

Most Women Billionaires rooted in Family Businesses

The Forbes magazine's 2012 list of world's billionaires includes 104 women out of the 1226 billionaires in the world. The top 21 richest women in the world (two women tied at 20th place) own a combined wealth of \$248.6 billion. **20 out of these 21 women have inherited their wealth from their family businesses.** Last year the number of women in this list was 89. Growth in this number highlights the increasing presence of women at the helm of large family businesses.

Ten richest women in the list inherited their wealth from established family businesses. The list was topped by Christy Walton (net worth \$25.3 billion), widow of John Walton, co-founder of Wal-Mart Stores. Second on the list was Liliane Bettencourt (net worth \$24 billion), who inherited the French cosmetic giant L'Oreal from her father. At the third spot was Alice Walton (net worth \$23.3 billion), daughter of Sam Walton, co-founder of Wal-Mart Stores. Fourth on the list was the Australian mining magnate Georgina Rinehart (net worth \$18 billion), who inherited her mining assets from her father, Lang Hancock. Placed on the fifth position was Iris Fontbona (net worth \$17.8 billion) widow of Chilean billionaire Andronico Luksic, who controls one of the world's largest copper mining companies - Antofagasta.

Sixth richest women was Birgit Rausing of Sweden (net worth \$14 billion), who inherited the packaging giant Tetra Laval after her husband Gad Rausing's death. At the seventh spot was Jacqueline Mars (net worth \$13.8 billion), daughter of late Forrest Edwards Mars of the confectionery giant Mars. Eighth position was taken up by Susanne Klatten (net worth \$13 billion), who inherited her father Herber Quandt's stake in the German auto giant BMW. At ninth position was Anne Cox Chambers (net worth \$12.5 billion) the daughter of James Cox, the founder of media giant Cox Enterprises. At 92 years, she is the oldest women on the list. The tenth position was taken up by Savitri Jindal (net worth \$10.9 billion), widow of the late Indian magnate O. P. Jindal, having business interests from steel to power.

Gradually the number of women in the billionaire club continues to grow with each passing year. Most of them hail from business families and are taking up leadership roles in their family businesses.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/erincarlyle/2012/03/07/the-worlds-richest-women/>
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