ongoing macroeconomic malaise. We unearthed two new billionaires in Italy, as well as two each in Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

Some of the world's richest folks don't toil in an office on a regular basis. They include kings, queens and dictators and extremely wealthy shareholders, whom we call Coupon Clippers. We've also highlighted some billionaires and their recent philanthropic acts.

Determining someone's net worth often requires some measure of educated estimation. For billionaires with publicly traded fortunes, net worths were calculated using share prices and exchange rates from May 22. For privately held fortunes, we estimate what the companies would be worth were they public. The symbols below signal the directional change in net worth since this list was published last year. "New" indicates billionaires we've just discovered or those who haven't appeared on this global list before. "Returnees" are those who dropped off the list in the past and have made a comeback.

For information on the 110-plus foreign billionaires not on the list, please visit our Web site at www.forbes.com. For information on an additional 150 (or more) U.S. billionaires, please see the Forbes 400 list this fall.

EDITED BY

Kerry A. Dolan

ASSISTED BY

Luisa Kroll and Leigh Gallagher

PHOTO RESEARCH BY

Kristine Smith

REPORTED BY

Heidi Brown, Brandon Copple,
Ashlea Ebeling, Mary Ellen Egan,
Michael Freedman, Benjamin Fulford,
Chandrani Ghosh, Lea Goldman,
Christopher Helman, Shiyori Ito,
Peter Kafka, Naazneen Karmali,
Tomas Kellner, Alexandra Kirkman,
Philippe Mao, Michael Maiello,
Peter Newcomb, Nicole Ridgway,
Louise Rosen, Juliette Rossant,
Cristina von Zeppelin, Yeom Yoonjeong

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH BY

Alice Cabane, Natalie Cannestra,
Stephen Lucey, Jennifer Maxfield,
James Orraca-Tetteh, Nicola Pullen

Inside

Wealth Volatility	164
Asia	166
Europe	196
Middle East and Africa	220
The Americas	232
U.S.A.	244
Family Fortunes/Charity	254
Kings, Queens & Dictators	256
Coupon Clippers	257
Index	258
Acknowledgements	263

New ★

Up ▲

Down ▼

Returnee ◀

A high-angle, low-perspective shot of a Gulfstream aircraft, likely a G450, flying over a dark, silhouetted mountain range. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow from the setting or rising sun, transitioning into a clear blue at the top. The aircraft is seen from below, showing its wings, tail, and engines. The overall mood is one of elegance and power.

THE LEADER SHIP

For forty-two years, Gulfstream has served nearly half of all Fortune 500 companies, more than 30 world governments, a host of prominent individuals and countless military and scientific missions around the world. In that time, we have come to understand and appreciate the rigors of leadership – its challenges and its requirements. If you are a business leader or a player on the world stage, only a Gulfstream can provide you with legendary safety, reliability, comfort and performance. Perhaps now is the best time to experience The Leader Ship. Gulfstream – the aircraft of choice for business and world leaders since 1958.

To learn more, call Joe Walker, Senior Vice President, Worldwide Sales, at (912) 965-5555 (joe.walker@gulfaero.com) or visit us at www.gulfstream.com.

THE WORLD STANDARD.™

Gulfstream
A GENERAL DYNAMICS COMPANY

Copyright of Forbes is the property of Forbes Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.