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The World's Billionaires



The World's Billionaires is an annual ranking of people who are considered to have a net worth of \$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.^[2]

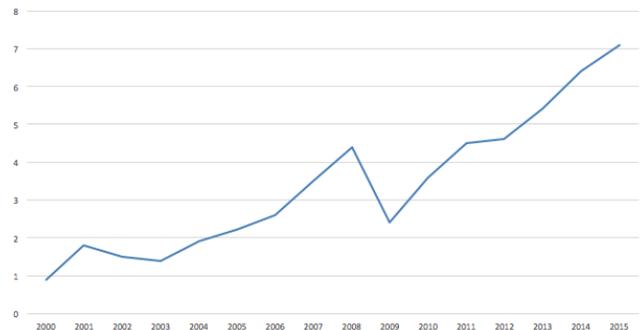
Methodology

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^[7] 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.^[8] Business deals are then scrutinized and estimates of valuable assets – land, homes, vehicles, 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

The World's Billionaires

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

Billionaires' net worth (in trillions of U.S. Dollars)



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

Publisher	Whale Media Investments Forbes family
Publication	<i>Forbes</i>
First published	March 1987 ^[1]
Latest publication	April 4, 2023

Current list details (2023)^[2]

Wealthiest	<u>Bernard Arnault</u>
Net worth (1st)	▼ US\$211 billion
Number of billionaires	▼ 2,640 (from 2668)
Total list net worth value	▼ US\$12.2 trillion (from US\$ 12.7 trillion)
Number of women	▲ 337
New members to the list	▼ 150

Forbes: The World's Billionaires website (<https://www.forbes.com/billionaires/>)

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.^[7]

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 \$Billion (his or her net worth will not be combined with family members')^[7] Royal families and dictators that have their wealth contingent on a position are always excluded from these lists.^[9]

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.

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. Nearly half the list is poorer than the previous year, including Elon Musk, who fell from No. 1 to No. 2.^[2] 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.^[10]

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>United States</u>	<u>Tesla, SpaceX, X Corp.</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, América Móvil, 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	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Tesla</u> , <u>SpaceX</u> , <u>Twitter Inc</u>
2 ▼	<u>Jeff Bezos</u>	\$177 billion ▼	58	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Amazon</u>
3 —	<u>Bernard Arnault & family</u>	\$158 billion ▲	73	 <u>France</u>	<u>LVMH</u>
4 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$129 billion ▲	66	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
5 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$118 billion ▲	91	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
6 ▲	<u>Larry Page</u>	\$111 billion ▲	49	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Alphabet Inc.</u>
7 ▲	<u>Sergey Brin</u>	\$107 billion ▲	48	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Alphabet Inc.</u>
8 ▼	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$106 billion ▲	77	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
9 ▲	<u>Steve Ballmer</u>	\$91.4 billion ▲	66	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
10 —	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$90.7 billion ▲	64	 <u>India</u>	<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.^{[11][12]}

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

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.^[13] The list was finalized as of 18 March, thus was already partially influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic.^[13]

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

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.^[14] 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).^[14]

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

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.^[15] 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.^[15] 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.^[15] *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.^[16]

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

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.^[17] 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][18]} 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 —	Bill Gates	\$86.0 billion ▲	61	 United States	Microsoft
2 ▲	Warren Buffett	\$75.6 billion ▲	86	 United States	Berkshire Hathaway
3 ▲	Jeff Bezos	\$72.8 billion ▲	53	 United States	Amazon
4 ▼	Amancio Ortega	\$71.3 billion ▲	80	 Spain	Inditex , Zara
5 ▲	Mark Zuckerberg	\$56.0 billion ▲	32	 United States	Facebook, Inc.
6 ▼	Carlos Slim	\$54.5 billion ▲	77	 Mexico	América Móvil , Grupo Carso
7 —	Larry Ellison	\$52.2 billion ▲	72	 United States	Oracle Corporation
8 ▲	Charles Koch	\$48.3 billion ▲	81	 United States	Koch Industries
8 ▲	David Koch	\$48.3 billion ▲	76	 United States	Koch Industries
10 ▼	Michael Bloomberg	\$47.5 billion ▲	75	 United States	Bloomberg L.P.

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.^[19] 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.^[20] Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway came in third for the second consecutive time,^[21] while Mexican telecommunication mogul Carlos Slim slipped from last year's second position to fourth. Jeff Bezos of Amazon,^[22] Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook^[23] and Michael Bloomberg of Bloomberg L.P.,^[24] 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.^[25] 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.^[26]

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.^[27] 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.^[28]

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

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.^[29] 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.^[30] 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.^[30] Of those, a record 268 were newcomers, surpassing 2008's 226 newcomers.^[1] 100 people listed in 2013 failed to make the list.^[30] 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.^[30] 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.^[30] 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 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$76.0 billion ▲	58	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 ▼	<u>Carlos Slim & family</u>	\$72.0 billion ▼	74	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
3 —	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$64.0 billion ▲	77	 <u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex</u>
4 —	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$58.2 billion ▲	83	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
5 —	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$48.0 billion ▲	70	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
6 —	<u>Charles Koch</u>	\$40.0 billion ▲	78	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Koch Industries</u>
6 —	<u>David Koch</u>	\$40.0 billion ▲	73	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Koch Industries</u>
8 ▲	<u>Sheldon Adelson</u>	\$38.0 billion ▲	80	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Las Vegas Sands</u>
9 ▲	<u>Christy Walton & family</u>	\$36.7 billion ▲	65	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Walmart</u>
10 ▲	<u>Jim Walton</u>	\$34.7 billion ▲	65	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Walmart</u>

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.^[31] 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.^[32]

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.^[31] Overall, net gainers outnumbered net losers by 4:1.^[32]

A record total of 1,426 people made the 2013 list, representing \$5.4 trillion of assets.^[33] Of those, 442 billionaires hailed from the United States.^[31] 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.^[33] 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 —	<u>Carlos Slim & family</u>	\$73.0 billion ▲	73	 <u>Mexico</u>	<u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
2 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$67.0 billion ▲	57	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Microsoft</u>
3 ▲	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$57.0 billion ▲	76	 <u>Spain</u>	<u>Inditex Group</u>
4 ▼	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$53.5 billion ▲	82	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
5 ▲	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$43.0 billion ▲	68	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
6 ▲	<u>Charles Koch</u>	\$34.0 billion ▲	77	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Koch Industries</u>
6 ▲	<u>David Koch</u>	\$34.0 billion ▲	72	 <u>United States</u>	<u>Koch Industries</u>
8 ▲	<u>Li Ka-shing</u>	\$31.0 billion ▲	84	 <u>Hong Kong</u>	<u>Cheung Kong Holdings</u>
9 ▲	<u>Liliane Bettencourt & family</u>	\$30.0 billion ▲	90	 <u>France</u>	<u>L'Oréal</u>
10 ▼	<u>Bernard Arnault</u>	\$29.0 billion ▼	63	 <u>France</u>	<u>LVMH</u>

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.^[34] 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.^[34] Making her debut on the list at age 27, Spanx founder Sara Blakely became the youngest self-made female billionaire ever.^[35] Colombia's Alejandro Santo Domingo was the highest-ranked newcomer, inheriting a \$9.5 billion stake in Santo Domingo Group from his father.^[34] 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.^[34] 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.^[36]

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.^[34] 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).^[36]

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.^[34]

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</u> , <u>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</u> • <u>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.^[37] 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.^[38] 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.^[37]

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.^[39] Christy Walton was the highest-ranking woman, placing 12th overall, with an inherited fortune of \$22.5 billion.^[40] At age 25, Mark Zuckerberg continued to be the world's youngest self-made billionaire.^[8] American Isaac Perlmutter was among the newcomers with an estimated fortune of \$4 billion largely acquired in his sale of [Marvel Entertainment](#) to [Disney](#).^[39]

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.^[40] It was the first time China, while including Hong Kong, placed second.^[39] A total of 55 countries were represented on the 2010 list, including Finland and Pakistan which claimed their first billionaires.^[40] Eighty-nine women made the list, but only 14 of them were self-made.^[40] 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.^[8]

The 2010 list featured 164 re-entries and 97 true newcomers.^[8] 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.^[39] 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 2009's global financial crisis.^[8]

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.^[41]

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

2009

In the wake of the Financial crisis of 2007–2008, the world's billionaires lost \$2 trillion in net worth and the list became 30% smaller than the previous year's list.^[42]

No.	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$40.0 billion ▼	53	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 ▼	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$37.0 billion ▼	78	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
3 ▼	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$35.0 billion ▼	69	 Mexico	<u>América Móvil</u> , <u>Grupo Carso</u>
4 ▲	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$22.5 billion ▼	64	 United States	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
5 ▲	<u>Ingvar Kamprad</u>	\$22.0 billion ▼	83	 Sweden	<u>IKEA</u>
6 ▲	<u>Karl Albrecht</u>	\$21.5 billion ▼	89	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u>
7 ▼	<u>Mukesh Ambani</u>	\$19.5 billion ▼	52	 India	<u>Reliance Industries</u>
8 ▼	<u>Lakshmi Mittal</u>	\$19.3 billion ▼	58	 India	<u>Arcelor Mittal</u>
9 ▲	<u>Theo Albrecht</u>	\$18.8 billion ▼	87	 Germany	<u>Aldi Nord</u> , <u>Trader Joe's</u>
10 ▲	<u>Amancio Ortega</u>	\$18.3 billion ▼	73	 Spain	<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.^[43]

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.^[44]

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.^[45]

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 Süd
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 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$52.8 billion ▼	46	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 —	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$35.0 billion ▲	71	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
3 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$26.8 billion ▲	82	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u>
4 ▼	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$25.2 billion ▼	49	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
5 ▼	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$23.5 billion ▼	57	 United States	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
6 ▲	<u>Jim Walton</u> *	\$20.8 billion ▲	54	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
7 ▲	<u>John Walton</u> *	\$20.7 billion ▲	56	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
8 ▲	<u>Alice Walton</u> *	\$20.5 billion ▲	53	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
8 ▲	<u>S. Robson Walton</u> *	\$20.5 billion ▲	58	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
8 ▲	<u>Helen Walton</u> *	\$20.5 billion ▲	82	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>

* Each hold an essentially equal share in Walmart.

2001

In 2001, BET founder Robert L. Johnson became the first ever African-American billionaire.^[46]

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

* 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 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$60.0 billion ▼	44	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 ▲	<u>Larry Ellison</u>	\$47.0 billion ▲	55	 United States	<u>Oracle Corporation</u>
3 —	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$28.0 billion ▼	47	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
4 ▼	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$25.6 billion ▼	69	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
5 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$20.0 billion ▲	80	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u>
6 ▲	<u>Al-Waleed bin Talal</u>	\$20.0 billion ▲	43	 Saudi Arabia	<u>Kingdom Holding Company</u>
7 —	<u>S. Robson Walton</u>	\$20.0 billion ▲	57	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
8 ▲	<u>Masayoshi Son</u>	\$19.4 billion ▲	43	 Japan	<u>Softbank Capital</u> , <u>SoftBank Mobile</u>
9 ▼	<u>Michael Dell</u>	\$19.1 billion ▲	35	 United States	<u>Dell</u>
10 ▲	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$16.1 billion ▲	77	 Canada	<u>The Thomson Corporation</u>

1999

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$90.0 billion ▲	43	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$36.0 billion ▲	68	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
3 ▲	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$30.0 billion ▲	46	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
4 ▲	<u>Steven Ballmer</u>	\$19.5 billion ▲	43	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
5 ▲	<u>Philip Anschutz</u>	\$16.5 billion ▲	59	 United States	<u>The Anschutz Corporation</u>
6 ▲	<u>Michael Dell</u>	\$16.5 billion ▲	34	 United States	<u>Dell</u>
7 ▲	<u>S. Robson Walton</u>	\$15.8 billion	55	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
8 —	<u>Al-Waleed Bin Talal</u>	\$15.0 billion ▲	42	 Saudi Arabia	<u>Kingdom Holding Company</u>
9 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$13.6 billion ▲	79	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u>
10 ▲	<u>Li Ka-shing & family</u>	\$12.6 billion ▲	71	 Hong Kong	<u>CK Asset Holdings</u> ^[48]

1998

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$51.0 billion ▲	43	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
2 ←	<u>Walton family</u>	\$48.0 billion ▲	–	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
3 ←	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$33.0 billion ▲	67	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 ▲	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$21.0 billion ▲	45	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
5 ▲	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$14.4 billion ▲	74	 Canada	<u>Woodbridge Co. Ltd.</u> ^[49]
6 ▲	<u>Jay and Robert Pritzker</u>	\$13.5 billion ▲	–	 United States	<u>Hyatt</u> ^[50]
7 ▲	<u>Forrest Mars Sr. & family</u>	\$13.5 billion ▲	94	 United States	<u>Mars, Inc.</u> ^[51]
8 ▲	<u>Al-Waleed Bin Talal</u>	\$13.3 billion ▲	41	 Saudi Arabia	<u>Kingdom Holding Company</u>
9 ▼	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$12.7 billion ▼	70	 Hong Kong	<u>Henderson Land Development</u> ^[52]
10 ▼	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$11.7 billion ▲	78	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u>

1997

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$36.4 billion ▲	42	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
2 ▼	<u>Walton family</u>	\$27.6 billion ▲	–	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
3 ←	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$23.2 billion ▲	66	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 ▲	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$14.7 billion ▲	69	 Hong Kong	<u>Henderson Land Development</u> ^[52]
5 ▲	<u>Paul Allen</u>	\$14.1 billion ▲	44	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
6 ▲	<u>Kwok brothers</u>	\$12.3 billion ▲	48	 Hong Kong	<u>Sun Hung Kai Properties</u> ^[53]
7 ▲	<u>Haas family</u>	\$12.3 billion ▲	–	 United States	<u>Levi Strauss & Co</u> ^[54]
8 ▲	<u>Forrest Mars Sr. & family</u>	\$12.0 billion ▲	93	 United States	<u>Mars, Inc.</u> ^[51]
9 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$11.5 billion ▲	77	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u>
10 ▼	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$11.3 billion ▼	73	 Taiwan	<u>Cathay Life Insurance</u> ^[55]

1996

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Age	Nationality	Source(s) of wealth
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$22.9 billion ▼	—	 United States	<u>Wal-Mart</u>
2 —	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$18.0 billion ▲	41	 United States	<u>Microsoft</u>
3 —	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$15.3 billion ▲	65	 United States	<u>Berkshire Hathaway</u>
4 ▲	<u>Oeri, Hoffman & Sacher families</u>	\$13.1 billion ▲	—	 Switzerland	<u>Roche</u> ^[56]
5 ▲	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$12.7 billion ▲	68	 Hong Kong	<u>Henderson Land Development</u> ^[52]
6 ▲	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$12.2 billion ▲	72	 Taiwan	<u>Cathay Life Insurance</u> ^[55]
7 ▲	<u>Kwok brothers</u>	\$11.2 billion ▲	—	 Hong Kong	<u>Sun Hung Kai Properties</u> ^[53]
8 ▲	<u>Li Ka-shing & family</u>	\$10.6 billion ▲	68	 Hong Kong	<u>CK Asset Holdings</u> ^[48]
9 ▼	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$9.2 billion ▲	62	 Japan	<u>Seibu Railway</u> ^[57]
10 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$9.0 billion ▲	76	 Germany	<u>Aldi Süd</u> ^[58]

1995

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$23.5 billion ▲	 United States
2 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$12.9 billion ▲	 United States
3 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$10.7 billion ▲	 United States
4 ▼	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$9.0 billion —	 Sweden
5 ▼	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$9.0 billion ▲	 Japan
6 ▲	<u>Paul Sacher & Hoffman family</u>	\$8.6 billion ▲	 Switzerland
7 ▲	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$8.5 billion ▲	 Taiwan
8 ▲	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$6.5 billion ▲	 Canada
9 ▲	<u>Lee Shau-kee</u>	\$6.5 billion	 Hong Kong
10 ▲	<u>Chung Ju-yung</u>	\$6.2 billion	 South Korea

1994

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$22.6 billion ▼	 United States
2 ▲	<u>du Pont family</u>	\$9.0 billion ▲	 United States
3 ▲	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$9.0 billion ▲	 Sweden

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
4 ▼	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$8.5 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
5 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$8.2 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
6 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$7.9 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
7 ▲	<u>Paul Sacher & Hoffman family</u>	\$7.8 billion ▲	 <u>Switzerland</u>
8 ▲	<u>Tsai Wan-lin & family</u>	\$7.5 billion ▲	 <u>Taiwan</u>
9 ▲	<u>Karl and Theo Albrecht</u>	\$7.3 billion ▲	 <u>Germany</u>
10 ▲	<u>Carlos Slim</u>	\$6.6 billion ▲	 <u>Mexico</u>

1993

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$25.3 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
2 ▲	<u>Mars family</u>	\$9.2 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
3 —	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$9.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
4 ▲	<u>du Pont family</u>	\$8.6 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
5 ▲	<u>Minoru and Akira Mori</u>	\$7.5 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>
6 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$7.4 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
7 ▲	<u>Samuel and Donald Newhouse</u>	\$7.0 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
8 ▲	<u>Sid and Lee Bass & brothers</u>	\$6.8 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
9 ▲	<u>Warren Buffett</u>	\$6.6 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
10 ▼	<u>Erivan Haub</u>	\$6.2 billion ▼	 <u>Germany</u>

1992

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$23.8 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
2 —	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$13.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
3 —	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$10.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
4 ▲	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$7.0 billion ▲	 <u>Sweden</u>
5 ▲	<u>Erivan Haub</u>	\$6.9 billion ▲	 <u>Germany</u>
6 ▲	<u>Haniel family</u>	\$6.4 billion ▲	 <u>Germany</u>
7 ▲	<u>Bill Gates</u>	\$6.4 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
8 ▲	<u>David Sainsbury & family</u>	\$6.2 billion ▲	 <u>United Kingdom</u>
9 ▼	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$6.2 billion ▼	 <u>Canada</u>
10 —	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$6.0 billion —	 <u>South Korea</u>

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
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1991

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 ▲	<u>Walton family</u>	\$18.5 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
2 —	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$15.0 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>
3 ▼	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$14.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
4 —	<u>du Pont family</u>	\$10.0 billion —	 <u>United States</u>
5 —	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$9.0 billion ▼	 <u>Sweden</u>
6 —	<u>Kitaro Watanabe</u>	\$7.7 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
7 —	<u>Paul Reichmann & brothers</u>	\$7.1 billion ▼	 <u>Canada</u>
8 ▲	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$6.8 billion ▲	 <u>Canada</u>
9 ▼	<u>Kenkichi Nakajima</u>	\$6.1 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
10 ▼	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$6.0 billion ▼	 <u>South Korea</u>

1990

No. ^[47]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 —	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$16.0 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>
2 —	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$14.6 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>
3 —	<u>Walton family</u>	\$13.5 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
4 ▲	<u>du Pont family</u>	\$10.0 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
5 ▲	<u>Hans and Gad Rausing</u>	\$9.6 billion ▲	 <u>Sweden</u>
6 ▲	<u>Kitaro Watanabe</u>	\$9.2 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>
7 ▼	<u>Paul Reichmann & brothers</u>	\$9.0 billion ▲	 <u>Canada</u>
8 ▲	<u>Kenkichi Nakajima</u>	\$8.4 billion ▲	 <u>Japan</u>
9 ▼	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$7.5 billion ▼	 <u>South Korea</u>
10 —	<u>Eitaro Itoyama</u>	\$5.8 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>

1989

No. ^[59]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1 —	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$15.0 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
2 —	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$14.2 billion ▼	 <u>Japan</u>
3 ▲	<u>Sam Walton & family</u>	\$8.7 billion ▲	 <u>United States</u>
4 ▼	<u>Reichmann brothers</u>	\$8.0 billion ▼	 <u>Canada</u>

No. ^[59]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
4 —	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$8.0 billion —	 South Korea
6 ▲	<u>Hiroto</u> <u>Takei</u> & family	\$7.8 billion ▲	 Japan
7 ▲	<u>Kitaro Watanabe</u>	\$7.0 billion+ ▲	 Japan
8 ▼	<u>Haruhiko Yoshimoto</u> & family	\$7.0 billion ▼	 Japan
8 ▲	<u>Hans</u> and <u>Gad Rausing</u>	\$7.0 billion ▲	 Sweden
10 ▼	<u>Eitaro Itoyama</u>	\$6.6 billion ▲	 Japan

1988

No. ^[60]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$18.9 billion	 Japan
2	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$18.0 billion	 Japan
3	<u>Reichmann brothers</u>	\$9.0 billion	 Canada
4	<u>Shin Kyuk-ho</u>	\$8.0 billion	 South Korea
4	<u>K. C. Irving</u>	\$8.0 billion	 Canada
6	<u>Haruhiko Yoshimoto</u>	\$7.8 billion	 Japan
7	<u>Sam Walton</u>	\$6.5 billion	 United States
8	<u>Tsai Wan-lin</u>	\$5.6 billion	 Taiwan
9	<u>Eitaro Itoyama</u>	\$5.0 billion+	 Japan
10	<u>Kitaro Watanabe</u>	\$5.2 billion	 Japan

1987

No. ^[61]	Name	Net worth (USD)	Nationality
1	<u>Yoshiaki Tsutsumi</u>	\$20 billion	 Japan
2	<u>Taikichiro Mori</u>	\$15 billion	 Japan
3	<u>Shigeru Kobayashi</u>	\$7.5 billion	 Japan
4	<u>Haruhiko Yoshimoto</u>	\$7.0 billion	 Japan
5	<u>Salim Ahmed Bin Mahfouz</u>	\$6.2 billion	 Saudi Arabia
6	<u>Hans</u> and <u>Gad Rausing</u>	\$6.0 billion	 Sweden
7	<u>Paul Reichmann</u>	\$6.0 billion	 Canada
8	<u>Yohachiro Iwasaki</u>	\$5.6 billion	 Japan
9	<u>Kenneth Thomson</u>	\$5.4 billion	 Canada
10	<u>Keizo Saji</u>	\$4.0 billion	 Japan

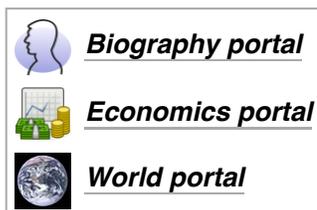
Statistics

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.^[62] Billionaires' fortunes were hit even harder by the global financial crisis; 2009 was the first time in five years that the world had a net loss in the number of billionaires.^[63] 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.^{[64][65]}

Number and combined net worth of billionaires by year^[66]

Year	Number of billionaires	Group's combined net worth
2023 ^[2]	2,640	\$12.2 trillion
2022 ^[6]	2,668	\$12.7 trillion
2021 ^[11]	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 ^[18]	1,826	\$7.1 trillion
2014 ^[67]	1,645	\$6.4 trillion
2013 ^[68]	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> . ^{[18][67][66][68]}		

See also



- [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 historical figures](#)
- [List of wealthiest religious organizations](#)

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