

Press Release: For Immediate Release

## Premier Inn is World's Premier Brand

- **UK chain is world's most powerful hotel brand**
- **Scores highly on metrics such as awareness, satisfaction and brand investment**
- **Hilton is the world's most *valuable* hotel brand, at US\$8.4 billion**
- **Airbnb brand value growing faster than all hotel brands, up 52% to US\$3.7 billion**

Every year, leading valuation and strategy consultancy [Brand Finance](#) values the brands of thousands of the world's biggest companies. Brands are first evaluated to determine their power / strength (based on factors such as marketing investment, familiarity, loyalty, staff satisfaction and corporate reputation) and given a corresponding letter grade up to AAA+. Brand strength is used to determine what proportion of a business's revenue is contributed by the brand, which is projected into perpetuity to determine the brand's value. The world's 50 most valuable hotels brands are then ranked and included in the Brand Finance Hotel 50.

[View the full list of the world's 50 most valuable hotel brands here](#)

The world's strongest hotel brand is Premier Inn. The mass-market, UK-focussed brand's top billing may come as a surprise to some, however Premier Inn lives up to its name across a broad range of brand metrics from marketing investment to familiarity and consideration. Luxury brands may be notionally more desirable, but they are not as widely known as Premier Inn. The budget chain's value for money also supports higher scores for preference and satisfaction. Premier Inn's financial performance is correspondingly strong, with total sales up 12.9% and like for like sales up 4.2% in their financial year 2015/16, supporting an 11.9% pre-tax profit increase for Whitbread (Premier Inn's owner).

Whitbread has consistently invested in effective marketing communications. Premier Inn was the first mass market UK hotel brand to be advertised on prime time television following its creation in 2007 and has benefitted from high quality, effective advertising (frequently fronted by comedian Sir Lenny Henry) ever since. As confidence has grown in the strength of the brand, campaigns have become more emotionally-led. Recent ads focus on Premier Inn's role in helping friends and family keep in touch, including the Wes Anderson inspired 'Aunt Mabel's Birthday'.

However the operating environment for many major hotel brands is becoming increasingly challenging particularly due to changing customer demands and technology. The advent of Airbnb has allowed access to a vast range of private accommodation that plays into a growing desire for unique, visually interesting and 'authentic' accommodation. Airbnb's brand value is growing more rapidly than any of the major hotel brands. It increased 52% year on year to reach a total of US\$3.7 billion, making it more valuable than all but four of the world's biggest hotel brands.

In this context, the mixed results of the Brand Finance Hotels 50 may come as little surprise. Five of the top ten most valuable brands have lost value and the industry's year to year average brand value growth rate (4%) is significantly below the average for all sectors. There are notable exceptions however, with reasons for optimism for several brands including Hilton, the world's most valuable hotel brand, whose brand value has increased 7% to US\$8.4 billion.

## Note to Editors

You can find more stories about the world's most valuable hotel brands, as well as the methodology and definitions and key terms in the Brand Finance Hotels 50 report document.

Brand values are reported in USD. For precise conversions into local currency values, please confirm rates with the Brand Finance team.

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## About Brand Finance

[Brand Finance](#) is the world's leading brand valuation and strategy consultancy, with offices in over 15 countries. We provide clarity to marketers, brand owners and investors by quantifying the financial value of brands. Drawing on expertise in strategy, branding, market research, visual identity, finance, tax and intellectual property, Brand Finance helps clients make the right decisions to maximise brand and business value and bridges the gap between marketing and finance.

## Methodology

### *Definition of Brand*

When looking at brands as business assets that can be bought, sold and licensed, a technical definition is required. Brand Finance helped to craft the internationally recognised standard on Brand Valuation, ISO 10668. That defines a brand as “a marketing-related intangible asset including, but not limited to, names, terms, signs, symbols, logos and designs, or a combination of these, intended to identify goods, services or entities, or a combination of these, creating distinctive images and associations in the minds of stakeholders, thereby generating economic benefits/value.”

However, a brand makes a contribution to a company beyond that which can be sold to a third party. ‘Brand Contribution’ refers to the total economic benefit that a business derives from its brand, from volume and price premiums over generic products to cost savings over less well-branded competitors.

### *Brand Strength*

Brand Strength is the part of our analysis most directly and easily influenced by those responsible for marketing and brand management. In order to determine the strength of a brand we have developed the Brand Strength Index (BSI). We analyse marketing investment, brand equity (the goodwill accumulated with customers, staff and other stakeholders) and finally the impact of those on business performance. Following this analysis, each brand is assigned a BSI score out of 100, which is fed into the brand value calculation. Based on the score, each brand in the league table is assigned a rating between AAA+ and D in a format

similar to a credit rating. AAA+ brands are exceptionally strong and well managed while a failing brand would be assigned a D grade.

### *Approach*

Brand Finance calculates the values of the brands in its league tables using the 'Royalty Relief approach'. This approach involves estimating the likely future sales that are attributable to a brand and calculating a royalty rate that would be charged for the use of the brand, i.e. what the owner would have to pay for the use of the brand—assuming it were not already owned.

The steps in this process are as follows:

1 Calculate brand strength on a scale of 0 to 100 based on a number of attributes such as emotional connection, financial performance and sustainability, among others. This score is known as the Brand Strength Index, and is calculated using brand data from the BrandAsset® Valuator database, the world's largest database of brands, which measures brand equity, consideration and emotional imagery attributes to assess brand personality in a category agnostic manner.

2 Determine the royalty rate range for the respective brand sectors. This is done by reviewing comparable licensing agreements sourced from Brand Finance's extensive database of license agreements and other online databases.

3 Calculate royalty rate. The brand strength score is applied to the royalty rate range to arrive at a royalty rate. For example, if the royalty rate range in a brand's sector is 0-5% and a brand has a brand strength score of 80 out of 100, then an appropriate royalty rate for the use of this brand in the given sector will be 4%.

4 Determine brand specific revenues estimating a proportion of parent company revenues attributable to a specific brand.

5 Determine forecast brand specific revenues using a function of historic revenues, equity analyst forecasts and economic growth rates.

6 Apply the royalty rate to the forecast revenues to derive brand revenues.

7 Brand revenues are discounted post tax to a net present value which equals the brand value.