

Inside AllBusiness

▶ Home

Forms & Agreements

- ▶ Best Selling Forms
- ▶ All Forms & Agreements
- ▶ Forms Kits

Business Advice

- ▶ Ask the Experts
- ▶ Business Plans
- ▶ Buying/Selling a Business
- ▶ Career Advice
- ▶ Consulting
- ▶ Contracts
- ▶ Dummies Resource
- ▶ Employment & HR
- ▶ Finance & Accounting
- ▶ Franchise
- ▶ Home-Based Business
- ▶ Incorporation
- ▶ Insurance
- ▶ Internet & E-Commerce
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Loans
- ▶ Personal Finance
- ▶ Q&A
- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Sales & Marketing
- ▶ Starting a Business
- ▶ Technology

[RSS Directory](#)


[Home](#) » [Business Advice](#) » [Franchise](#) » [Franchising Basics](#)

What Are the Largest Franchises?

When you think of franchises a few "Big Dogs" may come to mind. However, there are other companies that represent brands you encounter daily but don't associate them with a larger, parent company. The following franchises are among the largest, in terms of existing franchises and growth, doing business in the marketplace today.

Cendant may not be a recognizable brand name to you but Super 8, Days Inn, Ramada, TravelLodge, Howard Johnson, Knights Inn, Villager, Wingate Inn and AmeriHost Inn should ring a bell. Cendant claims to be the world's largest hotel franchisor with 6,397 open hotels representing 518,143 rooms on five continents.

McDonald's is the franchise pioneer, having opened its first franchised outlet in 1955 by entrepreneur Ray Kroc. Today, McDonald's boasts over 30,000 restaurants, 70 percent of which are franchises, in 119 countries serving over 47 million customers daily.

Subway is fast at McDonald's heels with 22,224 restaurants in 77 countries and counting. Reportedly there are more Subway Sandwich Shops in the U.S. than places to buy a Big Mac. A little known fact is that Subway has been around since 1965 when Fred DeLuca and his business partner Pete Buck opened up the first Subway restaurant. By 1974 they owned and operated 16 units throughout Connecticut.

Brinker International is the parent company of Chili's Grill & Bar, Chili's Too, Romano's Macaroni Grill, On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, Maggiano's Little Italy, Corner Bakery Café, Big Bowl Asian Kitchen and Rockfish Seafood Grill. Brinker International has won numerous awards and is widely recognized as one of the best managed, most innovative and progressive companies in the restaurant industry. For the past five years, Forbes magazine has listed Brinker International in their annual list of the "400 Best Companies in America."

GNC, the leader in vitamin and supplement franchises, started in 1935 and began franchising in

1988. Currently there are 4,560 franchises in the US and 26 foreign countries, as well as 2,842 company-owned stores in operation.

Related Articles

- [Building the Best Franchisor/Franchisee Relationship Possible](#)
- [Defining Key Franchise Terminology](#)
- [What Is a Franchise?](#)
- [10 Key Principles of Franchise Marketing](#)
- [5 Reasons Franchises Fail](#)

AAMCO claims to be the largest franchise in the transmission repair industry with over 700 locations in the US and Canada. They also claim to have a 98 percent nationwide recognition rate.

Jani-King has been awarded numerous titles from Entrepreneur Magazine since its inception in 1969, including #1 Commercial Cleaning Franchise (17 out of the last 18 years), #1 Homebased Franchise, #4 Low-Investment Franchise, #9 Best Performing Franchisor of All Time, #7 Fastest Growing Franchise, #8 Overall Franchise and the #1 rated commercial cleaning franchise company by Franchise Times Magazine. Jani-King has approximately 9,500 units, with expected growth annually.

Pro Golf Discount is part of the \$25 billion golf industry with 135 unites throughout the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. Pro Golf Discount has been in business since 1962 and franchising since 1975.

Sylvan Learning Center has been in business since 1979 and franchising since 1980. They have over 900 centers in operation. With classroom sizes growing and proliferation of teacher incentives based on student performance, many students are lagging behind their classmates and some are even placed into special education programs when all they need is extra circular help. Education franchises are becoming a dominate presence among franchise concepts, with Sylvan Learning Center leading the pack.