



The World's Billionaires

The World's Billionaires is an annual ranking of people who are billionaires, i.e., they are considered to have a net worth of US\$1 billion or more, by the American business magazine *Forbes*. The list was first published in March 1987.^[1] The total net worth of each individual on the list is estimated and is cited in United States dollars, based on their documented assets and accounting for debt and other factors. Royalty and dictators whose wealth comes from their positions are excluded from these lists.^[3] This ranking is an index of the wealthiest documented individuals, excluding any ranking of those with wealth that is not able to be completely ascertained.^[4]

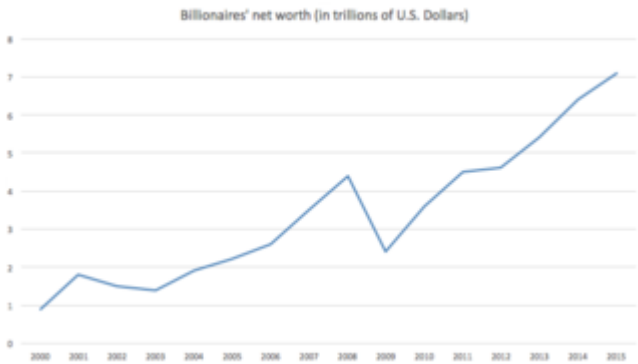
In 2018, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos was ranked at the top for the first time and became the first centibillionaire included in the ranking,^[5] surpassing Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who had topped the list 18 of the previous 24 years. In 2022, after topping the list for four years, Bezos was surpassed by Elon Musk.^[6] In 2023, Musk was in turn surpassed by French businessman Bernard Arnault, after topping the list for just a year. Arnault became the first French person to top the list.^[7]

Methodology

Each year, *Forbes* employs a team of over 50 reporters from a variety of countries to track the activity of the world's wealthiest individuals^[8] and sometimes groups or families – who share wealth. Preliminary surveys are sent to those who may qualify for the list. According to *Forbes*, they received three types of responses – some people try to inflate their wealth, others cooperate but leave out details, and some refuse to answer any questions.^[9] Business deals are then scrutinized and estimates of valuable assets – land, homes, vehicles,

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List of the world's billionaires, ranked in order of net worth



The net worth of the world's billionaires increased from less than US\$1 trillion in 2000 to over \$7 trillion in 2015.

Publication details

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2024 list details^[2]

Wealthiest	<u>Bernard Arnault</u>
Net worth (1st)	▲ US\$233 <u>billion</u>
Number of billionaires	▲ 2,781 (from 2640)
Total list net worth value	▲ US\$14.2 <u>trillion</u> (from US\$12.2 trillion)
Number of women	▲ 383
Number of men	▲ 2398
New members to the list	▲ 141

forbes.com/billionaires/ (<https://forbes.com/billionaires/>)

artwork, etc. – are made. Interviews are conducted to vet the figures and improve the estimate of an individual's holdings. Finally, positions in a publicly traded stock are priced to market on a date roughly a month before publication. Privately held companies are priced by the prevailing price-to-sales or price-to-earnings ratios. Known debt is subtracted from assets to get a final estimate of an individual's estimated worth in United States dollars. Since stock prices fluctuate rapidly, an individual's true wealth and ranking at the time of publication may vary from their situation when the list was compiled.^[8]

When a living individual has dispersed his or her wealth to immediate family members it is included under a single listing (as a single "family fortune") provided that individual (the grantor) is still living. However, if a deceased billionaire's fortune has been dispersed, it will not appear as a single listing, and each recipient will only appear if his or her own total net worth is over a \$1 billion (his or her net worth will not be combined with family members').^[8] Royal families and dictators that have their wealth contingent on a position are always excluded from these lists.^[10]

Annual rankings



The rankings are published annually in March, so the net worths listed are snapshots taken at that time. These lists only show the top 10 wealthiest billionaires for each year.

Legend

Icon	Description
—	Has not changed from the previous ranking.
▲	Has increased from the previous ranking.
▼	Has decreased from the previous ranking.

2024

The 38th annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires found a record 2,781 billionaires with a total net wealth of \$14.2 trillion. This is an increase of 141 members and \$2 trillion from 2023, which held the previous record for the highest net worth gain on the list, surpassing the \$900 billion record set in 2022. Two-thirds of the list members are wealthier compared to the previous year, including Mark Zuckerberg, whose net worth increased by \$112.6 billion.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Primary source(s) of wealth
1 	<u>Bernard Arnault & family</u>	\$233 billion 	75	 <u>France</u>	<u>LVMH</u>
2 	<u>Elon Musk</u>	\$195 billion 	52	 <u>South Africa</u>  <u>Canada</u>  <u>United States</u>	<u>Tesla</u> , <u>SpaceX</u> , <u>X</u>
3 	<u>Jeff Bezos</u>	\$194 billion 	60	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Amazon</u>
4 	<u>Mark Zuckerberg</u>	\$177 billion 	39	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Meta Platforms</u>
5 	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$141 billion 	79	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
6 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$133 billion 	93	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
7 	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$128 billion 	68	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
8 	<u>Steve Ballmer</u>	\$121 billion 	68	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
9 	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$116 billion 	66	 <u>India</u>	<u>Reliance Industries</u>
10 	<u>Larry Page</u>	\$114 billion 	51	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Google</u>

2023

In the 37th annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, the list included 2,640 billionaires with a total net wealth of \$12.2 trillion, down 28 members and \$500 billion from 2022. Over half of the list is less wealthy compared to the previous year, including Elon Musk, who fell from No. 1 to No. 2.^[7] The list also marks for the first time a French citizen was in the top position as well as a non-American for the first time since 2013 when the Mexican Carlos Slim Helu was the world's richest person. The list, like in 2022, counted 15 under 30 billionaires with the richest of them being Red Bull heir Mark Mateschitz with a net worth of \$34.7 billion. The youngest of the lot were Clemente Del Vecchio, heir to the Luxottica fortune shared with his six siblings and stepmother, and Kim Jung-yang, whose fortune lies in Japanese-South Korean gaming giant Nexon, both under-20s.^[11]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Primary source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Bernard Arnault & family</u>	\$211 billion ▲	74	 <u>France</u>	<u>LVMH</u>
2 ▼	<u>Elon Musk</u>	\$180 billion ▼	51	 <u>South Africa</u>  <u>Canada</u>  <u>United States</u>	<u>Tesla</u> , <u>SpaceX</u> , <u>X</u>
3 ▼	<u>Jeff Bezos</u>	\$114 billion ▼	59	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Amazon</u>
4 ▲	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$107 billion ▲	78	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
5 —	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$106 billion ▼	92	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
6 ▼	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$104 billion ▼	67	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
7 ▲	<u>Michael Bloomberg</u>	\$94.5 billion ▲	81	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Bloomberg L.P.</u>
8 ▲	<u>Carlos Slim & family</u>	\$93 billion ▲	83	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>Telmex</u> , <u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
9 ▲	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$83.4 billion ▼	65	 <u>India</u>	<u>Reliance Industries</u>
10 ▼	<u>Steve Ballmer</u>	\$80.7 billion ▼	67	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>

































2022

In the 36th annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, the list included 2,668 billionaires with a total net wealth of \$12.7 trillion, down 97 members from 2021.^[6]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Primary source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Elon Musk</u>	\$219 billion ▲	50	 South Africa  Canada  United States	<u>Tesla</u> , <u>SpaceX</u>
2 ▼	<u>Jeff Bezos</u>	\$177 billion ▼	58	 United States	<u>Amazon</u>
3 —	<u>Bernard Arnault & family</u>	\$158 billion ▲	73	 France	<u>LVMH</u>
4 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$129 billion ▲	66	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
5 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$118 billion ▲	91	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
6 ▲	<u>Larry Page</u>	\$111 billion ▲	49	 United States	<u>Google</u>
7 ▲	<u>Sergey Brin</u>	\$107 billion ▲	48	 United States	<u>Google</u>
8 ▼	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$106 billion ▲	77	 United States	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
9 ▲	<u>Steve Ballmer</u>	\$91.4 billion ▲	66	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
10 —	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$90.7 billion ▲	64	 India	<u>Reliance Industries</u>































2021

In the 35th annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, the list included 2,755 billionaires with a total net wealth of \$13.1 trillion, up 660 members from 2020; 86% of these billionaires had more wealth than they possessed last year.^{[12][13]}

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Jeff Bezos	\$177 billion 	57	 United States	Amazon
2 	Elon Musk	\$151 billion 	49	 South Africa  Canada  United States	Tesla , SpaceX
3 	Bernard Arnault & family	\$150 billion 	72	 France	LVMH
4 	Bill Gates	\$124 billion 	65	 United States	Microsoft
5 	Mark Zuckerberg	\$97 billion 	36	 United States	Meta Platforms
6 	Warren Buffett	\$96 billion 	90	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
7 	Larry Ellison	\$93 billion 	76	 United States	Oracle Corporation
8 	Larry Page	\$91.5 billion 	48	 United States	Google
9 	Sergey Brin	\$89 billion 	47	 United States	Google
10 	Mukesh Ambani	\$84.5 billion 	63	 India	Reliance Industries

2020

In the 34th annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, the list included 2,095 billionaires with a total net wealth of \$8 trillion, down 58 members and \$700 billion from 2019; 51% of these billionaires had less wealth than they possessed last year.^[14] The list was finalized as of 18 March, thus was already partially influenced by the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).^[14]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Jeff Bezos	\$113 billion 	56	 United States	Amazon
2 	Bill Gates	\$98 billion 	64	 United States	Microsoft
3 	Bernard Arnault & family	\$76 billion 	71	 France	LVMH
4 	Warren Buffett	\$67.5 billion 	89	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
5 	Larry Ellison	\$59 billion 	75	 United States	Oracle Corporation
6 	Amancio Ortega	\$55.1 billion 	84	 Spain	Inditex , Zara
7 	Mark Zuckerberg	\$54.7 billion 	35	 United States	Facebook, Inc.
8 	Jim Walton	\$54.6 billion 	71	 United States	Walmart
9 	Alice Walton	\$54.4 billion 	70	 United States	Walmart
10 	S. Robson Walton	\$54.1 billion 	77	 United States	Walmart

2019

In the 33rd annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, the list included 2,153 billionaires with a total net wealth of \$8.7 trillion, down 55 members and \$400 billion from 2018.^[15] The U.S. continued to have the most billionaires in the world, with a record of 609, while [China](#) dropped to 324 (when not including [Hong Kong](#), [Macau](#) and [Taiwan](#)).^[15]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Jeff Bezos	\$131 billion	55	United States	Amazon
2	Bill Gates	\$96.5 billion	63	United States	Microsoft
3	Warren Buffett	\$82.5 billion	88	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
4	Bernard Arnault	\$76 billion	70	France	LVMH
5	Carlos Slim	\$64 billion	79	Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
6	Amancio Ortega	\$62.7 billion	82	Spain	Inditex , Zara
7	Larry Ellison	\$62.5 billion	74	United States	Oracle Corporation
8	Mark Zuckerberg	\$62.3 billion	34	United States	Facebook, Inc.
9	Michael Bloomberg	\$55.5 billion	77	United States	Bloomberg L.P.
10	Larry Page	\$50.8 billion	45	United States	Google

2018

In the 32nd annual *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, the aggregate wealth of the top 20 richest people on Earth amounted to about 13 percent of all billionaires' fortunes combined.^[16] A record of 2,208 billionaires were in the ranking and the total wealth was \$9.1 trillion, up 18% since 2017. For the first time, [Jeff Bezos](#) was listed as the top billionaire due to Amazon's rising stock price that resulted in one person's biggest one-year gain in wealth (\$35 billion) since *Forbes* started tracking in 1987.^[16] The U.S. had the most billionaires in the world, with 585, while China was catching up with 476 when including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan; it had 372 when excluding those three places.^[16] *Forbes* excluded [Al-Walid bin Talal](#) and all other Saudi billionaires due to the absence of accurate wealth estimations as a result of the 2017–19 Saudi Arabian purge.^[17]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Jeff Bezos	\$112 billion	54	United States	Amazon
2	Bill Gates	\$90 billion	62	United States	Microsoft
3	Warren Buffett	\$84 billion	87	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
4	Bernard Arnault	\$72 billion	69	France	LVMH
5	Mark Zuckerberg	\$71 billion	33	United States	Facebook, Inc.
6	Amancio Ortega	\$70 billion	81	Spain	Inditex , Zara
7	Carlos Slim	\$67.1 billion	78	Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
8	Charles Koch	\$60 billion	82	United States	Koch Industries
8	David Koch	\$60 billion	77	United States	Koch Industries
10	Larry Ellison	\$58.5 billion	73	United States	Oracle Corporation

2017































On the 30th anniversary of the *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires, for the fourth year in a row, [Bill Gates](#) was named the richest man in the world.^[5] In 2017, there was a record of 2,043 people on the list, which is the first time over 2,000 people were listed. This included 195 newcomers of whom 76 were

from China and 25 from the U.S.; there were 56 people under 40 and it had a record of 227 women.^[18] The number of billionaires increased 13% to 2,043 from 1,810 in 2016; this was the biggest change in over 30 years of tracking billionaires globally.^[5] Added together, the total net worth for 2017's billionaires was US\$7.67 trillion, up from US\$7.1 trillion in 2015.^{[5][19]} This was the first time after 12 years that Carlos Slim was not within the top five. The U.S. had the most billionaires in the world, with a record of 565. China had 319 (not including Hong Kong, Taiwan or Macau), Germany had 114, and India had the fourth most with 101; India reached over 100 billionaires for its first time.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$86.0 billion 	61	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$75.6 billion 	86	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
3 	<u>Jeff Bezos</u>	\$72.8 billion 	53	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Amazon</u>
4 	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$71.3 billion 	80	 <u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex</u> , <u>Zara</u>
5 	<u>Mark Zuckerberg</u>	\$56.0 billion 	32	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Facebook, Inc.</u>
6 	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$54.5 billion 	77	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
7 	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$52.2 billion 	72	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
8 	<u>Charles Koch</u>	\$48.3 billion 	81	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Koch Industries</u>
8 	<u>David Koch</u>	\$48.3 billion 	76	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Koch Industries</u>
10 	<u>Michael Bloomberg</u>	\$47.5 billion 	75	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Bloomberg L.P.</u>

2016

For the third year in a row, Bill Gates was named the richest man in the world by *Forbes'* 2016 list of the world's billionaires.^[20] This is the 17th time that the founder of Microsoft had claimed the top spot. Amancio Ortega rose from last year's position of number four to second.^[21] Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway came in third for the second consecutive time,^[22] while Mexican telecommunication mogul Carlos Slim slipped from last year's second position to fourth. Jeff Bezos of Amazon,^[23] Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook^[24] and Michael Bloomberg of Bloomberg L.P.,^[25] appeared for the first time on the *Forbes* top 10 billionaires list, coming at fifth, sixth and eighth positions, respectively. Zuckerberg became the youngest top 10 billionaire this year at the age of 31. Larry Ellison, Charles Koch and David Koch also slipped from their previous year's positions, with Ellison dropping to seventh from fifth, and the Kochs falling to ninth position from sixth.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Bill Gates	\$75.0 billion 	60	 United States	Microsoft
2 	Amancio Ortega	\$67.0 billion 	79	 Spain	Inditex
3 	Warren Buffett	\$60.8 billion 	85	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
4 	Carlos Slim	\$50.0 billion 	76	 Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
5 	Jeff Bezos	\$45.2 billion 	52	 United States	Amazon
6 	Mark Zuckerberg	\$44.6 billion 	31	 United States	Facebook, Inc.
7 	Larry Ellison	\$43.6 billion 	71	 United States	Oracle Corporation
8 	Michael Bloomberg	\$40.0 billion 	74	 United States	Bloomberg L.P.
9 	Charles Koch	\$39.6 billion 	80	 United States	Koch Industries
9 	David Koch	\$39.6 billion 	75	 United States	Koch Industries

2015

In the 29th annual *Forbes* list of global billionaires, a record 1,826 billionaires were named with an aggregated net worth of \$7.1 trillion compared to \$6.4 trillion in the previous year. 46 of the billionaires in this list were under the age of 40. A record number of 290 people joined the list for the first time, of whom 25 percent hailed from China, which produced a world-leading 71 newcomers. The United States came in second, with 57; followed by India, with 28; and Germany, with 23.^[26] The United States had the largest number of billionaires with 526. [Russia](#) went down to 88 from 111 in 2014. Russia was placed behind [China](#), [Germany](#) and [India](#) by the number of billionaires. Self-made billionaires made up the largest number of people on the list with 1,191 positions (over 65 percent), while just 230 (under 13 percent) had wealth through inheritance. The number of billionaires who inherited a portion but were still working to increase their fortunes is 405.^[27]

[Bill Gates](#) was named the richest man in the world by *Forbes'* annual list of the world's billionaires. This was the 16th time that the founder of Microsoft claimed the top spot. [Carlos Slim](#) came in second for the second consecutive time. [Warren Buffett](#) of [Berkshire Hathaway](#) placed third, while [Amancio Ortega](#) of Spain, slipped down a position from the previous year to number four. [Larry Ellison](#), the founder of [Oracle](#), rounded off the top five. [Christy Walton](#) was the highest-ranking female at number eight. America's [Evan Spiegel](#), co-founder of photo messaging app [Snapchat](#), became the youngest billionaire this year at age 24. At age 99, [David Rockefeller](#) maintained his position as the oldest billionaire included in the list.^[28] [Mark Zuckerberg](#), the founder of Facebook, rose to number 16 with \$33.4 billion. [Iceland](#) had a billionaire, [Thor Bjorgolfsson](#), in the list after a gap of five years. [Guatemala](#) had a billionaire, [Mario Lopez Estrada](#), for the first time in its history.^[29]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Bill Gates	\$79.2 billion 	59	 United States	Microsoft
2 	Carlos Slim	\$77.1 billion 	75	 Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
3 	Warren Buffett	\$72.7 billion 	84	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
4 	Amancio Ortega	\$64.5 billion 	78	 Spain	Inditex
5 	Larry Ellison	\$54.3 billion 	70	 United States	Oracle Corporation
6 	Charles Koch	\$42.9 billion 	79	 United States	Koch Industries
6 	David Koch	\$42.9 billion 	74	 United States	Koch Industries
8 	Christy Walton	\$41.7 billion 	66	 United States	Walmart
9 	Jim Walton	\$40.6 billion 	66	 United States	Walmart
10 	Liliane Bettencourt	\$40.1 billion 	92	 France	L'Oreal

2014

Gates added \$9 billion to his fortune since 2013 and topped the *Forbes* 2014 billionaire list. He had topped the list in 15 of the previous 20 years, but his previous number one ranking was in 2009.^[30] Mexican telecommunication mogul [Carlos Slim](#) came in second place after being number one the previous four years. [Zara](#) founder [Amancio Ortega](#) placed third for the second consecutive year. American investor [Warren Buffett](#) was in the top five for the 20th consecutive year, placing fourth.^[31] America's [Christy Walton](#) was the highest ranking woman, placing ninth overall.^[1] [Aliko Dangote](#) of Nigeria became the first African to enter the top 25, with an estimated net worth of \$25 billion.^[3]

A total of 1,645 people made the 2014 billionaire list, representing a combined wealth of \$6.4 trillion.^[31] Of those, a record 268 were newcomers, surpassing 2008's 226 newcomers.^[1] 100 people listed in 2013 failed to make the list.^[31] The number of women on the list rose to a record 172 in 2014.^[1] Approximately 66 percent of the list were self-made, 13 percent achieved their wealth through inheritance alone, and 21 percent through a mixture of the two.^[3]

The United States had 492 billionaires on the list, the most of any country.^[31] It also had the most newcomers with 50, and women with 54.^[1] China had the second most billionaires with 152, while Russia was third with 111.^[31] [Algeria](#), [Lithuania](#), [Tanzania](#), and [Uganda](#) were all represented on the list for the first time. [Turkey](#) saw the most people drop off the list, 19, due to a period of high inflation in the country.^[3]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	Bill Gates	\$76.0 billion ▲	58	United States	Microsoft
2 ▼	Carlos Slim & family	\$72.0 billion ▼	74	Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
3 —	Amancio Ortega	\$64.0 billion ▲	77	Spain	Inditex
4 —	Warren Buffett	\$58.2 billion ▲	83	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
5 —	Larry Ellison	\$48.0 billion ▲	70	United States	Oracle Corporation
6 —	Charles Koch	\$40.0 billion ▲	78	United States	Koch Industries
6 —	David Koch	\$40.0 billion ▲	73	United States	Koch Industries
8 ▲	Sheldon Adelson	\$38.0 billion ▲	80	United States	Las Vegas Sands
9 ▲	Christy Walton & family	\$36.7 billion ▲	65	United States	Walmart
10 ▲	Jim Walton	\$34.7 billion ▲	65	United States	Walmart

2013

Carlos Slim topped the 2013 billionaire list, marking his fourth consecutive year at the top. Gates remained in second, while Amancio Ortega moved up to third. Ortega's gain of \$19.5 billion was the largest of anyone on the list.^[32] Warren Buffett failed to make the top three for the first time since 2000, placing fourth. Diesel founder [Renzo Rosso](#) was among the top newcomers, debuting with an estimate net worth of \$3 billion.^[33]

A global rise in asset prices led *Forbes* editor [Randall Lane](#) to declare "It [was] a very good year to be a billionaire". However, it was not a good year to be [Eike Batista](#), who fell from seventh to 100th, suffering the largest net loss of anyone on the list.^[32] Overall, net gainers outnumbered net losers by 4:1.^[33]

A record total of 1,426 people made the 2013 list, representing \$5.4 trillion of assets.^[34] Of those, 442 billionaires hailed from the United States.^[32] The Asian-Pacific region had 386 billionaires and Europe 366. The list also featured a record number of newcomers, 210, representing 42 countries. 60 people from the 2012 list fell below a billion dollars of assets in 2013, and eight others from the 2012 list died. The Asia-Pacific region had the most drop-offs, with 29, followed by the United States with 16. The 2013 list featured 138 women, of which 50 came from the United States. A majority of the list (961 individuals, 67 percent) were entirely self-made; 184 (13 percent) inherited their wealth, and 281 (20 percent) achieved their fortune through a combination of inheritance and business acumen.^[34] Vietnam's [Phạm Nhật Vượng](#) was the first person from that country to be included in this list.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Carlos Slim & family	\$73.0 billion	73	Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
2	Bill Gates	\$67.0 billion	57	United States	Microsoft
3	Amancio Ortega	\$57.0 billion	76	Spain	Inditex Group
4	Warren Buffett	\$53.5 billion	82	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
5	Larry Ellison	\$43.0 billion	68	United States	Oracle Corporation
6	Charles Koch	\$34.0 billion	77	United States	Koch Industries
6	David Koch	\$34.0 billion	72	United States	Koch Industries
8	Li Ka-shing	\$31.0 billion	84	Hong Kong	Cheung Kong Holdings
9	Liliane Bettencourt & family	\$30.0 billion	90	France	L'Oréal
10	Bernard Arnault	\$29.0 billion	63	France	LVMH

2012

Carlos Slim topped the 2012 list, marking this third consecutive year at the top. Gates placed second but narrowed the gap from 2011 as Slim's fortune fell \$5 billion while Gates' rose \$5 billion. Warren Buffett remained in third place. [Bernard Arnault](#) of France was the top-ranking European on the list, placing fourth.^[35] [Ricardo Salinas Pliego](#) was the greatest gainer in terms of dollars, adding \$9.2 billion to his fortune and moving up to number 37 overall.^[35] Making her debut on the list at age 41, [Spanx](#) founder [Sara Blakely](#) became the youngest self-made female billionaire ever.^[36] Colombia's [Alejandro Santo Domingo](#) was the highest-ranked newcomer, inheriting a \$9.5 billion stake in [Santo Domingo Group](#) from his father.^[35] India's [Lakshmi Mittal](#) was the largest loser as his fortune dropped from \$31.1 billion to \$20.7 billion as the price of steelmaker [ArcelorMittal](#) fell sharply.^[35] As a result, he failed to make the top 10 for the first time since 2004 and lost his title of richest Asian to Hong Kong's [Li Ka-shing](#).^[37]

A record total of 1,226 people made the 2012 list, representing 58 countries. Of those, 126 were newcomers to the list and 104 were women. The United States had the greatest number of billionaires with 425. Russia had 96 people on the list, while China had 95.^[35] Georgia, [Morocco](#), and [Peru](#) were newly represented on the list. Falling stock prices in Asia contributed to 117 former billionaires falling from the list worldwide. Twelve others listed in 2011 died. Overall, net gainers (460) barely outnumbered net losers (441).^[37]































To coincide with the release of the 2012 list, *Forbes* announced a then-new "Billionaire Real-Time Ticker" updating the wealth of the world's top 50 billionaires in real time.^[35]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	<u>Carlos Slim & family</u>	\$69.0 billion 	72	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil, Grupo Carso</u>
2 	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$61.0 billion 	56	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
3 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$44.0 billion 	81	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 	<u>Bernard Arnault</u>	\$41.0 billion 	63	 <u>France</u>	<u>LVMH Moët Hennessy • Louis Vuitton</u>
5 	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$37.5 billion 	75	 <u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex Group</u>
6 	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$36.0 billion 	67	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
7 	<u>Eike Batista</u>	\$30.0 billion 	55	 <u>Brazil</u>	<u>EBX Group</u>
8 	<u>Stefan Persson</u>	\$26.0 billion 	64	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>H&M</u>
9 	<u>Li Ka-shing</u>	\$25.5 billion 	83	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Cheung Kong Holdings</u>
10 	<u>Karl Albrecht</u>	\$25.4 billion 	92	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi</u>

2011

In the 25th annual *Forbes* list of global billionaires, Slim added \$20.5 billion to his fortune, the most of anyone, and retained his number one ranking with a total fortune of \$74 billion. Gates remained in second place with \$56 billion, while Warren Buffett was third with \$50 billion. The top 10 had a combined wealth of \$406 billion, up from \$342 billion in 2010. According to *Forbes* editor Kerry Dolan, "media and technology billionaires definitely benefited from a stronger stock market and a growing enthusiasm for all things social" since the 2010 list.^[38] However, Nigerian commodity mogul Aliko Dangote was the greatest gainer on a percentage basis as his fortune increased 557 percent to \$13.5 billion. Mark Zuckerberg was one of seven Facebook-related billionaires on the list, as he added \$9.5 billion to his net worth to move up to 52nd. Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz was the youngest person on the list. Aged 26, eight days younger than Zuckerberg, he debuted at number 420 with an estimated fortune of \$2.7 billion. IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad was the largest loser as he saw his fortune plummet from \$23 billion to \$6 billion, dropping him from 11th to 162nd overall.

A record 1,210 billionaires made the 2011 list, representing a combined wealth of \$4.5 trillion, up from \$3.6 trillion the previous year.^[39] One third of the world's billionaires, 413, came from the United States. China had the second most billionaires with 115, while Russia was third with 101. Asia moved up to 332 billionaires, passing Europe as a region for the first time since the 1990s. The 2011 list included 214 newcomers and the average net worth of those on it increased to \$3.7 billion.^[38]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Carlos Slim	\$74.0 billion 	71	 Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
2 	Bill Gates	\$56.0 billion 	55	 United States	Microsoft
3 	Warren Buffett	\$50.0 billion 	80	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
4 	Bernard Arnault	\$41.0 billion 	62	 France	LVMH Moët Hennessy • Louis Vuitton
5 	Larry Ellison	\$39.5 billion 	66	 United States	Oracle Corporation
6 	Lakshmi Mittal	\$31.1 billion 	60	 India	Arcelor Mittal
7 	Amancio Ortega	\$31.0 billion 	74	 Spain	Inditex Group
8 	Eike Batista	\$30.0 billion 	53	 Brazil	EBX Group
9 	Mukesh Ambani	\$27.0 billion 	54	 India	Reliance Industries
10 	Christy Walton & family	\$26.5 billion 	62	 United States	Walmart

2010

Slim narrowly eclipsed Gates to top the billionaire list for the first time. Slim saw his estimated worth surge \$18.5 billion to \$53.5 billion as shares of [America Movil](#) rose 35 percent. Gates' estimated wealth rose \$13 billion to \$53 billion, placing him second. Warren Buffett was third with \$47 billion.^[40] [Christy Walton](#) was the highest-ranking woman, placing 12th overall, with an inherited fortune of \$22.5 billion.^[41] At age 25, Mark Zuckerberg continued to be the world's youngest self-made billionaire.^[9] American [Isaac Perlmutter](#) was among the newcomers with an estimated fortune of \$4 billion largely acquired in his sale of [Marvel Entertainment](#) to [Disney](#).^[40]

A total of 1,011 people made the 2010 list. The United States accounted for 403 billionaires, followed by China with 89 and Russia with 62.^[41] It was the first time China, while including Hong Kong, placed second.^[40] A total of 55 countries were represented on the 2010 list, including Finland and Pakistan which claimed their first billionaires.^[41] Eighty-nine women made the list, but only 14 of them were self-made.^[41] The combined net worth of the list was \$3.6 trillion, up 50 percent from 2009's \$2.4 trillion, while the average net worth was \$3.5 billion.^[9]

The 2010 list featured 164 re-entries and 97 true newcomers.^[9] Asia accounted for more than 100 of the new entrants. Overall, just 12 percent of the list lost wealth since 2009, and 30 people fell off the list. 13 others died.^[40] Of the 89 women, 12 were newcomers in 2010. [Steve Forbes](#) said the growing number of billionaires was a clear sign that the world's economy was recovering from the [Great Recession](#).^[9]

In June 2010, Gates and Buffett announced the [Giving Pledge](#), a promise to give the majority of their wealth to [philanthropic causes](#). As of 2017, the pledge had 158 signatories, but some of the signatories have since died. Most of the signers of the pledge are billionaires, and their pledges total over \$365 billion.^[42]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Carlos Slim & family</u>	\$53.5 billion ▲	70	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil, Grupo Carso</u>
2 ▼	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$53.0 billion ▲	54	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
3 ▼	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$47.0 billion ▲	79	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 ▲	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$29.0 billion ▲	53	 <u>India</u>	<u>Reliance Industries</u>
5 ▲	<u>Lakshmi Mittal</u>	\$28.7 billion ▲	60	 <u>India</u>	<u>Arcelor Mittal</u>
6 ▼	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$28.0 billion ▲	66	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
7 ▲	<u>Bernard Arnault</u>	\$27.5 billion ▲	61	 <u>France</u>	<u>LVMH Moët Hennessy • Louis Vuitton</u>
8 ▲	<u>Eike Batista</u>	\$27.0 billion ▲	53	 <u>Brazil</u>	<u>EBX Group</u>
9 ▲	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$25.0 billion ▲	74	 <u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex Group</u>
10 ▼	<u>Karl Albrecht</u>	\$23.5 billion ▲	90	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi Süd</u>

2009

During the Great Recession, the world's billionaires lost \$2 trillion in net worth and the list became 30% smaller than the previous year's list.^[43]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$40.0 billion ▼	53	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 ▼	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$37.0 billion ▼	78	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
3 ▼	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$35.0 billion ▼	69	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil, Grupo Carso</u>
4 ▲	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$22.5 billion ▼	64	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
5 ▲	<u>Ingvar Kamprad</u>	\$22.0 billion ▼	83	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>IKEA</u>
6 ▲	<u>Karl Albrecht</u>	\$21.5 billion ▼	89	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi Süd</u>
7 ▼	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$19.5 billion ▼	52	 <u>India</u>	<u>Reliance Industries</u>
8 ▼	<u>Lakshmi Mittal</u>	\$19.3 billion ▼	58	 <u>India</u>	<u>Arcelor Mittal</u>
9 ▲	<u>Theo Albrecht</u>	\$18.8 billion ▼	87	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi Nord, Trader Joe's</u>
10 ▲	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$18.3 billion ▼	73	 <u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex Group</u>

2008

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, four years after starting the company, joined the list at 23 to become the youngest self-made billionaire.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$62.0 billion ▲	77	<u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
2 ▲	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$60.0 billion ▲	68	<u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
3 ▼	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$58.0 billion ▲	52	<u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
4 ▲	<u>Lakshmi Mittal</u>	\$45.0 billion ▲	57	<u>India</u>	<u>Arcelor Mittal</u>
5 ▲	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$43.0 billion ▲	51	<u>India</u>	<u>Reliance Industries</u>
6 ▲	<u>Anil Ambani</u>	\$42.0 billion ▲	48	<u>India</u>	<u>Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group</u>
7 ▼	<u>Ingvar Kamprad</u>	\$31.0 billion ▼	81	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>IKEA</u>
8 ▲	<u>Kushal Pal Singh</u>	\$30.0 billion ▲	76	<u>India</u>	<u>DLF Group</u>
9 ▲	<u>Oleg Deripaska</u>	\$28.0 billion ▲	40	<u>Russia</u>	<u>Rusal</u>
10 ▲	<u>Karl Albrecht</u>	\$27.0 billion ▲	88	<u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi Süd</u>

2007

Forbes recorded a then record of 946 billionaires. There were 178 newcomers, as well as the first billionaires from Cyprus, Oman, Romania and Serbia. Over 66% of the previous year's billionaires became richer. The billionaires' net worth increased in 2007 by \$900 billion to \$3.5 trillion.^[44]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$56.0 billion ▲	51	<u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 —	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$52.0 billion ▲	76	<u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
3 —	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$49.0 billion ▲	67	<u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
4 —	<u>Ingvar Kamprad</u>	\$33.0 billion ▲	80	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>IKEA</u>
5 —	<u>Lakshmi Mittal</u>	\$32.0 billion ▲	56	<u>India</u>	<u>Arcelor Mittal</u>
6 ▲	<u>Sheldon Adelson</u>	\$26.5 billion ▲	73	<u>United States</u>	<u>Las Vegas Sands</u>
7 —	<u>Bernard Arnault</u>	\$26.0 billion ▲	58	<u>France</u>	<u>LVMH</u>
8 ▲	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$24.0 billion ▲	71	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex Group</u>
9 ▲	<u>Li Ka-shing</u>	\$23.0 billion ▲	78	<u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Cheung Kong Holdings</u> , <u>Hutchison Whampoa</u>
10 ▲	<u>David Thomson</u>	\$22.0 billion ▲	49	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Thomson Corporation</u>

2006

Free cash used by consumers from home equity extraction, known as the real estate bubble created a total of nearly \$5 trillion in 2005, contributing to economic growth worldwide.^[45]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Bill Gates	\$52.0 billion	50	United States	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	\$42.0 billion	75	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Carlos Slim	\$30.0 billion	66	Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
4	Ingvar Kamprad	\$28.0 billion	79	Sweden	IKEA
5	Lakshmi Mittal	\$23.5 billion	55	India	Mittal Steel Company
6	Paul Allen	\$22.0 billion	53	United States	Microsoft
7	Bernard Arnault	\$21.5 billion	57	France	LVMH Moët Hennessy • Louis Vuitton
8	Al-Waleed bin Talal	\$20.0 billion	49	Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
9	Kenneth Thomson	\$19.6 billion	82	Canada	Thomson Corporation
10	Li Ka-shing	\$18.8 billion	77	Hong Kong	Cheung Kong Group , Hutchison Whampoa

2005

The net worth of 2005's 691 billionaires was \$2.2 trillion. More than half of them had self-made fortunes.^[46]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Bill Gates	\$46.5 billion	49	United States	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	\$44.0 billion	74	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Lakshmi Mittal	\$25.0 billion	54	India	Mittal Steel Company
4	Carlos Slim	\$23.8 billion	65	Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
5	Al-Waleed bin Talal	\$23.7 billion	49	Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
6	Ingvar Kamprad	\$23.0 billion	79	Sweden	IKEA
7	Paul Allen	\$21.0 billion	52	United States	Microsoft
8	Karl Albrecht	\$18.5 billion	85	Germany	Aldi Süd
9	Larry Ellison	\$18.4 billion	60	United States	Oracle Corporation
10	S. Robson Walton	\$18.3 billion	61	United States	Walmart

2004

The founders of [Google](#), [Sergey Brin](#) and [Larry Page](#), became billionaires at age 30.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Bill Gates	\$46.6 billion	48	United States	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	\$42.9 billion	73	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Karl Albrecht	\$23.0 billion	84	Germany	Aldi Süd
4	Al-Waleed bin Talal	\$21.5 billion	47	Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
5	Paul Allen	\$21.0 billion	51	United States	Microsoft
6	Alice Walton*	\$20.0 billion	55	United States	Wal-Mart
6	Helen Walton*	\$20.0 billion	84	United States	Wal-Mart
6	Jim Walton*	\$20.0 billion	56	United States	Wal-Mart
6	John Walton*	\$20.0 billion	58	United States	Wal-Mart
6	S. Robson Walton*	\$20.0 billion	60	United States	Wal-Mart

* Each hold an essentially equal share in [Walmart](#).

2003

[Oprah Winfrey](#) became the first female African-American billionaire.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Bill Gates	\$40.7 billion	47	United States	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	\$30.5 billion	72	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Karl and Theo Albrecht	\$25.6 billion	83	Germany	Aldi
4	Paul Allen	\$20.1 billion	50	United States	Microsoft
5	Al-Waleed bin Talal	\$17.7 billion	46	Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
6	Larry Ellison	\$16.6 billion	58	United States	Oracle Corporation
7	Alice Walton*	\$16.5 billion	54	United States	Wal-Mart
7	Helen Walton*	\$16.5 billion	83	United States	Wal-Mart
7	Jim Walton*	\$16.5 billion	55	United States	Wal-Mart
7	John Walton*	\$16.5 billion	57	United States	Wal-Mart
7	S. Robson Walton*	\$16.5 billion	59	United States	Wal-Mart

* Each hold an essentially equal share in [Walmart](#).

2002

As a result of the market crash caused by the [Dot-com bubble](#), 83 billionaires dropped off the list from the previous year.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Bill Gates	\$52.8 billion	46	United States	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	\$35.0 billion	71	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Karl and Theo Albrecht	\$26.8 billion	82	Germany	Aldi
4	Paul Allen	\$25.2 billion	49	United States	Microsoft
5	Larry Ellison	\$23.5 billion	57	United States	Oracle Corporation
6	Jim Walton*	\$20.8 billion	54	United States	Wal-Mart
7	John Walton*	\$20.7 billion	56	United States	Wal-Mart
8	Alice Walton*	\$20.5 billion	53	United States	Wal-Mart
8	S. Robson Walton*	\$20.5 billion	58	United States	Wal-Mart
8	Helen Walton*	\$20.5 billion	82	United States	Wal-Mart

* Each hold an essentially equal share in [Walmart](#).

2001

In 2001, [BET](#) founder [Robert L. Johnson](#) became the first ever African-American billionaire.^[47]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	Bill Gates	\$58.7 billion	45	United States	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	\$32.3 billion	70	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Paul Allen	\$30.4 billion	48	United States	Microsoft
4	Larry Ellison	\$26.0 billion	56	United States	Oracle Corporation
5	Karl and Theo Albrecht	\$25.0 billion	81	Germany	Aldi
6	Al-Waleed bin Talal	\$20.0 billion	44	Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
7	Jim Walton*	\$18.8 billion	53	United States	Wal-Mart
8	John Walton*	\$18.7 billion	55	United States	Wal-Mart
9	S. Robson Walton*	\$18.6 billion	57	United States	Wal-Mart
10	Alice Walton*	\$18.5 billion	52	United States	Wal-Mart
10	Helen Walton*	\$18.5 billion	81	United States	Wal-Mart






























* Each hold an essentially equal share in [Wal-Mart](#). Had he been alive in 2001, [Sam Walton](#) would have been the world's wealthiest person.

2000

Gates became the first American to take the top spot of the world's billionaires in 1995 with a net worth of \$12.5 billion, and he remained there during the [dot-com bubble's](#) height in 1999 when his fortune peaked at \$90 billion. After the dot-com bubble started to collapse in 2000, his wealth dropped to \$60 billion, although he remained at the top of the list.

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Bill Gates	\$60.0 billion 	44	 United States	Microsoft
2 	Larry Ellison	\$47.0 billion 	55	 United States	Oracle Corporation
3 	Paul Allen	\$28.0 billion 	47	 United States	Microsoft
4 	Warren Buffett	\$25.6 billion 	69	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
5 	Karl and Theo Albrecht	\$20.0 billion 	80	 Germany	Aldi
6 	Al-Waleed bin Talal	\$20.0 billion 	43	 Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
7 	S. Robson Walton	\$20.0 billion 	57	 United States	Wal-Mart
8 	Masayoshi Son	\$19.4 billion 	43	 Japan	Softbank Capital , SoftBank Mobile
9 	Michael Dell	\$19.1 billion 	35	 United States	Dell
10 	Kenneth Thomson	\$16.1 billion 	77	 Canada	The Thomson Corporation

1999

No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Bill Gates	\$90.0 billion 	43	 United States	Microsoft
2 	Warren Buffett	\$36.0 billion 	68	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3 	Paul Allen	\$30.0 billion 	46	 United States	Microsoft
4 	Steven Ballmer	\$19.5 billion 	43	 United States	Microsoft
5 	Philip Anschutz	\$16.5 billion 	59	 United States	The Anschutz Corporation
6 	Michael Dell	\$16.5 billion 	34	 United States	Dell
7 	S. Robson Walton	\$15.8 billion	55	 United States	Wal-Mart
8 	Al-Waleed Bin Talal	\$15.0 billion 	42	 Saudi Arabia	Kingdom Holding Company
9 	Karl and Theo Albrecht	\$13.6 billion 	79	 Germany	Aldi
10 	Li Ka-shing & family	\$12.6 billion 	71	 Hong Kong	CK Asset Holdings ^[49]

1998

No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Bill Gates	\$51.0 billion 	43	 United States	Microsoft





2 	<u>Walton family</u>	\$48.0 billion 	–	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
3 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$33.0 billion 	67	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$21.0 billion 	45	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
5 	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$14.4 billion 	74	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Woodbridge Co. Ltd.</u> ^[50]
6 	<u>Jay and Robert Pritzker</u>	\$13.5 billion 	–	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Hyatt</u> ^[51]
7 	<u>Forrest Mars Sr. & family</u>	\$13.5 billion 	94	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Mars, Inc.</u> ^[52]
8 	<u>Al-Waleed Bin Talal</u>	\$13.3 billion 	41	 <u>Saudi Arabia</u>	<u>Kingdom Holding Company</u>
9 	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$12.7 billion 	70	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Henderson Land Development</u> ^[53]
10 	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$11.7 billion 	78	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi</u>

1997




















No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$36.4 billion 	42	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 	<u>Walton family</u>	\$27.6 billion 	–	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
3 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$23.2 billion 	66	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$14.7 billion 	69	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Henderson Land Development</u> ^[53]
5 	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$14.1 billion 	44	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
6 	<u>Kwok brothers</u>	\$12.3 billion 	48	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Sun Hung Kai Properties</u> ^[54]
7 	<u>Haas family</u>	\$12.3 billion 	–	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Levi Strauss & Co</u> ^[55]
8 	<u>Forrest Mars Sr. & family</u>	\$12.0 billion 	93	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Mars, Inc.</u> ^[52]
9 	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$11.5 billion 	77	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi</u>
10 	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$11.3 billion 	73	 <u>Taiwan</u>	<u>Cathay Life Insurance</u> ^[56]

1996







No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
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1 	<u>Walton family</u>	\$22.9 billion 	—	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
2 	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$18.0 billion 	41	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
3 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$15.3 billion 	65	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 	<u>Oeri, Hoffman & Sacher families</u>	\$13.1 billion 	—	 <u>Switzerland</u>	<u>Roche</u> ^[57]
5 	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$12.7 billion 	68	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Henderson Land Development</u> ^[53]
6 	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$12.2 billion 	72	 <u>Taiwan</u>	<u>Cathay Life Insurance</u> ^[56]
7 	<u>Kwok brothers</u>	\$11.2 billion 	—	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Sun Hung Kai Properties</u> ^[54]
8 	<u>Li Ka-shing & family</u>	\$10.6 billion 	68	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>CK Asset Holdings</u> ^[49]
9 	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$9.2 billion 	62	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Railway</u> ^[58]
10 	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$9.0 billion 	76	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi</u> ^[59]

1995











No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	<u>Walton family</u>	\$23.5 billion 	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
2 	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$12.9 billion 	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
3 	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$10.7 billion 	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$9.0 billion 	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>Tetra Pak</u>
5 	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$9.0 billion 	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Corporation</u>
6 	<u>Paul Sacher & Hoffman family</u>	\$8.6 billion 	 <u>Switzerland</u>	<u>Hoffmann-La Roche</u>
7 	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$8.5 billion 	 <u>Taiwan</u>	<u>Lin Yuan Group</u>
8 	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$6.5 billion 	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Thomson Corporation</u>
9 	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$6.5 billion	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Henderson Land Development</u>
10 	<u>Chung Ju-yung</u>	\$6.2 billion	 <u>South Korea</u>	<u>Hyundai</u>

1994










No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	<u>Walton family</u>	\$22.6 billion 	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
2 	<u>du Pont family</u>	\$9.0 billion 	 <u>United States</u>	<u>DuPont</u>




3 ▲	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$9.0 billion ▲	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>Tetra Pak</u>
4 ▼	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$8.5 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Corporation</u>
5 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$8.2 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
6 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$7.9 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
7 ▲	<u>Paul Sacher & Hoffman family</u>	\$7.8 billion ▲	 <u>Switzerland</u>	<u>Hoffmann-La Roche</u>
8 ▲	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$7.5 billion ▲	 <u>Taiwan</u>	<u>Lin Yuan Group</u>
9 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$7.3 billion ▲	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Aldi</u>
10 ▲	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$6.6 billion ▲	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil, Grupo Carso</u>

1993






























No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$25.3 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
2 ▲	<u>Mars family</u>	\$9.2 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Mars, Inc.</u>
3 —	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$9.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Corporation</u>
4 ▲	<u>du Pont family</u>	\$8.6 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>DuPont</u>
5 ▲	<u>Minoru and Akira Mori</u>	\$7.5 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Mori Building Company</u>
6 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$7.4 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
7 ▲	<u>Samuel and Donald Newhouse</u>	\$7.0 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Advance Publications</u>
8 ▲	<u>Sid and Lee Bass & brothers</u>	\$6.8 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Richardson Gasoline</u>
9 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$6.6 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
10 ▼	<u>Erivan Haub</u>	\$6.2 billion ▼	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Tengelmann Group</u>

1992

No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$23.8 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
2 —	<u>Taichiro Mori</u>	\$13.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Mori Building Company</u>
3 —	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$10.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Corporation</u>
4 ▲	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$7.0 billion ▲	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>Tetra Pak</u>
5 ▲	<u>Erivan Haub</u>	\$6.9 billion ▲	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Tengelmann Group</u>
6 ▲	<u>Haniel family</u>	\$6.4 billion ▲	 <u>Germany</u>	<u>Franz Haniel & Cie.</u>
7 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$6.4 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
8 ▲	<u>David Sainsbury & family</u>	\$6.2 billion ▲	 <u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>Sainsbury's</u>
9 ▼	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$6.2 billion ▼	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Thomson Corporation</u>

10 	Shin Kyuk-ho	\$6.0 billion 	 South Korea	Lotte Corporation
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1991



















No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Walton family	\$18.5 billion 	 United States	Wal-Mart
2 	Taikichiro Mori	\$15.0 billion 	 Japan	Mori Building Company
3 	Yoshiaki Tsutsumi	\$14.0 billion 	 Japan	Seibu Corporation
4 	du Pont family	\$10.0 billion 	 United States	DuPont
5 	Hans and Gad Rausing	\$9.0 billion 	 Sweden	Tetra Pak
6 	Kitaro Watanabe	\$7.7 billion 	 Japan	Azabu Building
7 	Paul Reichmann & brothers	\$7.1 billion 	 Canada	Olympia & York
8 	Kenneth Thomson	\$6.8 billion 	 Canada	Thomson Corporation
9 	Kenkichi Nakajima	\$6.1 billion 	 Japan	Heiwa Corporation
10 	Shin Kyuk-ho	\$6.0 billion 	 South Korea	Lotte Corporation

1990

No. ^[48]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Yoshiaki Tsutsumi	\$16.0 billion 	 Japan	Seibu Corporation
2 	Taikichiro Mori	\$14.6 billion 	 Japan	Mori Building Company
3 	Walton family	\$13.5 billion 	 United States	Wal-Mart
4 	du Pont family	\$10.0 billion 	 United States	DuPont
5 	Hans and Gad Rausing	\$9.6 billion 	 Sweden	Tetra Pak
6 	Kitaro Watanabe	\$9.2 billion 	 Japan	Azabu Building
7 	Paul Reichmann & brothers	\$9.0 billion 	 Canada	Olympia & York
8 	Kenkichi Nakajima	\$8.4 billion 	 Japan	Heiwa Corporation
9 	Shin Kyuk-ho	\$7.5 billion 	 South Korea	Lotte Corporation
10 	Eitaro Itoyama	\$5.8 billion 	 Japan	Shin Nihon Kanko

1989











No. ^[60]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 	Yoshiaki Tsutsumi	\$15.0 billion 	 Japan	Seibu Corporation
2 	Taikichiro Mori	\$14.2 billion 	 Japan	Mori Building Company
3 	Sam Walton & family	\$8.7 billion 	 United States	Wal-Mart
4 	Reichmann brothers	\$8.0 billion 	 Canada	Olympia & York

4 	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$8.0 billion 	 <u>South Korea</u>	<u>Lotte Corporation</u>
6 	<u>Hiroto Takei & family</u>	\$7.8 billion 	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Chisan</u>
7 	<u>Kitaro Watanabe</u>	\$7.0 billion+ 	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Azabu Building</u>
8 	<u>Haruhiko Yoshimoto& family</u>	\$7.0 billion 	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Real estate</u>
8 	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$7.0 billion 	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>Tetra Pak</u>
10 	<u>Eitaro Itoyama</u>	\$6.6 billion 	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Shin Nihon Kanko</u>

1988

No. ^[61]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$18.9 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Corporation</u>
2	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$18.0 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Mori Building Company</u>
3	<u>Reichmann brothers</u>	\$9.0 billion	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Olympia & York</u>
4	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$8.0 billion	 <u>South Korea</u>	<u>Lotte Corporation</u>
4	<u>K. C. Irving</u>	\$8.0 billion	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Irving Oil</u>
6	<u>Haruhiko Yoshimoto</u>	\$7.8 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Real estate</u>
7	<u>Sam Walton</u>	\$6.5 billion	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
8	<u>Tsai Wan-lin</u>	\$5.6 billion	 <u>Taiwan</u>	<u>Lin Yuan Group</u>
9	<u>Eitaro Itoyama</u>	\$5.0 billion+	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Shin Nihon Kanko</u>
10	<u>Kitaro Watanabe</u>	\$5.2 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Azabu Building</u>

1987

No. ^[62]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$20 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Seibu Corporation</u>
2	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$15 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Mori Building Company</u>
3	<u>Shigeru Kobayashi</u>	\$7.5 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Shuwa Corporation</u>
4	<u>Haruhiko Yoshimoto</u>	\$7.0 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Real estate</u>
5	<u>Salim Ahmed bin Mahfouz</u>	\$6.2 billion	 <u>Saudi Arabia</u>	<u>National Commercial Bank</u>
6	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$6.0 billion	 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>Tetra Pak</u>
7	<u>Paul Reichmann</u>	\$6.0 billion	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Olympia & York</u>
8	<u>Yohachiro Iwasaki</u>	\$5.6 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Real estate</u>
9	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$5.4 billion	 <u>Canada</u>	<u>Thomson Corporation</u>
10	<u>Keizo Saji</u>	\$4.0 billion	 <u>Japan</u>	<u>Suntory</u>

Statistics

The dot-com bubble created the most paper wealth for some billionaires. However, once the dotcom bubble burst the new rich saw their fortunes disappear.^[63] Billionaires' fortunes were hit even harder by the Great Recession; 2009 was the first time in five years that the world had a net loss in the number of billionaires.^[64] The strong performance of the financial markets and global economic recovery have erased financial assets losses. Most of the richest people in the world saw their fortunes soar in the early 2010s.^{[65][66]}

Number and combined net worth of billionaires by year^[67]

Year	Number of billionaires	Group's combined net worth
2024 ^[2]	2,781	\$14.2 trillion
2023 ^[7]	2,640	\$12.2 trillion
2022 ^[6]	2,668	\$12.7 trillion
2021 ^[12]	2,755	\$13.1 trillion
2020	2,095	\$8.0 trillion
2019	2,153	\$8.7 trillion
2018	2,208	\$9.1 trillion
2017	2,043	\$7.7 trillion
2016	1,810	\$6.5 trillion
2015 ^[19]	1,826	\$7.1 trillion
2014 ^[68]	1,645	\$6.4 trillion
2013 ^[69]	1,426	\$5.4 trillion
2012	1,226	\$4.6 trillion
2011	1,210	\$4.5 trillion
2010	1,011	\$3.6 trillion
2009	793	\$2.4 trillion
2008	1,125	\$4.4 trillion
2007	946	\$3.5 trillion
2006	793	\$2.6 trillion
2005	691	\$2.2 trillion
2004	587	\$1.9 trillion
2003	476	\$1.4 trillion
2002	497	\$1.5 trillion
2001	538	\$1.8 trillion
2000	470	\$898 billion
Sources: <i>Forbes</i> . ^{[19][68][67][69]}		

See also

 [Biography portal](#)

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- [Bloomberg Billionaires Index](#)

- [List of centibillionaires](#)
- [List of cities by number of billionaires](#)
- [List of countries by number of billionaires](#)
- [List of wealthiest animals](#)
- [List of wealthiest families](#)
- [List of wealthiest religious organizations](#)

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