

**FORBES PUBLISHES 25TH ANNUAL BILLIONAIRES ISSUE OF
THE RICHEST PEOPLE ON THE PLANET
A Record 1,210 Billionaires Make The 2011 List
*Carlos Slim Helú Gains \$20.5 Billion And Tops The List Again***

New York, NY (March 9, 2011) – It was a record-breaking year in 2011, as 214 new billionaires join Forbes 25th annual ranking of the richest people on the planet. The record 1,210 billionaires have an average net worth of \$3.7 billion, up from \$3.5 billion in 2010, and a record total net worth of \$4.5 trillion. Mexico’s **Carlos Slim Helú (#1)** retains the title of richest person, with a net worth of \$74 billion, and is also the biggest gainer on the list, with a stunning \$20.5 billion increase since 2010, widening his lead over Bill Gates to \$18 billion. Ikea Founder **Ingvar Kamprad (#162)** is the year’s biggest loser, down \$17 billion to \$6 billion, dropping 151 rungs from #11 to #162.

Among the Top 20 billionaires on this year’s list, all but one saw a rise in wealth from 2010. The one exception is **Mukesh Ambani (#9)** who dropped from 4th place to 9th place on this year’s list, down \$2 billion from \$29 billion to \$27 billion. Casino magnate **Sheldon Adelson (#16)** skyrocketed back into the Top 20 from the 73rd spot in 2010; his wealth jumped \$14 billion to \$23.3 billion, up from \$9.3 billion in 2010.

For the first time in more than a decade, Asia has more billionaires (332) on the list than Europe, with 300. China and Russia have more than 100 billionaires each, with 115 and 101, respectively. And Moscow is now home to more billionaires (79) than any other city in the world. This issue’s cover story, “**The Billionaire Who Friended The Web**” (p. 74), features new Russian billionaire **Yuri Milner (#1140)**, who joins other Facebook newcomers **Sean Parker (#782)**, **Eduardo Saverin (#782)** and **Dustin Moskovitz (#420)** on this year’s list. Moskovitz is also the youngest billionaire, at age 26, by a matter of days. **Mark Zuckerberg (#52)** and **Peter Thiel (#833)** round out the “Facebook Six” on this year’s list.

The United States continues to have the most billionaires, with 413. In the U.S., **Bill Gates** retains the **#2** spot with a net worth of \$56 billion, up from \$53 billion in 2010, followed by **Warren Buffett (#3)** with a net worth of \$50 billion, also up \$3 billion from 2010. Europe’s richest person, **Bernard Arnault**, moved into the **#4** spot with \$41 billion, up \$13.5 billion in the past twelve months. The Top Ten have a combined net worth of \$406 billion, up from \$342 billion in 2010:

RANK	NAME	NET WORTH	UP/DOWN FROM 2010	ORIGIN OF WEALTH	COUNTRY (By Citizenship)
1	Carlos Slim Helú	\$74 billion	Up	Telecom	Mexico
2	Bill Gates	\$56 billion	Up	Microsoft	United States
3	Warren Buffett	\$50 billion	Up	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
4	Bernard Arnault	\$41 billion	Up	LVMH	France
5	Larry Ellison	\$39.5 billion	Up	Oracle	United States
6	Lakshmi Mittal	\$31.1 billion	Up	Steel	India
7	Amancio Ortega	\$ 31 billion	Up	Zara	Spain
8	Eike Batista	\$ 30 billion	Up	Mining, oil	Brazil
9	Mukesh Ambani	\$ 27 billion	Down	Petrochemicals, oil & gas	India
10	Christy Walton	\$26.5 billion	Up	Wal-Mart	United States

For the full list, extended profiles, special features and more, visit www.forbes.com/billionaires after 6 p.m. EST on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. Contact: Debbie Weathers, dweathers@forbes.com or 212.366.8848.