

Tech's 'Fearsome Five' dominate the BrandZ™ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands 2017

EMBARGO 00:01 BST 6 June 2017 – London, UK – The technology giants **Google, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon and Facebook** take the Top 5 places in the 2017 BrandZ™ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands ranking released today by [WPP](#) and [Kantar Millward Brown](#).

Amazon achieved the highest dollar value growth of all brands in the Top 100 ranking, increasing by \$40.3 billion (+41%) to \$139.3bn to take the no. 4 position. The retail giant has continued to focus on its technology ecosystem honed to meet multiple consumer needs such as online shopping, rapid delivery and entertainment, as well as introducing new artificial intelligence-enabled services including grocery delivery and personal assistant Alexa.

Google, Apple and Microsoft retain the top three positions, growing their brand value +7% to \$245.6bn, +3% to \$234.7bn and +18% to \$143.2bn respectively over the past year, while **Facebook**, at no. 5, grew +27% to \$129.8bn. 25% of the total value of the BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands is made up of the combined brand value of the Top 5, emphasising their dominant positions in the modern business landscape.

David Roth, CEO EMEA and Asia, The Store WPP, says: “This year’s BrandZ global top 100 continues to demonstrate that strong brands deliver superior shareholder value and returns regardless of disruptive external climates. Dubbed the ‘The Frightful Five’ by some, the tech giants that head the rankings are more like the ‘Fearsome Five’ to their competitors, given their huge brand power and a seemingly unassailable market position.”

Other highlights in this year’s ranking include Chinese brand **Tencent** (no.8), which saw increased use of its social platform WeChat and entered the Top 10 for the first time, with a brand value increase of +27% to \$108.3bn. **Adidas** was the **fastest riser** by percentage growth (+58%, \$8.3bn), followed by Chinese premium alcohol brand Moutai (+48%, \$17bn).

As the largest and definitive brand-building platform in the world, BrandZ reflects the brands that are integrated into today’s consumer lifestyles. It is the only brand valuation study to combine interviews with over three million consumers globally with analysis of the financial and business performance of each company (using data from Bloomberg and Kantar Worldpanel).

This year, the **total brand value of the Top 100 brands** has risen +8% to \$3.64 trillion, compared with +3% in 2016, while the number of brands worth more than \$100bn has increased from six to nine. The total brand value of the ranking is up +152% from 2006 (its first year), as its composition has shifted towards innovative, consumer-focused technology brands with huge reach and brand-building power. The BrandZ Top 10 in 2017 are worth almost as much as the entire Top 100 in 2006 (\$1.42tn vs \$1.44tn), and have grown +249% in value, compared with +152% for the Top 100 as a whole.

The value of the BrandZ Top 100 Global Brands confirms that **strong brands continue to outperform their competitors**. Compared against key benchmarks over the past 12 years, the portfolio of BrandZ Top 100 brands grew 50% more in value than the S&P 500 and 3.5 times the MSCI All Country World Index.

The 2017 ranking shows that the balance of power has truly tipped towards the consumer-focused **technology brands** that develop ecosystems that cater to many needs, simplifying an increasingly complex world. More than half of the Top 100's total brand value is contributed by technology-related brands (a definition that includes telecoms and online retailers), up from a third in 2006, and these have grown +16% in the last year compared with +4% for non-tech brands.

Nine of the Top 10 are technology-related brands, as are all seven of the **newcomers** to the Top 100 in 2017: **XFINITY, YouTube, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Salesforce, Netflix, Snapchat and Sprint**.

Retail was the fastest rising category, increasing +14% in value over the last 12 months, driven by ecommerce brands such as Amazon and Alibaba which, like many native internet companies, continued to add physical stores to their sales channels. Overall the value growth of pure online retailers has increased +388% since 2006, while traditional retailers dropped -23% as they took longer to adapt their offering to include online. The **technology** category grew +13%, while **fast food** was this year's third highest growing category (+7%), as the leading brands introduced fresh food and value menus as well as customer touchpoints innovations that enhance the brand experience.

The BrandZ Top 10 Most Valuable Global Brands 2017

Rank 2017	Brand	Category	Brand value 2017 (\$M)	Brand value change	Rank 2016
1	Google	Technology	245,581	+7%	1
2	Apple	Technology	234,671	+3%	2
3	Microsoft	Technology	143,222	+18%	3
4	Amazon	Retail	139,286	+41%	7
5	Facebook	Technology	129,800	+27%	5
6	AT&T	Telecom providers	115,112	+7%	4
7	Visa	Payments	110,999	+10%	6
8	Tencent	Technology	108,292	+27%	11
9	IBM	Technology	102,088	+18%	10
10	McDonald's	Fast food	97,723	+10%	9

In terms of **regions**, US brands dominate the ranking, with 54 brands in the BrandZ Top 100, worth 71% of the total brand value. In the last year these brands have grown +12% compared with an overall -1% decline for brands with origins in the rest of the world except China where overall brand growth, excluding state-owned enterprises, was +11%.

The top 20 **B2B brands** increased their value by 11%. Microsoft remains at no. 1 growing +10% to \$143.2bn, while Shell is the fastest B2B riser, increasing +23% to \$18.3bn. The ranking also shows that as the digital world creates overlap between business and consumer

environments, the border between B2B and B2C is disappearing, creating B2H (Business to Human) brands.

Key trends highlighted in this year's BrandZ Global Top 100 study include:

- **Consumer-centric technology ecosystems are making brands indispensable.** Consumers can increasingly carry out a variety of activities, from online shopping to watching television, under the banner of one brand and across multiple devices. This convenience for consumers also allows the most powerful brands to minimise the risk of consumer switching.
- **New brands are increasingly born global, allowing them to grow rapidly.** Technology allows businesses to provide their offerings globally from day one. This is fostering a new breed of entrepreneur, who is not restricted by the geographical or sector boundaries that have traditionally limited the speed and scale of growth.
- **Traditional non-tech brands are adopting technology to innovate and increase consumer appeal.** Fastest riser Adidas has introduced 3D printing to produce its footwear, for example, while fast food brand Domino's Pizza offers customers a real-time tracker for their order.
- **The BrandZ Top 100 is getting younger.** The average age of a brand is now 67 years, compared with 84 years in 2006, reflecting the entry of the newer technology brands and the emergence of brand China.
- **Brands that make it clear how they will make consumers' lives better,** such as Huawei and Toyota, have grown three times more on average over the last 12 years (the top third grew +170% compared to the bottom third which was +57%).
- **Great communications puts a brand at an advantage.** The top third in terms of strongest communications (including McDonald's and L'Oréal Paris) have grown 196% in value, compared with 47% for the bottom third. This is because they have successfully amplified the difference they have built.

Doreen Wang, Kantar Millward Brown's Global Head of BrandZ, comments: "This is the era of internet giants that have developed ever-growing ecosystems that touch and connect consumers, with the overall aim of making life easier, simpler and better. Technology with the consumer at its centre has redefined our expectations, and we now take for granted that products, services, tools and content are immediately available at our fingertips. These brands also demonstrate great elasticity – they confidently and comfortably play in new territories and new categories to develop and expand their customer bases."

The BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands report and rankings, and a great deal more brand insight for key regions of the world and 14 market sectors, are available online [here](#). The Global report, rankings, charts, articles and more can also be found via the BrandZ app. The BrandZ app also contains the same features and functionality for all BrandZ regional reports and is free to download for Apple IOS and all Android devices from www.brandz.com/mobile or search for BrandZ in the respective iTunes or Google Play app stores.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the BrandZ™ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands Ranking

Carried out by WPP's marketing and brand consultancy Kantar Millward Brown, the *BrandZ™ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands* ranking is now in its twelfth year. It is the only study to combine measures of brand equity based on interviews with over three million consumers globally about thousands of global 'consumer facing' and business-to-business brands with a rigorous analysis of the financial and business performance of each company (using data from Bloomberg and Kantar Worldpanel) to separate the value that brand plays in driving business and shareholder value. Consumer perception of a brand is a key input in determining brand value because brands are a combination of business performance, product delivery, clarity of positioning, and leadership. The ranking takes into account regional variations since, even for truly global brands, measures of brand contribution might differ substantially across countries.

About Kantar Millward Brown

Kantar Millward Brown is a leading global research agency specialising in advertising effectiveness, strategic communication, media and digital, and brand equity research. The company helps clients grow great brands through comprehensive research-based qualitative and quantitative solutions. Kantar Millward Brown operates in more than 55 countries and is part of WPP's Kantar group, one of the world's leading data, insight and consultancy companies. Learn more at www.millwardbrown.com.

About WPP

WPP is the world's largest communications services group with billings of US\$74 billion and revenues of over US\$19 billion. Through its operating companies, the Group provides a comprehensive range of advertising and marketing services including advertising & media investment management; data investment management; public relations & public affairs; branding & identity; healthcare communications; digital, eCommerce and shopper marketing and specialist communications. The company employs over 205,000 people (including associates and investments) in over 3,000 offices across 112 countries. For more information, visit www.wpp.com.

WPP was named Holding Company of the Year at the 2016 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity for the sixth year running. WPP was also named, for the sixth consecutive year, the World's Most Effective Holding Company in the 2017 Effie Effectiveness Index, which recognizes the effectiveness of marketing communications. In 2017 WPP was recognised by Warc 100 as the World's Top Holding Company (third year running).

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