Press Release

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**Market capital global Top 100: US companies emerge as clear winners post- financial crisis**

The most valuable publicly listed companies are from the technology, consumer services or the health care sectors- and they are mostly US companies. After the financial crisis, there are now 43 US companies in the top 100, up from 35 in 2008, PwC has found. In terms of increases, technology (c35%) and consumer services (almost 400%) are the most improved sectors by market capitalisation in the top 100.

Companies from the Eurozone have proved to be the biggest fallers in this analysis with only 14 companies now in the top 100 compared with 26 in 2008.

From a level of $13.5 trillion dollars in 2008, the financial crisis wiped off more than $5 trillion by 2009. Market capitalisation values have taken four years to recover and top pre-crisis levels, PwC has found. From a low of $8.4 trillion in 2009, the world’s 100 biggest companies now have a combined market capitalisation of $13.6 trillion.

In its latest report, PwC ranked the top 100 global companies by market capitalisation and compared the movements from March 2008 annually to March 2013. After identifying the biggest rises and falls, the report also examines country and sector dynamics and analyses how the global landscape has changed.

The top five risers added a collective $ 701 billion in market capitalisation in just five years. Technology giants dominated the ranks of the best performers – Apple increased by $290 billion alone over the period and Google $125 billion.

However the top five fallers saw their market cap drop by a collective $737 billion. Oil and gas and energy companies took four of the five losing spots.

Clifford Tompsett, capital markets partner, PwC said:

“The US is dominating the ranking, but what is truly remarkable is the ability of the US to create new trailblazers. 15 years ago companies like Apple and Google had either just been founded or were not recognised as having that potential.

“Today these companies rank first and third in the list of the 100 most valuable global companies. US companies in growth sectors like Health Care and Consumer Services are similarly successful. These companies are capable of setting and recognising new trends and – most importantly – creating business models that make these developments pay on a global scale. With this innovative drive, other regions and countries will have their work cut out to compete with the US on the same level.”

Eurozone companies have been worst hit by falls in market capitalisation. Of the 26 companies present in the top 100 in 2008, only 8 now remain in 2013. With only 6 new entrants, the Eurozone has only 14 companies in the top 100. Of the movement from 2008 to 2013, the net losses were from Germany (5), France (5), Spain (3) , Italy (2) and one each from Netherlands, Finland and Luxembourg. This also partly reflects the fall in the value of the Euro against the dollar.

Despite the size and significant growth in the Chinese economy, Chinese/Hong Kong companies did not feature as highly as perhaps expected. There are just 9 companies from China/Hong Kong in the Top 100, and there was no real upward trend since 2008 (then 8). The nine companies represented on the list in 2013 are mostly from the Banking, Insurance and Energy sectors. These companies are of huge local and regional significance but have yet to expand globally.

Raman Chitkara, PwC’s Leader of the Global Technology Practice, concluded:

“Apple is not the only leading technology company in our ranking. Google moving from 36 to 3 in the list, and IBM moving from 27 to 9 in the list show a similar positive development. Constant innovation and the growing impact of technology in our day to day lives is the principal driver for the overall success of technology companies. The growth and success of these companies is global and is not limited to their home markets alone.

“Increased global footprint from existing brands like WalMart and McDonald's and the disruptions caused by new e-commerce players like Amazon and ebay accessing purchasers in new and innovative ways has helped drive massive growth.”

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**Notes**

**1.** PwC’s IPO centre brings together our global expertise ensuring that as one firm we provide companies with the right mix of sector and IPO expertise combined with relevant local and international market knowledge. Through the IPO centre we are able to connect companies with the right PwC capital market specialists, take them through the flotation process and prepare them for life as a public company, regardless of the market they choose to list on.

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