

James Dimon

James Dimon (born March 13, 1956) is an American businessman who has been the chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of JPMorgan Chase since 2006.

Dimon began his career as a management consultant at Boston Consulting Group. After graduating from Harvard Business School in 1982, he joined American Express, working under the mentorship of Sandy Weill. In 1986, at age 30, Dimon was appointed chief financial officer (CFO) of Commercial Credit and later became the firm's president. He went on to serve as chief operating officer (COO) of both the insurer Travelers and the brokerage firm Smith Barney from 1990 to 1998, when he became president of Citigroup. In 2000, he was appointed CEO of Bank One, overseeing its operations until its merger with JPMorgan Chase in 2004. Dimon then became COO of JPMorgan Chase, assuming the role of CEO in 2006.

He served on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in the late 2010s. Dimon was included in Time magazine's 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2011 lists of the world's 100 most influential people. As of October 2025, Forbes estimated his net worth at \$2.8 billion.

Early Life

Dimon was born in New York City on March 13, 1956, and grew up in the Jackson Heights neighborhood of Queens. He is one of three sons of Theodore and Themis (née Kalos) Dimon, who were of Greek ancestry. His paternal grandfather, a Greek immigrant who worked as a banker in Smyrna and Athens, changed the family name from Papademetriou to Dimon. Dimon has an older brother, Peter, and a fraternal twin brother, Ted. Both his father and grandfather were stockbrokers at Shearson.

He attended the Browning School, a private boys' school on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and later studied economics and psychology at Tufts University, graduating summa cum laude in 1978. While at Tufts, he wrote a paper on Shearson's mergers; his mother sent it to Sandy Weill, who hired Dimon to work at Shearson over a summer break.

From 1978 to 1980, he worked at Boston Consulting Group before enrolling at Harvard Business School. During the summer between his first and second years, he worked at Goldman Sachs. He earned his M.B.A. in 1982 as a Baker Scholar, graduating in the top 5% of his class.

Career

American Express and Move to Commercial Credit

After earning his M.B.A., Dimon joined Sandy Weill at American Express, turning down offers from Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, and Lehman Brothers. His father, Theodore, was an executive vice president at the company.

Weill left American Express in 1985, and Dimon followed. They acquired Commercial Credit, a consumer finance company. Dimon became CFO at age 30 and helped turn around the business.

Citigroup

In 1998, through a series of mergers, Dimon and Weill created Citigroup. Dimon left the company in November 1998 after Weill asked him to resign. Speculation pointed to disagreements over internal promotions and Dimon's desire to be treated as an equal.

Bank One (2000–2004)

In March 2000, Dimon became CEO of Bank One, then the fifth-largest U.S. bank.

JPMorgan Chase (2004–present)

After JPMorgan Chase merged with Bank One in 2004, Dimon became president and COO of the combined company. He became CEO on December 31, 2005, and chairman the following year. Under his leadership, the bank became the leading U.S. institution by domestic assets under management, market capitalization, and stock value.

Dimon has been involved in major industry and regulatory debates, including criticism of Basel III rules and oversight of the "London Whale" trading loss in 2012. He has also testified in lawsuits related to Jeffrey Epstein's banking relationship with JPMorgan.

Dimon serves on the executive committee of The Business Council and is a board member of the Business Roundtable.

In October 2025, he told the BBC he saw an increased risk of a major U.S. market correction within six months to two years, and described the U.S. as a less reliable global partner.

Fines and Legal Settlements

During Dimon's tenure, JPMorgan Chase was fined a cumulative \$38 billion by U.S. regulators. In 2013, the bank reached a then-record \$13 billion settlement related to mis-selling mortgage-backed securities prior to the 2007–2008 financial crisis, much of which stemmed from liabilities at Bear Stearns and Washington Mutual—companies JPMorgan acquired during the crisis at the urging of federal officials.

Dimon called the settlement "unfair," saying that most of the issues predated JPMorgan's ownership.

Compensation

Dimon is one of the few bank CEOs to become a billionaire, largely through his stake in JPMorgan Chase. His compensation has included:

- \$23 million in 2011
- \$11.5 million in 2012 (reduced after trading losses)
- \$20 million in 2013
- \$34.5 million in 2022
- \$36 million in 2023
- \$39 million in 2024

Management Style

Dimon keeps a handwritten list of tasks and priorities that he updates constantly. He has said he uses the OODA loop decision-making method.

Political Activity

From 1989 to 2009, Dimon primarily donated to Democratic candidates, though he later described himself as “barely a Democrat.” He has worked closely with leaders from both major parties, sometimes supporting and sometimes criticizing their policies. He has commented extensively on U.S. economic policy, trade, taxation, and financial regulation, and has played advisory roles in multiple administrations.

Dimon publicly opposed Brexit, supported the 2017 U.S. tax cuts, and has criticized government responses to economic and public health crises. He has been speculated as a potential presidential candidate but has repeatedly stated he has no plans to run.

In 2024, he published a Washington Post op-ed urging the next U.S. president to “restore our faith in America.” Although he did not endorse a candidate publicly, reports suggested he privately supported Kamala Harris.

After Donald Trump returned to office in 2025, Dimon expressed support for Trump’s tariff policies, though he later warned they created market uncertainty. He also criticized the ongoing 2025 government shutdown.

Personal Life

Dimon married Judith Kent in 1983; they met at Harvard Business School. They have three daughters: Julia, Laura, and Kara Leigh.

He has faced significant health challenges, including throat cancer in 2014 and emergency heart surgery in 2020. He returned to work remotely during the pandemic.

Awards and Honors

- 1994: Browning School Athletic Hall of Fame
- 2006: Golden Plate Award, American Academy of Achievement
- 2010: International Executive of the Year, Executives' Club of Chicago
- 2011: NACD Directorship 100
- 2012: Intrepid Salute Award
- 2016: Americas Society Gold Medal
- 2022: France’s Legion of Honour