

China fines internet giants in anti-monopoly cases

July 7 2021



In this May 27, 2016, file photo, a man talks on his phone as a woman rides on an electric bike past a company logo at the Alibaba Group headquarters in Hangzhou in eastern China's Zhejiang province. Companies including internet giants Alibaba and Tencent were fined Wednesday, July 7, 2021, by anti-monopoly regulators in a new move to tighten control over their fast-developing industries. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File

Companies including internet giants Alibaba and Tencent were fined Wednesday by anti-monopoly regulators in a new move to tighten control over their fast-developing industries.

In 22 cases, companies were fined 500,000 yuan (\$75,000) each for actions including acquiring stakes in other companies that might improperly increase their market power, the State Administration for Market Regulation announced. It said violators include six companies owned by Alibaba Group, five by Tencent Holding Ltd. and two by retailer Suning.com, Ltd.

China's leaders worry about the dominance of its biggest internet companies, which are expanding into finance, [health services](#) and other sensitive areas. The ruling Communist Party says anti-monopoly enforcement, especially in tech, is a priority this year.

In the biggest penalty to date, Alibaba was fined 18.3 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) in April on charges of suppressing competition. Other companies have been fined or reprimanded for violating competition, [data protection](#), censorship and other rules.

On Sunday, ride-hailing service Didi Global Inc., which had a U.S. stock market debut last week, was ordered by regulators to overhaul its collection and handling of customer information.



Residents past by mural calling for patriotism in Beijing on Wednesday, July 7, 2021. Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Tuesday attacked calls from some in the U.S. and its allies to limit their dependency on Chinese suppliers and block the sharing of technologies. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



In this Aug. 7, 2020, file photo, a man rides past the Tencent headquarters in Beijing, China. Companies including internet giants Alibaba and Tencent were fined Wednesday, July 7, 2021, by anti-monopoly regulators in a new move to tighten control over their fast-developing industries. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File

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