



THE FORBES GLOBAL 2000 RANKING OF THE BIGGEST COMPANIES PLUS: FINDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WORLD'S MEGACITIES

New York, NY (April 20, 2011) — The Forbes Global 2000 (**The World's Biggest Companies, p. 80**) are the biggest, most powerful companies in the world. Optimism is back in the boardrooms – this is the first year since 2008 that Forbes' annual ranking showed gains in each of the indicators we look at: sales, profits, assets and market value. In total, the Global 2000 companies now account for \$32 trillion in sales, \$2.4 trillion in profits, \$138 trillion in assets and \$38 trillion in market value. The top five companies on the Global 2000:

1. JPMorgan Chase, United States - Banking
2. HSBC Holdings, United Kingdom - Banking
3. General Electric, United States - Conglomerates
4. ExxonMobil, United States – Oil & Gas Operations
5. Royal Dutch Shell, Netherlands – Oil & Gas Operations

Related features in the May 9 issue of *Forbes* include:

- **STATS – WHO DID THE BEST (p. 83)** – Wal-Mart Stores (No. 18 overall) is again tops in sales; Nestlé (No. 26 overall) is tops in profits; Fannie Mae (No. 790 overall) leads in assets and ExxonMobil (No. 4 overall) has the highest market value. Plus, fastest growth by industry and other stats.
- **URBAN OUTFITTER (p. 90)** – Siemens (No. 45) sees big growth in cities where people are flocking in huge numbers. Already 51% of the world's 6.9 billion people (3.5 billion) live in cities; by 2050 demographers think it will be 70%, or 6.2 billion people. Nearly all of that growth will be in emerging markets like Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- **SLUMDOG MILLIONS (p. 100)** – There are 21 megacities with 10 million people or more. By 2025 there will be 29. A map.
- **NEW LANDS OF OPPORTUNITY (p. 102)** – Urban slums are a better bet than keeping people in rural poverty.
- **MEGASLUMS: SALVATION OR SINKHOLE? (p. 114)** – A Forbes.com roundtable discussion among staff, contributors and readers.

The issue also features companies including Intel, BMW, Mahindra & Mahindra (India's leading maker of tractors and SUVs) and JBS S.A. of Brazil, the world's largest meat producer. Plus, stats by region for:

- **THE U.S. (p. 138)** – U.S. firms had their best year since 2007 by tapping foreign markets.
- **THE AMERICAS (p. 167)** – Canada is humming. So are the mines and banks in Brazil.
- **ASIA-PACIFIC (p. 154)** – Japan and South Korea show impressive gains in profits and assets.
- **EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA (p. 133)** – European firms imported their way out of the credit crisis.

For the complete Global 2000 with sortable tables and new data-rich company profiles, go to www.forbes.com/global2000 after 6:00 p.m. ET on April 20.

Contact: Debbie Weathers at dweathers@forbes.com or (212) 366-8848