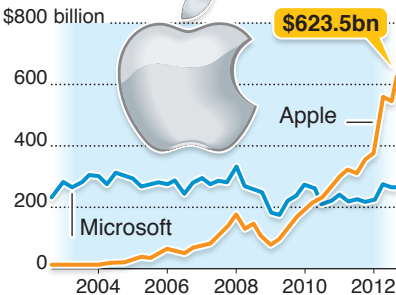


Apple: Most valuable firm

Rumours of an imminent *iPhone 5* release have propelled Apple's valuation to \$623.5 billion, making it the most valuable company in history by market capitalisation

MARKET CAP



TOP MARKET CAP COMPANIES

Company	Market cap, \$bn
Apple Inc.	623.52
Exxon Mobil Corp.	405.97
Microsoft Corp.	257.71
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	244.63
IBM Corp.	229.13

\$623 billion: More than GDP of Switzerland, Venezuela or Saudi Arabia

Figures as of market close Aug 20, 2012

Source: Wire agencies

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