

# The Economist Presentation

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# Why America's tech giants have got bigger and stronger

## Initial Focus (2019):

- Columnist covered small business stories globally (China, Germany, Japan).
- Pivoted to focus only on companies worth \$100 billion+.

## Tech Giants in 2019:

- Microsoft (\$780bn), Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta.
- Combined value of \$3.4 trillion.

## 2024:

- Apple alone now exceeds that total.
- Tech giants have grown significantly, reshaping the global economy.





# AI's Impact on Chipmaking: Return to the Heart of Computing

**Silicon Valley's Origins:** Began with the invention of transistors and the rise of semiconductor technology.

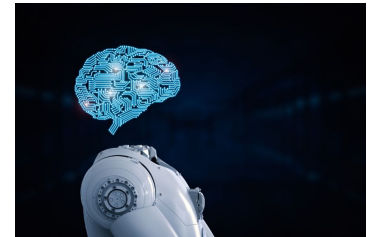
**Moore's Law:** Transistor count doubles every two years; key to faster, smaller, cheaper chips.

**AI's Rising Demand:** Computing power for AI doubles every 6 months, far outpacing Moore's Law.

**AI & Custom Chips:** Big tech (Apple, Microsoft, Google) invests in custom chips for AI tasks.

**Global Chip Supply Chain:** Pandemic disruptions led to reshoring chip manufacturing with \$50bn U.S. subsidies.

**Energy & Innovation Challenge:** As chips become denser, energy use is soaring; innovation is crucial.



# The Coming Food Catastrophe

**Ukraine War Impact:** Disrupted global food supply; Ukraine and Russia supply 12% of traded calories.

**Wheat Prices Soar:** Up 53% in 2022, with further increases due to export bans (e.g., India).

**Global Food Shortage:** UN warns of a global food crisis that could last years.

**Hunger and Poverty:** 440m more people now face food insecurity; 250m on the brink of famine.

**Widespread Consequences:** Poverty, political unrest, and starvation will spread if the crisis continues.

