

# Family business in North America | Facts and figures



Of the world's

# 500

largest family businesses,

# 27.8% (139)

are located in North America.

Source: Global Family Business Index,  
University of St. Gallen, Center for Family Business.

## The largest family businesses in North America

The top 10 family businesses generated approximately US\$1,298.3 billion of North America's GDP of US\$19.6 trillion in 2015 and employed more than 3.6 million people.

Rank	1	2	3	4	5
Company name	<b>Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.</b>	<b>Berkshire Hathaway, Inc.</b>	<b>Ford Motor Company</b>	<b>Cargill, Inc.</b>	<b>Koch Industries, Inc.</b>
<b>Revenues (2015) in US\$ billion</b>	485.7	199.9	149.6	120.4	100
<b>Number of employees (2015)</b>	2,200,000	361,270	199,000	153,000	100,000
Family	Walton	Buffet	Ford	Cargill	Koch
Family shareholding or voting rights (latter indicated by *)	50.90%	37.60%	40.00%*	100.00%	84.00%
Public listed company	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Country	US	US	US	US	US

Source: Global Family Business Index, University of St. Gallen, Center for Family Business.

# The top 139 family businesses in North America

**Generated** **Employ** **Realize**  
**US\$2,418.3b** **6,708,107** **US\$1,488.8b**

in revenues (12.3% of North America's GDP) | people (3.8% of North America's workforce) | of market capitalization

**Are,**  
on average,  
**81.4** years old

**33.1%**  
are public listed companies

## The top 3 industry sectors are:

**71**  
Consumer products and retail



**15**  
Media and entertainment



**11**  
Real estate, hospitality and construction



## The top 2 countries are:

**126**  
US



**13**  
Canada



Source: Global Family Business Index and Oxford Economics information; revenue and number of employee figures as of 2015; market capitalization as of 31 December 2016.

## Some interesting anniversaries

Anniversary	Company	Family	Industry	Headquarters	Country
130	The Hearst Corporation	Hearst	Mass media	New York	US
120	Gordon Food Services, Inc.	Gordon	Foodservice distributor	Grand Rapids	US
90	Marriott International, Inc.	Marriott	Hospitality	Bethesda	US
80	Southwire Company, LLC	Richards	Capital goods	Carrollton	US
75	Bombardier, Inc.	Bombardier	Aerospace and transportation	Montreal	Canada

Source: Global Family Business Index, University of St. Gallen, Center for Family Business.

6	7	8	9	10
<b>Comcast Corp</b>	<b>Dell Inc.</b>	<b>Tyson Foods Inc.</b>	<b>Mars Inc.</b>	<b>George Weston Ltd</b>
74.5	58.1	41.4	35	33.8
153,000	98,300	113,000	74,200	196,000
Roberts 33.6%*	Dell 75.00%	Tyson 71.20%	Mars 100.00%	Weston 63.00%
Yes US	Yes US	Yes US	No US	Yes Canada

Note: we define companies as family businesses when they are either public companies with a minimum shareholding or voting power of the owner family of 32%, or private companies with a minimum shareholding of the owner family of 50%. Revenue, number of employees and shareholding information as of 2015.