

## Amazon buys Whole Foods for \$13.7B



Amazon said Friday June 16, 2017 that it had agreed to buy the upscale grocery chain Whole Foods for \$13.4 billion (US). The above aquisition is an ambitious push into the grocery business, an industry accounting for around \$700 to \$800 billion in annual sales.



This is an opportunity for Whole Foods to fend off pressure from their activist investors frustrated by a sluggish stock price. Whole Foods in May 2017 unveiled a sweeping overhaul of its board, replacing five directors, naming a new chairwoman and bringing in a new chief financial officer. Whole Foods planst to improve operations while cutting costs. With Amazon, Whole Foods has a deep-pocketed owner with significant technological expertise and the willingness to invest aggressively; in a quest for dominance.



Amazon plans on expanding beyond online retail into physical stores. Attention is focused on the supermaket initiative. Amazon has already made an initial push through AmazonFresh, its grocery delivery service.

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