

All in the Family

Family businesses control a huge part of the economy. In fact, around one-third of all companies in the S&P 500 index are family-controlled, and many are outperforming their competitors.

Texas A&M University took a look at the S&P 500 for a

full business cycle and found that family-owned businesses beat other firms in revenue and employment growth, according to the *Small Business Review*.

A look at the top 10 (based on revenue):

Wal-Mart

1

Owned by: Walton family

Headquarters: Bentonville, Arkansas

Annual Revenues: \$421.85 billion

America has a love-hate relationship with Wal-Mart, but the company continues to grow after its inception in 1962, which coincided with the birth of discount retail as we know it today. Founder Sam Walton's son, Rob, steers the company as chairman of the board of directors.

Ford Motor Co.

2

Owned by: Ford family

Headquarters: Dearborn, Michigan

Annual Revenues: \$128.95 billion

A tough economy nearly wrecked the auto industry, among others, but through that – and the entire evolution of the automobile, really – the Ford family has retained control of a company rife with Americana. Three Fords sit on the board today.

Cargill

3

Owned by: Cargill/MacMillan families

Headquarters: Wayzata, Minnesota

Annual Revenues: \$107.88 billion

This ag industry super-giant was born as a grain storage facility in 1865. Since then, Cargill has fashioned itself the pre-eminent business in agriculture. Its current CEO, Gregory Page, is the first in company history to not be from the Cargill or MacMillan families.

Koch Industries

4

Owned by: Koch family

Headquarters: Wichita, Kansas

Annual Revenues: \$100 billion

The Kochs built a business in the early 1940s based on a new method to convert oil into gasoline. Since then, Koch has grown into an energy conglomerate with 50,000 employees.

Carlson Companies

5

Owned by: Carlson family

Headquarters: Minnetonka, Minnesota

Annual Revenues: \$38 billion

This multipurpose company started out in the 1930s with an idea to use stamps to drive customer loyalty. Since the wild success of that branding ploy, Carlson has extended its reach into the travel industry, where it now focuses the bulk of its efforts.

Comcast

6

Owned by: Roberts family

Headquarters: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Annual Revenues: \$37.94 billion

Comcast's founding family still has heavy influence, as the son of its inaugural chairman took over his father's post. It has focused on acquiring media entities to build on the colossal conglomerate.

News Corp.

7

Owned by: Murdoch family

Headquarters: New York, New York

Annual Revenues: \$33.4 billion

Family patriarch Rupert Murdoch is still at the helm of the multinational media conglomerate, which he founded in 1979. The company has come under some serious fire amid a widely reported phone-hacking scandal in the United Kingdom.

HCA Holdings

8

Owned by: Frist family

Headquarters: Nashville, Tennessee

Annual Revenues: \$31.5 billion

The hospital management company was formed in the 1960s. Since then, it has seen a meteoric rise. When the company sought to go public in 2011, it was touted as one of the biggest public offerings in a long time. Two Frists sit on the board, including former U.S. Sen. Bill Frist.

Bechtel Group

9

Owned by: Bechtel family

Headquarters: San Francisco, California

Annual Revenues: \$30.8 billion

Engineering and construction giant Bechtel Corporation helped build the Hoover Dam, asserting itself as a high-powered contractor. Riley Bechtel, the great-grandson of founder Warren Bechtel, now leads the company as CEO. His father, Stephen Bechtel, Jr., preceded him.

Mars

10

Owned by: Mars family

Headquarters: McLean, Virginia

Annual Revenues: \$30 billion

Frank C. Mars opened its earliest incarnation, a homemade candy shop that operated out of his Washington home, in 1911. After consumers went crazy for the Milky Way bar, launched in 1923, Mars hired a full-time staff. Now, the company has grown to have more than 65,000 employees worldwide.

Sources: Business Insider and Family Business Magazine