# Reuben brothers' diversified empire propels them to UK’s top wealth bracket



David and Simon Reuben, brothers originally from Mumbai and now among the UK's wealthiest individuals, have quietly built an estimated fortune of around £20 billion through shrewd business acumen, according to Forbes. Now ranked near the top of the UK's richest, their journey from modest beginnings in North London to becoming titans of industry is a testament to their determination and strategic investments.

Born in Mumbai in 1941 and 1944 respectively, the Reuben brothers moved with their mother to Islington during the 1950s. They attended state schools and entered the workforce at the age of 17, with David initially working in the scrap metal industry and Simon in weaving and carpets. They gradually advanced from these early roles, with Simon ultimately acquiring England’s oldest carpet manufacturer. However, it was their continued involvement in the metals trade through Trans-World Metals—specialising in aluminium, tin, and copper—that marked their ascent to business prominence.

By the mid-1990s, the Reubens had become the world's third-largest aluminium producers, largely due to significant investments in resource-rich Russia and Kazakhstan. Their investments in Russia’s burgeoning aluminium industry during the 1990s proved particularly lucrative. By selling most of their holdings to Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich’s oil giant Sibneft around 2000, the brothers capitalised on the privatisation wave following the fall of the Soviet Union. This strategic move not only augmented their wealth but propelled them into the ranks of Britain's super-rich, with combined fortunes estimated to be at least £1.3 billion by the early 2000s.

Shifting their focus from metals, the Reuben brothers turned to real estate, acquiring landmark buildings across London such as Millbank Tower, the John Lewis headquarters, and Primark’s Oxford Street store. Their property portfolio now spans office, retail, hotel, residential, and infrastructure assets in prime locations in Mayfair, Paddington, and Victoria. Industry analysis from late 2024 puts their family net worth at approximately £24.7 billion, positioning them as the UK's richest property tycoons.

Their investments also extended into technology, exemplified by their data centre business, Global Switch, which they partially sold in stages in 2016 and 2018 to Chinese investors for estimates approaching $5.7 billion. Alongside these ventures, the Reubens have diversified into sports and luxury lifestyle assets. They hold an estimated 14–15% stake in Premier League football club Newcastle United, joining forces with the Saudi Public Investment Fund and PCP Capital Partners in a high-profile buy-out. Family involvement in the club extends to David Reuben’s son, Jamie, who serves as a director.

Outside business, the Reubens maintain a famously low media profile, reportedly residing in Monaco and London with ownership of luxury assets like the 241-foot superyacht Siren and a £19 million private jet. Their hospitality interests include exclusive clubs and hotels across Europe, such as the celebrity-frequented La Taverna Anema e Core on the Italian island of Capri, a venue that has attracted stars like Beyonce and George Clooney.

The Reuben brothers' story exemplifies how disciplined investment and diversification across industries can convert humble origins into substantial wealth. Their path—from state-school education and scrap metal trades to controlling prime London real estate and international technology businesses—reflects a blend of entrepreneurial skill and strategic timing in capitalising on global economic shifts.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099822/UKs-richest-brothers-David-and-Simon-Reuben), [[2]](https://www.forbes.com/profile/david-reuben/), [[3]](https://www.forbes.com/profile/simon-reuben/), [[6]](https://www.insidermedia.com/news/national/uks-11-richest-property-tycoons-ranked-reuben-brothers-and-the-duke-of-westminster)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099822/UKs-richest-brothers-David-and-Simon-Reuben), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/24/sunday-times-rich-list-simon-david-reuben-lewis-hamilton-adele), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2004/jun/27/russia)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2004/jun/27/russia), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/24/sunday-times-rich-list-simon-david-reuben-lewis-hamilton-adele), [[6]](https://www.insidermedia.com/news/national/uks-11-richest-property-tycoons-ranked-reuben-brothers-and-the-duke-of-westminster)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099822/UKs-richest-brothers-David-and-Simon-Reuben), [[2]](https://www.forbes.com/profile/david-reuben/), [[3]](https://www.forbes.com/profile/simon-reuben/), [[6]](https://www.insidermedia.com/news/national/uks-11-richest-property-tycoons-ranked-reuben-brothers-and-the-duke-of-westminster)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099822/UKs-richest-brothers-David-and-Simon-Reuben), [[2]](https://www.forbes.com/profile/david-reuben/), [[3]](https://www.forbes.com/profile/simon-reuben/), [[7]](https://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/profiles/david-reuben/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099822/UKs-richest-brothers-David-and-Simon-Reuben)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099822/UKs-richest-brothers-David-and-Simon-Reuben> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.forbes.com/profile/david-reuben/> - David Reuben, born in 1941 in Mumbai, is a British businessman with a net worth of $13.4 billion as of June 4, 2025. Alongside his brother Simon, he has built a fortune in real estate and technology. In 2016, they sold 49% of their data center business, GlobalSwitch, to a consortium of Chinese investors for nearly $3 billion, and a further 25% in 2018 for $2.7 billion. The brothers own an estimated 14% of Premier League's Newcastle United F.C. David's son, Jamie, serves as a director for the football club. Their firm, Transworld, invested in Russia and Kazakhstan in the 1990s and was active in trading aluminum. David resides in London, United Kingdom. ([forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com/profile/david-reuben/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.forbes.com/profile/simon-reuben/> - Simon Reuben, born in 1944 in Mumbai, is a British businessman with a net worth of $13.4 billion as of June 4, 2025. Together with his brother David, he has amassed wealth in real estate and technology. In 2016, they sold 49% of their data center business, GlobalSwitch, to a consortium of Chinese investors for nearly $3 billion, and a further 25% in 2018 for $2.7 billion. The brothers own an estimated 14% of Premier League's Newcastle United F.C. Simon resides in Monaco. Their firm, Transworld, invested in Russia and Kazakhstan in the 1990s and was active in trading aluminum. ([forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com/profile/simon-reuben/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/24/sunday-times-rich-list-simon-david-reuben-lewis-hamilton-adele> - In 2016, property tycoons David and Simon Reuben topped the Sunday Times Rich List with a combined fortune of £13.1 billion. The brothers made their first fortune purchasing Russian aluminium before acquiring large tracts of London's landmark buildings. Their wealth surpassed that of Sri and Gopi Hinduja, who finished second with £13 billion. The Reuben brothers' rise to the top of the rich list was attributed to their successful property investments and strategic business decisions. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/24/sunday-times-rich-list-simon-david-reuben-lewis-hamilton-adele?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2004/jun/27/russia> - In the early 1990s, David and Simon Reuben invested heavily in Russia's privatised aluminium industry through their company Trans-World. They made a significant profit by selling a large portion of Russia's aluminium industry to Roman Abramovich's oil conglomerate, Sibneft, in 2000. This strategic move elevated them to the ranks of the super-rich, with estimates of their combined fortune varying but placing it at at least £1.3 billion. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2004/jun/27/russia?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.insidermedia.com/news/national/uks-11-richest-property-tycoons-ranked-reuben-brothers-and-the-duke-of-westminster> - As of October 2024, David and Simon Reuben and their family had a combined net worth of £24.7 billion, making them the UK's richest property tycoons. Their real estate holdings encompass office, retail, hotel, residential, and infrastructure properties. The brothers' wealth is attributed to their extensive property investments and developments, solidifying their position at the top of the UK's property sector. ([insidermedia.com](https://www.insidermedia.com/news/national/uks-11-richest-property-tycoons-ranked-reuben-brothers-and-the-duke-of-westminster?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/profiles/david-reuben/> - David Reuben is a UK-based investor with a net worth of $11.5 billion as of April 16, 2025. Alongside his brother Simon, he shares interests in technology, real estate, and hospitality. The brothers previously owned Global Switch, operator of data centers in Asia and Europe. They have prime real estate worldwide, including a London mansion that they bought for more than $200 million. The Reuben family holds a 15% stake in Newcastle United Football Club, based on a July 2024 news release. ([bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/profiles/david-reuben/?utm_source=openai))