

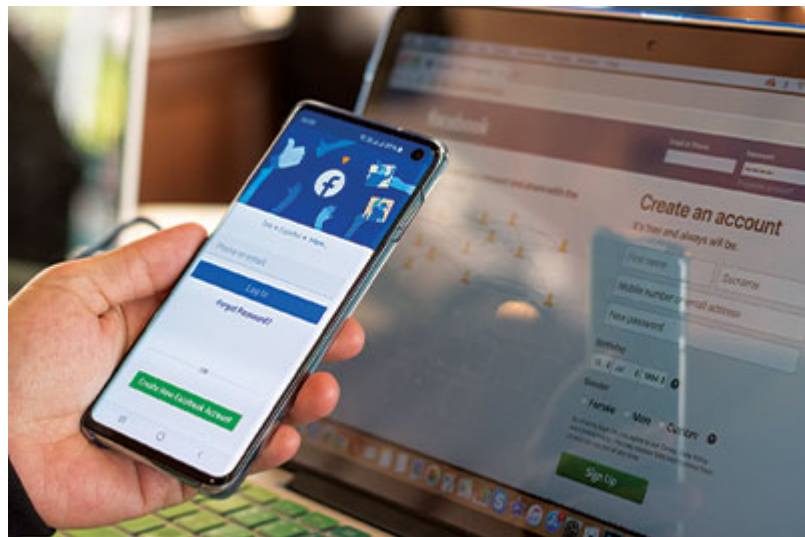


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Inside Track

Microsoft, Google, and Facebook See Record Earnings Amid Pandemic



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Facebook and Google join Microsoft in reporting significant growth in revenue in the first quarter of 2021 as Americans' increased reliance on technology amid lockdowns has proven a fertile ground of business opportunity for these tech giants.

Facebook's stock climbed to record territory on April 28 thanks to a major spurt in ad revenue. The company said it earned \$9.5 billion, or \$3.30 per share, in the January-March period, up 94 percent from \$4.9 billion, or \$1.71 per share, a year before. Revenue, meanwhile, grew 48 percent to \$26.17 billion from \$17.44 billion.

The company had 2.85 billion monthly users on average in March. That's up 10 percent from a year earlier. The Facebook family of apps — Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp — had 3.45 billion monthly users in March. That figure represents the number of people who logged in to at least one of the apps during the month.

Google has also reaped the benefits of the "new normal" under COVID-19. The U.K. *Times* reported April on 28 that profits at Google-parent Alphabet more than doubled this year due to a major increase in advertising investment from companies attempting to reach customers working online while "social distancing."

As Breitbart noted April 28, "Sales within Alphabet's Google search business rose by 30 percent to \$31.88 billion. YouTube's advertising revenues increased by 49 percent to \$6.01 billion. Google's fast-growing cloud computing division saw a 46 percent jump in sales, hitting \$4.05 billion."

According to a report released April 27, Microsoft's profit during the first three months of the year was \$14.8 billion, up 38 percent from the same period last year.

The net income of \$1.95 per share beat Wall Street expectations. Analysts had only expected Microsoft to earn \$1.78 per share on revenue of \$41 billion for the first quarter.



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Google, Facebook, and Microsoft have been earning handsome profits while nearly 100,000 businesses have shuttered due to dislocations and closure mandates during the coronavirus outbreak.

Biden and Corporate America Join Forces on Climate Change



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Executives at some of the country's biggest corporations are eager to work with Joe Biden to tackle what they believe to be a coming man-made climate crisis. Companies such as Microsoft Corp., General Motors, Danone S.A., and Gap Inc. are spending millions of dollars on renewable energy.

An April 27 article at *Politico* relates that many of these executives were disappointed in President Trump when he pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017.

"Now, those business leaders have aligned with President Joe Biden, a Democrat, to push Congress to do its part. Executives who stepped into the vacuum left by government four years ago say they need standardized corporate risk disclosure, a modernized grid, carbon pricing, and money for technology," *Politico* writes, going on to quote HP CEO Enrique Lores as saying, "We can't do it alone. There is a limit to how far private industry can take this."

These companies believe that if 80 percent of the biggest corporate emitters meet their emission-reduction targets, they could reduce global emissions by more than eight billion metric tons, or by about 25 percent.

Even the Chamber of Commerce looks to be on board with the green agenda. In 2019, the powerful lobbying group ceded to pressure from members to go along with the climate-change program.

"We welcome President Biden's focus on returning the U.S. to international leadership on climate change," the Chamber said in an April 22 statement. "U.S. businesses are leading the world in pursuit of climate change solutions, and we see great opportunities to develop and export technologies that will help address a truly global challenge."

The GOP has traditionally been considered to be the party of Big Business, but this dynamic has changed, as Republican voters feel ever more disenchanted with companies using their power to assault conservative principles.

Even *Politico* noted April 5 that Republicans are souring on the corporate community, asking in an



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article whether we are seeing the “beginnings of a seismic shift.”

U.S. Must “Dramatically Reduce” Meat Intake to Meet Climate Goals



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The climate-alarmist war against meat continues. Although Joe Biden hasn’t yet come out and said it, climate hysterics are pushing the narrative that, in order to meet the president’s ambitious emissions-reduction goals, Americans will have to radically change their meat-based diets, and quickly.

Brent Kim, a program officer for the Center for a Livable Future’s Food Production and Public Health Program at Johns Hopkins University, told the *Daily Mail* on April 27 that Americans will need to “dramatically reduce” their meat and dairy intake in order to avoid the worst climate-change scenarios.

“To avoid the most catastrophic climate change scenarios, the evidence is clear that citizens in high meat consuming countries — such as the United States — need to dramatically reduce their meat and dairy intake,” Kim said.

While Biden has yet to say anything concrete involving meat and dairy production and consumption in the United States, Kim for one believes that the federal government should have some say in the dietary habits of Americans.

“I’m not talking about banning certain foods or force feeding anyone broccoli,” Kim said. “But our food choices don’t occur within a vacuum. For better or worse, what Americans choose to eat is heavily influenced by the availability of certain foods in their community, how much they cost, and whether healthy plant-based options are offered in our schools and institutions.”

Kim may not be talking about “banning” certain foods, but it sure sounds like he would like to make foods such as meat and dairy more difficult to obtain.

“These are all factors that are affected, directly or indirectly, by local, state and federal policy,” Kim said. “So there is a strong case to be made that when our tax dollars are being used to fund meals at public institutions, for example, people should be given the option of choosing healthy, climate friendly, plant-based meals.”

Will they truly be “given the option,” or will they be shamed into choosing a “climate-friendly” food



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option instead of a hamburger?

Biden's Low Approval Ratings Bode Well for Republicans in 2022



AP Images

Despite efforts by major pollsters to make President Biden look good, raw numbers from RealClearPolitics are dismal for Old Joe: As of the end of April, he was tracking a good 15 points below the average of the last 14 presidents at the end of their first 100 days in office.

During an interview with *Just the News a.m.* on April 28, pollster John McLaughlin said, "The fact he is only in the low 50s right now is a really bad sign for Joe Biden." According to ABC News, the average approval rating for the past 14 presidents polled at the end of their first 100 days is 66 percent.

The major problem Biden has is his embrace of the radical "progressive" hard-left agenda. McLaughlin explained, "He's taken what should have been very popular issues — COVID relief, infrastructure — that Americans overwhelmingly support, and [he has] turned them into radical, left-wing pieces of legislation ... that's not where the American people are right now."

A key change in the national mood toward Biden is reflected in the eroding support for the president among Independents. McLaughlin quoted data from the latest ABC News/*Washington Post* poll, which stated that 45 percent of Independents say Biden is too liberal, up from just 21 percent a year ago.

McLaughlin said these indicators bode well for a Republican takeover of the House in 2022, and it could be a rout, equivalent to what happened in the 2010 midterms when Republicans gained 63 seats in the House, seven seats in the Senate, and six governorships, and made huge gains in state legislatures as well.

If Biden continues to lose credibility, Republicans could enjoy results equal to or even exceeding the 2010 "Republican wave" election. He could possibly set new record lows for approval rating, lower than Harry Truman's (at 22 percent), Richard Nixon's (at 25 percent), Jimmy Carter's (at 28 percent), and George H.W. Bush's (at 29 percent).



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