

Behind the data:

Ranking the World's Most Impactful Companies of 2026

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How TIME and Statista Determined the World's Most Impactful Companies of 2026

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by TIME Staff

MAY 12, 2026 4:06 PM EET

Illustration by TIME. Source image Phototchno—Getty Images

TIME				
TIME World's Most Impactful Companies 2026				
Search in table				Page 1 of 5 >
Rank	Company	Headquarters	Industry	Score
1	Moderna	United States	Chemicals, Drugs & Biotechnology	100.00
2	Bavarian Nordic	Denmark	Chemicals, Drugs & Biotechnology	96.99
3	Zhifei	China	Chemicals, Drugs & Biotechnology	93.17
4	Gilead	United States	Chemicals, Drugs & Biotechnology	90.52
5	Sunrun	United States	Utilities & Environmental Services	89.87
6	Tesla	United States	Automotive Industry & Suppliers	89.69
7	Sungrow	China	Engineering, Manufacturing & Medical Technology	88.62
8	GSK	United Kingdom	Chemicals, Drugs & Biotechnology	88.42
9	CHS Community Health Systems	United States	Healthcare, Social & Education Services	88.38
10	Verbund	Austria	Utilities & Environmental Services	87.94

Speakers today



Annu Nieminen
Founder & CEO
Upright



Niels Terfehr
VP Research & Analysis
Statista



Emma Barker Bonomo
Senior Editorial Director
TIME



Markus Weckman
CCO
Upright



Pauliina Bogdanoff
VP, Marketing & Comms
Upright

Housekeeping

- The Q&A is open for discussion and questions
- Webinar recording and slides will be shared via email after the webinar

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Deep dive: The net impact methodology
3. Findings: What the data showed
4. Fireside: The new bar for companies
5. Next steps

On-going: Q&A

Used by 300+

companies, financial institutions & advisors

In partnership with leading research institutions



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What does *Upright* do?



Gaps in traditional ESG data

- 1. Focus on “how” – not what**
 - 2. Dependent on companies’ reporting muscles**
 - 3. Not capturing value created**
- 

The challenge Upright set out to solve

Upright's challenge: produce high-quality science-dictated¹ data on the largest² positive and negative³ impacts of companies' core business⁴ on the surrounding world⁵ so that the output is comparable⁶, scalable⁷, not dependent on companies' reporting muscles⁸ — and distributed as open data⁹.

Core business⁴:

Focus should be on the core business: products and services. Not compliance or ways of working. The products' impact should be analysed throughout their entire value chains and across all impact categories.

How?

- Basic idea: map best available scientific knowledge against granular product-level information about what companies do

What does the data uncover?

- A company doing “slightly less harm” may never reach net positive value creation
- A company that reports diligently on its sustainability is not necessarily sustainable
- Industry does not dictate impact
- A company that doesn't even track any of its sustainability may have a healthier value creation profile than most

ESG +19%

Kellogg's S&P 500 ESG -44%

Telefónica MSCI World Index +40%

Hewlett Packard S&P 500 ESG +19%

Exxon Mobil S&P 500 ESG -95%

Schindler MSCI World Index +8%

Visa S&P 500 ESG +22%

Siemens MSCI World Index +51%

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[Most successful unicorns](#)
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Company	Industry	Revenue (M\$) ▾	Largest cost ⓘ	Largest benefit ⓘ	Net impact ratio ⓘ
Walmart	Retail	600,112	GHG emissions 58.5M tons of GHG emissions	Taxes 324M days of primary education	-7% 28th percentile
Amazon	Retail	502,191	Scarce human capital 290k scarce worker years	Taxes 358M days of primary education	+4% 34th percentile
Apple	Consumer Product Man...	394,328	Scarce human capital 257k scarce worker years	Taxes 340M days of primary education	+19% 45th percentile
Exxon Mobil	Energy and Environmental	386,816	GHG emissions 132M tons of GHG emissions	Societal infrastructure 1.31bn long-haul train rides	-95% 8th percentile
UnitedHealth	Insurance	324,162	Scarce human capital 285k scarce worker years	Physical diseases 1.25M life years	+49% 79th percentile



Upright in brief: The AI engine for impact, risk and opportunity intelligence

Focus today

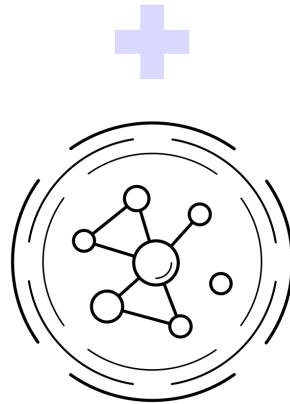
Impact Intelligence

- Holistic, science-based view of a company's positive and negative impacts on the surrounding world — backed by science, not narratives
- Benchmarking against 70,000+ companies and 43,000+ funds in Upright's database



Financial Effects Intelligence

- Science-based quantification of sustainability-related risks and opportunities
- Translation to monetized P&L, balance sheet and cash flow effects across time horizons



Double Materiality Intelligence

- ESRS-aligned double materiality assessment (DMA) produced and continuously updated by science-based data engine
- Integration of internal insights and stakeholder perspectives into the results



Climate Risk Intelligence

- Site-level assessment of physical climate risks, and climate-related transition risks and opportunities
- Scenario analysis across low-, medium- and high-warming scenarios across time horizons

Upright's science-based data engine quantifies the impact of companies' products and services across value chains

The Upright model logic summarized



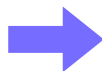
1. An unprecedented value chain simulation of the global private sector



A graph of all products and services traded in global markets (split into 150,000+ categories) + value chain relations + market sizings + product family relations



2. A science-based, comparable impact modeling for all products in the graph



Impact profiles for all products and services based on data derived from 300+ million scientific articles and complementing databases

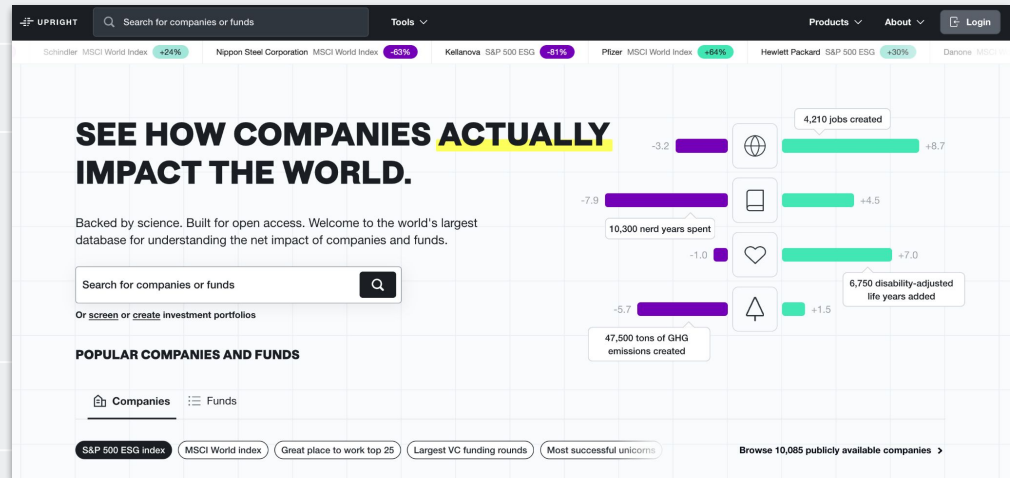


3. A mapping of companies to the product graph (and companies to funds)



Impact quantifications for companies and funds (currently 70,000+ companies and 43,000+ funds)

Let's take a look at live data on the Upright Platform



**How Statista
leverages Upright's
model in *The World's
Most Impactful
Companies of 2026***



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Overview: themes strongly visible on the Most Impactful Companies of 2026 list

Criticality: Society breaks without these companies

- If their products and services suddenly disappeared, basic societal functions — clean water, electricity, transportation, healthcare — would face serious disruption within days

Innovation: Solving some critical problems of our time

- These companies don't just deliver existing solutions — they develop new technologies and business models that fundamentally change how high-burden problems can be addressed

Scale: The bigger the reach, the bigger the impact

- When a company tackles a high-impact problem and extends its solution to millions of people, the absolute positive contribution to the world compounds

Findings and examples from the list

Finding	Examples from the list
Many “unsexy” companies not associated with “impact” are crucial to societal infrastructure and keeping things running	Sabesp supplies clean water and treats sewage for tens of millions across São Paulo, while Metawater builds and runs the plants that turn raw water into drinking water across Japan.
Industry does not equal impact – for example, not every health/pharma company is net positive	Moderna developed an mRNA platform that produces new vaccines faster than traditional pharma, while Chongqing Zhifei delivers vaccines for cervical cancer, tuberculosis, and pneumonia to thousands of clinics across China.
Commonly forgotten on top impact lists: companies contributing to knowledge creation and distribution	Duolingo uses gamification to build daily learning habits across languages, math, and music, while Coursera bridges the “skills gap” by direct access to credentials and certifications.
Share of “well-known brands” is smaller than on traditional sustainability rankings	Advanced Drainage Systems makes the underground pipes that manage stormwater and wastewater across the US, while CNGR Advanced Material supplies the chemical precursors used in lithium-ion EV batteries.

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How to move forward?

Learn about the data

Explore Upright's data and use cases for corporates, investors, and advisors

→ [Book a demo](#) to see how Upright's science-based impact, risk, and opportunity data can support your sustainability work.

See the list

Check the ranking and the interview in TIME

→ **Browse the full list of the 500 Most Impactful Companies of 2026 and read the launch interview with Upright's Founder & CEO, Annu Nieminen.**

Use the recognition

Featured on the list? Get in touch with Statista

→ **Companies on the list can explore with Statista how to make use of this recognition.**

Thank you!

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