

Journeying towards becoming one of the wealthiest companies globally is rarely straightforward, often requiring courage, persistence, vision, and sometimes unexpected setbacks. Here, we explore stories behind some of the richest corporations globally, including their founders' backgrounds, childhood struggles, and development trajectory of enterprises, distinctive workplace cultures, and financial standing today in today's market.

1. Apple Inc.

Apple Inc., now synonymous with innovative technology, was co-founded in 1976 by Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne: three legendary individuals known by many simply as Steve Jobs (born in 1955 and adopted by a lower-middle-class couple), alongside Jobs himself (known for his early aptitude in electronics and extraordinary curiosity about life in general), as co-founders alongside Wozniak. Their fascination led them to make the first Apple computer within Steve's garage home.

Apple's Early Days

In its initial years, Apple encountered challenges and growth; Jobs experienced funding troubles while the Macintosh initially underperformed upon launch in 1985, leading to his temporary departure and eventual comeback in 1997 with products like the iMac, iPod, and then later iPhone that revolutionized technology landscape.

It fosters an innovative environment within the workplace, and employees are encouraged to think beyond convention. In September 2017, it had over 150,000 worldwide. Apple employs this "top-down secrecy" model, which creates a highly competitive yet exciting work environment; employees receive benefits like stock options, and it fosters respect and collaboration across teams. It is valued at around \$3 trillion as of 2024.

2. Saudi Aramco's Foundations

It is considered the cornerstone of the Saudi economy and was first created when Standard Oil of California received permission to explore and produce oil within the territory in 1933. Over time, it has grown into one of the leading international oil firms.

Struggles and Expansion

Its expansion was closely aligned with Saudi Arabia's aspirations to be an energy powerhouse globally. Though facing numerous difficulties, from economic recession to political disputes, Aramco steadily gained more influence until finally being taken full ownership by Saudi

authorities by 1980, becoming both a financial asset and a national treasure.

Employee Experience

Aramco stands out among energy industry peers due to its exceptional employee benefits package that features competitive pay and housing, healthcare, and educational support for over 70,000 workers. Furthermore, its strong commitment to sustainability through investment in renewable energy projects showcases its forward-thinking stance.

Valuation

It currently boasts an estimated valuation of more than \$2 trillion and serves as both the wealthiest oil company globally and a cornerstone of Saudi's economy.

3. Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft was established by Bill Gates and Paul Allen, childhood friends with an intense fascination for programming. Gates came from an upper-middle-class family in Seattle, while Allen came from a low-income background; both shared the vision that every household would own their own computer one day.

Hurdles and Transformation

Although Microsoft proliferated under Gates's guidance, antitrust lawsuits, and fierce competition presented several obstacles as it rose rapidly into prominence. However, these trials only strengthened his resolve, ultimately cementing Microsoft as the leading software force through products like Windows and Office.

Microsoft employs over 220,000 workers and prides itself on cultivating an inclusive workplace culture that fosters continuous learning environments with generous retirement plans, healthcare benefits, and educational benefits for families. Under CEO Satya Nadella's transformation initiative has also resulted in more collaborative and empathic working conditions at Microsoft.

It holds an estimated amount of approximately \$2.5 trillion, placing it among one of the most valuable corporations globally.

4. Amazon.com, Inc

Jeff Bezos founded it as an online bookstore in 1994 after impressing Princeton with his academic abilities as a child of teenage motherhood, where he studied electrical engineering and computer science. Early employment on Wall Street provided valuable experience before leaving to follow his dream of creating an online marketplace.

Growth and Adversities Amazon's journey was not without difficulties. Starting out with limited resources and facing financial collapse at every turn, Bezos' relentless focus on customer satisfaction enabled rapid expansion. Over time, it expanded from books into an expansive marketplace offering everything from electronics to cloud services.

Amazon employs over 1.6 million employees globally and is widely known for its customer-first culture. It also offers employees benefits like educational reimbursements and on-site healthcare in certain facilities. While critics may perceive a high-pressure work environment at Amazon, their competitive pay and opportunities for growth remain attractive features that remain desirable factors to many employees.

The total worth of this company is estimated at around \$1.3 trillion, placing it among one of the wealthiest companies worldwide.

5. Alphabet Inc.

Google (now Alphabet Inc) was established by Larry Page and Sergey Brin in 1998 from an academic project at Stanford University, featuring their revolutionary approach to indexing web pages as the cornerstone for growth and success. Both founders had solid academic backgrounds that contributed to Google's rapid ascension over time.

Challenges of Growth

Page and Brin faced many hurdles on their journey toward creating Google; fierce competition, regulatory hurdles, and the need to constantly innovate were only part of it all. Over time, they expanded Google into different areas, such as advertising, self-driving cars, and artificial intelligence, before ultimately founding Alphabet as an umbrella corporation.

Alphabet is home to over 194,000 employees globally and boasts creative workspaces and employee perks ranging from free meals and fitness classes to flexible working conditions and employee wellness efforts. Their dedication makes Alphabet a highly desirable workplace.

Alphabet currently sits with an approximate valuation of around \$1.7 trillion and continues to

set trends within digital services.

6. Tesla Inc.

Elon Musk is widely recognized as being one of the faces of Tesla. Born in South Africa, Musk displayed an early fascination for technology and space travel, which drove him to move to America, where he co-founded PayPal before investing in Tesla.

Struggles and Achievements

It was beset with several hurdles during its history, such as funding shortages and production delays. Yet his commitment to sustainable energy led them to produce groundbreaking electric cars, which put the organization at the forefront of this emerging industry.

It employs roughly 130,000 individuals and is widely renowned for its intense yet visionary culture. Employees are encouraged to innovate while the company provides competitive salaries and benefits packages. It is an attractive place for driven individuals looking for work environments focused on sustainability and cutting-edge tech.

The company now holds an estimated valuation of more than \$800 billion, making it the world's most valuable auto company.

7. Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Warren Buffett is widely revered as one of the greatest investors ever and serves as chairman of this company. Born during the Great Depression, Buffett displayed early aptitude in business and investing. His father introduced him to stocks early on, sparking what would become an undying passion that ultimately took off over his entire lifetime.

Growth and Strategic Challenges

He turned it from a textile business into an enormous holding company through strategic acquisitions, disciplined investing strategies, and acquisitions from industries ranging from insurance to railroads.

Employee Culture and Benefits

The number of employees is over 360,000 worldwide, and it is well known for its decentralized structure. Subsidiaries operate autonomously to foster an entrepreneurial

atmosphere within their divisions. Employees receive comprehensive healthcare benefits with a strong emphasis placed on financial security.

Market Valuation

It currently stands with an estimated market capitalization of more than \$700 billion, placing it among the leading conglomerates globally.

Conclusion

The wealthiest companies are inspiring examples of human ambition, perseverance, and innovation. Their founders frequently began from humble origins but fought through hardship to stay the course towards realizing their vision - today, these corporations set standards in financial success, workplace culture, and, often, even the economy as a whole, with dedicated employees, unique workplace policies, strong market positions & global influence beyond any expectations set out by their founders' dreams of riches and legacies that stretch well past them all.