

AMERICANS FOR TAX FAIRNESS

WALMART ON TAX DAY: HOW TAXPAYERS SUBSIDIZE AMERICA'S BIGGEST EMPLOYER AND RICHEST FAMILY

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Walmart On Welfare – National Memo

By David Cay Johnston, April 14, 2014

.....American taxpayer money explains almost a third of Walmart's worldwide pretax profits last year. But that understates the scale of taxpayer assistance to the retailer, which made 29 percent of its sales overseas last year.

Figure about 44 percent of Walmart's domestic pretax profits were contributed by local, state and federal taxpayers directly and indirectly, based on company disclosure statements.

These figures on welfare for Walmart and the Walton's were calculated from a report released today by [Americans for Tax Fairness](#), part of a broad coalition of union, civil rights and other organizations trying to shame the Walton family into paying wages that if not good, are at least enough to make sure Walmart employees do not qualify for food stamps.....

The Walton Family Foundation ranks 22nd in America with \$2.2 billion in assets, which may seem large. But Walmart and the Walton's have already extracted that much from the taxpayers this year. In fact they hit about \$2.2 billion of taxpayer subsidies on Saturday, April 12, based on the [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) report.....

[Read more in National Memo](#)

Report: Walmart employees rely on food stamps – *MSNBC Disrupt with Karen Finney*

April 20, 2014

A recent report finds that many of Walmart's employees rely on food stamps, healthcare and other taxpayer-funded programs. This report comes on the heels of two previous reports that found the fast food industry is costing American taxpayers \$7 billion each year.

[Watch more on MSNBC.com](#)

Report: Walmart Workers Cost Taxpayers \$6.2 Billion In Public Assistance -- *Forbes*

By Claire O'Connor, April 15, 2014

Walmart's low-wage workers cost U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$6.2 billion in public assistance including food stamps, Medicaid and subsidized housing, according to a report published to coincide with Tax Day, April 15.

[Americans for Tax Fairness](#), a coalition of 400 national and state-level progressive groups, made this estimate using data from a 2013 study by Democratic Staff of the U.S. Committee on Education and the Workforce.

“The study estimated the cost to Wisconsin’s taxpayers of Walmart’s low wages and benefits, which often force workers to rely on various public assistance programs,” reads the report, available in full here.

[Americans for Tax Fairness](#) then took the mid-point of that range (\$4,415) and multiplied it by Walmart’s approximately 1.4 million workers to come up with an estimate of the overall taxpayers’ bill for the Bentonville, Ark.-based big box giant’s staffers.....

[Read more in Forbes](#)
Also posted on [Reddit](#)

Walmart benefits from billions in government subsidies: Study -- *MSNBC*

By Ned Resnikoff, April 14, 2014

Walmart is the beneficiary of billions of dollars per year in federal subsidies, according to [a new report](#) [PDF] from the non-partisan, progressive group [Americans for Tax Fairness](#). The report estimates that Walmart and the Walton family—which co-founded the company and still owns a majority share—collectively profit from nearly \$7.8 billion per year in federal subsidies and tax breaks.....

[Read more from MSNBC](#)

Don't cry for Walmart on tax day – *Daily Kos*

By Laura Clawson, April 15, 2014

Walmart and the Walton family certainly have reason to be having a happy tax day. [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) rounds up the tax avoidance strategies Walmart and the Walton family use to keep taxpayers subsidizing their big profits and enormous wealth:

- *Walmart receives an estimated \$6.2 billion annually in mostly federal taxpayer subsidies. The reason: Walmart pays its employees so little that many of them rely on food stamps, health care and other taxpayer-funded programs.*
- *Walmart avoids an estimated \$1 billion in federal taxes each year. The reason: Walmart uses tax breaks and loopholes, including a strategy known as accelerated depreciation that allows it to write off capital investments considerably faster than the assets actually wear out.*
- *The Walton’s avoid an estimated \$607 million in federal taxes on their Walmart dividends. The reason: income from investments is taxed at a much lower tax rate than income from salaries and wages.*

It's all perfectly legal, strategies used by many if not most huge corporations and 0.1 percent families. But that's the point. The system is rigged in favor of those who can hire lobbyists and give max-out campaign contributions.

Sign the petition: Stop corporate tax giveaways.

[Read more from Daily Kos](#)

7 Facts About Our Broken Tax System – *The Nation*

By George Zornick, April 15, 2014

4. Some of your tax dollars are given to hugely profitable companies. You'll note in the chart above that these companies have a negative tax rate—meaning they actually get money from the government. This can come in the form of federal tax breaks and other preferential treatment of certain financial instruments. Then consider the subsidies given directly to industry, along with the safety net programs some of these companies force employees to rely on, and the number gets quite big.

Take Walmart, the largest private employer in the country. They take in \$16 billion in profits annually. Yet, all told, Walmart cost taxpayers \$7.8 billion last year, according to [Americans for Tax Fairness](#):

Table of Key Findings

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SUBSIDIES AND TAX BREAKS TO WALMART AND THE WALTON FAMILY	
WALMART	COST TO TAXPAYERS
Cost to taxpayers of Walmart workers relying on public assistance programs due to low wages and benefits (p. 5)	\$6.2 billion
Cost of federal tax breaks benefiting Walmart (p. 5)	\$1 billion
Cost of direct economic development subsidies by state and local governments (p. 6)	\$70 million
WALTON FAMILY	COST TO TAXPAYERS
Cost of preferential tax rate on Walmart dividends claimed by the Walton family (p. 7)	\$607 million
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$7.8 billion

[Read more in the Nation](#)

Vigilante Tax Collectors Demand \$7.8 Billion From Walmart At Walton Family's Desert Fortress -- *Wonkette*

By Alex Ruthrauff

It's Tax Day, which means political entities everywhere are scrambling to graft their agendas onto something with the word "tax" in it, so people who are frantically asking their internets "what for I owe so much taxis?" will give them their email addresses. Us here, we got this nice thing in our email, says "TAXPAYERS DELIVER \$7.8 BILLION TAX BILL TO WALMART CHAIRMAN." And they did! The taxpayers went to Rob Walton's compound in Paradise Valley, AZ, with a piece of paper, and now you are reading about it, so they did a good job.

The \$7.8 billion that Walmart "owes" is a figure from a report by [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) (pdf). It includes billions in welfare payments to low-wage Walmart workers, as well as money saved by exploiting accounting loopholes. Nobody would probably care much about this, except "Walmart made a \$16 billion profit in 2013, and the six Walton heirs, who own more than 50 percent of Walmart shares, saw their wealth grow to \$148.8 billion—more wealth than 49% of American families combined." So there's that.....

[Read more in Wonkette](#)

Anti-Walmart Activists Deliver "Tax Bill" to Walmart Chairman's Home in Paradise Valley – *Phoenix News Times*

By Paul Ausick, April 15, 2014

In an anti-Walmart stunt, activists delivered a \$7.8 billion "tax bill" to the Paradise Valley home of Walmart chairman Rob Walton.

It's the latest in a long line of demonstrations organized by the [United Food and Commercial Workers](#) or related union-supported groups, which have been campaigning on a claim that Walmart pays its workers so little that they depend on government safety-net programs, while the company turns huge profits....

[Read more in the Phoenix News Times](#)

Tired of Being Screwed Over Enraged Taxpayers Deliver a \$7.8 Billion Tax Bill To Walmart – *Politicususa*

By Jason Easley, April 15, 2014

The Walton family receives \$7.8 billion in tax breaks and taxpayer subsidies each year, and outraged taxpayers are demanding that Walmart pay up.....

A report from the [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) found that Walmart and the Walton family receive \$7.8 billion in tax breaks and taxpayer subsidies each year, and outraged taxpayers are demanding that Walmart pay up.

The table below from [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) shows how the Walton family is getting richer while you are footing the bill:

Table of Key Findings

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SUBSIDIES AND TAX BREAKS TO WALMART AND THE WALTON FAMILY	
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WALTON FAMILY	COST TO TAXPAYERS
Cost of preferential tax rate on Walmart dividends claimed by the Walton family (p. 7)	\$607 million
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$7.8 billion
Estimated number of teachers that could be hired with \$7.8 billion (p. 8)	
105,131	
ESTIMATED ONE-TIME TAX BREAKS TO THE WALTONS	
Cost of tax avoidance by Walton family through use of special estate tax trusts (p. 7)	\$3 billion <small>potential for additional tens of billions</small>
OTHER TAXPAYER-FUNDED BENEFITS TO WALMART	
Estimated annual revenue from food stamp sales (p. 5)	\$13.5 billion

Walmart takes in 18% of all food stamp dollars and generates \$13.5 billion in revenue from food stamps. This isn't enough robbing of the taxpayer for the Walton family, because they also get \$3 billion in individual tax breaks, and Walmart itself gets another \$1 billion.....

[Read more from Politicususa](#)

Walmart on Tax Day: How Taxpayers Subsidizes America’s Biggest Employer and Richest Family – RitHoltz

By Guest Writer, April 15, 2014

Walmart and the Walton’s—America’s largest employer and richest family—received tax breaks and subsidies worth an estimated \$7.8 billion in 2013, according to a report released today by [Americans for Tax Fairness](#). Released for Tax Day, when millions of American taxpayers and small businesses pay their fair share to support critical public services and the economy, the report shows Walmart and the Walton’s have their own set of rules to game the system and get taxpayers to pick up the tab.....

“...This report shows that Americans pay a lot more than they think at Walmart,” said Frank Clemente, Executive Director at [Americans for Tax Fairness](#). “The real cost of shopping at Walmart is much higher than what shows up on your cash register slip. Walmart’s exploitation of large taxpayer subsidies and tax loopholes means higher taxes for everyone else and less money to invest in schools and communities...”

[Read more from RitHoltz](#)

Walmart Worker: 'I Struggle Financially and Paid Taxes, While the Walton's Received \$8 Billion in Subsidies' – *AlterNet*

By Alyssa Figueroa, April 16, 2014

While millions of working- and middle-class Americans pay taxes each year, the richest family in the world—the Walton’s—received nearly \$8 billion in tax breaks last year, according to a new report by [Americans for Tax Fairness](#), a campaign fighting for progressive tax reform.

That’s why Walmart worker Richard Reynoso and his fellow co-workers decided to bring the \$7.8 billion tax bill to Walmart Chairman Rob Walton’s doorstep on Tuesday. Reynoso traveled from his home in Southern California to Phoenix, Arizona to bring this unfairness to light.....

[Read more from AlterNet](#)

Organizations rally for tax fairness at Capitol – *Arkansas Times*

By David Ramsey, April 15, 2014

Representatives from [Women's Action for New Directions](#) (WAND) and the [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees](#) (AFSCME), along with other local organizations, will speak on tax and budget fairness at a rally at the Capitol today at noon. The event, part of a series called "Truthful Tuesdays" coincides with the income tax deadline today. Press release after the jump.

Speaking of this topic, [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) released a report yesterday that is making the rounds arguing that Walmart and the Walton’s are receiving nearly \$8 billion every year in tax breaks and subsidies from taxpayers. Tax Day is a good day to consider the way our policy choices structure the tax code, including ways that benefit billionaires — though elements of this Walmart report in particular frankly rely on a debatable premise (here's some pushback from a Forbes columnist).

[Read more in the Arkansas Times](#)

Walmart's Wages Are So Low, You're Actually Paying For Their Employees – *Policy Mic*

By Tom McKay, April 17, 2014

On Tuesday, [Americans for Tax Fairness](#), a coalition of 400 national and state-level progressive groups, released an [analysis](#) that determined many Walmart employees' wages are so low that many of their basic living expenses end up being subsidized by the taxpayer...

...And to top it off, the Walton family, which founded Walmart, are themselves estimated to have saved \$607 million in federal taxes each year, according to that same [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) report, because their capital gain and dividend earnings are taxed at lower rates than standard income.

All told, [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) says that Walmart has cost the U.S. taxpayer about \$7.8 billion a year. Plus, the company's own estimate that they receive 18% of all SNAP funds spent means another \$13.5 billion flows directly from the United States government into their coffers.....

[Read more in Policy Mic](#)

Is Wal-Mart the Welfare Queen of Corporate America? – *Yahoo Finance*

By Erin McWhinnie, Wall Street Cheat Sheet, April 18, 2014

....Wal-Mart ([NYSE:WMT](#)) and the Walton family are the beneficiaries of tax breaks and subsidies estimated at more than \$7.8 billion per year, according to [Americans for Tax Fairness](#), a coalition of 400 organizations that strive for tax reform. Wal-Mart receives an estimated \$6.2 billion annually from federal taxpayer subsidies, such as Section 8 Housing Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Medicaid. Another \$1 billion is the result of Wal-Mart using tax breaks and loopholes to write off capital investments. The Walton's, America's wealthiest family, also avoid an estimated \$607 million in federal taxes each year through lower tax rates on capital gains.

“In addition to the \$7.8 billion in annual subsidies and tax breaks, the Walton family is avoiding an estimated \$3 billion in taxes by using specialized trusts to dodge estate taxes – and this number could increase by tens of billions of dollars,” said the report. “Wal-Mart also benefits significantly from taxpayer-funded public assistance programs that pump up the retailer’s sales. For example, Wal-Mart had an estimated \$13.5 billion in food stamp sales last year.” Wal-Mart captured approximately 18 percent of the food-stamp market in 2013....

[Read more in Yahoo Financial](#)

Taxpayers in Phoenix, Arizona delivered a special tax bill to Walmart Chairman, Rob Walton – *TruthOut.org*

By Thom Hartmann, April 23, 2014

According to the group [Americans for Tax Fairness](#), the retail giant received an estimated \$7.8 billion dollars in tax breaks and subsidies in 2013. Those benefits include lower tax rates on dividends issued to the Walton family and Walmart executives, loopholes and special tax breaks from the government, and social services that employees use to subsidize Walmart's poverty wages.....

[Read more in TruthOut](#)

Taxpayers Subsidize Walmart and America's Richest Family to the Tune of \$7.8 Billion Annually – *AFL-CIO Now*

By Kenneth Quinnell, April 23, 2014

A new report from [Americans for Tax Fairness](#) shows that taxpayers in the United States subsidize Walmart and the Walton family, who owns the majority of Walmart stock and is the richest family in the country, by at least \$7.8 billion annually. The report, [Walmart on Tax Day: How Taxpayers Subsidize America's Biggest Employer and Richest Family](#), was released in conjunction with tax day, when millions of Americans and small businesses do their civic duty and pay their fair share to support the economy and services critical to many Americans. At the same time, the report shows, taxpayers help pad Walmart and the Walton family's profits.....

[Read more in AFL-CIO Now](#)

Everything you need to know about Walmart, in nine charts – *Vox.com*

June 6, 2014

4. Even Walmart relies on government safety nets

It isn't just that Walmart takes in a lot of money from people spending food stamps; Walmart's workers are also major beneficiaries of government safety net spending. According to an [April 2014 report](#) from Americans for Tax Fairness, Walmart employees receive an estimated \$6.2 billion per year in government benefits (though Walmart heavily criticized this estimate).

[Link](#)

Fact-Checking Walmart's Fact-Check Of The New York Times – *The Huffington Post*

June 24, 2014

A recent study by Americans For Tax Fairness estimated that Walmart workers cost the U.S. government \$6.2 billion a year. The group also estimated that Walmart and its founding Walton family cost the government another \$1.6 billion in tax revenue through various tax loopholes.

Walmart has repeatedly disputed the ATF's \$6.2 billion number, and Tovar did so again in his fact-check. Trouble is, Walmart never offers any numbers of its own.

[Link](#)