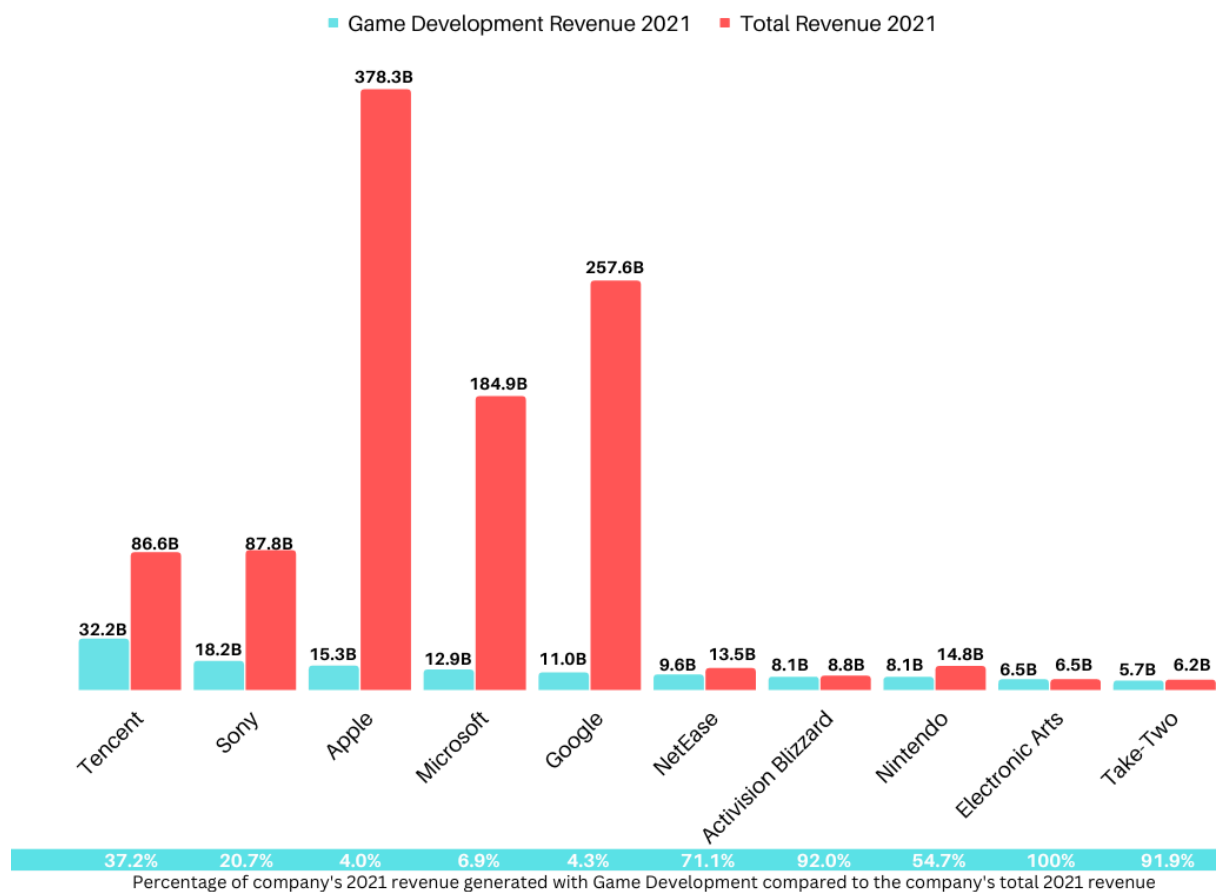


TOP GAME DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES

We will cover the [top game development companies that generated the most revenue](#) with game development in 2021. With 2022 still missing the Q4 numbers, we still cannot make an accurate list for 2022 without making too many assumptions. While some projections are already in place, we will wait until we have the final numbers to update this list with accurate data.

Let's dive in!



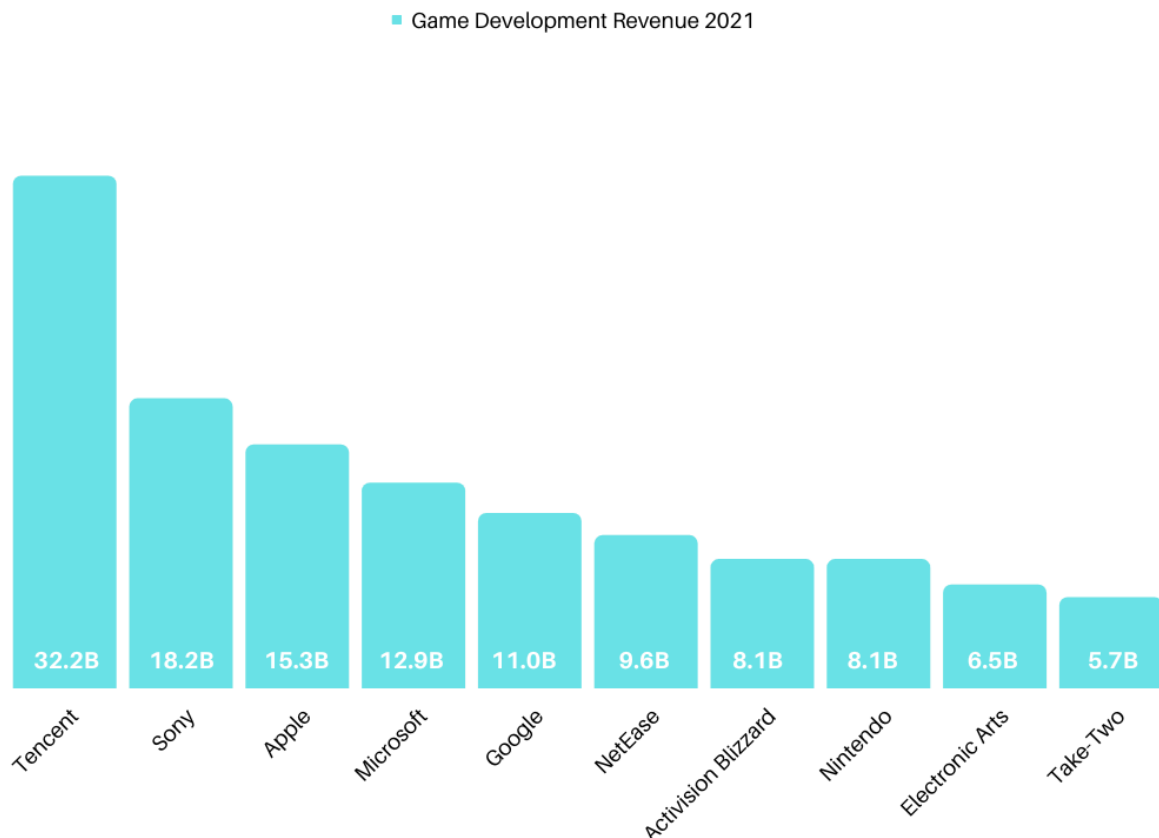
Revenue is displayed in USD (\$).

Because most of the companies in this list do not generate revenue solely via game development services, we decided to point out the **total revenue for 2021 in red** and their **total revenue in 2021 generated through game**

[development](#). We have also noted how significant game development generated revenue is compared to the total revenue for each company in this list.

It is no surprise to see names such as Tencent, Sony, Activision Blizzard, Nintendo, and EA on this list, as they have been staples of the gaming industry for a long time. Tech giants such as Apple, Microsoft, and Google are also in the [top 10 companies that generate the highest revenue in 2021 with game development](#), even though most of their earnings come from different sources. Microsoft probably being the closest one with its very popular Xbox console and its acquisition of the ultra-popular game Minecraft.

To have a clearer view of the game-development aspect of the 10 companies, we've made another graph that is more representative of the topic:



Revenue is displayed in USD (\$)

Even though Microsoft announced the purchase of the top game development company studio Activision Blizzard in early 2022, the deal is yet to be finalized by mid-2023. With Microsoft absorbing Activision Blizzard, it would sit at the 2nd place between Tencent and Sony with \$21.0B. It would then make room on

the top 10 list for one more – and Sea Limited, formerly known as Garena, would fill the number 10 spot.

Sea Limited was kicked off the top 10 when Take-Two Interactive bought Zynga. The deal wasn't technically finalized until January 10th, 2022, but we decided to count anyway because it already happened while Microsoft was still up in the air.

Let's take a deeper dive into each of the top 10 gaming studios.

1. **Tencent** (TCEHY)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$86.6B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$32.2B**

Country: **China**

Year Founded: **1998**

Official Website: <https://www.tencent.com/>

Tencent

Tencent Holdings Ltd., the Chinese technology firm, offers instant messaging, social networking, online media, Internet value-added services, massively multiplayer online gaming, online retail, and Internet marketing. It is the business that developed both WeChat and QQ.

Pokémon Unite, League of Legends, and Fortnite –are some of the most popular games in the world. And behind them stands Tencent, a Chinese game development company you've probably never heard of offering game development services. And yet, in the game development industry, they firmly stand at the top spot. Even when Microsoft finalizes its deal to purchase Activision Blizzard – Microsoft will still be more than 10 billion dollars short of dethroning Tencent. Tencent, through Epic Games, also owns the Unreal Game engine, which is responsible for many games being developed today.

2. **Sony** (SONY)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$87.8B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$18.2B**

Country: **Japan**

Year Founded: **1946**

Official Website: <https://www.sony.com/>

SONY

Sony Group Corporation of Japan owns video game and digital entertainment powerhouse Sony Interactive Entertainment.

Sony is most known in the game development industry for its Sony PlayStation console. It is also either directly or through ownership responsible for globally popular game titles such as God of War, Gran Turismo, Uncharted, The Last of Us, Demon Souls, Marvel's Spider-Man, and Death Stranding, and we're going to stop here because if we continue, we might take up the whole article. By owning many prominent game studios, Sony, with its game development service, ensured that only the best games were released to accompany their console. Sony is a well-established brand worldwide, and it is definitely one of the top game development companies in the world.

3. **Apple** (AAPL)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$378.3B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$15.3B**

Country: **USA**

Year Founded: **1976**

Official Website: <https://www.apple.com/>



Apple Inc. is a multinational corporation headquartered in Cupertino, California, United States. The firm designs, manufactures, and distributes a wide variety of electronic devices, including personal computers, mobile phones, tablets, and music players. Apple also has online stores where customers may purchase media and applications.

When you hear Apple, you are probably thinking of the iPhone. And therefore, there is such a massive difference in total revenue and revenue generated via games. For you, gaming probably looks like a PC or a game console – for Apple, it is the iPhone. [Mobile gaming was a \\$98.22B industry in 2021](#), and with forecasts for 2022, it is steadily growing. Apple capitalized on this opportunity by taking a 30% cut from all App Store purchases and focusing on game development services. And by partnering up with a dozen game development studios, Apple is now officially, among other things, a top game development company. Judging by the numbers, it is also one of the best game development companies currently on the market.

4. **Microsoft** (MSFT)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$184.9B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$12.9B**

Country: **USA**

Year Founded: **1975**

Official Website: <https://www.microsoft.com/>



Microsoft, the American software giant, is responsible for creating and distributing Bing, cloud-based services, and the Windows OS, among other products and services.

Mojang Studios (Minecraft) and Bethesda (Elder Scrolls, Fallout, etc.) are already legendary game development studios that produced games that almost everyone has either played or at least heard of. Microsoft owns both, and another legend Activision Blizzard is on its way with a planned completion of the merger in mid-2023. And they have their eyes also set on purchasing Electronic Arts. All studios that defined the last two decades. Microsoft is responsible for the birth of the Xbox – the biggest competitor to the PlayStation from Sony. With Microsoft's game development sector taking up only about 7% of its total value, only time will tell how Microsoft will continue developing as a game studio.

5. **Google** (GOOG)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$257.6B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$11.0B**

Country: **USA**

Year Founded: **1998**

Official Website: <https://www.google.com/>



Alphabet Inc., former Google LLC, is still a subsidiary of a publicly traded US holding corporation. Mountain View, in Silicon Valley, is home to the company's headquarters. Sundar Pichai is the CEO of the firm. According to Forbes Global 2000, Alphabet Inc. is the seventeenth biggest company in the world, with revenues of \$137 billion, a profit of \$30.7 billion, and a market value of \$863.2 billion (as of 4th November 2019). In early 2018, the firm's market valuation was \$766.4 billion. Alphabet's yearly revenue in 2019 was \$161.9 billion, and the company had a profit of \$34.3 billion.

Google is most well-known for developing the world's most popular search engine. Regarding game development, it has fierce competition with Apple. Google uses its Google Store to profit from Android-run mobile phones. Like Apple, Google quickly realized the massive potential mobile gaming would have in the future and started investing carefully. Google's game development service sector currently only enjoys a little over 4% of its total revenue, but that number is predicted to grow.

6. **NetEase** (NTES)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$13.59B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$9.6B**

Country: **China**

Year Founded: **1997**

Official Website: <https://www.neteasegames.com/>



NetEase was launched by Chinese entrepreneur Ding Lei in June 1997, and the company benefited greatly from early adoption of search engine technology, which allowed for quick expansion. In 2012, NetEase.com, Inc. became just NetEase, Inc. in English.

NetEase is also one of the best game development companies that recognize the mobile gaming industry's potential. More than 70% of its total revenue is generated because of games. If you are into mobile gaming, you might recognize high graphic titles like Life After, Knives Out, Lost Light, Mission Zero, Marvel Super War, or Harry Potter Magic Awakened.

7. **Activision Blizzard** (ATVI)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$8.8B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$8.1B**

Country: **USA**

Year Founded: **2008**

Official Website: <https://www.activisionblizzard.com/>



Activision Blizzard, the American computer and video game developer and publisher is headquartered in Santa Monica. Activision and Vivendi Universal Games amalgamated to form the firm. When it comes to sales, the corporation in the computer and video game industry is unrivaled.

If you are a gamer, you know of both Activision and Blizzard. Activision was founded back in 1979, while Blizzard came in 1991. Both top game development companies remained relevant for decades and were pioneers and leaders in the industry. Now, Activision Blizzard, this company has some legendary genre-defining games under its name, such as Diablo, World of Warcraft, StarCraft, Overwatch, Destiny, Rome: Total War, Guitar Hero, and of course, Call of Duty and Battlezone. Even if Activision Blizzard is not the finest or most prestigious game developer due to recent developments, it does have the most name recognition. Only a few people will argue this.

8. **Nintendo** (7974.T)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$14.8B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$8.1B**

Country: **Japan**

Year Founded: **1889**

Official Website: <https://www.nintendo.com/>



Nintendo Co. is a video game developer, publisher, and distributor located in Kyoto, Japan. The company creates both video games and hardware for playing them. Invented by Fusajiro Yamauchi, a skilled artisan, Nintendo was once known as Nintendo Karuta and created traditional hanafuda playing cards.

Nintendo is not only one of the best game development companies on this list, but it is also probably the oldest and most well-known. It is known for publishing now immortalized game titles, now franchises, and industry-defining consoles. If you don't know who Super Mario is, you might be living under a rock. Super Mario, Legend of Zelda, Kirby, Donkey Kong, Animal Crossing, Pokémon, Metroid, Splatoon, Xenoblade, Fire Emblem, and Persona are only some of the many epic games that Nintendo has given us. As for consoles, the legendary Nintendo Entertainment System, or NES for short, followed by the Gameboy, SNES, Nintendo Wii, and now the super popular Nintendo Switch. Nintendo truly is a gem on this list.

9. **Electronic Arts** (EA)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$6.5B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$6.5B**

Country: **USA**

Year Founded: **1982**

Official Website: <https://www.ea.com/>



Electronic Arts Inc. is unrivaled when it comes to online gaming and entertainment. EA creates and distributes games, content, and online services for PCs, mobile devices, and consoles that can connect to the Internet. Over 450 million people across the globe are registered to play EA games.

“EA sports, to the game.” If you’ve played any soccer game (or football for non-US people), you’ve heard of the FIFA video games. Other well-known titles include The Sims, Need for Speed (arguably the inspiration behind the Fast and Furious franchise), Apex Legends, Battlefield, Bejeweled, Star Wars: Battlefront, The Medal of Honor, and all other possible sports-related games from NBA to NFL. Microsoft and Apple are sniping their massive budgets at Electronic Arts in hopes of purchasing this legend. EA’s popularity took a huge hit when they aggressively pushed loot boxes in all of their titles. Even if it has a less-than-stellar reputation, there is no denying that it is a legendary studio in the video game industry. EA is also the only top game development company on this list that generates revenue solely through games.

10. Take-Two Interactive (TTWO)

Total Revenue in 2021: **\$6.2B**

Game Development portion of 2021 revenue: **\$5.7B**

Country: **USA**

Year Founded: **1993**

Official Website: <https://www.take2games.com/>



Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. creates, publishes, and distributes video games. BioShock,

Borderlands, Grand Theft Auto, NBA 2K, and Red Dead are just a few of the popular series published by Take-Two Interactive.

Similarly to the number 1 spot on this list - Tencent, only a few people would recognize Take-Two as a game developer, but they would be surprised at which titles this company has behind its name. While Take-Two is primarily a game publisher, through purchase, they own well-known studios and, as an extension, games such as GTA, BioShock, Borderlands, the Witcher series, Red Dead Redemption, and all the 2K games are owned by Take-Two. By purchasing Zynga Gaming in January of 2022, Take-Two took the number 10 spot on this list by revenue and pushed out Sea Limited, formerly known as Garena.