

Two Wisconsin Business Owners Are Among The Wealthiest People In The World

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Menard's owner John Menard of Eau Claire, and ABC Supply owner Diane Hendricks of Beloit, are high on the list of the Forbes 400 ranking of America's richest people. But they aren't the only Wisconsinites on the list.

Menard, long the state's wealthiest person, has his net worth pegged by Forbes at \$22.9 billion. But Hendricks' wealth, according to Forbes, has gone up dramatically in the past twelve months and she has almost caught Menard. Hendricks' worth is listed at \$21.9 billion. Menard is ranked the 37th wealthiest American and Hendricks 38th. All of the valuations are estimates and in the cases of all the Wisconsinites on the list, those estimates are guesses. That's because all of them own privately held companies that do not trade on the stock market. It's easy to guess the wealth of individuals whose companies are public because all you have to do is multiply their shares by the price of the stock. With privately held companies, Forbes is forced to estimate how much the businesses would go for if sold, or taken public.

Richard and Liz Uihlein, owners of Kenosha's rapidly growing Uline Corporation, have a combined net worth of \$12 billion which would rank them number 74 in the country. However, as the Uihleins jointly own the company, they are listed separately with both at \$6 billion. Next wealthiest Badger is Judy Faulkner, owner of Verona's Epic Systems. She's 7.7 billion, good for 154th.

The three Johnson siblings who own Racine's S.C. Johnson and affiliated Johnson companies have a combined \$14.2 billion net worth. Ranked individually, Helen Johnson-Leipold is worth \$4.8 billion. Brother Fisk is at \$4.7 billion and the other brother Curt, who has been kicked out of the family business because of personal scandal and a criminal investigation, is also at \$4.7 (he hasn't sold his interest). Curt Johnson no longer lives in Wisconsin.

If you're wondering about any of our sports team owners, the only one to crack the top 400 is Bucks co-owner Jimmy Haslam at \$8.5 billion. That's good for number 130.

The wealthiest American is Elon Musk at \$244 billion and growing as Tesla's stock is roaring forward the past few weeks in anticipation of the unveiling of the "Robotaxi." Amazon's Jeff Bezos is second at \$197 billion and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg third at \$181 billion.

This list is separate from the global Forbes 400 which includes non-Americans.

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