

Pharmaceutical firms rake in billions with COVID jabs

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Germany's BioNTech, maker with partner Pfizer of the pioneering mRNA vaccine, raised its revenue forecast for 2021 to 15.9 billion euros.

COVID vaccines have brought billions of dollars to the coffers of pharmaceutical companies.

Germany's BioNTech, maker with partner Pfizer of the pioneering mRNA jab, raised its [vaccine](#) revenue forecast for 2021 in its latest earnings report on Monday.

Here are the numbers for the companies that publish [financial results](#):

Biggest winners: Pfizer and BioNTech

US firm Pfizer and BioNTech got a headstart over rivals as they were the first in the western world to announce positive results from clinical trials of their vaccine last year.

They were also first to get authorisation from US and European Union regulators to sell their shot.

Pfizer has earned more than its competitors, raking in \$10.8 billion (9.2 billion euros) in the first half of this year.

The US company has raised its outlook for 2021, expecting to make \$33.5 billion in sales for the full year.

BioNTech reported on Tuesday revenues of \$7.3 billion euros in the first half. Unlike its larger partner, the company's only product on sale is the coronavirus vaccine.

BioNTech expects vaccine revenues to reach 15.9 billion euros for the full year, up from a previous estimate of 9.8 billion euros.

Moderna the other mRNA champion

US startup Moderna is the only other firm to have produced an authorised mRNA vaccine so far.

Messenger RNA technology works by providing [human cells](#) with the [genetic instructions](#) to make a surface protein of the coronavirus, which trains the [immune system](#) to recognise the real virus.

Like BioNTech, the company's only product in the market is the COVID vaccine. The vaccine requires two shots taken weeks apart.

Moderna reported turnover of \$5.9 billion in the first six months of the year.

It expects to make \$20 billion in revenues thanks to the vaccine this year.

AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson trail

British pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca and US firm Johnson & Johnson had their vaccines approved by the EU later than their rivals.

AstraZeneca's vaccine is one of the world's leading vaccines and has been vital in the UK's speedy vaccination drive—which enabled England's economy to fully reopen this month.

But it has not been approved by US drug regulators.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine—made by Janssen, its Belgian subsidiary—has the advantage of being administered with one shot instead of two like those of its rivals.

AstraZeneca and J&J do not use mRNA technology.

They both made more traditional viral vector vaccines, which use genetically-engineered version of a common-cold causing adenovirus as a "vector" to shuttle genetic instructions into human cells.

The two companies also vowed to sell their vaccines at cost during the pandemic, meaning they would not earn profits from them.

They are cheaper than the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna jabs, which reflects in their revenues.

AstraZeneca's COVID jab generated \$1.2 billion in sales in the first six months of the year.

J&J reported \$264 million in sales and expects to make \$2.5 billion for the full year. AstraZeneca has not provided a detailed full-year estimate.

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