

RESEARCH

## COVID-19 fuels growth for technology companies: Hurun

February 15, 2021



*By absolute value, the biggest gainers in "2020 Hurun Global 500" were Apple, Amazon and Microsoft. Image courtesy of Amazon*

By KATIE TAMOLA

COVID-19 has vastly impacted the world, but some technology companies have seen momentous growth during the pandemic, according to a new report.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**  
Plus: Just released  
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

The Hurun Research Institute has released the "[2020 Hurun Global 500](#)," a list of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world. The report notes that ecommerce is one of the areas with the highest growth, with Apple and Amazon gaining 1.7 trillion dollars between them last year.

"COVID-19 put rocket fuel under an already powerful tech boom, resulting in a concentration of massive economic power," said Rupert Hoogewerf, chairman and chief researcher of Hurun Report, in a statement. "COVID-19 has redistributed value to technology companies, which successfully disrupted traditional sectors."

### Tech titans

U.S. tech giants Apple and Microsoft are two of the wealthiest companies, worth \$2.1 trillion and \$1.6 trillion, respectively. The 10 highest-ranked companies in the report have a combined worth of \$10.3 trillion, which is equivalent to more than the GDP of China.

Eight of the 10 highest-ranked companies are from the U.S.



The three most valuable companies listed on the "2020 Hurun Global 500" report. Image credit: Hurun Research Institute

The total value of Hurun Global 500 companies is currently \$50 trillion which is equivalent to the combined GDPs of the world's six largest economies including the U.S., China, Japan, Germany, India and the United Kingdom.

Even during COVID-19, these companies are showing no signs of slowing down. The Hurun Global 500 rose by 25 percent in collective value, with 25 U.S. companies and 21 Chinese companies doubling in value.

The U.S. accounted for 242 companies within the Hurun Global 500, the most from any country in the report. The total sales of the top 500 companies amounted to \$18 trillion, which is larger than the GDP of China.

By absolute value, the biggest gainers were Apple, Amazon and Microsoft.



The seven other companies listed in the top 10. Image Credit: Hurun Research Institute

Electric cars, healthcare, and ecommerce were the best performers. U.S. automaker Tesla entered the top ten, worth \$565 billion. After announcing plans for COVID-19 vaccine distribution, U.S. biotech company Moderna's value is now at \$56 billion.

Financial services emerged as the category with the most companies included in the report, led by the most valuable company Visa, worth \$465 billion, pulling ahead of JP Morgan Chase. Healthcare noted the second most businesses, led by Johnson & Johnson worth \$388 billion.

Tech magnates Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos were among the 160 shareholders of the Hurun Global 500 who made the Hurun Global Rich List 2020 ([see story](#)). Only three individuals are the founders of more than one Hurun Global 500 company: Elon Musk heading Tesla, PayPal and SpaceX; Jack Ma, heading Alibaba and Ant Group; Li Ge, heading Wuxi Biologics and Wuxi AppTech.

### Wins and losses

COVID-19 propelled consumers into a world that called for adapting, where homes became workplaces, and conventional activities such as air travel or in-person banking were not as accessible or commonplace.

Energy companies, airplane manufacturers and traditional financial services saw the biggest losses.

Exxon Mobil, the most valuable company in world 10 years ago, lost \$127 billion. Aircraft manufacturer Boeing lost \$80 billion while financial services firm Wells Fargo, which has a robust traditional banking portfolio, lost \$106 billion.

Luxury transportation and hospitality brands are being called to collaborate and lend a listening ear to consumers' concerns to better prepare for the post-pandemic traveler. Brands will have to revise policies and implement collaborations in order to begin attracting consumers once more ([see story](#)).



*Boeing which explored the future of flying cars with Porsche in 2019, recorded significant losses in 2020. Image credit: Porsche*

During a time when many companies implemented work from home policies, it is not surprising that communication technology company Zoom broke into the top 100 companies with a worth of \$115.6 billion. Streaming service Netflix also increased \$86 billion in value.

German automaker Mercedes-Benz USA hosted its first Mercedes-Benz Concours via Zoom video conferencing with celebrities participating as the U.S. lockdowns restrict regular activity for a large chunk of the population ([see story](#)).

Food delivery companies DoorDash and Meituan tripled their value, now worth \$55.6 billion and \$219 billion, respectfully.

While missing restaurants, diners are taking a wait-and-see attitude with dining out, turning to cooking and ordering home delivery as a result of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak and resultant lockdowns that have throttled businesses and economies worldwide ([see story](#)).

---

© 2021 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.