

Billionaire Bust: Who's Survived the Crash? Who's Getting Clobbered? by Forbes Magazine

Written by admin

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The richest people in the world have gotten poorer, just like the rest of us. This year the world's billionaires have an average net worth of \$3 billion, down 23% in 12 months. The world has 793, down from 1,125 a year ago.

After slipping in recent years, the U.S. is regaining its dominance as a repository of wealth. Americans account for 44% of the money and 45% of the list's slots, up seven and three percentage points from last year, respectively. Bill Gates lost \$18 billion but regained his title as the world's richest man. Warren Buffett, last year's No. 1, saw his fortune decline \$25 billion as shares of Berkshire Hathaway fell nearly 50% in 12 months. Mexican telecom titan Carlos Slim Helu maintains his spot in the top three but lost \$25 billion.

While 656 moguls lost money in the past year, 44 added to their fortunes. Those who made money did so by catering to budget-conscious consumers (discount retailer Uniqlo's Tadashi Yanai), predicting the crash (investor John Paulson) or cashing out in the nick of time (Cirque du Soleil's Guy Laliberte). Another 38 joined our rankings for the first time, and three former billionaires returned to the list.

Top 25 Billionaires:

Rank	Name	Citizenship	Age	Net Worth
1	William Gates III	United States	53	40.0
2	Warren Buffett	United States	78	37.0
3	Carlos Slim Helu & family	Mexico	69	35.0
4	Lawrence Ellison	United States	64	22.5
5	Ingvar Kamprad & family	Sweden	83	21.5
6	Karl Albrecht	Germany	89	21.5
7	Mukesh Ambani	India	51	19.5
8	Lakshmi Mittal	India	58	19.3
9	Theo Albrecht	Germany	87	18.8
10	Amancio Ortega	Spain	73	18.3
11	Jim Walton	United States	61	17.8
12	Alice Walton	United States	59	17.6
12	Christy Walton & family	United States	54	17.6
12	S Robson Walton	United States	65	17.6
15	Bernard Arnault	France	60	16.5
16	Li Ka-shing	Hong Kong	80	16.2
17	Michael Bloomberg	United States	67	16.0
18	Stefan Persson	Sweden	61	14.5
19	Charles Koch	United States	73	14.0

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19	David Koch	United States	68		14.0	
21	Liliane Bettencourt	France		86		13.4
22	Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud	Saudi Arabia			54	
23	Michael Otto & family	Germany		65		13.2
24	David Thomson & family	Canada		51		
25	Michael Dell	United States	44			12.3