

## **2020 Effie Index Names World's Most Effective Marketers**

**Repeat chart-toppers Unilever, Coca-Cola, WPP, McCann Worldgroup lead rankings**

**AB InBev and TBWA Worldwide Enter Top 5 for the First Time**

NEW YORK (June 8, 2020)—Effie Worldwide has today announced the 2020 Effie Index ([effieindex.com](http://effieindex.com)), the 10<sup>th</sup> annual ranking of the companies behind the world's most effective marketing efforts.

Unilever, Coca-Cola, WPP, McCann Worldgroup, FP7 McCann Dubai and Banda were named Most Effective Marketer, Brand, Agency Holding Group, Agency Network, Agency Office and Independent Agency, respectively.

“As the industry experiences change and disruption, the marketers featured in the rankings of the Effie Index demonstrate continued success and an unwavering dedication to marketing effectiveness,” said Traci Alford, President and CEO of Effie Worldwide. “Marketing effectiveness matters more than ever, especially in times of economic uncertainty. The Index showcases great examples of companies that have consistently excelled and driven brand growth around the world. On behalf of Effie Worldwide, I'd like to congratulate everyone included in the rankings this year and applaud their achievements.”

The 2020 Effie Index rankings reflect the performance of more than 4,000 finalists and winning entries in one global, four regional and 46 national Effie Awards competitions held around the world from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

Every brand and company featured in the Effie Index has undergone rigorous evaluations of their case studies by expert industry judges, who examined and debated each case's strategic communications challenges and objectives, the idea, how the idea was brought to life through creative, and what makes an Effie an Effie: strong results.

### **Most Effective Marketers**

*Top 5: Unilever, The Coca-Cola Company, Nestlé, AB InBev, PepsiCo*

Unilever leads the Most Effective Marketers category for the fourth year in a row, with work for brands including Axe, Dove, Knorr, Lifebuoy, Lux, Omo, Rexona and Surf Excel. The global packaged-goods company has held the top spot seven times over the past 10 years.

AB InBev entered the top 5 for the first time, with work for brands including Budweiser in North America and Bavaria Brewery's Águila and Corona in Latin America. Procter & Gamble and McDonald's dropped out of the top 5 to No. 7 and No. 6, respectively. PepsiCo returned to the top 5 after a drop in the rankings last year.

YUM!, British mobile technology leader Vodafone and Swedish furniture giant IKEA round out the top 10.

### **Most Effective Brands**

*Top 5: Coca-Cola, McDonald's, KFC, Vodafone, IKEA*

Coca-Cola retained its title as the most effective brand globally in 2020. It has ranked in the top 5 every year since the Index launched in 2011, taking the top spot six times. Coca-Cola China's “Faces of the City” campaign was a standout, winning Gold, Silver and Bronze recognitions for its effective use of AR and packaging. McDonald's came in second place for the second year in a row, with work such as “Anticipating Hungry Moments” for McDonald's Hong Kong. The campaign was the first to use Google's real-time triggers in Hong Kong, aimed at targeting late-

night World Cup viewers. KFC and Vodafone swapped third and fourth places, thanks to KFC's success in APAC, MENA and Europe, but otherwise the top 5 most effective brands are exactly the same as last year.

Latin American telecom brand Claro, along with American brands Chevrolet, Burger King, MasterCard and Sprite, round out the top 10.

### **Most Effective Agency Holding Groups**

*Top 5: WPP, Omnicom, IPG, Publicis Groupe, Dentsu*

WPP has been the most effective holding company every year since 2012. The top 5 has remained unchanged since 2016, showing a remarkable consistency in performance across the global holding companies despite disruptions in the industry. IPG, Publicis Groupe and Dentsu round out the top 5.

### **Most Effective Agency Network**

*Top 5: McCann Worldgroup, Ogilvy, BBDO Worldwide, DDB Worldwide, TBWA\Worldwide*

McCann Worldgroup is number one for the third year in a row, retaining its position as Most Effective Agency Network. The IPG agency network garnered the top spot with work for brands including Aldi, American Express, Chevrolet, Coca-Cola and IKEA, among others. FP7 McCann Dubai, 2020's Most Effective Agency Office, helped drive the network to the top spot with work for Emirates and MasterCard, among others. And so did two Grand Effie wins, McCann Manchester's "Like Brands" campaign for Aldi in the Sustained Success category (Effie Europe), and McCann Panama's "Siempre Facil con E-Pago" for Banisi in the Small Budget category (Effie Panama).

WPP's Ogilvy jumps to second, while Omnicom networks take up the remaining three positions in the top 5. TBWA\Worldwide enters the top 5 for the first time this year with successful efforts around the world, including three Grand Effie wins for "The Land of Free Press" for Helsingin Sanomat (Finland), "The Algorithm Agent" for Simply Cash Cred (Hong Kong), and "With You Captain" for Contigo Capitán (Peru).

### **Most Effective Agency Offices**

*Top 5: FP7 McCann Dubai, Ogilvy Mumbai, McCann Worldgroup India (New Delhi), Sancho BBDO (Bogotá), and a tie between Banda and DDB Colombia*

McCann Worldgroup's FP7 McCann Dubai, which has been in the top 5 every year since 2014, is ranked as the most effective individual agency, thanks to its success with more than 15 regional and global brands, including Babyshop, Emirates NBD and MasterCard.

Ogilvy Mumbai, at number two, is also a consistent winner and has made the top 5 every year since 2011. Its success this year is thanks to work for Amazon, Cadbury and Vodafone.

### **Most Effective Independent Agencies**

*Top 5: Banda, Dejavu, The Womb Communications, DON Buenos Aires, Zavalita Brand Building*

Ukrainian agency Banda returns to the top spot. The Kiev-based agency, which ranked No. 1 in both 2015 and 2013, reclaimed the lead with work for Luxoptica, National Art Museum of Ukraine, and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, among others. Dubai agency Dejavu makes its first showing in the top 5, as do The Womb Communications in Mumbai, DON Buenos Aires and Zavalita Brand Building in Lima, Peru.

### **Regional Rankings**

#### **North America**

Procter & Gamble (marketer), McDonald's (brand), WPP (agency holding group), Ogilvy (agency

network), Droga5 New York (agency office) and a tie between Rethink – Vancouver and Terri & Sandy – New York (independent agency).

#### Asia-Pacific

Unilever (marketer), KFC (brand), WPP (agency holding group), Ogilvy (agency network), Ogilvy Mumbai (agency office), and The Womb Communications in Mumbai (independent agency).

#### Europe

PepsiCo (marketer), Vodafone (brand), WPP (agency holding group), McCann Worldgroup (agency network), Banda – Kiev, Ukraine (agency office and independent agency).

#### Latin America

AB InBev (marketer), Coca-Cola (brand), Omnicom (agency holding group), BBDO Worldwide (agency network), Sancho BBDO – Bogotá (agency office) and DON Buenos Aires (independent agency).

#### Middle East & Africa

Unilever (marketer), Saudi Telecom Company (brand), Interpublic Group (agency holding group), McCann Worldgroup (agency network), FP7 McCann Dubai (agency office) and Dejavu – Dubai (independent agency).

View the full rankings at [effieindex.com](http://effieindex.com)

Information about how the rankings are compiled can be found [here](#).

#### About Effie

Effie is a global 501c3 non-profit whose mission is to lead and evolve the forum for marketing effectiveness. Effie leads, inspires and champions the practice and practitioners of marketing effectiveness through education, awards, ever-evolving initiatives and first-class insights into marketing strategies that produce results. The organization recognizes the most effective brands, marketers and agencies globally, regionally and locally through its 50+ award programs across the world and through its coveted effectiveness rankings, the Effie Index. Since 1968, Effie is known as a global symbol of achievement, while serving as a resource to steer the future of marketing success. For more details, visit [effie.org](http://effie.org).