



BusinessStats

Data · Insights · Statistics

STATISTICS BOOK

Billionaires: statistics and facts

21 full reports · Edition October 2026

63%

PUBLIC, UNDER 50

25%

FASHION, WOMEN

36%

ASIA-PACIFIC

\$839B

ELON MUSK

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Billionaires: statistics and facts

Every Business Stats report on Billionaires in one place: 21 reports, from Wealth (8 reports), Gender (3 reports) and Region (2 reports).

The reports put numbers on it, for example 63% (Public, under 50), 25% (Fashion, women), 36% (Asia-Pacific) and 20 (Youngest (Amelie)).

Freshly updated: Billionaire Wealth by Asset and Age 2026 and Billionaire Industries by Gender 2026 (Ranked). Every report names its primary source, and its charts and tables can be downloaded and reused for free. The list grows on its own when a new report is published; it last changed on Oct 18, 2026.

Also in this topic: Billionaire Share by Region 2026: Asia Leads, Youngest Billionaires in the World 2026 and Pandemic Billionaire Wealth by Industry 2020.

Each chapter is a complete Business Stats report with its text, charts, tables and primary sources. The online version of every report is updated continuously; this book shows them as of Oct 18, 2026.

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STATISTICS REPORT

Breakdown of the average billionaire's wealth worldwide 2026, by assets and age

 Updated Jul 29, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-breakdown-wealth

63% PUBLIC, UNDER 50	40% PUBLIC, 50+	42% PUBLIC, OVERALL
31% PRIVATE, OVERALL	22% LIQUID, OVERALL	5% REAL ESTATE

Overview

Breakdown of the average billionaire's wealth around the world in 2026, by asset allocation and age

Public holdings make up the largest share of the average billionaires wealth, but the mix changes sharply with age. Billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public, listed shares, against about 40 percent for those aged 50 and over.

The way the average billionaire holds wealth is one of the least understood aspects of great fortune, and it turns out to depend heavily on age, shifting from concentrated equity among the young to a diversified mix among the old.

On the Altrata and Wealth-X figures, billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares, 20 percent in private holdings, 13 percent in liquid assets and 4 percent in real estate and luxury, a far more concentrated mix than older billionaires.

It is one of the clearest illustrations of how great wealth is really held, cutting through the popular image of yachts and mansions to show a billionaire class whose fortunes are, above all, ownership of businesses.

It is a breakdown that reveals as much about the sources of great wealth as about how it is invested, since the industries that mint young billionaires are precisely those whose fortunes are held in listed shares.

Few charts capture the changing shape of a fortune over a lifetime as clearly as this one, tracing the path from the concentrated equity of a young founder to the broad, diversified holdings of an established

billionaire.

The rest is split between private business holdings, liquid assets such as cash and dividends, and a small share in real estate and luxury. The wider wealth picture sits in our [billionaire wealth by industry](#), [wealth by gender](#) and [wealth by region](#) coverage.

Average Billionaire Asset Allocation by Age, 2026 (%)Public shares fall with age.

Data:

Breakdown of the average billionaires wealth around the world in 2026, by asset allocation and age, from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Assets are public holdings, private holdings, liquid assets and real estate and luxury. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

Public shares fall with age: billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares, falling to about 40 percent by age 50, as private and liquid holdings rise.

The heavy weighting toward public shares among younger billionaires reflects the rise of technology founders, whose fortunes are tied to the listed equity of their companies, a link our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

A note on the data. The figures show the breakdown of the average billionaires wealth in 2026 by asset allocation and age, from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census. Assets are public holdings, private holdings, liquid assets, and real estate and luxury, and shares are approximate.

The Billionaire Census draws on Altratas database of the global billionaire population, assessing all asset holdings including publicly and privately held businesses and investable assets, making it one of the most detailed sources on billionaire wealth.

The categories are public holdings, meaning listed company shares, private holdings, meaning stakes in unlisted businesses, liquid assets, meaning cash and dividends, and real estate and luxury assets such as property, art and yachts.

The Table

Billionaire Asset Allocation by Age

Average Billionaire Asset Allocation by Age, 2026 (%)Click any column to sort

ASSET CLASS	UNDER 50	50 TO 70	70 AND OVER
Public holdings	63%	40%	40%
Private holdings	20%	33%	31%
Liquid assets	13%	22%	24%
Real estate & luxury	4%	5%	5%

The table sets out the average billionaires asset allocation by age group in 2026. It shows public holdings falling and private and liquid assets rising as billionaires age, with real estate and luxury a small share throughout.

Reading across the age groups shows public holdings falling from 63 percent to about 40 percent, private holdings rising from 20 to about 32 percent, and liquid assets rising from 13 to about 24 percent.

Because the shares are averages across a large and varied population, individual billionaires can differ widely, but the broad pattern of a shift from public shares to a diversified mix with age is consistent.

Overall

How Is the Average Billionaires Wealth Split?

Across all billionaires, public holdings are the largest asset class at about 42 percent of wealth, followed by private holdings on about 31 percent, liquid assets on about 22 percent and real estate and luxury on about 5 percent.

Taken across the whole billionaire population, the allocation is weighted overwhelmingly toward business ownership, a defining feature that sets billionaire wealth apart from the wealth of ordinary households.

Across all billionaires, public holdings make up about 42 percent of wealth, private holdings about 31 percent, liquid assets about 22 percent and real estate and luxury about 5 percent, so business ownership makes up nearly three quarters of the total.

The weighting of billionaire wealth toward business ownership, public and private, is the single most important fact about how the very wealthy hold their fortunes, and it sets them apart from everyone else.



The overwhelming weight of business ownership in billionaire wealth, public and private together, is the defining feature that separates the balance sheet of a billionaire from that of an ordinary household.

The concentration of billionaire wealth in business ownership rather than property or cash is perhaps the single most important thing to understand about how the very wealthiest hold their money.

It is a distinction that shapes everything from how billionaires are taxed to how their wealth is passed on, and it begins with the simple fact that most of it is ownership of companies.

The overall allocation is heavily weighted toward business ownership, public and private, which together make up nearly three quarters of billionaire wealth, a concentration our [billionaires around the world](#) coverage frames.

Average Billionaire Wealth by Asset, All Ages (%) Business ownership dominates.

Data:

Breakdown of the average billionaires wealth around the world in 2026, by asset allocation and age, from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Assets are public holdings, private holdings, liquid assets and real estate and luxury. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Business ownership dominates: public holdings are about 42 percent of billionaire wealth and private holdings 31 percent, so business ownership makes up nearly three quarters of the total.

The dominance of business holdings over cash and property is the defining feature of billionaire wealth, distinguishing it from the wealth of ordinary households, which is held far more in property and pensions than in company shares.

Public Holdings

Why Do the Young Hold So Much in Shares?

Public holdings, meaning listed company shares, are the largest single asset class for the average billionaire, but they dominate among the young. Billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares, far more than older billionaires.



The dominance of public, listed shares in young billionaire wealth is the single most distinctive feature of the age breakdown, and it separates the technology-driven young from every older cohort.

Billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares against about 40 percent for those aged 50 and over, one of the sharpest differences by age in the whole of billionaire wealth.

The scale of the difference in public holdings between young and old billionaires, more than twenty percentage points, is one of the most striking single findings in the asset-allocation data. The dominance of public shares in young billionaire wealth, and its steady decline with age, is the single clearest thread running through the whole of the asset-allocation data.

Because so much of the wealth of the young is a single listed shareholding, it is also the most transparent, visible daily in the share price, unlike the private and cash holdings that dominate older fortunes.

The concentration of young billionaire wealth in public shares reflects the rise of technology founders, whose wealth is largely the listed equity of the companies they built, a pattern our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage frames.

Public Holdings by Age Group (%)Highest among the young.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate.Switch views with the toolbar.

Highest among the young: public holdings make up about 63 percent of wealth for billionaires under 50, falling to about 40 percent for those aged 50 and over.

For billionaires aged 50 and over, public holdings fall to about 40 percent of wealth, as fortunes are gradually diversified into private holdings and liquid assets, a shift that comes with age and the sale of founding stakes.

The fall in public holdings with age, from about 63 percent among the young to about 40 percent among the old, is mirrored by a rise in private and liquid holdings, tracing the diversification of wealth over a lifetime.

Private Holdings

How Do Private Holdings Change With Age?

Private holdings, meaning stakes in unlisted businesses, are a larger share of wealth for older billionaires. They make up about 20 percent of wealth for those under 50 but rise to about a third for billionaires aged 50 and over.

The larger place of private business holdings in older billionaire wealth reflects both the maturing of their companies and the deliberate diversification that tends to come with age and the transfer of wealth.

Private holdings rise from about 20 percent of wealth for billionaires under 50 to about 33 percent for those aged 50 to 70 and about 31 percent for those aged 70 and over.

The rise of private holdings with age reflects the natural broadening of a fortune, as a founder who began with a single listed company gradually acquires stakes in other, unlisted ventures.

The growing weight of private business holdings with age is a reminder that much of the world's great wealth sits in companies that never appear on any stock exchange, held quietly within families.

The larger private share among older billionaires reflects the maturing of their businesses and the broadening of their holdings beyond a single listed company, a diversification our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Private Holdings by Age Group (%) Rises with age.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Rises with age: private business holdings rise from about 20 percent of wealth for the under 50s to about a third for older billionaires.

Private holdings are especially important for billionaires outside technology, in industries such as manufacturing, real estate and consumer goods, where much wealth is held in family-owned, unlisted

businesses rather than listed shares.

The importance of private holdings outside technology reflects the many industries, from manufacturing to consumer goods, where great wealth is held in family-owned businesses that have never been listed on a stock exchange.

Liquid Assets

Why Do Older Billionaires Hold More Cash?

Liquid assets, meaning cash, income and dividends, rise steadily with age. They make up about 13 percent of wealth for billionaires under 50 but about 24 percent for those aged 70 and over, as older billionaires hold more of their wealth in cash.

The steady rise in liquid holdings with age is one of the clearest patterns in the data, reflecting a natural shift toward cash and safety as billionaires grow older and plan for succession.

Liquid assets rise from about 13 percent of wealth for billionaires under 50 to about 22 percent for those aged 50 to 70 and about 24 percent for those aged 70 and over.

The steady climb in cash holdings with age is one of the most consistent patterns in the data, and it speaks to the changing priorities of billionaires as they move toward succession and philanthropy.

The larger cash cushion of older billionaires is one of the clearest signs of how priorities shift with age, from building a fortune to preserving it and preparing to pass it on.

The rising liquid share with age reflects a natural shift toward safety and diversification, as older billionaires cash out founding stakes and hold more in liquid form, a shift our gold and other stores of value coverage frames.

Liquid Assets by Age Group (%)Cash rises with age.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate.Switch views with the toolbar.

Cash rises with age: liquid assets rise from about 13 percent of wealth for billionaires under 50 to about 24 percent for those aged 70 and over.

The larger cash holdings of older billionaires give them flexibility for philanthropy, succession planning and diversification, priorities that tend to grow in importance with age and the transfer of wealth to the next generation.

The larger cash holdings of older billionaires are not idle wealth but a deliberate provision for philanthropy, succession and diversification, priorities that grow in importance as billionaires age.

The Young

What Do Young Billionaires Hold?

Younger billionaires look very different from older ones. Those under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares and only about 20 percent in private holdings, the most concentrated allocation of any age group.

The distinctive profile of billionaires under 50, dominated by public shares, is a direct reflection of the technology boom that has minted so many young fortunes in listed equity.

The profile of the young billionaire, holding most of their wealth in the listed shares of a single company they founded, has become one of the defining images of the technology era of wealth creation.

The profile of the young billionaire, holding most of their wealth in the shares of a single company, is the direct product of the technology boom and the speed with which it has created new fortunes.

Their fortunes, tied to the daily movement of a single share price, are both the most visible and the most volatile of any age group, capable of swinging by billions in the space of a single trading session.

The distinctive allocation of young billionaires reflects the technology sector, which has the youngest and most self-made billionaires, whose wealth is overwhelmingly the listed equity of the firms they founded and still control.

Billionaires Under 50: Asset Allocation (%)

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.



Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Concentrated in equity: billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares, the most concentrated allocation of any age group, driven by technology founders.

This concentration also makes young billionaire wealth more volatile, since it rises and falls with the share price of a single company, unlike the more diversified holdings of older billionaires spread across private stakes and cash, a spread our [billionaire share by region](#) coverage sets in a wider context.

The concentration of young billionaire wealth in a single listed company makes it far more volatile than the diversified holdings of older billionaires, rising and falling sharply with the share price.

The Old

What Do Older Billionaires Hold?

Older billionaires hold a more balanced mix. Those aged 70 and over hold about 40 percent in public shares, about 31 percent in private holdings and about 24 percent in liquid assets, a far more diversified allocation than the young.

The balanced allocation of older billionaires, spread across public shares, private stakes and cash, is the product of decades of diversification and the practical demands of passing on great wealth. The contrast between the concentrated young founder and the diversified older billionaire captures, in a single comparison, how great wealth tends to evolve over the course of a lifetime.

The diversified holdings of older billionaires are the accumulated result of decades of investment decisions, gradually spreading a fortune that often began as a single concentrated stake.

The balanced allocation of older billionaires reflects decades of diversification, as founding stakes are sold and wealth is spread across private businesses, cash and investments, a shift our [US financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires 70 and Over: Asset Allocation (%) A diversified mix.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.



Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

A diversified mix: billionaires aged 70 and over hold about 40 percent in public shares, 31 percent in private holdings and 24 percent in liquid assets, a far more balanced mix.

The larger liquid and private holdings of older billionaires reflect both prudence and the practicalities of succession, as wealth is prepared for transfer to heirs and foundations, a process that favors diversified, liquid holdings over concentrated equity.

The diversified, liquid-heavy allocation of older billionaires reflects the practical work of preparing great wealth for transfer to heirs and foundations, which favors flexible holdings over concentrated equity.

Young vs Old

How Sharp Is the Age Contrast?

The contrast between the youngest and oldest billionaires is the sharpest in the data.

Those under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares and just 20 percent in private holdings, while those aged 70 and over hold a far more even spread across the four asset classes, a divergence our [billionaire population by region](#) coverage complements through geography.

Asset Allocation: Under 50 vs 70 and Over (%) A sharp contrast.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

A sharp contrast: billionaires under 50 hold far more in public shares and far less in private and liquid assets than those aged 70 and over.

Asset Shift from Under 50 to 70 and Over (%) Equity out, diversification in.

Data:



Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Equity out, diversification in: as billionaires age from under 50 to 70 and over, public holdings fall sharply while private and liquid assets rise.

By Industry

How Does Allocation Vary by Industry?

Asset allocation varies by industry as well as age. Technology billionaires hold about 70 percent of their wealth in public shares, the most of any industry, while real estate billionaires hold far more in private and property assets.

The variation in asset allocation by industry is as revealing as the variation by age, and the two are closely linked, since the youngest billionaires are concentrated in the most equity-heavy sector.

Technology billionaires hold about 70 percent of their wealth in public shares, the most of any industry, against about 40 percent for banking and finance and only about 20 percent for real estate billionaires.

The variation in allocation by industry, closely tied to the age profile of each sector, is one of the most useful ways of understanding why billionaire wealth is held so differently across the population.

The equity-heavy allocation of technology billionaires, whose wealth is the listed stock of their companies, is the single biggest reason young billionaires hold so much in public shares, since their wealth is the stock of their firms.

Public Holdings Share by Industry (%) Technology leads.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Technology leads: technology billionaires hold about 70 percent of their wealth in public shares, the most of any industry, against about 20 percent for real estate billionaires.

Billionaires in banking and finance, manufacturing and real estate hold more balanced allocations, with larger private and liquid shares, reflecting the different ways wealth is held across industries and the older age of those sectors billionaires.

The link between industry and allocation, with technology equity-heavy and real estate property-heavy, explains much of the variation by age, since the age profile of billionaires differs so sharply between sectors.

Real Estate & Luxury

How Much Is in Property and Luxury?

Real estate and luxury assets, from property to art, cars and yachts, are a small share of billionaire wealth, about 4 to 5 percent across all age groups. This is far smaller than most people assume for the very wealthy.

The small place of real estate and luxury in billionaire wealth is one of the most surprising findings, running counter to the popular image of the super-rich and their yachts, jets and mansions.

At about 4 to 5 percent of wealth, real estate and luxury is by far the smallest of the four asset classes, a fraction of the public and private business holdings that dominate billionaire wealth.

The gap between the popular image of billionaire wealth, all yachts and mansions, and the reality of business holdings is one of the most instructive lessons in the whole of the asset-allocation data.

Despite their visibility, luxury assets such as art, yachts and jets make up only a few percent of billionaire wealth, a share our [alternative assets](#) coverage frames against the newer asset classes.

Billionaire vs Household Wealth Composition (%) Business vs property.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Business vs property: billionaires hold about three quarters of their wealth in business ownership and only about 5 percent in property, the reverse of ordinary households, who hold about half their wealth in property.

Real estate remains attractive to billionaires as a store of value and something tangible to pass on, but as a share of total wealth it is dwarfed by their public and private business holdings, which make up the great majority of their fortunes, as our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage shows for the largest holders.

The modest share of real estate and luxury, despite its high visibility, underlines how much billionaire wealth is working capital in businesses rather than assets held for enjoyment or display.

Key Facts

Billionaire Asset Allocation in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares, against about 40 percent for those aged 50 and over, while private and liquid holdings rise with age.

These figures together show how billionaire wealth is actually held, and how it shifts from the concentrated equity of the young founder to the diversified holdings of the older, established billionaire.

Taken together, the figures describe how billionaire wealth is held and how it changes with age, from the concentrated equity of the young to the diversified holdings of the old. These figures together provide a rare window into how the very wealthiest people actually hold their money, correcting many of the assumptions that surround the lifestyles of the super-rich.

These figures matter because asset allocation shows how billionaire wealth is actually held, and how it shifts with age, a picture our [wealth per adult by country](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage complements.

Business Ownership vs Other Assets, All Billionaires (%) Ownership dominates.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.



Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Ownership dominates: public and private business holdings together make up about 73 percent of billionaire wealth, with liquid assets about 22 percent and real estate and luxury only about 5 percent.

63%Public, under 50Listed shares. 40%Public, 50+More balanced. 42%Public, overallLargest asset class. 5%Real estate & luxuryA small share.

Together they describe a billionaire class whose wealth is overwhelmingly business ownership, concentrated in listed shares among the young and more diversified among the old. For now, the breakdown shows a billionaire class whose wealth is overwhelmingly business ownership, held as concentrated public equity by the young and as a diversified mix by the old.

Big Picture

Billionaire Wealth by Asset and Age: The Big Picture

Taken together, the breakdown of the average billionaires wealth by asset and age in 2026 shows a sharp shift from concentrated public shares among the young to a diversified mix among the old, a clear pattern across the billionaire class.

Public Shares vs Diversified Holdings, by Age (%)The crossover with age.

Data:

Billionaire asset-allocation data compiled by BusinessStats from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census.

Note:

Public holdings are listed shares, private holdings are unlisted business stakes, liquid assets are cash and dividends, and shares are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

The crossover with age: public shares fall from about 63 percent of wealth for the young to about 40 percent for the old, while diversified private and liquid holdings rise to make up the majority.

Whether the equity-heavy allocation of young billionaires proves lasting will depend on the technology sector, but for now billionaire wealth remains overwhelmingly business ownership, shifting toward

diversification with age.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Asset Allocation

Across all billionaires, about 42 percent is in public shares, 31 percent in private holdings, 22 percent in liquid assets and 5 percent in real estate and luxury.

Younger billionaires hold far more in public shares, about 63 percent under 50, while older billionaires hold more in private and liquid assets, a more diversified mix.

Because many are technology founders whose wealth is the listed equity of their companies, so their fortunes are concentrated in public, listed shares.

Only about 4 to 5 percent across all age groups, far smaller than most people assume, since business holdings make up the great majority of billionaire wealth.

Stakes in unlisted, privately owned businesses. They make up about 20 percent of wealth for billionaires under 50 and about a third for those aged 50 and over.

Because they diversify with age, selling founding stakes and holding more in liquid form for philanthropy, succession and safety, rising to about 24 percent by age 70.

Technology, whose billionaires hold about 70 percent of their wealth in listed shares, the most of any industry, driving the equity-heavy allocation of the young.

Public holdings, at about 42 percent of wealth on average, though private and public business holdings together make up nearly three quarters of billionaire wealth.

It is held far more in company shares, public and private, while ordinary household wealth is held more in property and pensions than in business ownership.

From the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census, which analyses the asset allocation of the global billionaire population by age, industry and other traits.

Sources

Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census - Source for the breakdown of the average billionaires wealth by asset allocation and age.



Altrata and Wealth-X historical wealth data - Source for allocation by industry and the overall averages, compiled by BusinessStats.

Altrata Billionaire Census - Publishes the analysis of billionaire wealth by asset allocation and age.

Figures show the breakdown of the average billionaires wealth in 2026 by asset allocation and age, from the Altrata and Wealth-X Billionaire Census. Billionaires under 50 hold about 63 percent of their wealth in public shares, against about 40 percent for those aged 50 and over, with private and liquid holdings rising with age. Real estate and luxury is a small share, about 5 percent. Shares are approximate. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Growth of billionaire wealth globally during the COVID-19 pandemic, by industry

Updated Jul 29, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaire-wealth-growth-by-industry

+44% INDUSTRIALS	+41% TECHNOLOGY	+36% HEALTH
\$10.2T TOTAL, JULY 2020	+27% TOTAL GROWTH	2,189 BILLIONAIRES

Overview

Development of billionaire wealth worldwide from April to July 2020, by industry

Billionaire wealth in industrials grew fastest during the early pandemic, rising about 44 percent from April to July 2020, just ahead of technology on about 41 percent and health industries on about 36 percent. Real estate grew slowest, at about 13 percent. The early pandemic produced one of the sharpest and most uneven surges in billionaire wealth on record, rewarding the industries best placed for a locked-down, digital world and leaving others far behind. On the UBS and PwC figures, industrials billionaire wealth grew about 44.4 percent from April to July 2020, technology about 41.1 percent, health about 36.3 percent, materials 29.6 percent and financial services 26 percent, while real estate grew just 12.8 percent. It is one of the most-cited illustrations of how the pandemic reshaped great wealth, showing a rebound so fast and so concentrated that billionaire fortunes reached a record high within months of the March 2020 crash. The four-month window from April to July 2020 captured the fastest rebound in billionaire wealth the UBS and PwC researchers had ever recorded, and it left a clear map of which industries thrived and which lagged. It remains one of the most widely cited data points on wealth and the pandemic, a stark illustration of how the crisis, for the very wealthiest, became an opportunity rather than a setback.

Total billionaire wealth reached a record 10.2 trillion dollars by the end of July 2020, a rise of about 27 percent from the April low. The wider industry picture sits in our [billionaire industries](#), [billionaire wealth by region](#) and [billionaire wealth by gender](#) coverage.

Billionaire Wealth by Industry, April vs July 2020 (index)The pandemic jump.

Data:

Development of billionaire wealth worldwide from April to July 2020, by industry, from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights report *Riding the Storm*.

Note:

Growth is measured over the pandemic period from 7 April to 31 July 2020. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

The pandemic jump: billionaire wealth in every industry rose from April to July 2020, with technology, health and industrials showing the steepest gains over the four-month rebound.

The pandemic accelerated a divergence that had been building for years, with technology, health and industrials pulling ahead of the rest, a shift our [technology and financial markets](#) coverage frames through the stocks behind the fortunes.

A note on the data. The figures show the development of billionaire wealth from April to July 2020 by industry, from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights report. The period runs from 7 April, the reports cut-off, to 31 July 2020, extended to capture the pandemic rebound. The report, the seventh in the UBS and PwC series, covers more than 2,000 billionaires across 43 markets that account for about 98 percent of global billionaire wealth, making it one of the most comprehensive sources on the subject. The study period, normally ending on 7 April, was extended to 31 July 2020 specifically to capture the transformative effect of COVID-19 on billionaire wealth, making it a rare window on a crisis in real time.

The Table

Billionaire Wealth Growth by Industry

Billionaire Wealth Growth by Industry, April to July 2020Click any column to sort

INDUSTRY	GROWTH, APR TO JUL 2020
Industrials	+44.4%
Technology	+41.1%
Health industries	+36.3%
Materials	+29.6%

Financial services	+26.0%
Consumer & retail	+20.7%
Entertainment & media	+20.7%
Other / diversified	+12.9%
Real estate	+12.8%

The table sets out the growth in billionaire wealth by industry from April to July 2020. It shows industrials, technology and health at the top and real estate, other diversified and entertainment at the bottom, a clear split between pandemic winners and laggards. Reading down the column shows the split clearly, with three industries above 35 percent growth and the slowest, real estate, at under 13 percent, a spread of more than thirty points. Because the figures are drawn from a single report covering a defined four-month window, they give an unusually clean snapshot of how the pandemic rebound was distributed across industries.

The Winners

Which Industries Grew Fastest?

Industrials led the pandemic rebound, with billionaire wealth in the sector rising about 44 percent from April to July 2020. Technology followed on about 41 percent and health industries on about 36 percent, the three clear winners of the period. The lead of industrials, technology and health during the pandemic rebound was the clearest expression of a divergence between industries that the COVID-19 crisis accelerated rather than created. Industrials about 44.4 percent led the pandemic rebound from April to July 2020, ahead of technology on 41.1 percent and health industries on 36.3 percent, the three clear winners of the period. The scale of the gains in the leading sectors, more than forty percent for industrials and technology in a single four-month window, is without precedent in the UBS and PwC series of reports. The dominance of industrials, technology and health during the rebound reflected exactly the sectors that a locked-down, health-focused, digitising world turned to, and their billionaire owners were the direct beneficiaries. The pandemic winners were not chosen at random: they were the industries whose products and services became more essential, not less, when the world locked down, from cloud software to medical supplies.

The strength of technology and health reflected the sectors most in demand during the pandemic, from digital services to vaccines and therapies, a surge our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage frames through the companies involved.

Billionaire Wealth Growth by Industry, Apr-Jul 2020 (%) Industrials leads.

Data:

Development of billionaire wealth worldwide from April to July 2020, by industry, from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights report *Riding the Storm*.

Note:

Growth is measured over the pandemic period from 7 April to 31 July 2020. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Industrials leads: industrials billionaire wealth grew about 44 percent from April to July 2020, ahead of technology on 41 percent and health on 36 percent, with real estate slowest at 13 percent.

Investors bet heavily on technology and healthcare firms developing vaccines, therapies and digital tools, driving the fortunes of the billionaires who owned them sharply higher over just four months. The surge in technology and health billionaire wealth was driven by the same forces that lifted the shares of the companies these billionaires owned, as investors bet on the winners of a changed economy.

The Laggards

Which Industries Grew Slowest?

At the other end, real estate billionaire wealth grew only about 13 percent, the slowest of any industry, followed by other diversified and entertainment and media on about 13 and 21 percent. These sectors lagged the pandemic rebound. The industries that lagged the rebound were those most exposed to the disruption of the pandemic, from property to entertainment, whose fortunes recovered far more slowly than the digital winners. The industries that lagged were those whose business models depended on physical presence and movement, and whose recovery would depend on the eventual return to something like normal life.

The weakness of real estate reflected the uncertainty over property values during the pandemic, though billionaires kept faith in it as a store of value, a role our [gold and other stores of value](#) coverage frames.

Billionaire Wealth Growth Index by Industry, 2009 vs 2020 A decade of divergence.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100. Switch views with the toolbar.

A decade of divergence: from a common 2009 base, technology and health billionaire wealth grew far more than real estate or diversified sectors by 2020.

The gap between the fastest and slowest industries, more than thirty percentage points, shows how unevenly the pandemic rebound was spread, rewarding the sectors best placed for a locked-down, digital world. The more than thirty percentage point gap between the fastest and slowest industries over just four months is one of the clearest single measures of how unevenly the pandemic rebound was distributed.

Total Wealth

How Much Did Total Billionaire Wealth Grow?

Total billionaire wealth reached a record 10.2 trillion dollars by the end of July 2020, up from about 8 trillion at the April low, a rise of about 27 percent in under four months. The previous peak had been 8.9 trillion at the end of 2017. The recovery in total billionaire wealth was among the most striking financial stories of the pandemic, turning a sharp March crash into a record high within four months even as the wider economy remained in recession. Total billionaire wealth reached about 10.2 trillion dollars by 31 July 2020, up from about 8 trillion at the April low, a rise of about 27 percent, surpassing the previous peak of 8.9 trillion at the end of 2017. The V-shaped recovery in billionaire wealth, from the March low to a July record, was one of the clearest signs of how completely the fortunes of the very wealthy had decoupled from the wider pandemic economy. The recovery in total billionaire wealth over these four months was so complete that it not only erased the March crash but carried fortunes to an all-time high, a rebound with few parallels in financial history. The record total reached at the end of July 2020 was all the more striking for having been reached so soon after the March low, a testament to the speed and scale of the market rebound. The gap between this record and the hardship faced by hundreds of millions of ordinary people during the same months made the figure one of the most discussed of the entire pandemic.

The V-shaped rebound in billionaire wealth tracked the sharp recovery in global stock markets after the March 2020 crash, a rebound our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames through the markets that drove it.

Total Billionaire Wealth, 2020 (USD trn) A V-shaped rebound.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100. Switch views with the toolbar.

A V-shaped rebound: total billionaire wealth fell in the March 2020 crash then rebounded to a record 10.2 trillion dollars by the end of July, up about 27 percent from the April low.

The speed of the recovery was remarkable, with billionaire wealth not only recovering its pandemic losses but reaching a new all-time high within four months, even as the wider economy remained in deep recession. The contrast between record billionaire wealth and a wider economy in deep recession was one of the defining images of the pandemic, and it drove a sharp public debate about inequality.

Diverging Fortunes

Why Did Fortunes Diverge?

The pandemic accelerated a divergence that had been building since the financial crisis. Measured against a 2009 base, technology billionaire wealth had grown more than fivefold by 2020, and health industries almost as much, far ahead of the rest. The divergence between industries during the pandemic was not new but the acceleration of a trend that had been widening since the financial crisis, as technology and health pulled steadily ahead. Measured from a 2009 base of 100, the standardized growth index reached about 566 for technology and 548 for health by 2020, against 377 for industrials, 342 for real estate and 229 for other diversified sectors. The index tracks how far each industry's billionaire wealth has grown from its 2009 level, so a value of 566 means technology billionaire wealth was more than five and a half times its 2009 level by 2020. The long divergence between the digital winners and the slower industries, building since the financial crisis and accelerated by the pandemic, is the single most important trend in the decade of data. The gap between the digital winners and the traditional laggards, already wide before 2020, opened further during the pandemic as the sectors best suited to a changed world raced ahead of the rest. The decade-long divergence captured by the standardized index is one of the clearest illustrations of how the digital economy has reshaped the geography of great wealth, sector by sector. Understanding this divergence is central to understanding the whole period, since it explains why the pandemic enriched some

billionaires enormously while barely moving the fortunes of others.

The long divergence between technology and health and the slower-growing industries reflects the rise of the digital economy, a shift our [new technology wealth](#) coverage frames through the newest sources of fortune.

Billionaire Wealth Growth Index by Industry, 2009-2020The great divergence.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100.Switch views with the toolbar.

The great divergence: measured from a 2009 base of 100, technology and health billionaire wealth pulled far ahead of the rest over the decade, a gap the pandemic widened.

The standardized growth index, tracking industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100, reached about 566 for technology and 548 for health by 2020, against about 342 for real estate and 229 for other diversified sectors, a widening gap. The widening gap between the standardized growth indices of technology and health on one side and real estate and diversified sectors on the other is the clearest measure of the long divergence between industries.

By Share

Which Industry Held the Most Wealth?

By July 2020, technology was among the largest industries by billionaire wealth, reflecting years of rapid growth. Together with finance, health and consumer sectors, it accounted for most of the record 10.2 trillion dollar total. By the middle of 2020, the concentration of billionaire wealth in technology and a few other leading sectors was more pronounced than ever, reinforced by the uneven pandemic rebound. The leading position of technology by wealth, built over years and reinforced by the pandemic, reflects the enormous individual fortunes concentrated in that single sector above all others.

The concentration of billionaire wealth in technology and finance reflects the industries that have created the largest fortunes, a pattern our [US financial markets](#) coverage frames through the depth of the markets

behind them.

Share of Billionaire Wealth by Industry, July 2020 (%)Technology leads.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100.Switch views with the toolbar.

Technology leads: technology was among the largest industries by billionaire wealth in July 2020, together with finance, health and consumer sectors accounting for most of the record total.

The pandemic reinforced this concentration, lifting the technology and health share of billionaire wealth further as their fortunes grew fastest, while slower industries such as real estate saw their share slip.

By Country

Where Did Wealth Grow Fastest?

The pandemic rebound was uneven by geography as well as industry. Billionaire wealth grew fastest in Asia, led by mainland China, whose billionaire fortunes had grown more than elevenfold since 2009, far ahead of any other market. The geography of the pandemic rebound was as uneven as its industry pattern, with Asian and especially Chinese billionaire wealth growing far faster than that of any other region over the preceding decade. Chinese billionaire wealth grew more than 1,100 percent between 2009 and 2020, far ahead of France on more than 400 percent, while wealth in the United States roughly doubled over the same period. The geographic story of the decade was above all the rise of China, whose billionaire wealth grew at a pace that no other major market came close to matching. The concentration of the fastest gains in China and a handful of other markets reflected both the strength of Asian technology and the sheer pace at which new fortunes were being created there.

The rise of Chinese billionaire wealth was the standout geographic trend, a shift our [billionaire population by region](#) and [billionaire share by region](#) coverage follows through the longer rise of Asian wealth.

Billionaire Wealth Growth by Country, 2009-2020 (%)China races ahead.

Data:



Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100. Switch views with the toolbar.

China races ahead: Chinese billionaire wealth grew more than 1,100 percent between 2009 and 2020, far ahead of France on more than 400 percent and the United States on about 100 percent.

China led with growth of more than 1,100 percent since 2009, followed by France on more than 400 percent, while wealth in the United States roughly doubled over the same period, a slower but still substantial rise. The scale of the Chinese lead, with billionaire wealth growing more than elevenfold in a decade, dwarfed the gains of every other market and marked the rise of Asia as a centre of great wealth.

Billionaire Numbers

How Did Billionaire Numbers Change?

The number of billionaires also rebounded. There were about 2,058 billionaires at the April 2020 low, rising to about 2,189 by the end of July, as the market recovery lifted many fortunes back above the billion dollar mark. The recovery in the number of billionaires, alongside the recovery in their wealth, showed how quickly the market rebound restored fortunes that the March crash had briefly wiped out. There were about 2,058 billionaires at the April 2020 low, rising to about 2,189 by the end of July, up from 2,158 in 2017, as the market recovery lifted fortunes back above the billion dollar mark. The swift recovery in the number of billionaires, back above its previous level within months, underlined how closely the fortunes of the very wealthy tracked the rebound in global stock markets.

The recovery in billionaire numbers, like the recovery in their wealth, tracked the rebound in stock markets, a link our [billionaires around the world](#) coverage frames through the longer growth of the billionaire population.

Number of Billionaires, 2009-2020A fast recovery.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100. Switch views with the toolbar.

A fast recovery: the number of billionaires fell to about 2,058 at the April 2020 low then recovered to about 2,189 by the end of July, as markets rebounded.

The pandemic thus created and restored fortunes even as it devastated much of the wider economy, adding new billionaires in technology and health even as other sectors struggled. The pandemic thus created and restored fortunes even as it devastated much of the wider economy, a paradox that ran through the whole of the 2020 billionaire story.

Over Time

How Has Billionaire Wealth Grown Long Term?

Over the longer run, billionaire wealth has grown enormously, from about 3.4 trillion dollars in 2009 to 10.2 trillion in July 2020, roughly tripling over a decade, driven above all by the rising value of technology companies. Seen over a decade, the pandemic surge was the latest and sharpest chapter in a long story of accumulating billionaire wealth, driven above all by the rising value of technology companies. Placed against the decade that preceded it, the pandemic surge looks less like an anomaly than the sharpest expression of a long trend of accumulating wealth at the very top of the global economy. The tripling of billionaire wealth over the decade to 2020 is a measure not only of rising asset prices but of the growth of the industries, above all technology, that create the largest fortunes.

The long rise in billionaire wealth reflects the growth of the industries that create great fortunes, a rise our [wealth per adult by country](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage frames through where the wealth sits.

Total Billionaire Wealth, 2009-2020 (USD trn) Roughly tripled.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100. Switch views with the toolbar.

Roughly tripled: total billionaire wealth rose from about 3.4 trillion dollars in 2009 to a record 10.2 trillion in July 2020, driven above all by technology.

The pandemic marked not a break in this long rise but an acceleration of it, pushing billionaire wealth to a new high and widening the gap between the fastest-growing industries and the rest. The pandemic marked an acceleration rather than a break in the long rise of billionaire wealth, pushing it to a new high and widening the gap between the leading industries and the rest.

Concentration

How Concentrated Were the Gains?

The pandemic reinforced this concentration, lifting the technology and health share of billionaire wealth further as their fortunes grew fastest, while slower industries such as real estate saw their share slip.

Share Held by the Three Winning Industries (%)Tech, health, industrials.

Data:

Pandemic-era billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report.

Note:

Figures cover 7 April to 31 July 2020. The standardized growth index tracks industry wealth from a 2009 base of 100. Switch views with the toolbar.

Tech, health, industrials: the three winning industries of the pandemic together held a large share of billionaire wealth, a concentration the crisis reinforced.

Key Facts

Pandemic Billionaire Wealth in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Industrials billionaire wealth grew about 44 percent from April to July 2020, technology about 41 percent and health about 36 percent, while total billionaire wealth reached a record 10.2 trillion dollars. These figures together capture a pandemic that, far from denting great wealth, drove it to a record high, concentrated in the industries of the digital economy. Taken together, the numbers describe a pandemic that drove billionaire wealth to a record high, concentrated overwhelmingly in the technology, health and industrial sectors of the digital economy. Read together, the figures tell the

story of a crisis that widened the gap between the wealthy and everyone else, driving billionaire fortunes to a record even as the wider world struggled. They stand as a historical record of a singular moment, when a global health crisis coincided with a record surge in the wealth of the world's billionaires.

These figures matter because the pandemic reshaped the industries of great wealth, accelerating the rise of technology and health, a shift our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage sets in geographic context.

+44% Industrials Fastest growth. +41% Technology Second. \$10.2T Total wealth Record, July 2020.

+27% Total growth April to July.

Together they describe a pandemic that, far from denting billionaire wealth, drove it to record highs, concentrated in the technology, health and industrial sectors best placed for a changed world. For the historical record, the pandemic of 2020 stands as a moment when billionaire wealth reached a new high even amid crisis, led by the technology, health and industrial sectors.

Big Picture

Pandemic Billionaire Wealth: The Big Picture

Taken together, the development of billionaire wealth from April to July 2020 shows a pandemic that rewarded technology, health and industrials above all, a divergence that reshaped the industries of great wealth.

Whether the pandemic-era divergence between industries proves lasting will shape the wealth rankings for years, but in 2020 it drove billionaire wealth to a record high, led by the industries of the digital economy.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Pandemic Billionaire Wealth

Industrials, with billionaire wealth rising about 44 percent from April to July 2020, just ahead of technology on about 41 percent and health on 36 percent.

It reached a record 10.2 trillion dollars by the end of July 2020, up about 27 percent from the April low of around 8 trillion, per UBS and PwC.

Because investors bet heavily on technology and healthcare firms developing vaccines, therapies and digital tools, which thrived in a locked-down world.

Real estate, where billionaire wealth grew only about 13 percent, followed by other diversified sectors and entertainment and media, the pandemic laggards.

About 10.2 trillion dollars, a new record surpassing the previous peak of 8.9 trillion reached at the end of 2017, according to the UBS and PwC report.

About 2,189, up from around 2,058 at the April 2020 low, as the market recovery lifted many fortunes back above the billion dollar mark.

Mainland China, whose billionaire wealth had grown more than elevenfold, over 1,100 percent, since 2009, far ahead of France on more than 400 percent.

More than thirty percentage points, from about 44 percent growth in industrials down to about 13 percent in real estate, over April to July 2020.

From 7 April to 31 July 2020, the pandemic rebound period, extended by UBS and PwC from their usual April cut-off to capture the effect of COVID-19.

From the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report, *Riding the Storm*, which covers more than 2,000 billionaires across 43 markets worldwide.

Sources

UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020, *Riding the Storm* - Source for the development of billionaire wealth by industry from April to July 2020.

UBS and PwC historical billionaire data - Source for the standardized growth index, regional detail and totals, compiled by BusinessStats.

[UBS Billionaires Report 2020](#) - Publishes the annual study of billionaire wealth by industry.

Figures show the development of billionaire wealth from April to July 2020 by industry, from the UBS and PwC Billionaires Insights 2020 report. Industrials grew fastest at about 44 percent, ahead of technology on 41 percent and health on 36 percent, while real estate grew slowest at about 13 percent. Total billionaire wealth reached a record 10.2 trillion dollars by the end of July 2020. The period runs from 7 April to 31 July 2020. This is historical data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Wealth of billionaires around the world by region 2026

 Updated Jul 26, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-wealth-region

\$9.6T NORTH AMERICA	\$4.6T ASIA-PACIFIC	\$4.2T EUROPE
\$20.1T WORLD TOTAL	48% NA SHARE	\$8.42T UNITED STATES

Overview

Total wealth of billionaires around the world in 2026, by region

North America holds the most billionaire wealth in 2026, about 9.6 trillion dollars, nearly half the world total. Asia-Pacific follows on about 4.6 trillion and Europe on about 4.2 trillion, even though Asia-Pacific has more billionaires than North America. The distribution of billionaire wealth across the world is one of the clearest maps of where the very largest fortunes sit, and in 2026 it is led by North America to a degree far greater than its share of billionaires alone would suggest. On the 2026 figures, North America holds about 9.6 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, Asia-Pacific about 4.6 trillion, Europe about 4.2 trillion, the Middle East about 0.9 trillion, Latin America about 0.6 trillion and Africa about 0.2 trillion.

The worlds billionaires held about 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, a record. This builds on our [ultra wealthy in Europe](#), [billionaire share by region](#) and [billionaire population by region](#) coverage.

Billionaire Wealth by Region, 2020 vs 2026 (USD trn)North America pulls ahead.

Data:

Total wealth of billionaires around the world in 2026, by region, in trillions of US dollars, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping and figures are the March 2026 snapshot. The world total is about 20.1 trillion dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

North America pulls ahead: North American billionaire wealth has grown from about 3.7 trillion dollars in 2020 to about 9.6 trillion in 2026, widening its lead over every other region.

The gap between billionaire numbers and billionaire wealth is the central story. North America has fewer billionaires than Asia-Pacific but far more wealth, because its largest fortunes are so much bigger, a contrast our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage frames.

A note on the data. The figures show the total wealth of billionaires around the world in 2026 by region, from the Forbes list. Wealth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the March 2026 snapshot, so the regional totals can move substantially over a year. A billionaire is defined here as an individual with a net worth of at least one billion US dollars, and the wealth figures are the combined net worth of all billionaires in each region on the Forbes snapshot date. Because billionaire wealth is tied to share prices and exchange rates, the regional totals are snapshots rather than fixed figures, and a strong or weak year for a regions markets can move them substantially.

The Table

Billionaire Wealth by Region

Billionaire Wealth by Region, 2026 (USD trillion) Click any column to sort

REGION	WEALTH	SHARE OF WORLD
North America	\$9.6T	47.8%
Asia-Pacific	\$4.6T	22.9%
Europe	\$4.2T	20.9%
Middle East	\$0.9T	4.5%
Latin America	\$0.6T	3.0%
Africa	\$0.2T	1.0%

The table sets out the total wealth of billionaires by region in 2026 alongside each regions share of the world total. It shows North America far ahead on wealth, with Asia-Pacific and Europe close together behind and a steep drop after them. Reading down the share column shows the concentration clearly, with

North America on about 48 percent, Asia-Pacific on 23 percent and Europe on 21 percent, leaving under a tenth for the other three regions. Since the figures are annual snapshots, the exact totals depend on market levels on the snapshot date, but the broad ranking, with North America far ahead, is clear and stable.

North America

Which Region Has the Most Wealth?

North America holds about 9.6 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth in 2026, nearly half the world total, more than double the Asia-Pacific figure despite having fewer billionaires. Its billionaires are the richest on average, worth about 8.7 billion dollars each. North America's dominance of billionaire wealth is the single most important fact in the regional picture, and it rests on a small number of extraordinarily large American technology fortunes. North America about 9.6 trillion dollars holds nearly half the world total of 20.1 trillion, more than double Asia-Pacific on 4.6 trillion, despite having about 150 fewer billionaires.

The North American lead reflects the enormous fortunes of American technology founders, whose companies have soared in value, a dominance our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames through the firms behind the wealth.

Wealth of Billionaires by Region, 2026 Each country shaded by its region's billionaire wealth. Hover for the regional wealth and world share.

North America

\$9.6T

Asia-Pacific

\$4.6T

Europe

\$4.2T

Middle East

\$0.9T

Latin America

\$0.6T

Africa

\$0.2T

North America dominates on wealth: North American billionaires hold about 9.6 trillion dollars, nearly half the world total of about 20.1 trillion, ahead of Asia-Pacific on 4.6 trillion and Europe on 4.2 trillion, even though Asia-Pacific has more billionaires. Forbes 2026 regional grouping.

Share of World Billionaire Wealth by Region (%)North America holds half.

Data:

Total wealth of billionaires around the world in 2026, by region, in trillions of US dollars, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping and figures are the March 2026 snapshot. The world total is about 20.1 trillion dollars.Switch views with the toolbar.

North America holds half: North America holds about 48 percent of the worlds billionaire wealth, ahead of Asia-Pacific on 23 percent and Europe on 21 percent.

The United States alone holds about 8.42 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, more than the next nine countries combined, a concentration built on the depth of American capital markets and the dominance of its technology platforms. The sheer weight of the United States in the global wealth figures, holding more billionaire wealth than the next nine countries put together, is the clearest single measure of American economic dominance at the very top.

Asia-Pacific

How Much Wealth Is in Asia-Pacific?

Asia-Pacific holds about 4.6 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, less than half the North American total despite having the most billionaires of any region. The gap reflects the smaller average size of Asian fortunes. Asia-Pacifics position, first in the number of its billionaires but a distant second in their combined wealth, is the mirror image of North America and the central paradox of the regional data.

Asian billionaire wealth is growing fast, driven by China, India and the technology sector, a rise our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames through the regions expanding equity markets.

North America vs Asia-Pacific Wealth, 2016-2026 (USD trn)The gap widens.



Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year. Switch views with the toolbar.

The gap widens: North American billionaire wealth has pulled steadily ahead of Asia-Pacific over the past decade, driven by American technology fortunes.

China holds about 2.18 trillion dollars and India about 1.02 trillion, together most of the Asia-Pacific total, with the fastest growth now coming from India as its technology and consumer fortunes expand. The rapid growth of Chinese and Indian billionaire wealth is narrowing the gap with North America only slowly, since the American fortunes are growing quickly too, driven by the same technology boom.

Europe

How Much Wealth Is in Europe?

Europe holds about 4.2 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, close behind Asia-Pacific, concentrated in a handful of large fortunes in luxury, industry and retail. Germany, France and Italy account for most of the European total. Europe's billionaire wealth, close behind Asia-Pacific, rests on a different foundation, a set of very large and long-established fortunes in luxury, industry and retail rather than in technology.

European wealth is anchored by a few very large fortunes, above all in French luxury, a concentration built on a small number of very large and long-established fortunes.

Germany holds about 1.01 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth and France about 625 billion, though France, with fewer billionaires, is home to the two largest fortunes on the continent. The concentration of European wealth in a few very large fortunes, above all in France, gives the continent a share of billionaire wealth larger than its share of billionaire numbers would suggest.

Wealth vs Numbers

Why Wealth Share Differs From Billionaire Share

Share of wealth is very different from share of billionaires. North America holds about 48 percent of the world's billionaire wealth but only about 31 percent of its billionaires, while Asia-Pacific has 36 percent of

billionaires but only 23 percent of the wealth. Comparing each regions share of billionaires with its share of their wealth is the clearest way to see how unevenly the largest fortunes are distributed, and the two rankings are almost mirror images. The mismatch between the two shares is the single most useful thing to understand about billionaire wealth, since a region can lead the world in the number of its billionaires while holding far less of their combined fortune.

The divergence between the share of billionaires and the share of wealth is the clearest feature of the regional picture, and it shows how much larger the great North American fortunes are, the defining contrast in the whole regional picture.

Share of Billionaires vs Share of Wealth (%)Numbers versus fortune.

Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year.Switch views with the toolbar.

Numbers versus fortune: North America holds 31 percent of the worlds billionaires but 48 percent of their wealth, while Asia-Pacific has 36 percent of billionaires but 23 percent of the wealth.

Europe sits closer to balance, with about 24 percent of billionaires and 21 percent of the wealth, while Latin America, the Middle East and Africa hold small shares of both, together under a tenth of the world total. The near-balance of Europes shares of billionaires and of wealth, in contrast to the sharp divergence in North America and Asia-Pacific, reflects the more even spread of large fortunes across the continent.

Growth

How Fast Is Billionaire Wealth Growing?

Billionaire wealth has grown rapidly. The world total rose from about 16.1 trillion dollars in 2025 to about 20.1 trillion in 2026, a gain of about 25 percent in a single year, driven by strong stock markets and the technology and artificial intelligence boom. The pace at which billionaire wealth has grown is one of the most striking features of the current era, adding trillions of dollars in a single year and far outstripping the growth of the wider economy. World billionaire wealth rose from about 16.1 trillion dollars in 2025 to about 20.1 trillion in 2026, a gain of about 4 trillion or 25 percent, the largest single-year increase Forbes has

recorded.

The surge in wealth outpaced the growth in billionaire numbers, meaning the average fortune grew, a dynamic our asset markets coverage frames through the rallies that lifted the largest holdings.

World Billionaire Wealth, 2016-2026 (USD trn) Nearly tripled.

Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year. Switch views with the toolbar.

Nearly tripled: world billionaire wealth has risen from about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2016 to about 20.1 trillion in 2026, a record.

Billionaire Wealth Growth by Region, 2025-2026 (%) Technology regions lead.

Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year. Switch views with the toolbar.

Technology regions lead: billionaire wealth grew fastest in North America and Asia-Pacific in 2025-2026, driven by the technology and AI rally, ahead of Europe and the rest.

Growth was strongest in North America and Asia-Pacific, the regions most exposed to technology, while Europe grew more slowly and the Middle East and Latin America saw smaller gains, widening the wealth gap between the leading regions and the rest. The concentration of wealth growth in the technology-heavy regions of North America and Asia-Pacific has widened the gap between the leading regions and the rest, deepening the concentration of great wealth.

Average Wealth

Where Are the Richest Billionaires?

Average billionaire wealth varies sharply by region. North American billionaires are worth about 8.7 billion dollars each, followed by the Middle East on about 7.5 billion, while Asia-Pacific billionaires average about 3.7 billion, less than half the North American figure. The average size of a billionaire fortune varies enormously by region, and it is this variation, more than the number of billionaires, that determines which region leads on wealth. North American billionaires average about 8.7 billion dollars each, those in the Middle East about 7.5 billion, in Europe about 5.1 billion, in Latin America about 3.9 billion and in Asia-Pacific about 3.7 billion.

The high North American average reflects the concentration of the very largest fortunes in the United States, a pattern our [leading global billionaires](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores through the individuals at the top.

Average Billionaire Wealth by Region (USD bn) North America richest.

Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year. Switch views with the toolbar.

North America richest: North American billionaires are worth about 8.7 billion dollars each on average, more than double the Asia-Pacific average of about 3.7 billion.

The lower Asia-Pacific average reflects its large number of newer and smaller fortunes, so the region leads on billionaire numbers but trails on average wealth, the mirror image of the North American picture. The contrast between the regions, with North America rich in a few enormous fortunes and Asia-Pacific holding many smaller ones, is the key to understanding why billionaire numbers and billionaire wealth tell such different stories.

By Country

Which Country Has the Most Wealth?

Billionaire wealth is concentrated in a few countries. The United States holds about 8.42 trillion dollars, China about 2.18 trillion, India about 1.02 trillion and Germany about 1.01 trillion, together most of the world

total. At the country level, billionaire wealth is even more concentrated than at the regional level, with a single country holding more than the next several combined. The United States about 8.42 trillion dollars leads, followed by China about 2.18 trillion, India about 1.02 trillion, Germany about 1.01 trillion, Russia about 651 billion and France about 625 billion.

The dominance of the United States is the defining feature of the country wealth ranking, a concentration our [US economy and high net worth individuals by country](#) coverage frames through the depth of American markets.

Billionaire Wealth by Country, 2026 (USD trn)The US leads by far.

Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year.Switch views with the toolbar.

The US leads by far: the United States holds about 8.42 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, more than the next nine countries combined.

Below the top four, Russia holds about 651 billion dollars, France about 625 billion, Italy about 493 billion and Canada about 457 billion, with Italy and Spain among the fastest-growing by wealth in 2026. The rapid growth of Italian and Spanish billionaire wealth in 2026, driven by luxury and consumer fortunes, shows how quickly the country wealth ranking can shift when particular sectors perform strongly.

Concentration

How Concentrated Is Billionaire Wealth?

Billionaire wealth is highly concentrated by region. The three leading regions, North America, Asia-Pacific and Europe, together hold more than 90 percent of the worlds billionaire wealth, leaving under a tenth for the rest of the world. The concentration of billionaire wealth in three regions is one of the starkest illustrations of how unevenly great fortunes are distributed across the world.

The concentration reflects the location of the worlds largest economies and technology companies, a pattern our [billionaires around the world](#) coverage frames through the fortunes behind the totals.

Wealth Held by the Top Three Regions (%)Over ninety percent.



Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year. Switch views with the toolbar.

Over ninety percent: North America, Asia-Pacific and Europe together hold more than 90 percent of the world's billionaire wealth, leaving under a tenth for the rest.

The small combined wealth of Latin America, the Middle East and Africa reflects the smaller scale of their economies and the smaller size of their largest fortunes relative to the great wealth centres of North America, Asia and Europe. The thinness of billionaire wealth across much of the developing world reflects the smaller scale of those economies rather than any absence of prosperity, and it is slowly changing as they grow.

Over Time

How Has Billionaire Wealth Changed?

Billionaire wealth has grown enormously over the past decade. The world total has risen from about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2016 to about 20.1 trillion in 2026, nearly tripling, driven above all by the rising value of technology companies. The growth of billionaire wealth over the past decade tells a story of extraordinary accumulation at the very top, driven above all by the soaring value of technology companies. World billionaire wealth has risen from about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2016 to about 20.1 trillion in 2026, nearly tripling over the decade, with a sharp surge in 2021 and a strong recovery after 2023.

The growth has not been steady, with a surge in 2021 followed by a dip and then a strong recovery, but the long-term trend has been a sharp rise, a pattern our [billionaire wealth by gender](#) coverage complements through the source of the fortunes.

Billionaire Wealth by Region, 2025 vs 2026 (USD trn) Growth everywhere.

Data:

Billionaire wealth data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:



Net worth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the snapshot date, so regional totals can move substantially over the course of a year. Switch views with the toolbar.

Growth everywhere: every region gained billionaire wealth between 2025 and 2026, with North America and Asia-Pacific adding the most.

Most of the growth has accrued to North America, whose share of billionaire wealth has risen as its technology fortunes have soared, widening its lead over every other region even as Asia-Pacific has added the most billionaires. The concentration of wealth growth in North America has widened its lead over every other region, so that even as Asia-Pacific has added the most billionaires, North America has pulled further ahead on wealth.

The Very Top

How Concentrated Is Wealth at the Top?

The scale of individual fortunes has reached new heights. Elon Musk was worth about 839 billion dollars on the March 2026 list and became the first ever trillionaire in June 2026, a fortune larger than the combined wealth of most regions outside the top three. The scale of the largest individual fortunes has reached a point that would have been almost unimaginable a decade ago, and it is concentrated overwhelmingly in the United States.

The concentration of wealth at the very top has grown, with a handful of American technology founders holding fortunes that dwarf those of any previous era, built on the soaring value of a handful of technology companies.

Musks fortune alone is larger than the total billionaire wealth of Africa and most of Latin America, a single measure of how concentrated great wealth has become at the very top of the global list. The rise of the first trillionaire is a milestone that captures, in a single figure, the extraordinary concentration of wealth at the very top of the global list in 2026.

Key Facts

Billionaire Wealth by Region in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. North America holds about 9.6 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, Asia-Pacific about 4.6 trillion and Europe about 4.2 trillion, out of a world total of about 20.1 trillion, the most ever recorded. These figures together map the geography of the worlds largest fortunes, concentrated in three



regions and led, by a wide margin, by North America.

These figures matter because the distribution of billionaire wealth maps the location of the worlds largest fortunes, a picture our [largest economies by GDP](#) coverage sets against the size of each regions economy.

\$9.6T North America Most wealth. \$4.6T Asia-Pacific Second. \$20.1T World total A record. \$8.42T United States Most of any country.

Together they describe a world where billionaire wealth is led by North America, concentrated in three regions, and growing faster than the economies around it, above all in the technology sector. For now, the wealth of billionaires remains overwhelmingly concentrated in North America and, within it, in the United States, whose technology fortunes have driven the widening gap with every other region.

Big Picture

Billionaire Wealth by Region: The Big Picture

Taken together, the wealth of billionaires around the world by region in 2026 shows North America far ahead, Asia-Pacific and Europe close behind, and the rest of the world holding only a small share, a distribution our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage sets in context.

Whether North America holds its lead in wealth and whether Asia-Pacific closes the gap will shape the picture for years, but great wealth remains concentrated in three regions and, above all, in the United States.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Wealth by Region

North America, whose billionaires hold about 9.6 trillion dollars in 2026, nearly half the world total, far ahead of Asia-Pacific and Europe.

About 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, a record, up from about 16.1 trillion a year earlier, according to the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Because of the enormous fortunes of American technology founders, which make North American billionaires far richer on average than those elsewhere.

About 4.6 trillion dollars in 2026, less than half the North American total, even though Asia-Pacific has more billionaires than any other region.



About 4.2 trillion dollars in 2026, close behind Asia-Pacific, concentrated in luxury, industry and retail fortunes in Germany, France and Italy.

The United States, with about 8.42 trillion dollars, more than the next nine countries combined, followed by China on about 2.18 trillion.

Because fortunes vary in size. North America has 31 percent of billionaires but 48 percent of the wealth, while Asia-Pacific has more billionaires but less wealth.

Fast. The world total rose about 25 percent in a year, from 16.1 trillion dollars in 2025 to 20.1 trillion in 2026, driven by technology and AI.

Highly. The three leading regions hold more than 90 percent of the worlds billionaire wealth, and the United States alone holds about 42 percent.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, grouped by region. Figures are the March 2026 snapshot and are tied to share prices and exchange rates.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the total wealth of billionaires by region and country in 2026.

Forbes regional and country wealth data - Source for regional grouping, historical detail and the largest fortunes, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual ranking of billionaire wealth by region and country.

Figures show the total wealth of billionaires around the world in 2026 by region, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. North America holds the most, about 9.6 trillion dollars or 48 percent of the world total, ahead of Asia-Pacific on 4.6 trillion and Europe on 4.2 trillion, out of a world total of about 20.1 trillion. The United States alone holds about 8.42 trillion. Wealth is tied to share prices and exchange rates on the March 2026 snapshot and can move substantially over a year. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Source of billionaire wealth worldwide in 2026, by gender

 Updated Jul 26, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-wealth-source-by-gender

75% WOMEN INHERITED	33% MEN INHERITED	62% MEN SELF-MADE
22% WOMEN SELF-MADE	13% ARE WOMEN	81% FEMALE GROWTH

Overview

Source of wealth for billionaires worldwide in 2026, by gender

The source of billionaire wealth splits sharply by gender in 2026. About 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune, against about 33 percent of male billionaires, while roughly two thirds of men are self-made. Few statistics reveal the machinery of wealth as clearly as the source of billionaire fortunes broken down by gender, which lays bare how differently men and women have arrived at the very top of the global wealth pyramid. On the 2026 figures, about 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune against 33 percent of men, while about 62 percent of men are self-made against 22 percent of women. It is one of the few numbers that captures, in a single comparison, how the doors to great wealth have opened for men and women in fundamentally different ways over the past half century. The comparison is worth making carefully, because the headline that women mostly inherit and men mostly build conceals a more textured reality of mixed fortunes, generational change and wide variation between countries.

The gap is starkest at the extremes. About 38 percent of female billionaires inherited their fortunes entirely, compared with just 5 percent of men. The wider picture sits within our [billionaires by gender](#) and [biggest companies by value](#) coverage.

Source of Billionaire Wealth by Gender, 2026 (%)A mirror image.

Data:

Source of wealth for billionaires worldwide in 2026, by gender, shown as the share of male and female billionaires whose fortunes are self-made, mixed or inherited.

Note:

Compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS and Altrata wealth research. Shares are approximate and definitions of self-made vary. Switch views with the toolbar.

A mirror image: male billionaires are mostly self-made at about 62 percent, while female billionaires mostly inherited, with about 75 percent inheriting at least part of their fortune.

The pattern is shifting as more self-made women reach billionaire status, a change our [financial markets](#) and [global stock markets](#) coverage frames through the industries creating new fortunes.

A note on the data. The figures show the source of wealth for billionaires worldwide in 2026 by gender, drawn from Forbes, UBS and Altrata research. Definitions of self-made differ between sources, so shares are approximate. Because Forbes, UBS and Altrata each define self-made wealth slightly differently, and because they report in different years, the shares here are best read as a consistent qualitative picture rather than precise and directly comparable figures. The categories used here are self-made, meaning a fortune built rather than received, mixed, meaning a combination of inheritance and self-created wealth, and inherited, meaning a fortune received in full, following the definitions common to Forbes and Altrata.

The Table

Source of Billionaire Wealth by Gender

Source of Billionaire Wealth by Gender, 2026 Click any column to sort

MEASURE	MALE	FEMALE
Self-made	62%	22%
Inherited some (total)	33%	75%
Inherited entirely	5%	38%
Mixed inheritance and self-made	28%	37%
Focus on philanthropy	5%	20%

The table sets out the source of wealth for male and female billionaires side by side. It shows men concentrated among the self-made and women among those who inherited, with a large mixed group in



between for both. Reading across the table shows the mirror image at the heart of the data, with men clustered in the self-made column at about 62 percent and women in the inherited column at about 75 percent. Because the mixed category is defined differently across sources, the table is best read as showing the clear direction of the gender divide rather than as a precise reconciliation of every percentage. The philanthropy row at the foot of the table hints at a theme developed later, that the source of a fortune shapes not just who holds it but what they do with it.

Self-Made

What Share of Billionaires Are Self-Made?

Most male billionaires are self-made. About 62 percent built their fortunes from scratch, against only about 22 percent of female billionaires, a gap that has held for years even as more women found and build their own companies. The dominance of self-made fortunes among male billionaires is one of the most consistent findings in wealth research, and it stands in sharp contrast to the pattern among women. About 62 percent of male billionaires are self-made against 22 percent of women, about 33 percent of men inherited at least part of their wealth against 75 percent of women, and just 5 percent of men inherited everything against 38 percent of women. The self-made billionaire is largely a male figure in the data, a reflection of who has had the access to capital, networks and opportunity needed to build a fortune from nothing over the past few decades. That roughly three in five men at the billionaire level built their wealth themselves, against barely one in five women, is a gap that has proven remarkably durable even as the total number of billionaires has swelled.

Self-made wealth dominates the male billionaire class because most fortunes are first-generation, built in technology, finance and industry, a pattern our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames through the companies behind them.

Source of Wealth, Male Billionaires (%) Mostly self-made.

Data:

Source of wealth for billionaires worldwide in 2026, by gender, shown as the share of male and female billionaires whose fortunes are self-made, mixed or inherited.

Note:

Compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS and Altrata wealth research. Shares are approximate and definitions of self-made vary. Switch views with the toolbar.



Mostly self-made: about 62 percent of male billionaires built their fortunes, about 33 percent inherited at least part, and only 5 percent inherited everything.

Source of Wealth, Female Billionaires (%) Mostly inherited.

Data:

Source of wealth for billionaires worldwide in 2026, by gender, shown as the share of male and female billionaires whose fortunes are self-made, mixed or inherited.

Note:

Compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS and Altrata wealth research. Shares are approximate and definitions of self-made vary. Switch views with the toolbar.

Mostly inherited: about 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune and 38 percent inherited it entirely, with 22 percent self-made.

The share of self-made women is rising quickly from a low base, driven by technology, retail and real estate, and the number of female billionaires grew about 81 percent between 2015 and 2024, far faster than the 49 percent rise among men. The rapid growth of self-made female billionaires, though from a low base, is the single clearest sign that the historic pattern is beginning to change, even if the overall picture still leans heavily toward inheritance for women. The industries driving this growth, from technology to retail to real estate, are producing a new kind of female billionaire whose profile looks far more like that of her self-made male peers than like the heiresses who came before.

Inherited

How Many Billionaires Inherited Their Wealth?

Inherited wealth is far more common among women. About 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune, and about 38 percent inherited it entirely, against 33 percent and 5 percent of men respectively. Inheritance is the defining feature of female billionaire wealth, and the gap between the sexes on this measure is among the widest in any study of the global rich. About 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune and 38 percent inherited it entirely, against 33 percent and 5 percent of male billionaires respectively. For female billionaires, inheritance is not the exception but the rule, and understanding why requires looking back at a generation in which the founders of great companies were almost entirely men. The scale of the difference bears repeating, since a female billionaire is more than twice as likely as a male one to have inherited part of her fortune and more than seven times

as likely to have inherited all of it.

The pattern reflects a generation in which women rarely founded the great companies, and instead inherited the fortunes their fathers and husbands built, a history our [US economy](#) coverage frames through the businesses concerned.

Inherited Entirely vs Self-Made, by Gender (%) The gap at the extremes.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited. Switch views with the toolbar.

The gap at the extremes: 38 percent of women inherited their wealth entirely against 5 percent of men, while 62 percent of men are self-made against 22 percent of women.

The best-known examples, Françoise Bettencourt Meyers of L'Oréal, Alice Walton of Walmart and Jacqueline Mars of Mars, all inherited their fortunes entirely, and rank among the richest women in the world. The prominence of these inheriting women at the very top of the female wealth rankings reinforces the overall pattern, since the richest women in the world are, with few exceptions, heiresses rather than founders. That the three richest women in the world are all heiresses, while the richest men are overwhelmingly founders, distills the entire gender divide in the source of wealth into a single, memorable contrast.

Mixed

The Growing Middle Group

A large mixed group inherited some wealth and built the rest. About 30 percent of all billionaires fall into this category, combining an inheritance with fortunes they grew themselves, and the share is higher among younger billionaires. Between the purely self-made and the purely inherited sits a large and growing middle group, whose members took family capital and multiplied it, and who complicate any simple binary of earned versus inherited wealth. The mixed category is where the neat story of earned versus inherited wealth breaks down, and it is also where much of the future of billionaire wealth is being written as heirs



expand what they receive.

The mixed group is growing as intergenerational wealth transfer accelerates, with heirs taking family capital and expanding it, a shift our asset allocation coverage frames through the money in motion.

The Gender Gap Across Wealth Sources (%)Men build, women inherit.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited.Switch views with the toolbar.

Men build, women inherit: across every measure the gender gap runs the same way, with men concentrated in self-made wealth and women in inherited wealth.

Among women the mixed category is especially large, since many inherited a stake and then grew it, which is why the share who inherited anything at all reaches 75 percent while the share who inherited everything is far lower at 38 percent. The size of the mixed category among women is the key to reading the headline numbers correctly, since it explains why three quarters of female billionaires inherited something while far fewer inherited everything. This distinction between inheriting something and inheriting everything is the most commonly misread part of the data, and getting it right is essential to understanding the true shape of female billionaire wealth.

The Gender Gap

What Share of Billionaires Are Women?

The gender gap in wealth source reflects a deeper gap in numbers. Women make up only about 13 percent of the worlds billionaires in 2026, roughly 481 to 500 individuals, though that share has risen steadily for a decade. The gender gap in the source of wealth cannot be separated from the gender gap in numbers, since women remain a small minority of billionaires and that scarcity shapes the whole pattern. Women make up about 13 percent of the worlds billionaires in 2026, roughly 481 to 500 individuals out of a global total approaching 3,000, though their number grew about 81 percent between 2015 and 2024. The scarcity of women at the billionaire level is the backdrop against which every other figure in this analysis must be

read, since a group that small will always be shaped disproportionately by a handful of paths to wealth. A cohort in which fewer than one in seven members is a woman will inevitably be shaped by the particular routes those women took to the top, and inheritance has historically been the most reliable of them.

The small female share magnifies the inheritance pattern, since the few women who reach billionaire status are more likely to have done so through family wealth, a structural point our [US financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Women as a Share of All Billionaires (%)A rising minority.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited.Switch views with the toolbar.

A rising minority: women have grown from about 9 percent of billionaires a decade ago to about 13 percent in 2026, roughly 481 to 500 individuals.

Growth in Billionaire Numbers, 2015 to 2024 (%)Women grew faster.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited.Switch views with the toolbar.

Women grew faster: the number of female billionaires rose about 81 percent between 2015 and 2024, against a 49 percent rise among men.

The gap is narrowing among the young. About 13 percent of female billionaires are under 50, against 9 percent of men, and this younger cohort contains a far higher share of self-made women than the generation above it. The narrowing of the gap among younger billionaires is the most forward-looking finding in the data, and it suggests that the female billionaire class of the future will look rather more self-



made than the one that exists today. Looking ahead, the combination of a rising female billionaire count and a growing self-made share among younger women points to a slow but real narrowing of the divide that defines the data today. The under-fifty cohort offers the clearest glimpse of where the billionaire class is heading, and on the evidence of the source of its wealth, it is heading, slowly, toward a more self-made and more balanced future.

By Industry

Which Industries Create Self-Made Wealth?

Source of wealth tracks industry. Financial services is the largest single source of billionaire fortunes overall, followed by technology, and both are dominated by self-made men, which reinforces the male tilt toward self-made wealth. The industry a fortune comes from is closely tied to whether it was inherited or self-made, and the concentration of new wealth in technology and finance helps explain why self-made billionaires are so overwhelmingly male. Where a fortune comes from, in the sense of which industry built it, turns out to predict a great deal about whether it was earned or inherited and whether its owner is a man or a woman.

Technology produces the largest and fastest-growing self-made fortunes, a concentration our [crypto fortunes](#) and [AI in finance](#) coverage frames through the companies driving it.

Self-Made Share by Country (%)Newer wealth, more self-made.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited.Switch views with the toolbar.

Newer wealth, more self-made: Russia and China show self-made shares near 97 percent, the United States about 70 percent, reflecting how recently fortunes were built.

Women who are self-made cluster in different industries, more often retail, real estate, fashion and consumer goods than in the technology and finance that dominate the male self-made ranks. The clustering of self-made women in consumer-facing industries rather than technology and finance is itself a



reflection of unequal access to the capital and networks that build the largest first-generation fortunes. The concentration of self-made women outside technology and finance is not a matter of choice so much as of access, and it points to where the barriers to female wealth creation still sit most firmly.

The Young

Is the Gap Narrowing Among the Young?

The generational shift is the most important trend in the data. Most young billionaires under 30 are heirs rather than founders, yet the fastest growth in female billionaires is among the self-made, pulling the overall pattern slowly toward parity. The generational story is where the data points to real change, since the pattern among younger billionaires looks meaningfully different from that among their elders. Most billionaires under 30 are heirs, with only about 21 in the world and the majority inheritors, yet female billionaire numbers grew 81 percent from 2015 to 2024 against 49 percent for men, driven mainly by self-made women. The clearest evidence that the historic pattern is not permanent comes from looking at the youngest billionaires, whose profile differs in important ways from that of the generation now at the peak of its wealth.

The coming wealth transfer will deepen the inheritance pattern in the short term, with an estimated 5.9 trillion dollars passing to heirs by 2040, a transfer our [investment banking](#) coverage frames through the advisers managing it.

Billionaires Under 50, by Gender (%) Younger women lead.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited. Switch views with the toolbar.

Younger women lead: about 13 percent of female billionaires are under 50, against 9 percent of men, and this cohort is far more self-made.

Over the longer term the rise of self-made women points the other way, and the gender gap in wealth source is expected to narrow as the younger, more entrepreneurial cohort of female billionaires grows. The

tension between a short-term wave of inheritance and a longer-term rise in self-made women is the central dynamic in the data, and how it resolves will determine whether the gender gap in wealth source widens or closes. For now, the two forces roughly offset, which is why the headline gender divide in the source of wealth has narrowed only slowly despite the rapid growth in the number of female billionaires.

Behaviour

Do They Behave Differently?

Source of wealth shapes how billionaires behave. Women, more of whom inherited, devote far more time to philanthropy, with about 20 percent focused on non-profit and social causes against about 5 percent of men. How billionaires use their wealth turns out to depend a great deal on how they acquired it, and the contrast between inherited and self-made fortunes shows up clearly in philanthropy and lifestyle. The way a fortune is acquired leaves a lasting imprint on how it is used, and nowhere is that clearer than in the sharply different approaches of inheriting and self-made billionaires to giving it away.

The philanthropic tilt among women reflects both inherited wealth and different priorities, a difference our [wealth and finance concepts](#) coverage touches through the language of giving.

Focus on Philanthropy, by Gender (%) Women give more time.

Data:

Billionaire wealth-source and demographic data compiled by BusinessStats from Forbes, UBS, Altrata and wealth-census research.

Note:

Figures are approximate, cover different reporting years and use differing definitions of self-made and inherited. Switch views with the toolbar.

Women give more time: about 20 percent of female billionaires focus on philanthropy, against about 5 percent of men, reflecting inherited wealth and different priorities.

Inherited wealth also shows up in how it is held, with female billionaires owning about 1.5 times more high-end real estate and 1.3 times more valuable art than men, who more often hold private jets, yachts and operating companies. The differences in how inherited and self-made wealth is held, from real estate and art to jets and operating companies, are a further sign of how deeply the source of a fortune shapes the life built on it.

By Country

Which Countries Have the Most Self-Made?

Source of wealth varies by country as well as gender. Russia and China show self-made shares near 97 percent, reflecting how recently their great fortunes were built, while older economies carry more inherited wealth. Source of wealth is as much a matter of geography as of gender, since the age of a country great fortunes determines how much of its billionaire wealth is inherited rather than built. Russia and China show self-made shares near 97 percent, the United States about 70 percent, and older European economies considerably less, reflecting how recently each country great fortunes were built. The geography of self-made wealth is really a geography of time, mapping how recently each country great fortunes were created, and it cuts across the gender divide in revealing ways. The contrast between economies where almost every billionaire is self-made and those where inherited wealth is common is one of the most striking findings in the whole field, and it maps neatly onto the age of each country capitalist class.

The United States sits in between, with about 70 percent of its billionaires self-made, a mix our largest economies coverage frames through the age of the fortunes in each country.

The newer the wealth in a country, the more self-made its billionaires, which is why fast-growing economies show the highest self-made shares and the oldest show the most inheritance, a pattern that cuts across the gender divide. The link between the age of a country wealth and the source of its billionaire fortunes is one of the most reliable patterns in the data, and it holds across the gender divide as much as within it.

Key Facts

Billionaire Wealth by Gender in Numbers

A few figures capture the divide. About 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune against 33 percent of men, 38 percent of women inherited everything against 5 percent of men, and women are about 13 percent of all billionaires. These figures together capture one of the starkest gender divides in the global economy, a billionaire class in which men mostly built their fortunes and women mostly received them. Taken together, the numbers describe a form of inequality that compounds, since the scarcity of self-made women both reflects past barriers and shapes who will hold wealth and power in the decades ahead.



These figures matter because they show how wealth and power are transmitted, and how slowly the routes to great fortune are opening to women, a question that shapes who holds economic power for a generation to come.

75% Women inherited At least part. 33% Men inherited At least part. 62% Men self-made Built it. 13% Are women Of all billionaires.

Together they describe a billionaire class where men mostly built their wealth and women mostly inherited it, a divide that is real, large and, among the young, beginning to narrow as more self-made women reach the very top. For now, the source of billionaire wealth remains one of the clearest quantitative expressions of gender inequality at the top of the global economy, and one of the few that can be tracked precisely enough to show whether it is closing.

Big Picture

Billionaire Wealth by Gender: The Big Picture

Taken together, the source of billionaire wealth by gender in 2026 maps a stark divide, self-made men and inheriting women, that reflects decades of unequal access to capital and enterprise, a divide rooted in who could found and own great companies.

Whether the divide closes will depend on how many self-made women reach the top in the years ahead, but the clear trend among younger billionaires suggests it is slowly narrowing, alongside the fortunes tracked in our [leading investment banks](#) coverage.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Wealth by Gender

Men are mostly self-made, at about 62 percent, while women mostly inherited, with about 75 percent inheriting at least part of their fortune.

About 75 percent inherited at least part of their fortune and about 38 percent inherited it entirely, against 33 percent and 5 percent of men.

About 62 percent of male billionaires are self-made, compared with about 22 percent of female billionaires, a gap that has held for years.



About 13 percent in 2026, roughly 481 to 500 individuals, a share that has risen steadily as more self-made women reach billionaire status.

Francoise Bettencourt Meyers of LOreal, Alice Walton of Walmart and Jacqueline Mars of Mars all inherited their fortunes and rank among the richest women.

Slowly. Among billionaires under 50, a higher share of women are self-made, and female billionaire numbers are growing faster than male ones.

Financial services and technology dominate, and both are led by self-made men. Self-made women cluster more in retail, real estate and consumer goods.

Yes. Women, more of whom inherited, spend far more time on philanthropy, at about 20 percent against 5 percent of men, and hold more property and art.

Russia and China, at around 97 percent, reflecting how recently their fortunes were built. The United States is about 70 percent self-made.

From Forbes, UBS and Altrata wealth research, compiled by BusinessStats. Definitions of self-made differ between sources, so shares are approximate.

Sources

Forbes, UBS and Altrata wealth research - Source for the share of male and female billionaires whose wealth is self-made, mixed or inherited.

Wealth-census and billionaire research - Source for gender shares, growth rates, industry, country and behavioural detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires List](#) - Publishes the underlying billionaire wealth and source data.

Figures show the source of wealth for billionaires worldwide in 2026 by gender, drawn from Forbes, UBS and Altrata research. About 75 percent of female billionaires inherited at least part of their fortune against 33 percent of men, and 38 percent of women inherited entirely against 5 percent of men. About 62 percent of men are self-made against 22 percent of women. Women are about 13 percent of all billionaires.

Definitions of self-made differ between sources and figures are approximate. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Total wealth distribution of billionaires around the world 2026

Updated Jul 8, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-total-wealth-worldwide

\$20.1T TOTAL WEALTH	\$2.9T TOP 20	\$9.8T MIDDLE TIER
65% TOP 500 SHARE	5% MUSK SHARE	23% RICHEST 1%

Overview

Total wealth distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026

The world 3,428 billionaires held a record 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, but that wealth is spread very unevenly across the net worth bands. The largest single share is held by the middle and upper bands, while the many billionaires at the bottom hold only a small part of the total. The way the vast wealth of the world billionaires is divided among them is one of the clearest measures of concentration at the very summit of the global economy, showing that even a record 20.1 trillion dollars is held in a strikingly lopsided way. On the 2026 Forbes list, the combined 20.1 trillion dollars held by the billionaire class is more than the annual output of every country in the world except the United States and China, yet it is held by fewer than three and a half thousand people. Where the previous view counted how many billionaires sit in each net worth band, this one follows the dollars, tracing how the record 20.1 trillion dollars held by the billionaire class is actually divided among its members from the bottom to the very top.

The wealth is concentrated at the top. The richest few hundred billionaires hold most of the total, while the thousands worth a few billion each hold far less. The distribution builds on our [billionaire wealth worldwide](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage.

Total Wealth and Billionaire Share by Band, 2026Few at the top, much of the wealth.

Data:

Total wealth distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, showing the combined net worth held in each net worth band, in trillions of US dollars.

Note:

Based on the Forbes World Billionaires list; the total is a record 20.1 trillion dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

Few at the top, much of the wealth: the bottom band holds 41 percent of billionaires but only about 2 trillion dollars, while the top band, just 0.6 percent of billionaires, holds about 2.9 trillion.

The concentration has grown as the largest fortunes have pulled away, with a single fortune, that of Elon Musk, now making up about a twentieth of the total, themes our [leading billionaires](#) and [top billionaire countries](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the total wealth distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, the combined net worth held in each net worth band, in trillions of dollars. The total is a record 20.1 trillion, and the band boundaries are approximate. Because net worth figures are tied to fluctuating share prices, the exact wealth held in each band changes from day to day, but the broad shape of the distribution, with wealth concentrated toward the top, is stable and clear. The net worth bands used here are approximate and follow common groupings, and because they are based on a point-in-time snapshot, the exact figures will differ slightly from other counts, though the overall shape is robust.

The Table

Total Wealth by Net Worth Band

Total Wealth by Net Worth Band, 2026 Click any column to sort

NET WORTH BAND	COMBINED WEALTH (TRILLION USD)	SHARE OF BILLIONAIRES
\$1-2 billion	2.0T	41%
\$2-5 billion	3.4T	31%
\$5-10 billion	3.4T	14%
\$10-20 billion	3.4T	7%
\$20-50 billion	3.0T	4.5%
\$50-100 billion	2.0T	1.4%



\$100 billion and over

2.9T

0.6%

The table shows the combined wealth held by billionaires in each net worth band in 2026. It shows the wealth spread across the middle and upper bands, with the bottom band, despite its many members, holding only about a tenth of the total. Reading down the table shows how the total wealth is spread, with the middle bands holding the largest slices and the bottom band, for all its many members, holding only a small share of the record 20.1 trillion dollar total. Because the figures are a snapshot tied to share prices, the exact wealth in each band shifts over time, but the fundamental pattern, of wealth concentrated toward the top, is stable and well documented.

By Band

How Is the Total Wealth Distributed?

The total wealth is spread across the bands, but not evenly. Billionaires worth 2 to 20 billion dollars hold the largest share, about 3.4 trillion dollars in each of three bands, while the bottom band, worth 1 to 2 billion, holds about 2 trillion despite its many members. The distribution of the total wealth across the bands is more even than the distribution of the billionaires themselves, since the smaller number of larger fortunes in the upper bands can hold as much as the far larger number of smaller fortunes below. Three of the middle bands, covering billionaires worth 2 to 20 billion dollars, each hold about 3.4 trillion dollars, together accounting for more than half of all billionaire wealth, while the bottom band holds about 2 trillion. Following the money rather than the members reveals a more even spread across the bands than the count alone suggests, since the fewer, larger fortunes of the upper bands quietly match the many smaller ones crowded at the bottom.

The spread reflects the way a smaller number of larger fortunes can hold as much wealth as a much larger number of smaller ones, a pattern our [billionaires by region](#) coverage frames.

Combined Wealth by Net Worth Band (trillion USD)Spread across the bands.

Data:

Total wealth distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, showing the combined net worth held in each net worth band, in trillions of US dollars.

Note:



Based on the Forbes World Billionaires list; the total is a record 20.1 trillion dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

Spread across the bands: billionaires worth 2 to 20 billion dollars hold about 3.4 trillion in each of three bands, while the bottom band holds about 2 trillion and the top band 2.9 trillion.

At the very top, the 20 billionaires worth more than 100 billion dollars hold about 2.9 trillion between them, more than the entire bottom band of some 1,400 billionaires, a striking measure of concentration. The way a band of just 20 people holds more wealth than a band of some 1,400 is one of the starkest illustrations of concentration to be found anywhere, and it lies at the heart of the total wealth distribution. Taken together, the band figures confirm that the record wealth of the billionaire class is held in a strikingly uneven way, with the small number of enormous fortunes at the top rivalling the combined wealth of the many at the bottom.

By Share

Which Band Holds the Most Wealth?

Measured as a share of the total, the wealth is spread fairly evenly across the middle bands, each holding about 15 to 17 percent, while the bottom band holds about 10 percent and the top band, of just 20 people, holds about 14 percent. Looking at each band share of the total wealth reveals the essential paradox of the distribution, that the middle bands, holding sizeable fortunes in reasonable numbers, quietly hold as much as the crowded bottom and the tiny, enormously wealthy top. With the middle bands each holding about 15 to 17 percent of the total, the bottom band about 10 percent, and the top band about 14 percent, the wealth is spread more evenly across the bands than the billionaires themselves are.

The relatively even spread across the middle bands masks the extreme concentration at the very top, where a handful of people hold as much as thousands of others, a pattern our [sources of billionaire wealth](#) coverage frames.

Share of Total Wealth by Band (%) Even middle, heavy top.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Even middle, heavy top: the middle bands each hold about 15 to 17 percent of total wealth, while the top band of just 20 people holds about 14 percent, as much as the bottom 1,400.

The fact that the top band, numbering just 20 people, holds about the same share of total wealth as the bottom band of some 1,400 billionaires is one of the clearest illustrations of how top-heavy the distribution has become. The near-equality between the shares of the top and bottom bands, one holding vast individual fortunes and the other holding many small ones, is a vivid measure of just how top-heavy the distribution of billionaire wealth has become.

Concentration

How Concentrated Is the Wealth?

The wealth is highly concentrated. The richest 1 percent of billionaires, about 34 people, hold roughly 23 percent of all billionaire wealth, and the richest 10 percent hold more than half, while the bottom half hold less than a tenth. The concentration of wealth even within the billionaire class is one of the most striking features of the distribution, a reminder that inequality does not stop at the threshold of great wealth but climbs sharply upward from there. The richest 1 percent of billionaires, roughly 34 people, hold about 23 percent of all billionaire wealth, a level of concentration within the ultra-rich that mirrors the concentration of wealth in society as a whole. The concentration of the dollars, even more than the concentration of the billionaires, is the true measure of how top-heavy the class has become, since it is the wealth, not the head count, that ultimately matters.

The concentration among billionaires mirrors the concentration of wealth in the wider economy, with a small group at the top holding a disproportionate share, a pattern our [pandemic wealth gains coverage](#) frames.

Cumulative Share of Billionaire Wealth (%)The top few hold the most.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate.Switch views with the toolbar.

The top few hold the most: the richest 1 percent of billionaires hold about 23 percent of all billionaire wealth, and the richest 10 percent hold more than half.

The steep rise of the concentration curve, with wealth climbing sharply toward the top, shows that even within the billionaire class the richest few hold far more than their numbers would suggest. The steepness of the concentration curve, rising sharply toward the top, shows that the familiar pattern of wealth inequality in the wider economy is if anything even more pronounced within the ranks of the billionaires themselves.

By Tier

Wealth by Tier

Grouped into tiers, the middle tier of billionaires worth 5 to 50 billion dollars holds the most wealth, about 9.8 trillion dollars, ahead of the bottom tier worth 1 to 5 billion, on about 5.4 trillion, and the top tier worth more than 50 billion, on about 4.9 trillion. Grouping the billionaires into broad tiers cuts through the detail of the individual bands and lays bare the underlying shape of the distribution, with the middle tier holding the most wealth and the tiny top tier holding a share out of all proportion to its size. The middle tier of billionaires worth 5 to 50 billion dollars holds about 9.8 trillion dollars, nearly half of all billionaire wealth, ahead of the bottom tier on about 5.4 trillion and the top tier on about 4.9 trillion. Viewed in dollars, the tiers tell a story the counts alone would miss, with the middle tier quietly holding the largest slice of the total while the tiny top tier holds a share far out of proportion to its handful of members.

The middle tier holds the most because it combines a fair number of billionaires with sizeable fortunes, while the top tier, though holding enormous individual fortunes, has too few members to lead, a pattern our largest asset managers coverage frames.

Total Wealth by Tier (trillion USD)The middle tier leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate.Switch views with the toolbar.

The middle tier leads: billionaires worth 5 to 50 billion dollars hold about 9.8 trillion, ahead of the bottom tier on 5.4 trillion and the top tier on 4.9 trillion.

The top tier, worth more than 50 billion dollars each, holds about a quarter of all billionaire wealth despite numbering fewer than 70 people, the clearest sign of the concentration at the very top of the distribution.

The dominance of the top tier, holding about a quarter of all billionaire wealth with fewer than 70 members, underlines how completely the distribution is shaped by a small number of enormous fortunes.

Over Time

The Rise to 20 Trillion Dollars

The total wealth of the world billionaires has grown enormously, from about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2015 to a record 20.1 trillion in 2026. The growth has accelerated in recent years, driven by soaring technology valuations and the artificial-intelligence boom. The growth of the total wealth of the billionaire class, from a few trillion dollars to more than twenty in little over a decade, is one of the most remarkable episodes of wealth creation in history, and it has been felt most powerfully at the very top. The rise from about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2015 to 20.1 trillion in 2026 represents an increase of some 13 trillion, a near-tripling driven above all by the soaring value of the largest technology companies.

The near-tripling of total billionaire wealth in about a decade reflects the extraordinary rise in asset prices, especially in technology, a boom our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Total Billionaire Wealth Over Time (trillion USD) Nearly tripled in a decade.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Nearly tripled in a decade: total billionaire wealth rose from about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2015 to a record 20.1 trillion in 2026.

The growth has not been steady, with a dip in the pandemic crash of 2020 and again in 2022, but the long-term trend has been a sharp rise in the total wealth held by the billionaire class. The long-term rise of the total, despite the dips of 2020 and 2022, reflects the enduring power of the boom in asset prices, above all in technology, which has repeatedly pushed the wealth of the billionaire class to new records. Looking ahead, whether the total keeps climbing will depend on the markets and the technology cycle, but the wealth of the billionaire class has risen so far so fast that it now stands at levels unimaginable only a decade ago.

Since 2020

How the Wealth Shifted Since 2020

The wealth has shifted upward since 2020. The combined wealth of billionaires worth more than 20 billion dollars rose from about 0.6 trillion to 7.9 trillion, far faster than the bottom bands, as the largest fortunes grew fastest. The upward shift of the wealth since 2020, with the top bands swelling far faster than the bottom, is a direct reflection of how the boom of recent years has flowed disproportionately to those already holding the largest fortunes. The combined wealth of billionaires worth more than 20 billion dollars rose more than tenfold between 2020 and 2026, from about 0.6 trillion to 7.9 trillion, far outpacing the growth of the lower bands.

The faster growth at the top reflects the soaring value of the largest technology companies, whose founders hold the biggest fortunes, a shift our [Nasdaq stock market coverage](#) frames.

Wealth by Band, 2020 vs 2026 (trillion USD) Growth fastest at the top.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Growth fastest at the top: the wealth of billionaires worth more than 20 billion dollars rose from about 0.6 trillion in 2020 to 7.9 trillion in 2026.

The upward shift of the wealth, with the top bands growing far faster than the bottom, shows how the boom of recent years has widened the gap between the richest billionaires and the rest. The widening gap between the top and bottom of the distribution, as the largest fortunes grow fastest, is a clear sign that the concentration of wealth within the billionaire class is increasing over time.

The Very Top

The Fortunes at the Very Top

The fortunes at the very top are enormous. Elon Musk holds about a trillion dollars, followed by the Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin on about 293 and 271 billion, and Jeff Bezos and Michael Dell on about 249 and 220 billion. The sheer scale of the fortunes at the very top, each worth hundreds of billions

of dollars, means that a mere handful of individuals account for a large slice of the entire 20.1 trillion dollar total held by the billionaire class. Elon Musk about a trillion dollars, the Google founders on about 293 and 271 billion, and Jeff Bezos on about 249 billion mean that just the top handful of billionaires hold well over 2 trillion dollars between them. When the total wealth is traced up to the very top, it resolves into a small number of colossal individual fortunes, each large enough to rival the combined wealth of hundreds of billionaires lower down the distribution.

The scale of these individual fortunes means the top handful of billionaires hold as much wealth as thousands of others, a concentration our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

The Largest Individual Fortunes, 2026 (USD bn) Enormous fortunes at the top.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Enormous fortunes at the top: Elon Musk holds about a trillion dollars, ahead of the Google founders on 293 and 271 billion and Jeff Bezos on 249 billion.

The gap between Elon Musk, on about a trillion dollars, and the rest is itself enormous, with his fortune more than three times that of the next richest person, underlining the concentration at the very summit. The enormous gap between Elon Musk and even the next richest people underlines how the concentration of billionaire wealth has become, in part, a story about a single extraordinary fortune towering over all the rest.

More Concentrated

Is Wealth Becoming More Concentrated?

Billionaire wealth is becoming more concentrated. The share held by the richest 1 percent of billionaires has risen from about 18 percent in 2015 to about 23 percent in 2026, as the largest fortunes have grown faster than the rest. The steady rise in the share of wealth held by the very richest billionaires is perhaps the clearest single measure of growing concentration, quietly documenting how the largest fortunes have pulled away from the rest over the years. The share of wealth held by the richest 1 percent of billionaires has risen by about 5 percentage points since 2015, from about 18 to 23 percent, a steady climb that documents the growing concentration at the top.



The rising concentration reflects the way the boom of recent years, especially in technology and artificial intelligence, has flowed disproportionately to those already at the top, a shift our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

Share Held by the Richest 1% Over Time (%) Rising concentration.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Rising concentration: the share of wealth held by the richest 1 percent of billionaires rose from about 18 percent in 2015 to about 23 percent in 2026.

The steady rise in the share held by the very richest is a clear sign that the wealth of the billionaire class is growing more top-heavy over time, with the gains concentrated at the very summit. The rising share of the very richest, if it continues, points to a billionaire class whose wealth is ever more concentrated at the summit, with the gains of each passing year flowing disproportionately to those already at the top.

One Fortune

One Fortune Against Thousands

The concentration is captured in a single comparison. Elon Musk alone, worth about a trillion dollars, holds about half as much wealth as the roughly 1,400 billionaires in the bottom band, worth 1 to 2 billion each, combined. Reducing the concentration to a single comparison, between one enormous fortune and the combined wealth of a large part of the billionaire class, captures in a way no percentage can the extraordinary scale of the wealth held at the very top.

The fact that one person holds as much wealth as hundreds of others is perhaps the starkest illustration of the concentration at the top of the distribution, a concentration our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

One Fortune vs the Bottom Band (USD bn) Musk vs 1,400 billionaires.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:



Combined net worth in trillions of dollars; band boundaries are approximate. Switch views with the toolbar.

Musk vs 1,400 billionaires: Elon Musk alone, worth about a trillion dollars, holds about half as much as the roughly 1,400 billionaires in the bottom band combined.

The comparison underlines how a single enormous fortune can outweigh the combined wealth of a large part of the billionaire class, a pattern that has become more pronounced as the largest fortunes have grown. The comparison between one fortune and the combined wealth of hundreds of others captures, better than any abstract measure, the extraordinary degree to which billionaire wealth has come to be concentrated at the very top. Whether such extreme concentration endures will depend on the fortunes of the very richest, above all Elon Musk, whose trillion-dollar wealth now stands as the single largest concentration in the entire billionaire class.

Key Facts

Total Billionaire Wealth in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. The world billionaires held a record 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, the top 500 hold about two-thirds of it, the top 20 hold about 2.9 trillion, and Elon Musk alone holds about 5 percent. These figures together map how the record wealth of the world billionaires is distributed, showing a total held ever more at the top, with a small group of the very richest holding a large and growing share of it. These figures together follow the dollars rather than the billionaires, mapping how the record wealth of the class is divided, and showing a total held ever more tightly by a small group of the very richest.

The figures matter because the distribution of total wealth among billionaires reveals how concentrated great fortunes have become, even among the ultra-rich, a shift our euro to dollar exchange rate coverage sets in the global context.

\$20.1T Total wealth A record. \$2.9T Top 20 Over \$100B each. 65% Top 500 Of the total. 5% Elon Musk Of the total.

Together these figures show a billionaire class whose record wealth is held ever more at the top, with a small group of the very richest, led by Elon Musk, holding a large and growing share of the total.

Big Picture

Total Wealth Distribution: The Big Picture

Taken together, the total wealth distribution of billionaires in 2026 maps how unevenly a record 20.1 trillion dollars is spread even among the ultra-rich, concentrated ever more at the top, a story our [gold as an investment](#) coverage sets against other assets.

Whether the concentration at the top continues to grow will depend on the markets and the technology cycle, but the wealth of the billionaire class has never been more top-heavy, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Total Billionaire Wealth

About 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, a record, held by the world 3,428 billionaires, up from about 16.1 trillion in 2025.

Very unevenly. The middle and upper bands hold the largest share, while the bottom band, despite its many members, holds only about a tenth of the total.

Billionaires worth 5 to 50 billion dollars hold the most as a tier, about 9.8 trillion, though each of the mid bands holds a broadly similar share.

The top 10 hold about 15 percent of all billionaire wealth, the top 50 about 25 percent, and the top 500 about two-thirds of the total.

The 20 billionaires worth more than 100 billion dollars hold about 2.9 trillion, roughly 14 percent of the total, more than the bottom 1,400 combined.

Yes. The share held by the richest 1 percent of billionaires has risen from about 18 percent in 2015 to about 23 percent in 2026.

From about 7.1 trillion dollars in 2015 to a record 20.1 trillion in 2026, nearly tripling over the decade, driven by technology.

About a trillion dollars in 2026, roughly 5 percent of all billionaire wealth, about half as much as the entire bottom band of some 1,400 billionaires combined.

No. Most billionaires are worth a few billion dollars and together hold a minority of the total, while a small group at the top holds most of it.



From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, grouped by net worth band. Band boundaries are approximate and figures are the 2026 snapshot.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the combined wealth of billionaires by net worth band.

Forbes real-time and annual data - Source for the concentration, historical and top-fortune detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

Forbes World Billionaires - Publishes the annual data on billionaire wealth.

Figures show the total wealth distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, the combined net worth held in each net worth band, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. The world billionaires held a record 20.1 trillion dollars, spread very unevenly, with the top 500 holding about two-thirds and the top 20 holding about 2.9 trillion. Elon Musk alone holds about 5 percent. Band boundaries are approximate and figures are the 2026 snapshot. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Value added to billionaire wealth during the pandemic 2026

 Updated Jul 7, 2026 · businessstats.com/covid-19-value-added-wealth-worlds-tip-billionaires

+\$977B ELON MUSK	+\$241B LARRY PAGE	+\$222B SERGEY BRIN
\$12T TOTAL ADDED	\$20.1T 2026 WEALTH	50x JENSEN HUANG

Overview

Value added to the net worth of the world's leading billionaires during the COVID-19 pandemic from September 2019 to June 2026

The world leading billionaires added trillions of dollars to their fortunes during the COVID-19 pandemic, from September 2019 to June 2026. Elon Musk gained the most by far, with his net worth rising from about 23 billion dollars to about 1 trillion. The pandemic years produced the greatest surge in billionaire wealth ever recorded, a boom so large and so concentrated that it has reshaped the very top of the global wealth distribution, above all through the extraordinary rise of a single fortune. From the depths of the pandemic crash in early 2020 to the artificial-intelligence boom of the mid-2020s, the wealth of the world leading billionaires has been transformed, with the greatest gains flowing to the founders of the largest technology companies. The story of billionaire wealth during the pandemic is, above all, a story of concentration, of how a health and economic crisis that upended billions of lives ended up delivering the greatest windfall in history to a small group of technology founders at the very top.

The Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, and Michael Dell, each added more than 190 billion dollars. The gains build on our [age distribution of billionaires](#) and [leading billionaires](#) coverage.

Leading Billionaires: Net Worth, Sep 2019 to Jun 2026 (USD bn)Fortunes transformed by the pandemic.

Data:

Value added to the net worth of the world leading billionaires during the COVID-19 pandemic, from September 2019 to June 2026, in billions of US dollars.

Note:

The increase is the change in net worth from the pre-pandemic baseline to June 2026, based on Forbes data. Switch views with the toolbar.

Fortunes transformed by the pandemic: the net worth of the leading billionaires soared from September 2019 to June 2026, led by Elon Musk, whose fortune rose from about 23 billion dollars to a trillion.

The pandemic years saw the greatest creation of billionaire wealth in history, as soaring stock markets and the technology and artificial-intelligence boom lifted fortunes, themes our [billionaires around the world](#) and [top billionaire countries](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the value added to the net worth of the world leading billionaires during the pandemic, from September 2019 to June 2026, in billions of dollars. The increase is the change from the pre-pandemic baseline to June 2026, based on Forbes data. Because net worth figures are tied to fluctuating share prices, the exact size of each gain depends on the dates chosen, but the broad picture, of enormous wealth added and concentrated in technology, is clear and well documented. The pre-pandemic baseline is taken as September 2019, before the onset of the crisis, and the figures track the change to June 2026, capturing the full span of the pandemic and its aftermath in the wealth of the leading billionaires.

The Table

Value Added by the Leading Billionaires

Value Added During the Pandemic, 2019-2026 Click any column to sort

BILLIONAIRE	VALUE ADDED (USD BN)	FROM / TO
Elon Musk	+977B	23B to 1000B
Larry Page	+241B	52B to 293B
Sergey Brin	+222B	49B to 271B
Michael Dell	+192B	28B to 220B
Mark Zuckerberg	+157B	55B to 212B

Jensen Huang	+155B	3B to 158B
Jeff Bezos	+139B	110B to 249B
Larry Ellison	+130B	62B to 192B
Steve Ballmer	+93B	52B to 145B
Bernard Arnault	+74B	76B to 150B
Warren Buffett	+62B	88B to 150B
Bill Gates	+15B	103B to 118B

The table shows the value added to the net worth of the leading billionaires during the pandemic. It shows Elon Musk far ahead, having added nearly a trillion dollars, followed by the Google founders and a cluster of technology fortunes. Reading down the table shows the vast gap between Elon Musk and the rest, with his gain of nearly a trillion dollars towering over the still-enormous gains of the Google founders, Michael Dell and the other technology billionaires. Because the gains are measured against a pre-pandemic baseline and are tied to share prices, the exact figures depend on the dates chosen, but the ranking, with Musk far ahead, is clear and robust.

The Ranking

Which Billionaires Gained the Most?

Elon Musk added the most wealth of any billionaire during the pandemic, gaining about 977 billion dollars as his net worth rose from about 23 billion to a trillion. Larry Page added about 241 billion, Sergey Brin 222 billion, and Michael Dell 192 billion. The gap between Elon Musk and every other billionaire in the wealth added during the pandemic is staggering, with his gain alone exceeding the entire net worth of all but a handful of the world richest people. Musk gain of about 977 billion dollars over the pandemic is larger than the entire fortune of any other person on the planet, a rise so vast that it has few if any parallels in the history of wealth. The dominance of a single fortune in the pandemic-era gains, with Elon Musk adding more wealth than any person has ever held, is without precedent, and it has made his rise the defining economic story of the age.

The scale of the Musk gain is without precedent, larger than the entire fortune of any other person on the planet, driven by the soaring value of Tesla and SpaceX, a rise our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.



Value Added During the Pandemic (USD bn)Musk far ahead.

Data:

Value added to the net worth of the world leading billionaires during the COVID-19 pandemic, from September 2019 to June 2026, in billions of US dollars.

Note:

The increase is the change in net worth from the pre-pandemic baseline to June 2026, based on Forbes data. Switch views with the toolbar.

Musk far ahead: Elon Musk added about 977 billion dollars during the pandemic, more than four times Larry Page on 241 billion, with Sergey Brin and Michael Dell close behind.

Behind the leaders, Mark Zuckerberg, Jensen Huang, Jeff Bezos and Larry Ellison each added more than 130 billion dollars, while even those who added least among the leaders, such as Bill Gates, still saw their fortunes grow over the period. The breadth of the gains, reaching well beyond the very top to lift the fortunes of billionaires across many industries, shows how widely the pandemic-era boom was felt, even as its largest rewards flowed to a handful of technology founders. Taken together, the gains of the leading billionaires during the pandemic map the greatest concentration of new wealth in history, flowing above all to the founders of the technology and artificial-intelligence companies that drove the boom.

Total Wealth

How Much Did Billionaire Wealth Grow?

The wealth of all the world billionaires grew enormously during the pandemic, from about 8.7 trillion dollars in September 2019 to a record 20.1 trillion by 2026. The number of billionaires rose from about 2,150 to 3,428 over the same period. The near-tripling of total billionaire wealth in less than seven years stands as one of the most remarkable episodes of wealth creation in economic history, driven by a combination of pandemic-era stimulus, soaring markets and technological transformation. The rise of total billionaire wealth from about 8.7 trillion dollars in September 2019 to 20.1 trillion by 2026 represents an increase of roughly 12 trillion, more than the annual output of every country except the United States and China. The sheer scale of the wealth added to the billionaire class during the pandemic, some 12 trillion dollars, is difficult to comprehend, exceeding the combined economic output of most of the countries on the planet.

The growth reflects the extraordinary rise in asset prices during the pandemic years, especially in technology, which created new fortunes and swelled existing ones, a boom our [billionaires by region](#)

coverage frames.

All Billionaires: Number and Wealth, 2019-2026Wealth nearly tripled.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets.Switch views with the toolbar.

Wealth nearly tripled: the wealth of all billionaires rose from about 8.7 trillion dollars in 2019 to 20.1 trillion in 2026, as their number grew from about 2,150 to 3,428.

The near-tripling of total billionaire wealth in less than seven years is the fastest sustained growth on record, driven by soaring stock markets, the recovery from the pandemic crash and the boom in artificial intelligence. The speed of the growth, adding some 12 trillion dollars to billionaire wealth in less than seven years, far outpaced the growth of the world economy over the same period, a divergence at the heart of the debate over pandemic-era inequality.

Multiples

Who Multiplied Their Fortunes the Most?

Measured in percentage terms, the biggest gains went to those who started with less. Jensen Huang net worth rose more than fiftyfold, and Elon Musk more than fortyfold, while Michael Dell and the Google founders each roughly quadrupled or more. Measuring the gains in percentage terms rather than absolute dollars reveals a different set of winners, with those who started from a smaller base, above all the artificial-intelligence pioneers, recording the most spectacular multiples. Jensen Huang net worth rose from about 3 billion dollars to 158 billion, a more than fiftyfold increase, while Elon Musk fortune grew more than fortyfold, the two most spectacular multiples among the leading billionaires.

The enormous percentage gains reflect the explosive rise of the technology companies behind these fortunes, above all those tied to artificial intelligence, a boom our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

Percentage Gain During the Pandemic (%)Huang and Musk multiply.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets. Switch views with the toolbar.

Huang and Musk multiply: Jensen Huang net worth rose more than fiftyfold and Elon Musk more than fortyfold, while Michael Dell and the Google founders each roughly quadrupled or more.

The contrast between the huge percentage gains of the technology founders and the more modest gains of those in older industries shows how completely the pandemic-era boom was driven by technology and the companies at the heart of the artificial-intelligence wave. The spectacular multiples recorded by the artificial-intelligence pioneers, above all Jensen Huang, mark them out as the defining winners of the later pandemic years, as the boom shifted from pandemic lockdowns to the artificial-intelligence wave.

Before and After

Before and After: 2020 vs 2026

The before-and-after comparison is striking. Elon Musk net worth rose from about 25 billion dollars in early 2020 to a trillion in 2026, Larry Page from 51 to 293 billion, and Jensen Huang from about 3 billion to 158 billion. The before-and-after snapshots of the leading fortunes capture the sheer speed of the pandemic-era boom, with several billionaires seeing their wealth multiply many times over in the space of just a few years. The transformation of Michael Dell fortune, from about 28 billion dollars in early 2020 to 220 billion in 2026, and of Jensen Huang, from 3 billion to 158 billion, captures the extraordinary scale of the pandemic-era wealth boom.

The gains reflect the soaring value of the largest technology companies, whose share prices rose sharply through the pandemic recovery and the artificial-intelligence boom, a rise our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Net Worth: 2020 vs 2026 (USD bn)Fortunes multiplied.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:



Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets. Switch views with the toolbar.

Fortunes multiplied: from 2020 to 2026 Elon Musk net worth rose from 25 to 1,000 billion dollars, Larry Page from 51 to 293, and Jensen Huang from 3 to 158.

The scale of the increases, with several fortunes multiplying many times over in a few years, underlines how the pandemic years became the greatest period of billionaire wealth creation in history. Looking across the before-and-after figures, the transformation of the wealth rankings over the pandemic years is unmistakable, with technology founders pulling far ahead of the fortunes built in older industries.

By Industry

Where Did the Gains Come From?

The gains were concentrated in technology. Of the roughly 12 trillion dollars added to billionaire wealth during the pandemic, about 4.5 trillion came from technology fortunes, with finance, manufacturing and healthcare accounting for much of the rest. The concentration of the gains in technology is one of the defining features of the pandemic-era wealth boom, reflecting the way the crisis accelerated the shift to digital life and, later, the explosion of interest in artificial intelligence. Of the roughly 12 trillion dollars added to billionaire wealth during the pandemic, about 4.5 trillion, or more than a third, came from technology fortunes, far more than any other industry. The concentration of the gains in technology reflects a deeper truth about the pandemic era, that a crisis which accelerated the shift to digital life, and later ignited a boom in artificial intelligence, rewarded the owners of the technology giants above all others.

The dominance of technology reflects the enormous rise in the value of the largest technology companies, whose founders hold huge stakes, a concentration our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

Value Added by Industry (trillion USD) Technology dominates.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets. Switch views with the toolbar.

Technology dominates: of the roughly 12 trillion dollars added to billionaire wealth, about 4.5 trillion came from technology, far more than finance, manufacturing or healthcare.

Outside technology, finance and manufacturing fortunes also grew strongly, while the gains in healthcare reflected the wealth created during the pandemic itself, though none matched the scale of the technology boom. The enduring dominance of technology in the pandemic-era gains, from the digital boom of the early pandemic to the artificial-intelligence surge that followed, underlines how completely the crisis accelerated the shift of wealth toward the technology sector.

Elon Musk

Elon Musk: From Billions to a Trillion

Elon Musk journey through the pandemic is the defining wealth story of the era. His net worth rose from about 23 billion dollars in September 2019 to a trillion by June 2026, having become the first trillionaire in history that month after the listing of SpaceX. The trajectory of the Musk fortune through the pandemic is without any real parallel in the history of wealth, a rise so steep and so vast that it repeatedly redefined what was thought possible and ended with the first trillion-dollar fortune. Musk net worth of about 23 billion dollars in September 2019 was a fraction of the fortunes of the richest people of the time, yet by June 2026 it had grown to a trillion, making him the wealthiest person in history.

The rise was driven by the soaring value of Tesla, the growth of SpaceX and his other ventures, making his fortune the largest ever recorded, a milestone our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

Elon Musk Net Worth, Sep 2019 to Jun 2026 (USD bn)From billions to a trillion.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets.Switch views with the toolbar.

From billions to a trillion: Elon Musk net worth rose from about 23 billion dollars in September 2019 to a trillion by June 2026, when he became the first trillionaire.

The Musk fortune has been volatile, surging past a trillion dollars and peaking near 1.45 trillion in mid-2026 before easing, but its growth over the pandemic years dwarfs that of any other person in history. The

volatility of the Musk fortune, swinging by hundreds of billions of dollars in a matter of weeks, is a reminder that even the greatest paper fortunes are tied to the fluctuating value of a few company shares. Whether Musk holds his trillion-dollar fortune will depend on the value of Tesla and SpaceX, but his rise through the pandemic years has already secured his place as the author of the greatest wealth story ever recorded.

Concentration

How Concentrated Were the Gains?

The gains were highly concentrated. Elon Musk alone accounts for about 8 percent of all the wealth added to the billionaire class during the pandemic, and the ten biggest gainers together captured a large share of the total. The extreme concentration of the gains, with so much of the added wealth captured by a handful of technology founders, has fuelled debate about inequality and the way the pandemic-era boom rewarded those already at the very top. Elon Musk 977 billion dollars of added wealth represents about 8 percent of the roughly 12 trillion added to the entire billionaire class, an extraordinary share for a single individual.

The concentration of the gains reflects the way the pandemic-era boom rewarded the founders of the largest technology companies above all others, a concentration our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Share of Wealth Added During the Pandemic (%)Musk alone took 8 percent.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets.Switch views with the toolbar.

Musk alone took 8 percent: Elon Musk accounts for about 8 percent of all the wealth added to the billionaire class during the pandemic, with the top 10 taking a large share.

The fact that a single individual captured such a large share of the wealth added to the entire billionaire class underlines how unevenly the gains of the pandemic years were distributed, even among the ultra-rich. The concentration of so much of the added wealth in a single individual and a handful of technology founders is perhaps the starkest illustration of how unevenly the gains of the pandemic years were shared, even within the billionaire class.

Year by Year

The Ups and Downs of the Pandemic Years

The gains were not steady. Billionaire wealth fell in the pandemic crash of early 2020, surged in the boom of 2021, dipped in 2022 and 2023, and then rose strongly again in 2024, 2025 and 2026 on the back of the artificial-intelligence boom. The year-by-year path of billionaire wealth through the pandemic tells a story of dramatic swings, from the crash of early 2020 to the euphoria of 2021, the downturn of 2022 and the artificial-intelligence-driven surge of the years that followed. Billionaire wealth fell by several hundred billion dollars in the crash of early 2020, then surged by more than 5 trillion in the boom of 2021, before dipping in 2022 and 2023 and rising strongly again through 2026.

The volatility reflects the swings of the stock market through the pandemic years, from the crash and recovery of 2020 to the downturn of 2022 and the strong gains since, a pattern our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Change in Billionaire Wealth by Year (trillion USD) Boom, bust and boom.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets. Switch views with the toolbar.

Boom, bust and boom: billionaire wealth fell in 2020, surged over 5 trillion dollars in 2021, dipped in 2022 and 2023, then rose strongly through 2026 on the AI boom.

The strong gains of 2024 to 2026, adding trillions to billionaire wealth, were driven above all by the boom in artificial intelligence, which lifted the fortunes of the technology founders to new records. The strong gains of the later pandemic years, driven by artificial intelligence, more than made up for the downturn of 2022 and 2023, pushing total billionaire wealth to a record and cementing the era as the greatest wealth boom in history. Looking ahead, whether billionaire wealth continues to climb will depend on the artificial-intelligence boom that has driven the gains of recent years, and on whether the soaring valuations behind the largest fortunes can be sustained.

The Average

The Average Billionaire Got Richer

The average billionaire also grew richer during the pandemic. The average fortune rose from about 4 billion dollars in September 2019 to about 5.8 billion by 2026, even as the number of billionaires itself grew by more than a thousand. The rise in the average billionaire fortune, even as the number of billionaires swelled by more than a thousand, shows how broadly the pandemic-era boom lifted wealth, though its gains were felt most powerfully at the very top.

The rise in the average fortune, even as the number of billionaires swelled, reflects how broadly the pandemic-era boom lifted wealth across the billionaire class, a rise our [financial markets in the US](#) coverage frames.

Average Billionaire Net Worth, 2019-2026 (USD bn) Everyone got richer.

Data:

Derived from Forbes net worth data, September 2019 to June 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of US dollars; figures change daily with markets. Switch views with the toolbar.

Everyone got richer: the average billionaire fortune rose from about 4 billion dollars in 2019 to 5.8 billion in 2026, even as the number of billionaires swelled.

The growth in the average fortune understates the gains at the very top, where a handful of technology founders added hundreds of billions of dollars each, pulling the top of the distribution far ahead of the rest. The way the growth in the average fortune understates the gains at the very top captures a central truth of the pandemic-era boom, that its rewards, though broad, were overwhelmingly concentrated among a small group of technology founders.

Key Facts

Pandemic Wealth Gains in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. Elon Musk added about 977 billion dollars during the pandemic, total billionaire wealth rose from about 8.7 to 20.1 trillion dollars, and the number of billionaires grew from about 2,150 to 3,428. These figures together capture the scale of the pandemic-era wealth boom, the greatest in history, driven by technology and artificial intelligence and concentrated above all in the unprecedented



fortune of Elon Musk. The picture that emerges is of a pandemic that, for all its devastation, coincided with the greatest boom in billionaire wealth ever recorded, driven by technology and concentrated to an extraordinary degree in a handful of fortunes.

The figures matter because the pandemic years reshaped the distribution of great wealth, concentrating enormous gains in a handful of technology founders, a shift our [euro to dollar exchange rate coverage](#) sets in the global context.

+977BElon MuskGained the most. \$12TTotal addedTo all billionaires. \$20.1T2026 wealthUp from \$8.7T. 50xJensen HuangBiggest multiple.

Together these figures show the greatest creation of billionaire wealth in history, driven by technology and artificial intelligence, and concentrated above all in the fortune of Elon Musk.

Big Picture

Billionaire Wealth in the Pandemic: The Big Picture

Taken together, the wealth added to the world leading billionaires during the pandemic maps the greatest boom in great fortunes ever recorded, driven by technology and above all by Elon Musk, a story our [gold as an investment coverage](#) sets against other assets.

Whether the gains of the pandemic years hold or unwind depends on the markets and the technology cycle, but they have already reshaped the top of global wealth, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Pandemic Wealth Gains

The world billionaires added roughly 12 trillion dollars to their wealth from September 2019 to June 2026, with total billionaire wealth rising from about 8.7 to 20.1 trillion.

Elon Musk, whose net worth rose from about 23 billion dollars to about 1 trillion, an increase of some 977 billion, by far the largest gain of any billionaire.

About 977 billion dollars, as his fortune rose from around 23 billion in September 2019 to a trillion by June 2026, when he became the first trillionaire.

Jensen Huang of Nvidia, whose net worth rose more than fiftyfold, from about 3 billion dollars to 158 billion, driven by the artificial-intelligence boom.

Mainly because of soaring stock markets and the boom in technology and artificial intelligence, which lifted the value of the companies behind the largest fortunes.

Most did, though not steadily. Billionaire wealth fell in the 2020 crash, surged in 2021, dipped in 2022 and 2023, and rose strongly again from 2024.

From about 8.7 trillion dollars in September 2019 to a record 20.1 trillion by 2026, a rise of about 12 trillion, the fastest sustained growth on record.

Technology, which accounted for about 4.5 trillion dollars of the roughly 12 trillion added to billionaire wealth during the pandemic years.

Highly concentrated. Elon Musk alone accounts for about 8 percent of all the wealth added, and the ten biggest gainers captured a large share of the total.

From Forbes net worth data, tracking the change in the fortunes of the leading billionaires from September 2019 to June 2026.

Sources

Forbes net worth data (September 2019 to June 2026) - Source for the value added to the net worth of the leading billionaires.

Forbes World Billionaires lists and real-time data - Source for total wealth, sector and historical detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes Real-Time Billionaires](#) - Tracks the daily net worth of the world richest people.

Figures show the value added to the net worth of the world leading billionaires during the COVID-19 pandemic, from September 2019 to June 2026, in billions of US dollars. Elon Musk added the most, about 977 billion, as his fortune rose from about 23 billion to a trillion. Total billionaire wealth rose from about 8.7 to 20.1 trillion dollars, with technology accounting for the largest share of the gains. Net worth changes daily with markets. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Billionaires Around the World — Statistics & Facts 2026

 Updated Apr 7, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-around-the-world

3,428 BILLIONAIRES WORLDWIDE 2026	\$20.1T COMBINED WEALTH	\$839B ELON MUSK — #1
989 USA BILLIONAIRES — #1	80 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED	13% FEMALE BILLIONAIRES

Overview

3,428 Billionaires, \$20.1 Trillion — Wealth at Record Highs in 2026

The Forbes 40th Annual World's Billionaires List, published in March 2026, represents the most comprehensive snapshot of extreme global wealth ever recorded. A total of **3,428 billionaires** across **80 countries** hold a combined net worth of **\$20.1 trillion** — an increase of \$4 trillion, or approximately 25%, from the \$16.1 trillion recorded in early 2025. This marks the largest single-year wealth gain in the four-decade history of the Forbes rankings. The global billionaire population has also grown by 13.2%, adding 400 new members to the world's most exclusive financial club. Three primary forces drove this extraordinary expansion: the **AI boom** (which created 114 new billionaires through AI-related companies, per BusinessStats Research 2026), **strong equity market performance** (the S&P 500 gained 16%, NASDAQ 20%, and DAX 21% in 2025), and **fiscal and monetary policies** that continued to disproportionately benefit holders of financial assets over wage earners. The wealth dynamics driving this concentration connect to the patterns tracked in our [global financial markets analysis](#).

The number of **centi-billionaires** — individuals with more than \$100 billion in net worth — has reached **20** for the first time in history, per BusinessStats Research 2026. These 20 individuals alone hold approximately **\$3.8 trillion** in combined wealth — more than the entire GDP of Germany. **Elon Musk** at \$839.6 billion has become the first person in recorded history to surpass the \$800 billion mark and is widely projected to become the world's first **trillionaire** within the next 12–24 months if current wealth trajectory continues. The billionaire count has grown nearly threefold from **1,210 in 2012**, and combined



billionaire wealth has grown approximately **4x** since 2013 — a rate of wealth accumulation far exceeding global economic growth, which averages approximately 2.5–3% annually. The 80 countries represented mark a record geographic spread, ranging from the United States and China down to Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, each home to at least one billionaire. The scale of global wealth connects to our [world GDP and economies analysis](#).

Global billionaires 2026 (BusinessStats Research · Forbes March 2026): 3,428 billionaires across 80 countries · \$20.1 trillion combined wealth (up \$4T from 2025) · Elon Musk #1 at \$839.6B · USA leads: 989 billionaires (\$8.4T) · China (incl. HK): 610 · India: 229 · 20 centi-billionaires (\$100B+) · 13% female · AI boom created 114 new billionaires · Two new billionaires minted per day throughout 2025. Source: Forbes 40th Annual World's Billionaires List, March 2026.

Top 10 Richest People

World's Richest People 2026 — Top 10 by Net Worth

The 2026 Forbes list reveals a top 10 dominated by **American technology entrepreneurs** — 15 of the world's 20 richest individuals live in the United States. **Elon Musk** → at \$839.6 billion is in a category of one — his wealth exceeds the entire GDP of Switzerland and is approximately 3.3 times that of the #2 ranked billionaire. His fortune grew by a staggering **\$825 billion since 2017**, driven primarily by his stake in SpaceX (valued at \$800 billion, with a potential IPO at \$1.5 trillion in 2026), Tesla's resurgent market capitalisation, and xAI's explosive growth. **Larry Page** of Google/Alphabet sits at #2 with approximately **\$257 billion** — a position he reached for the first time following Alphabet's mid-November 2025 launch of the Gemini 3 AI model, which drove Alphabet's valuation higher. **Warren Buffett** at approximately **\$149 billion** leads the Finance & Investment category — the only non-technology figure in the true top tier — while **Bernard Arnault** at **\$171 billion** is Europe's richest person and the only luxury goods executive in the top 10. The technology sector dominance of global billionaire rankings connects to the patterns in our [AI and technology market analysis](#).

Top 10 Richest People in the World — Net Worth 2026 (\$B)

Forbes Rankings 2026 World's Richest People — Net Worth in Billions USD — Q1 2026 BusinessStats Market Intelligence 2026 · April 2026 Edition \$839B
Elon Musk — #1 Net Worth (USD Billions) Musk 3.3x wealthier than #2 Larry Page
Source: BusinessStats Market Intelligence 2026 · Global Billionaire Research · April 2026

Top 10 — Wealth Index & Industry

Top 10 Rankings World's 10 Richest People — Wealth Index 2026 (Musk = 100) BusinessStats Research · Forbes World's Billionaires 2026 · Bloomberg Billionaires Index

By Country

Billionaires by Country 2026 — USA Leads, China Surges, India at Record

The United States remains the world's dominant billionaire superpower by a significant margin. The **989 US billionaires** in 2026 hold a combined wealth of **\$8.4 trillion** — representing approximately **42% of all billionaire wealth worldwide** despite the US representing only about 4.2% of the global population. The US added **106 newcomers** to the Forbes list in 2026, the most of any nation, including entertainers Dr. Dre, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, and Taylor Swift. **15 of the world's 20 richest individuals** reside in the US. **China** (including Hong Kong) recorded **610 billionaires** with \$2.2 trillion combined wealth — approximately \$500 billion more than 2025, lifted by gains in artificial intelligence and consumer goods companies. China's richest is **Zhang Yiming**, co-founder of ByteDance (TikTok), who reached a landmark agreement with investors in January 2026 to bring TikTok to US users. **India** at **229 billionaires** with \$1 trillion combined wealth continues to grow rapidly, supported by a strong stock market and expanding technology sector. **Mukesh Ambani** of Reliance Industries leads at \$99.7 billion. The broader economic context of billionaire wealth connects to our [US financial markets analysis](#).

Germany at **212 billionaires** with \$1 trillion combined wealth ranks 4th globally — its richest is retailer **Dieter Schwarz** (Schwarz Group, owner of Lidl and Kaufland) at \$67.2 billion. **Russia** ranks 5th with **147 billionaires** worth \$649 billion, led by **Alexey Mordashov** at \$37 billion. **Hong Kong** as an autonomous territory counts 71 billionaires with \$420 billion combined, led by **Robin Zeng** (CATL/battery technology) at \$53.2 billion. **Brazil** places with 70 billionaires worth \$265 billion, topped by **Eduardo Saverin** (Facebook co-founder) at \$35.9 billion. **Taiwan** entered the top 10 with 66 billionaires and \$245 billion, led by **Terry Gou** (Foxconn) at \$15.3 billion. Notably, the **United Kingdom dropped from 10th to 12th** — a reflection of structural economic challenges and some wealth migration away from London. The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 (using a broader methodology and January snapshot) counts even more: China 1,110, USA 1,000, India 308 — indicating continued fast-paced wealth creation between snapshots. The geopolitical and economic dynamics connect to our [UK financial markets analysis](#).

Billionaires by Country — Top 10 Nations 2026 (Forbes)

Country Rankings 2026 Number of Billionaires by Country — Top 10 Nations 2026 BusinessStats Market Intelligence 2026 · April 2026 Edition 989 USA — #1 610 China+HK #2

USA + China + India = 51% of all billionaires Source: BusinessStats Analytics 2026 · April 2026 Billionaires by Country — Forbes 2026 Rankings Click column to sort

RANK	COUNTRY	BILLIONAIRES	COMBINED WEALTH	RICHEST PERSON	NET WORTH
#1	United States	989	\$8.4 trillion	Elon Musk	\$839.6B
#2	China (incl. HK)	610	\$2.2 trillion	Zhang Yiming	(ByteDance)
#3	India	229	\$1.0 trillion	Mukesh Ambani	\$99.7B
#4	Germany	212	\$1.0 trillion	Dieter Schwarz	\$67.2B
#5	Russia	147	\$649 billion	Alexey Mordashov	\$37B
#6	Hong Kong	71	\$420 billion	Robin Zeng	\$53.2B
#7	Brazil	70	\$265 billion	Eduardo Saverin	\$35.9B
#8	Taiwan	66	\$245 billion	Terry Gou	\$15.3B
#9	Italy	58	—	Giovanni Ferrero	(Nutella/Ferrero)
#10	Switzerland	44	—	Guillaume Pousaz	(Checkout.com)

Billionaire Cities

World's Billionaire Cities 2026 — New York Leads for Third Consecutive Year

New York City remains the world's undisputed billionaire capital for the **third consecutive year**, home to approximately **146 billionaires** (BusinessStats Research 2026) — a figure that has risen by 17 in a single year, reflecting the continued migration of global wealth to the world's leading financial centre. New York's billionaires are disproportionately concentrated in **finance, private equity, real estate, and media**.

Shenzhen overtook Shanghai for second place in 2026, reflecting the explosive growth of Chinese technology companies — particularly in electric vehicles, semiconductors, and AI — that have their headquarters in the Pearl River Delta. **Beijing** ranks third, benefiting from the headquarters of major state-



linked enterprises and internet giants like ByteDance. Among **US cities**, approximately 900 billionaires live across American metropolitan areas, with eight US cities counted among the world's fastest-growing wealth centres. **Mumbai** and **Bengaluru** feature among the fastest-growing billionaire cities globally, driven by India's technology and conglomerate boom. The **63% of the world's billionaires** list North America as their top opportunity for investment returns, per BusinessStats Consumer Intelligence 2026. The urban wealth dynamics connect to our US stock market and capital formation analysis.

By Industry

Billionaires by Industry 2026 — Technology Dominates, AI Creates New Fortunes

The **technology sector** is the single most powerful engine of billionaire wealth creation in 2026 — the majority of the top 10 fortunes are tied to technology companies or digital platforms, whether through founding, ownership, or strategic investment. The AI boom has accelerated this concentration: the Hurun Global Rich List 2026 identified **114 billionaires from AI companies**, with 46 joining for the first time, making AI **the single largest source of new billionaire creation** in any single year. Among the most dramatic AI-driven wealth stories: Anthropic (the company behind Claude AI) saw **seven new entrants** on the Hurun Global Rich List 2026 as its valuation soared to \$380 billion. The three founders of AI recruitment startup Mercor — Brendan Foody, Adarsh Hiremath, and Surya Midha, all aged 22 — became the youngest self-made billionaires on the Hurun list, each entering at \$2.4 billion. Finance and investment services is the primary source of wealth for approximately **one in ten billionaires** globally, followed by media & entertainment and retail. **Industrial products** added the most new billionaires in absolute terms, adding 109 names to the 2026 Hurun list. The AI and technology investment themes connect to our AI market size analysis.

Billionaire Wealth Growth — Total Forbes List 2013 to 2026

Historical TrendGlobal Billionaire Count & Combined Wealth — Forbes List 2013–2026BusinessStats
Historical Wealth Intelligence · April 2026 3,428Billionaires 2026 \$20.1TWealth 2026

Billionaire count +183% since 2013 · Wealth +4x since 2013 Source: BusinessStats Historical Wealth Intelligence · April 2026 · April 2026 Global billionaire wealth trends 2017–2026 (BusinessStats Research · Forbes Annual Data): Billionaire count grew from 2,043 (2017) to 3,428 (2026) · Combined wealth grew from \$7.67T to \$20.1T (+162%) · Top 20 hold \$3.8T (exceeds Germany's GDP) · 20 centi-billionaires (\$100B+) for first time · 13% female billionaires globally · 87.2% over age 50 · AI created 114 new



billionaires · US = 42% of all billionaire wealth. Sources: Forbes Annual World's Billionaires List 2017–2026 · BusinessStats Research.

Demographics

Billionaire Demographics — Gender, Age & Self-Made vs Inherited

The demographic profile of the world's billionaires reveals a group that remains **overwhelmingly male, older, and increasingly self-made**. Only **13% of billionaires worldwide are women** — a figure that has grown in recent years but remains strikingly low. Among female billionaires, there is a significant wealth origin difference: while most male billionaires are classified as self-made, approximately **40% of female billionaires inherited their fortune**. Self-made female billionaires have a median net worth of approximately \$1.8 billion and an average age of 64. The gender gap extends to industry: nearly one-quarter of male billionaires are primarily in banking and finance, while the leading sector among female billionaires is non-profit and social organisations. On age, **87.2% of all Forbes 2026 billionaires are over 50 years old**, and just **12.8% are under 50**. The 25 youngest billionaires on the 2026 Forbes list are all 35 or younger, with a combined net worth of \$110 billion. Brazil's **Livia Voigt** (20) is the world's youngest billionaire, holding a \$1.1 billion stake in WEG Industrial. The three Mercor AI founders (all 22) are the youngest self-made billionaires globally. The demographic and education patterns connect to our technology and digital economy analysis.

Billionaire Demographics — Donut Overview 2026

Demographics 2026 World's Billionaires — Geographic Wealth Distribution 2026 BusinessStats Market Intelligence 2026 · April 2026 Edition

lass="rule"> Wealth Trends

Billionaire Wealth Trends — How the Ultra-Rich Got Richer 2017–2026

The wealth trajectory of the world's billionaires from 2017 to 2026 tells the story of an extraordinary structural shift in how capital compounds at the very top of the global wealth distribution. In 2017, the Forbes list counted approximately **2,043 billionaires** with combined wealth of \$7.67 trillion. By 2026, the billionaire population has grown by **68%** and combined wealth has grown by **162%** to \$20.1 trillion — a rate of wealth accumulation approximately **10x faster** than average global economic growth over the same period. COVID-19 actually **accelerated** billionaire wealth growth: Forbes 2021 recorded 2,755 billionaires with \$13.1 trillion — up 660 members in a single year as equity markets surged, technology company



valuations exploded, and central bank stimulus flowed disproportionately to asset holders. Since 2020, the world's wealthiest have seen their wealth grow at a pace far outstripping wages, inflation, and broader economic growth.

The wealth growth of individual billionaires at the top has been even more dramatic. **Elon Musk's wealth has grown by approximately \$825 billion since 2017** — a figure so large it exceeds the entire GDP of the Netherlands. **Mark Zuckerberg's** net worth grew by \$112.6 billion in 2024 alone. The **20 centi-billionaires** in 2026 — individuals with \$100B+ — represent an entirely new tier of extreme wealth that did not exist in 2017, when only two individuals (Bezos and Gates) were close to the threshold. The top 20 billionaires in 2026 hold approximately \$3.8 trillion combined — greater than the GDP of most major economies. Meanwhile, global wealth inequality as measured by the share held by the top 1% has continued to widen: the top 1% now hold approximately **32–35% of global net personal wealth**. The **US holds approximately 35% of total global wealth** despite representing 4.2% of the global population, while China holds approximately 20% and all other countries combined hold the remaining 46%. The broader wealth and financial market context connects to our global financial markets analysis.

Key Statistics

Billionaires Around the World — Key Statistics 2026

3,428Billionaires Worldwide 2026 (Forbes)Record 40th annual Forbes list. 80 countries. Up 13.2% from 3,028 in 2025. Hurun Global Rich List 2026 counts 4,020 using broader methodology and January snapshot. \$20.1TCombined Billionaire Wealth 2026Up \$4 trillion from \$16.1T in early 2025. Largest single-year gain in Forbes history. Average net worth: \$5.8 billion. Top 10 entry threshold: \$148 billion. \$839BElon Musk — World's Richest 2026First person ever to surpass \$800B. Forbes #1 for second year. Tesla + SpaceX + xAI. Wealth up \$825B since 2017. First trillionaire projected within 12–24 months. 989USA — #1 Billionaire Nation\$8.4 trillion combined. 42% of all billionaire wealth. 106 newcomers (most any nation). 15 of world's 20 richest in USA. Dr. Dre, Beyoncé & Taylor Swift joined Forbes list. 20Centi-Billionaires (\$100B+)First time 20 individuals hold \$100B+. Top 20 combined: \$3.8 trillion. Exceeds GDP of Germany. None existed in 2017. AI and tech stocks drove most into this club. 13%Female Billionaires Globally~40% of female billionaires inherited wealth vs majority self-made among males. Top female industries: non-profit/social, banking/finance. Median female net worth: \$1.8B, avg age 64. 114AI Billionaires Created 2026AI is single largest source of new billionaire creation per BusinessStats Research 2026. 46 entered list for the first time. Anthropic (Claude AI): 7 new entrants at \$380B valuation. 80Countries with Billionaires



2026 From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Record geographic spread. USA + China + India = 51% of all billionaires. Monaco = most billionaires per capita (population ~39,000). 2x New Billionaires Per Day in 2025 Two new billionaires minted every single day of 2025 per BusinessStats Research 2026 data. 196 self-made new billionaires per BusinessStats Research in 2026 alone — second highest in UBS report history. 87.2% Billionaires Over Age 50 Only 12.8% are under 50. Youngest: Livia Voigt (Brazil, 20) at \$1.1B in WEG. 3 Mercor AI founders (all 22) youngest self-made. Top 25 youngest all under 35, combined \$110B. \$8.4T US Billionaire Wealth 2026 42% of all global billionaire wealth. US has 4.2% of world population. 63% of world's billionaires see North America as top investment opportunity. Top US city: New York (146). \$3.8T Top 20 Billionaires Combined Wealth Wealth of world's top 20 exceeds GDP of Germany, UK, or France. Grown at astonishing rate since 2020: Jeff Bezos was #1 in 2020 at \$145B vs Musk at \$839B in 2026. Outlook

Global Billionaire Outlook — First Trillionaire Expected by 2027

The trajectory of global billionaire wealth points unambiguously toward continued concentration at the extreme top. **Elon Musk is widely projected to become the world's first trillionaire by 2027** if current wealth trajectory continues — driven primarily by a potential SpaceX IPO (currently valued at \$800 billion, with a potential \$1.5 trillion valuation at IPO). Even without an IPO, continued growth in Tesla's market cap and xAI's explosive trajectory could push Musk through the trillion-dollar threshold. The **AI-driven billionaire creation engine** shows no signs of slowing: with AI infrastructure investment exceeding \$200 billion annually and AI valuations continuing to climb, the technology sector is expected to produce several hundred new billionaires by 2030. India is projected to be the fastest-growing major billionaire nation by count, driven by its technology sector, stock market growth, and rapidly expanding HNWI population. The Hurun Global Rich List projects India will have over **400 billionaires by 2030**. High-net-worth migration is also accelerating: approximately **165,000 HNWI's relocated globally in 2026** (up from 142,000 in 2025), with the United States, UAE, and Singapore the primary destinations. The outlook for technology-driven wealth creation connects to our AI market size and growth analysis.

Wealth Outlook Global Billionaire Outlook — Key Projections to 2030 \$1T Musk Projected by 2027 4,000+ Billionaires by 2028E 400+ India Billionaires 2030E \$30T+ Combined Wealth 2030E AI #1 New Billionaire Source 165K HNWI Relocations 2026 Global billionaire outlook 2026–2030 (BusinessStats Research): Elon Musk projected first trillionaire by 2027 · 4,000+ billionaires worldwide by 2028E · India 400+ billionaires by 2030 · Combined wealth \$30T+ by 2030E · AI remains #1 source of new billionaire creation · 165,000 HNWI relocated globally in 2026 (record) · 63% of billionaires view North America as top

investment destination. Source: BusinessStats Research · Forbes · Hurun Global Rich List 2026.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Billionaires Around the World 2026

The **Forbes 40th Annual World's Billionaires List** (March 2026) records a historic **3,428 billionaires** across 80 countries with combined wealth of **\$20.1 trillion**, up 13.2% from 3,028 in 2025. The **Hurun Global Rich List 2026** (January snapshot) uses a broader methodology and counts **4,020 billionaires** worldwide — an increase of 578 from 3,442 the previous year, equivalent to **two new billionaires minted every day** of 2025. The difference reflects different valuation methodologies and snapshot dates.

Elon Musk is the world's richest person in 2026 with a net worth of approximately **\$839.6 billion** per BusinessStats Research 2026, making him the first person in history to surpass the \$800 billion mark. His fortune is driven by Tesla, SpaceX (\$800B valuation), and xAI. His wealth grew by a staggering **\$825 billion since 2017**. **Larry Page** of Google/Alphabet sits at #2 with approximately \$257 billion. Musk is projected by multiple analysts to become the world's first **trillionaire by 2027**.

The **United States** leads with **989 billionaires** holding a combined **\$8.4 trillion** in wealth — approximately 42% of all billionaire wealth globally. The US added 106 newcomers in 2026, the most of any nation. **China** (including Hong Kong) is second with **610 billionaires** and \$2.2 trillion combined. **India** is third with **229 billionaires** and \$1 trillion. Together, the US, China, and India account for **51%** of all 3,428 billionaires on the Forbes 2026 list. Note: The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 places China first with 1,110 billionaires vs USA 1,000, using a different methodology.

The world's **3,428 Forbes billionaires** hold a combined net worth of **\$20.1 trillion** as of March 2026 — up \$4 trillion from \$16.1 trillion in early 2025. This represents the largest single-year wealth gain in the 40-year history of the Forbes list. The average net worth of a Forbes 2026 billionaire is **\$5.8 billion**. The top 20 billionaires alone hold approximately **\$3.8 trillion** — more than Germany's entire GDP. Total billionaire wealth has grown approximately 4x from \$4.6 trillion in 2013.

The majority of the world's billionaires are classified as **self-made**. Among **male billionaires**, approximately 64–70% are self-made, while among **female billionaires**, approximately **40% inherited their fortune** and the majority of the rest built their own. In 2025, **196 self-made new billionaires** joined the ranks — the second-highest number in the history of UBS's tracking, with total wealth of \$386.5 billion. However, "self-made" classifications do not fully account for family privilege, educational access, or early-stage funding advantages.



Only **13% of the world's billionaires are women** as of 2026 — a share that has grown slowly over the past decade but remains strikingly low. Among female billionaires, approximately **40% inherited their wealth** versus the majority of male billionaires who are self-made. Self-made female billionaires have a median net worth of approximately **\$1.8 billion** and an average age of 64. The top industries for female billionaires are non-profit/social organisations and banking/finance. Female billionaires' wealth is weighted more toward **private holdings** (78%) versus male billionaires who hold 40% in public market assets.

New York City is the world's billionaire capital for the **third consecutive year** per the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, home to approximately **146 billionaires** (up 17 in one year). **Shenzhen** overtook Shanghai for second place, reflecting the explosive growth of Chinese technology companies. **Beijing** ranks third. Among US cities, approximately 900 billionaires live across American metropolitan areas, with eight US cities counted among the world's fastest-growing wealth centres. **Mumbai** and **Bengaluru** feature among the fastest-growing billionaire cities.

Brazil's **Livia Voigt**, age 20, is the world's youngest billionaire per BusinessStats Research 2026, holding a **\$1.1 billion stake in WEG**, an industrial company co-founded by her late grandfather. Her sister Dora Voigt de Assis (28) also appears on the list. The youngest **self-made** billionaires are the three founders of AI recruitment startup Mercor — **Brendan Foody, Adarsh Hiremath, and Surya Midha**, all aged 22, each worth \$2.4 billion per the Hurun 2026 list. The 25 youngest Forbes billionaires are all 35 or younger with combined net worth of \$110 billion.

Technology is the dominant billionaire-creating industry globally — the majority of the top 10 fortunes are tied to tech companies or digital platforms. In 2026, **AI is the single largest source of new billionaire creation**, with 114 billionaires from AI companies per BusinessStats Research 2026. **Financial services** is the primary wealth source for approximately one in ten billionaires. **Industrial products** added the most new entrants in absolute terms in 2026. **Media & entertainment** and **retail** follow. In the Forbes 2026 list, newcomers include entertainment billionaires Dr. Dre, Beyoncé, and Taylor Swift.

Elon Musk is widely projected to become the world's first trillionaire, potentially as early as **2027**. His path to \$1 trillion depends primarily on SpaceX, currently valued at \$800 billion, where a planned **mega-IPO could value the company at \$1.5 trillion** and significantly increase his stake's value. His net worth has already crossed \$839.6 billion per BusinessStats Research 2026, up from \$145 billion in 2020 — a nearly 6x increase in six years. If Tesla's market cap continues to grow and xAI reaches its projected valuations, the trillion-dollar threshold is mathematically achievable without the SpaceX IPO.



By definition, a **Forbes billionaire** has a net worth of at least **\$1 billion USD**. As of Forbes 2026, the minimum threshold to appear on the list is exactly \$1 billion. To make the **top 100**, a billionaire needs at least approximately **\$25.6 billion**. To enter the **top 10**, a net worth of at least **\$148 billion** is required. The list is measured as a snapshot as of **March 1, 2026** and updates in real-time between annual editions through the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires tracker.

Bernard Arnault & family, Chairman and CEO of **LVMH** (Louis Vuitton, Dior, Pernod Ricard), is Europe's richest person in 2026 with an estimated net worth of approximately **\$171 billion** per BusinessStats Research 2026. Arnault, who was briefly the world's richest person in 2023, has seen his rank in the global top 10 shift as US tech billionaires surged ahead. He remains the world's richest person in luxury goods by far. Germany's **Dieter Schwarz** (Lidl/Schwarz Group, \$67.2B) is the richest person in mainland Europe after Arnault. The UK's richest is **Len Blavatnik**.

India is the world's third-largest billionaire nation with **229 billionaires** holding a combined **\$1 trillion** in wealth per BusinessStats Research 2026, up from \$941 billion in 2025. India's richest is **Mukesh Ambani** of Reliance Industries at \$99.7 billion — the richest person in Asia per BusinessStats Research 2026. **Gautam Adani** of Adani Group is #2 in India at approximately \$83 billion (BusinessStats Research 2026). Hurun places India's billionaire count even higher at 308. India is projected to become one of the world's top-2 billionaire nations by 2030 as its technology sector, stock market, and consumer economy expand.

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi rank among the world's fastest-growing billionaire cities.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Forbes — 40th Annual World's Billionaires List 2026 · 3,428 Billionaires · \\$20.1 Trillion · 80 Countries · March 1, 2026 Snapshot](#)

Primary: [Hurun Research — Hurun Global Rich List 2026 · 4,020 Billionaires · China Leads 1,110 · USA 1,000 · AI Creates 114 New Billionaires · January 2026](#)

Primary: [UBS Global Billionaires Report 2025 · 3,028 Billionaires · \\$16.1 Trillion · 196 New Self-Made Billionaires · Demographic & Trend Analysis](#)

Total billionaire count (3,428) and country-level data (USA 989, China 539, India 229, Germany 212, Russia 147) from Forbes 40th Annual World's Billionaires List (March 2026). Combined wealth (\$20.1T), average net worth (\$5.8B), centi-billionaires (20), and top individual net worths from Forbes 2026. Hurun Global Rich List 2026 (January 2026) provides alternative broader count (4,020) and China as leading nation (1,110). UBS Global Billionaires Report 2025 provides demographic analysis, self-made data, and 2025 base



figures. Consumer migration and HNWl data from Henley & Partners 2026. All net worth figures are estimates and change daily with market conditions. Not investment advice. billionaires around the world statisticsnumber of billionaires 2026Forbes billionaires list 2026richest people in the world 2026billionaires by country 2026Elon Musk net worth 2026global wealth statistics 2026self-made billionairesfemale billionaires statisticsyoungest billionaire world 2026billionaire population growthwealth inequality statisticsbillionaires in USAbillionaires in Chinabillionaires in IndiaUHNW statistics 2026billionaire cities world 2026new billionaires Alcenti-billionaires worldtrillionaire Elon Musk



STATISTICS REPORT

Billionaire Wealth vs World Population — Statistics & Facts 2026

Updated Mar 27, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaire-wealth

2,781 BILLIONAIRES WORLDWIDE	\$14.2T COMBINED WEALTH	\$340B+ ELON MUSK — #1
813 US BILLIONAIRES	Top 5 OWN MORE THAN 3.6B PEOPLE	+610% WEALTH GROWTH SINCE 2010

Overview

2,781 Billionaires, \$14.2 Trillion — The Scale of Extreme Wealth in 2026

The concentration of wealth at the very top of the global economy has reached levels that would have been unimaginable even two decades ago. In 2000, there were approximately **470 billionaires globally** with a combined wealth of roughly **\$900 billion**. By 2026, both figures have exploded: **2,781 billionaires** now control **\$14.2 trillion** — a nearly 6× increase in headcount and a 16× increase in total wealth over 26 years. To put the \$14.2 trillion figure in perspective: it exceeds the combined annual GDP of every country in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. It is more than the entire United States federal debt as recently as 2011. And it represents wealth held by a group of people so small — approximately 0.000034% of the global population — that they could all fit comfortably inside a single large sports stadium.

What makes these numbers particularly striking is the comparison to the rest of humanity. The **world's 5 richest individuals** — Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page — collectively control approximately **\$1.05 trillion**, more than the combined net worth of the **bottom 3.6 billion people** on Earth (approximately 44% of the global population). The **top 1% of the global population** (approximately 81 million people, including billionaires and multi-millionaires) owns more financial wealth than the remaining **99%** combined. Meanwhile, the **bottom 50% of humanity** — over 4 billion people — collectively own less than **1%** of global wealth. These ratios have worsened significantly since 2000 and at an accelerating pace since 2020, when pandemic-era stimulus drove extraordinary asset price appreciation that disproportionately benefited those who already owned significant stocks and real estate. The dynamics of



global financial markets — particularly equity and real estate appreciation — are the primary engine of billionaire wealth creation.

Understanding the billionaire economy requires understanding how billionaire wealth is actually structured. The overwhelming majority — estimated at **85-90%** — consists of equity stakes in companies, whether publicly traded (stocks) or private. When Elon Musk's net worth is cited at \$340 billion, that figure is almost entirely his ownership stakes in Tesla, SpaceX, and X, valued at current market prices. This means billionaire wealth is highly volatile — it fluctuates with stock markets, interest rate expectations, and investor sentiment — and is very different from "money" in the conventional sense. A billionaire does not have \$340 billion in cash; they have assets that are currently valued at that amount. This distinction matters enormously for policy discussions about wealth taxes, since taxing "wealth" requires either forcing asset sales or accepting illiquid valuations. It also means that during market downturns, billionaire wealth can fall dramatically: Elon Musk lost more than \$200 billion in paper wealth during 2022 before recovering and exceeding his prior peak. The Nasdaq stock market, where many of the world's largest tech fortunes are anchored, has a direct and immediate impact on the billionaire wealth rankings published by Forbes and Bloomberg.

2,781 billionaires hold \$14.2 trillion in 2026 — 14.4% of global GDP. The top 5 richest individuals own more than the bottom 3.6 billion people combined. Elon Musk leads at \$340B+. The US has 813 billionaires, China 473, and India 185. Billionaire wealth has grown 610% since 2010 — 7× faster than worker wages.

Top 10 Billionaires

World's Top 10 Richest People — Net Worth, Source & Industry (2026)

Elon Musk has held the title of world's richest person for most of the period since 2021, with a current estimated net worth of approximately **\$340 billion or more**. His wealth is anchored by stakes in **Tesla** (electric vehicles and energy), **SpaceX** (private space and satellite internet), and **X** (formerly Twitter, social media). Musk's wealth trajectory has been one of the most extraordinary in financial history: he was worth approximately \$25 billion in January 2020, before Tesla's stock price increased over 1,000% and SpaceX's valuation reached \$350 billion, vaulting him to the top of global wealth rankings. His fortune briefly peaked at over \$340 billion in late 2021, fell dramatically during the 2022 tech selloff, and has since recovered and potentially exceeded that peak. The concentration of his wealth in a relatively small number of assets makes his net worth unusually volatile compared to more diversified fortunes.



Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, holds approximately **\$200 billion or more**, driven by his roughly 9% stake in Amazon plus significant real estate and other investments. Bezos was the world's richest person from 2017-2021 before being displaced by Musk. **Mark Zuckerberg**, CEO and controlling shareholder of Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), has seen his wealth surge from approximately \$60 billion in 2022 — when Meta's stock crashed 65% — to approximately **\$195 billion** by 2025-2026, as Meta's AI strategy and advertising recovery drove its stock to record highs. This recovery represents one of the most dramatic wealth reversals in billionaire history. **Larry Ellison**, co-founder of Oracle, has seen his wealth surge to approximately **\$185 billion** as Oracle's cloud and AI-related revenues have accelerated. For more context on how tech giants drive these valuations, see our analysis of [Alphabet's global annual revenue](#) and its impact on founder wealth.

The top 10 billionaires as a group are overwhelmingly concentrated in **technology and technology-adjacent businesses**: 8 of the top 10 derive their primary wealth from tech companies, while the remaining positions are held by luxury goods (Bernard Arnault, LVMH) and consumer retail (Warren Buffett via Berkshire Hathaway, which holds significant tech stakes). The dominance of tech wealth at the very top of the global wealth rankings reflects a broader economic trend: in the digital economy, a single successful platform or product can scale to serve billions of users at near-zero marginal cost, generating extraordinary profits that translate directly into founder and early-investor wealth. The rise of [artificial intelligence](#) as a commercial force is expected to accelerate this winner-takes-all dynamic further, potentially creating the world's first trillionaire within the next 5-10 years.

Top 10 Billionaires — Net Worth Comparison (\$ Billions, 2026)

The navy bar chart below visualises the extraordinary gap between the world's richest individuals. Note the dramatic step-down from Musk (\$340B+) to even the 5th-place billionaire (\$130B) — the top 2 billionaires alone hold more combined wealth than the next 8 combined. Hover over each bar for individual details.

Top 10 Richest World's 10 Richest People — Net Worth (\$ Billions, 2026) BusinessStats Research · Forbes · Bloomberg Billionaires Index \$340B+ Elon Musk Net Worth (\$ Billions) 7 of top 10 are tech founders
Sources: BusinessStats Research · Forbes World's Billionaires 2025 · Bloomberg Billionaires Index

Billionaires by Country

Billionaires by Country — US Dominates, China Falls, India Rises

The **United States** is home to the world's largest billionaire population at approximately **813 individuals**, hosting more billionaires than the next four countries combined. US billionaires hold a combined wealth of approximately **\$7.2 trillion** — roughly half of all global billionaire wealth. The concentration of American billionaire wealth reflects the extraordinary performance of US equity markets over the past two decades: the S&P 500 has delivered average annual returns of approximately 10-11% over the past 30 years, and the NASDAQ — home to the world's largest tech companies — has generated even higher returns. The US legal and financial system (strong property rights, deep capital markets, world-class venture capital ecosystem) creates an environment uniquely conducive to creating extreme wealth. The largest US billionaire clusters are in California (Silicon Valley and Los Angeles), New York (finance), and Texas (energy, tech, and Musk's relocated enterprises). Understanding how the US market environment creates these fortunes requires familiarity with stock market terminology and the mechanics of equity compensation.

China ranks second with approximately **473 billionaires** — down significantly from its 2021 peak of 626 billionaires, when China briefly rivalled the US in new billionaire creation. The decline reflects President Xi Jinping's sweeping regulatory crackdowns beginning in 2021: the tech sector (Alibaba, Didi, Tencent), private tutoring industry, real estate (Evergrande), and gaming sectors all faced major regulatory interventions that destroyed hundreds of billions in market value and eliminated dozens from the billionaire ranks. Despite these setbacks, China retains the world's second-largest billionaire population, with most concentrated in manufacturing (electronics, infrastructure), real estate, and consumer goods rather than tech. The contrast between China's declining billionaire count and India's rising trajectory is one of the most notable shifts in the global wealth landscape.

India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing billionaire hub, adding approximately **185 billionaires** by 2026 — up from 101 in 2018. India now ranks third globally, having surpassed Germany, Russia, and other traditional wealth centres. India's billionaire growth is driven by its booming domestic economy (world's fastest-growing major economy at 6-7% annually), the explosion of homegrown tech and digital companies (Infosys, Reliance's digital ventures, Flipkart, Zepto), and a surging domestic capital market where the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty have hit repeated record highs. Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries, ~\$85B) and Gautam Adani (~\$80B) are India's wealthiest individuals and regularly appear in global top-20 rankings. **Germany** (132 billionaires), the **United Kingdom** (55), **Russia** (~120, though sanctions complicate tracking), and **Switzerland** (48) complete the top-tier billionaire nations. The size of each country's GDP is strongly

correlated with its billionaire count, though the correlation is weaker in countries with state-dominated economies or significant capital controls.

Billionaires by Country — Top 10 Rankings (2026)

The ranked bar chart below shows the top 10 countries by billionaire count. The US-China gap at the top is dramatic, but note the rapid rise of India — which has added 84 billionaires in just 8 years — and the significant gap between the top three and the rest of the world.

Billionaires by Country — Wealth, Count & Density (Full Table)

The sortable table below provides comprehensive data on billionaire distribution by country, including total billionaire count, combined wealth, average wealth per billionaire, and billionaires per 10 million population (a measure of how billionaire-dense each economy is relative to its size). Switzerland stands out for its extraordinary billionaire density — 48 billionaires in a country of just 8.7 million gives it the highest per-capita billionaire ratio among major economies. Click any column to sort.

Billionaires by Country — 2026 Full Data Click column to sort

COUNTRY	BILLIONAIRES	COMBINED WEALTH	AVG. WEALTH	YOY CHANGE	PER 10M POP.
United States	813	\$7.2T	\$8.9B avg	+42 YoY	24.4
China	473	\$1.8T	\$3.8B avg	-28 YoY	3.3
India	185	\$720B	\$3.9B avg	+22 YoY	1.3
Germany	132	\$590B	\$4.5B avg	-6 YoY	15.7
Russia	~120	~\$370B	\$3.1B avg	-14 YoY	8.3
United Kingdom	55	\$280B	\$5.1B avg	+3 YoY	8.2
Hong Kong	52	\$220B	\$4.2B avg	-9 YoY	70.3
Switzerland	48	\$310B	\$6.5B avg	+2 YoY	55.2
France	43	\$480B	\$11.2B avg	+1 YoY	6.4
Italy	42	\$190B	\$4.5B avg	+4 YoY	7.1
Brazil	38	\$145B	\$3.8B avg	+3 YoY	1.8
Canada	35	\$135B	\$3.9B avg	+1 YoY	8.8

Wealth Growth Trends

Billionaire Wealth Growth — From \$900B in 2000 to \$14.2T in 2026

The growth of billionaire wealth over the past quarter-century is one of the defining economic phenomena of the modern era. From approximately **\$900 billion in 2000** to **\$14.2 trillion in 2026**, total billionaire wealth has grown at an average annual rate of approximately **12.3%** — roughly 5-6× faster than global GDP growth (~2.5-3% annually) and approximately **7× faster than average worker wage growth** (~1.7% annually in real terms). This divergence was particularly stark during the 2010s, when quantitative easing programs following the 2008 financial crisis inflated asset prices (stocks, real estate) to record levels, disproportionately benefiting those who already owned significant assets. Workers, who derive most of their income from wages rather than asset appreciation, received only a fraction of the economic gains from post-2008 recovery.

The most dramatic single episode of billionaire wealth growth occurred during **COVID-19**. Between March 2020 and December 2021 — a period of just 21 months — global billionaire wealth increased by approximately **\$5 trillion**, an unprecedented pace of accumulation. The mechanism was straightforward: governments and central banks injected trillions of dollars into the global economy through stimulus payments and quantitative easing, much of which found its way into stock markets. The S&P 500 rose 114% from its March 2020 trough to its January 2022 peak, and the Nasdaq performed even better. Since billionaires hold the bulk of their wealth in equities, this market surge translated directly into billionaire wealth creation. Meanwhile, the pandemic destroyed the incomes and savings of hundreds of millions of workers in hospitality, retail, and service industries. The net effect was the sharpest widening of wealth inequality in modern history, concentrated in a single 21-month period. The role of US financial markets as the primary driver of global billionaire wealth accumulation cannot be overstated.

The technology sector has been the dominant driver of new billionaire creation over the past two decades. In 2000, the Forbes list was dominated by industrial, retail, and financial fortunes (Walton family, Buffett, Koch brothers). By 2026, **technology accounts for 28% of all billionaires by wealth** — and a much higher proportion of the extreme top. This shift reflects the unique economics of digital platforms: a software company or platform can scale to serve billions of users with minimal additional cost, creating winner-takes-all dynamics where dominant players accumulate extraordinary profits. The rise of the AI data center buildout is expected to accelerate this trend, with AI infrastructure companies (Nvidia, Microsoft, Google) and AI application developers potentially creating the next generation of mega-fortunes. Nvidia's Jensen Huang, whose net worth grew from approximately \$3 billion to over \$100 billion between 2022 and 2025 as

AI demand exploded, is the most dramatic recent example of this dynamic.

Global Billionaire Wealth Growth — 2000 to 2026 (\$ Trillions)

The line chart below tracks the extraordinary trajectory of combined global billionaire wealth over 26 years. Note the COVID-era acceleration (2020-2021), the brief correction in 2022 (tech selloff and Fed rate hikes), and the subsequent recovery. The dotted portion represents the 2028 projection range.

Wealth Growth Trend Global Billionaire Combined Wealth — 2000 to 2026 (\$ Trillions) BusinessStats

Research · Forbes annual billionaire lists · Bloomberg \$14.2T2026 +610%Since 2010 +\$5TCOVID Surge

COVID-era: +\$5T in 21 months Sources: BusinessStats Research · Forbes World's Billionaires Lists 2000-2026

Billionaire Wealth by Industry — Share of \$14.2T Total

Technology dominates billionaire wealth creation, accounting for over a quarter of total billionaire wealth. Finance and investment follow — driven by private equity, hedge funds, and asset management — while retail, manufacturing, real estate, energy, and healthcare complete the distribution. The tech dominance is even more pronounced at the very top of the rankings: 7 of the world's 10 wealthiest individuals have technology as their primary wealth source.

By Industry Billionaire Wealth by Industry — Share of \$14.2T (2026) BusinessStats Research · Forbes 2025 industry classifications

Wealth vs Population

Billionaire Wealth vs World Population — The Inequality Divide

The comparison between billionaire wealth and the wealth held by ordinary people reveals an inequality that is difficult to comprehend at human scale. The **2,781 billionaires** (0.000034% of the world's population) control **\$14.2 trillion**. The **bottom 50% of humanity** — approximately 4.08 billion people representing 50% of the global population — collectively hold approximately **\$2.8 trillion**. This means the 2,781 billionaires hold more than **5x as much wealth** as 4.08 billion people combined. The **top 5 billionaires alone** (\$1.05T combined) hold more than the bottom 3.6 billion people. Per capita, a billionaire holds on average **\$5.1 billion** — approximately **638,000x** the median global adult wealth of \$8,000.

These statistics take on additional context when considered in terms of wealth growth rates. Between 2020 and 2025, **billionaire wealth grew approximately 66%** — from \$8.6 trillion to \$14.2 trillion. Over the same

period, the **median global worker's wages grew approximately 8-10%** in nominal terms — and contracted in real (inflation-adjusted) terms in many countries as inflation outpaced wage growth. The result is that the wealth gap between the top and the rest has widened dramatically even as global poverty rates have continued to fall by absolute measures. This simultaneous dynamic — declining absolute poverty alongside rising relative inequality — is one of the most contentious issues in development economics. Critics of current economic structures argue that the extraordinary concentration of wealth at the top represents a systemic failure of market mechanisms to distribute productivity gains broadly. Defenders argue that billionaire wealth creation reflects legitimate value creation through innovation and risk-taking, and that attempts to redistribute it through taxation would reduce the investment that drives economic growth. The fintech sector in particular has become a major area of debate: fintech companies have created dozens of new billionaires while simultaneously claiming to democratise financial access for the unbanked.

The regional dimension of billionaire wealth inequality is equally striking. **North America** (US and Canada together) accounts for approximately **52%** of all billionaire wealth despite representing just 5% of the world's population. **Europe** accounts for approximately **19%**. **Asia** (including China, India, Japan, and Southeast Asia) accounts for approximately **22%**. The entirety of **Africa** — home to 1.4 billion people and 17% of global population — accounts for less than **1%** of billionaire wealth, with fewer than 20 billionaires across the entire continent. This geographic concentration reflects deep structural inequalities in access to capital, infrastructure, education, and legal systems that enable wealth creation and protection. The rise of mobile money and digital financial infrastructure in Africa (M-Pesa, MTN Mobile Money) represents one pathway toward greater financial inclusion, but the gap between African and North American wealth accumulation rates remains enormous.

Staggering Comparison Elon Musk Earns More in One Second Than Many Workers Earn in a Month

At Musk's 2020-2026 average wealth appreciation rate, he accumulated approximately \$1,200 in wealth per second — every second, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. By contrast, a worker earning India's per capita income of approximately \$2,500 per year earns \$0.079 per second — Musk earns more in one second than that worker earns in 4.2 hours. A US minimum wage worker at \$7.25/hour earns \$0.00201 per second. To accumulate Musk's \$340 billion net worth at that wage with no spending, a worker would need to work continuously for approximately 5.3 million years. These figures represent wealth appreciation (asset value growth), not cash income — but they illustrate the extraordinary divergence in economic outcomes at the extremes of the global wealth distribution.



Global Wealth Distribution — Billionaires vs The World

The navy donut chart below visualises how global personal wealth (\$471 trillion per UBS 2025) is distributed across humanity. The top 1% (approximately 81 million people, including billionaires and multi-millionaires) controls approximately 46% of all wealth. The next 9% (about 729 million people) controls 39%. The bottom 90% — over 7.3 billion people — shares just 15%. Billionaires specifically (\$14.2T) represent approximately 3% of the total.

Wealth Distribution Global Wealth Distribution — Who Owns the \$471T BusinessStats Research · UBS 2025 · Oxfam · Credit Suisse

Billionaire Count Growth — How Many New Billionaires Per Year

The world has been creating new billionaires at an accelerating pace. The grouped bar chart below compares the number of billionaires and their total wealth across key years, illustrating both the headcount explosion and the even-faster wealth growth — meaning each individual billionaire is also getting richer on average, not just that more people are crossing the threshold.

Billionaire Growth Billionaire Count vs Total Wealth — Key Years BusinessStats Research · Forbes annual lists 2000-2026 2,7812026 Count 493%Count Growth Since 2000

Wealth growing faster than headcount Sources: BusinessStats Research · Forbes World's Billionaires 2000-2026 Global wealth distribution 2026: The top 1% (81M people) controls 46% of all wealth. The bottom 90% (7.3B people) owns just 15%. The 2,781 billionaires' \$14.2T exceeds the combined wealth of the bottom 4 billion people. North America holds 52% of billionaire wealth despite just 5% of global population.

Key Statistics

Billionaire Wealth — Key Statistics at a Glance

2,781Total Billionaires Worldwide (2026)Up from 470 in 2000. US 813, China 473, India 185.
\$14.2TCombined Billionaire Wealth14.4% of global GDP. Grew from \$2T in 2010 — +610%. \$340B+Elon Musk — World's RichestTesla + SpaceX + X. World #1 since 2021 (mostly). ~\$1,200/sec. Top 5Own More Than 3.6 Billion PeopleMusk, Bezos, Zuckerberg, Ellison, Page = ~\$1.05T combined. 813US Billionaires — World's Most\$7.2T combined. More than next 4 countries combined. 7×Faster Than Worker WagesBillionaire wealth: +12.3%/yr. Worker wages: +1.7%/yr since 2000. +\$5TCOVID Wealth Surge (2020-2021)21-month record. 660 new billionaires — 1 every 30 hours. 12.8%Female Billionaires Share~357 women. Richest: Françoise Bettencourt Meyers (~\$80B). 28%Tech's Share of Billionaire



WealthFinance 22%, Retail 15%, Real Estate 12%, Mfg 10%. 46%Top 1% Controls of All WealthBottom 50% owns <1%. Bottom 90% owns just 15% of \$471T. \$5.1BAverage Billionaire Net Worth638,000× the median global adult wealth of \$8,000. 473China Billionaires (Down from 626)Regulatory crackdowns since 2021. India rising: now 185.

Forecast 2028

Billionaire Wealth Forecast 2028 — First Trillionaire, \$18-22T Combined

Looking toward 2028, global billionaire wealth is projected to reach approximately **\$18-22 trillion**, assuming continued moderate equity market appreciation and ongoing tech sector wealth creation. The range is wide because billionaire wealth is highly sensitive to stock market performance: a 20% equity market correction would reduce the total significantly, while continued AI-driven market gains could push it higher. The **base case of approximately \$19-20 trillion** implies average annual wealth growth of approximately 10-12% from current levels — slightly below the historical average but consistent with a more mature global economy with higher interest rates than the 2010s.

The most discussed individual milestone is the potential emergence of the **world's first trillionaire**. Forbes analysts and various financial forecasters have suggested Elon Musk is the most likely candidate, given SpaceX's trajectory (rumoured IPO valuation of \$500B+), Tesla's continuing expansion, and his other ventures. However, the path to \$1 trillion in net worth would require sustained extraordinary performance across multiple major companies simultaneously — and Musk has also demonstrated the ability to lose hundreds of billions in wealth during market corrections. Other candidates for first trillionaire include Jeff Bezos (if Amazon continues to outperform), Mark Zuckerberg (if Meta's AI investments pay off at scale), and potentially an AI infrastructure mogul not yet prominent today. The growth of the YouTube and Google ecosystem — and the broader AI platform economy projected to reach \$1.8 trillion by 2030 — is the single most likely catalyst for creating the world's first trillionaire.

Global billionaire wealth projected to reach \$18-22 trillion by 2028. AI-driven equity gains are the primary growth catalyst. The world's first trillionaire — most likely Elon Musk — could emerge by 2027-2030. Meanwhile, wealth inequality is projected to continue widening unless significant policy interventions such as global minimum wealth taxes are implemented. Billionaire Outlook Key Projections — 2028 Forecast \$18-22TGlobal Billionaire Wealth 2028 \$1TFirst Trillionaire — Possible 2027-30 3,000+Projected Billionaire Count 2028 AIPrimary New Wealth Driver IndiaFastest Growing Billionaire Hub \$250BPotential Wealth Tax Revenue/yr



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Billionaire Wealth Statistics

As of 2026, there are approximately **2,781 billionaires** worldwide according to Forbes and Hurun Global Rich List data. This represents a significant increase from 2,153 in 2017 and 2,668 in 2023. The United States has the most billionaires at approximately 813, followed by China (473), India (185), Germany (132), and the United Kingdom (55). The total number of billionaires has nearly tripled since 2000, when there were approximately 470 globally. The world now creates roughly 3 new billionaires every week on average.

The world's 2,781 billionaires collectively hold approximately **\$14.2 trillion** in wealth as of 2026, according to Forbes data — equal to approximately 14.4% of global GDP. Billionaire wealth has grown dramatically: from approximately \$900 billion in 2000 to \$2 trillion in 2010 to \$14.2 trillion in 2026, representing a 610% increase since 2010 alone. This growth rate is approximately 7× faster than average worker wage growth over the same period. During COVID-19 alone (March 2020–December 2021), global billionaire wealth increased by approximately \$5 trillion — the fastest accumulation in history.

Elon Musk is the world's richest person in 2026 with a net worth of approximately **\$340 billion or more**, driven primarily by his stakes in Tesla, SpaceX, and X (formerly Twitter). Musk has held the top position for most of 2021–2026. The top 5 wealthiest individuals globally are: Elon Musk (~\$340B+), Jeff Bezos (~\$200B+), Mark Zuckerberg (~\$195B), Larry Ellison (~\$185B), and Larry Page (~\$130B). Together, these 5 individuals hold approximately \$1.05 trillion — more than the combined wealth of the bottom 3.6 billion people on Earth.

The wealth gap is staggering. The world's top 5 billionaires own more wealth than the bottom 3.6 billion people (44% of global population) combined. The top 1% globally holds more wealth than the remaining 99% combined. Elon Musk alone earns more in one second (~\$1,200 in wealth appreciation) than many workers in developing countries earn in a full month. A person earning \$15/hour would need approximately 5.3 million years of continuous work to accumulate Musk's current net worth. The average billionaire (\$5.1B) holds 638,000× the median global adult wealth of \$8,000.

The **United States leads** with approximately **813 billionaires** as of 2026 — more than the next four countries combined. China ranks second at 473 (down from 626 in 2021 due to regulatory crackdowns), India third at 185 (fastest growing), Germany fourth at 132, and Russia fifth at approximately 120. The US produces roughly 3 new billionaires per week on average. American billionaires collectively hold \$7.2 trillion — approximately 52% of all global billionaire wealth, despite the US having only 4.2% of the world's



population.

Billionaire wealth has grown at approximately **12.3% annually** since 2000 — from \$900 billion to \$14.2 trillion, a 16× increase. From 2010 to 2026 specifically, the growth was 610%. This compares to global GDP growth of ~2.5-3% annually and average worker wage growth of ~1.7% annually in real terms — making billionaire wealth accumulation approximately 7× faster than wage growth. The single most explosive period was March 2020–December 2021, when billionaire wealth grew by \$5 trillion in just 21 months during COVID-era stimulus and market recovery.

Technology leads, accounting for approximately 28% of all billionaire wealth in 2026. Finance and investment follows at 22%, then retail and consumer goods (15%), real estate (12%), manufacturing (10%), energy (8%), and healthcare/pharma (5%). The rise of AI has dramatically accelerated tech billionaire creation — 7 of the world's top 10 richest individuals have primary wealth in technology. Nvidia's Jensen Huang grew from ~\$3B to over \$100B between 2022 and 2025 as AI demand exploded, representing one of the fastest individual wealth increases in modern history.

Based on annualised wealth appreciation, Elon Musk accumulated approximately **\$1,200 per second** during his peak growth period (2020-2026 average). Jeff Bezos earned approximately \$800 per second at his wealth peak. A US federal minimum wage worker (\$7.25/hour) earns \$0.00201 per second — meaning Musk's per-second wealth gain exceeds a minimum wage worker's annual salary in approximately 9 seconds. These figures represent wealth appreciation (rising asset values), not cash income — but they illustrate the extraordinary scale of wealth concentration at the top.

The 2,781 billionaires control \$14.2 trillion — approximately **3% of total global personal wealth** (\$471T per UBS 2025). However, when measured against financial wealth only (excluding real estate), the share is much higher. The top 1% globally (including billionaires and multi-millionaires, approximately 81 million people) controls approximately **46-50% of all financial wealth**. The bottom 50% of the global population — approximately 4 billion people — collectively owns less than 1% of global wealth, while the bottom 90% collectively owns just 15%.

COVID-19 was the single greatest wealth-transfer event in modern history for billionaires. Between March 2020 and December 2021, global billionaire wealth grew by approximately **\$5 trillion** — more than the combined GDPs of Germany and the UK. During peak lockdown months, billionaire wealth initially fell before rebounding as stock markets surged on central bank stimulus. By early 2021, the world had 660 new billionaires — **one every 30 hours**. The primary mechanism was the extraordinary stock market rally fueled by Federal Reserve quantitative easing, which directly benefited large equity holders.



Proposals for billionaire wealth taxes have intensified globally. The EU Tax Observatory estimates an annual **2% wealth tax on billionaire assets could raise \$250 billion annually** from the world's 2,781 billionaires. The core argument is that billionaires' effective tax rates are often lower than middle-class workers — because most billionaire wealth comes from appreciating assets taxed only when sold (unrealised gains), not when they increase in value. Brazil proposed a G20 minimum 2% wealth tax during its 2024 G20 presidency. Opponents argue wealth taxes reduce investment incentives and are difficult to enforce due to capital mobility across borders.

Women represent approximately **12.8% of global billionaires** — approximately 357 of the 2,781 total. The wealthiest woman in 2026 is Françoise Bettencourt Meyers (L'Oréal, ~\$80B), followed by Julia Koch (~\$65B), Alice Walton (~\$62B), and Mackenzie Scott (~\$37B). Approximately **45% of female billionaires in 2026 are self-made** (vs. 36% in 2015), with growth concentrated in technology and retail. China has the highest proportion of self-made female billionaires globally — a reflection of China's rapid economic growth creating first-generation entrepreneurial wealth for women.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Forbes World's Billionaires List 2025 — Annual wealth rankings](#)

Primary: [Hurun Global Rich List 2025 — Global billionaire data](#)

Primary: [Bloomberg Billionaires Index — Real-time wealth tracking](#)

Primary: [Oxfam Inequality Report 2025 — Inequality Inc.](#)

Primary: [UBS Global Wealth Report 2025 — \\$471T global wealth data](#)

BusinessStats: All comparative calculations (billionaires vs population, per-second earnings, wealth growth rates, regional distribution), country-level analysis, industry breakdowns, and 2028 forecast projections are BusinessStats proprietary research based on the above primary sources combined with Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook, World Bank data, and UN Population Prospects 2024.

Net worth figures are estimates based on publicly available information about asset ownership and current market valuations. Billionaire wealth is highly volatile and can change by tens of billions within days based on stock price movements. All figures in current USD. "Per-second earnings" represent annualised wealth appreciation divided by seconds per year — not cash income. All analysis by BusinessStats Research Desk. Not financial advice. Billionaire Wealth 2026 World's Richest People Elon Musk Net Worth Global Inequality Top 10 Billionaires Billionaires by Country Wealth Distribution US Billionaires COVID Wealth Growth Wealth Tax Forbes List 2026 Female Billionaires Tech Billionaires Wealth vs Population

STATISTICS REPORT

Primary industries of billionaires worldwide 2026, by gender

 Updated Jul 28, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-significant-industries

25% FASHION, WOMEN	16% FINANCE, MEN	13% WOMEN SHARE
481 FEMALE BILLIONAIRES	512 FINANCE, ALL	\$4.8T TECH WEALTH

Overview

Primary industries of billionaires around the world in 2026, by gender

Fashion and retail is the leading primary industry for female billionaires in 2026, accounting for about a quarter of the worlds women billionaires, while finance and technology lead among men. The split reflects how much female wealth is tied to consumer and family businesses. The industry split by gender is one of the clearest windows into how men and women reach great wealth, and in 2026 it shows two very different maps of where the worlds billionaires made their money. On the 2026 figures, fashion and retail accounts for about 25 percent of female billionaires, ahead of food and beverage on 13 percent and manufacturing on 11 percent, while finance leads among men on about 16 percent, with technology and manufacturing each on about 15 percent. No other breakdown shows quite so clearly how the paths to great wealth differ by gender, with women concentrated in the consumer industries of the great family dynasties and men in the self-made worlds of finance and technology. It is a divide that has persisted for years, and it says as much about the history of family business and inherited wealth as it does about the industries themselves.

The pattern mirrors how the fortunes were built. Much female wealth is inherited from retail and consumer dynasties, a link our [wealth per adult by country](#), [source of billionaire wealth by gender](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores.

Primary Industry by Gender, 2026 (share of each, %)Two different maps.

Data:

Primary industries of billionaires around the world in 2026, by gender, as a share of male and female billionaires, derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Primary industry is the sector of each billionaires main fortune, as classified by Forbes. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Two different maps: fashion and retail accounts for about a quarter of female billionaires but under a tenth of men, while technology and finance lead among men at about 15 to 16 percent each.

Male billionaires are spread more evenly but concentrated in finance, technology and manufacturing, the industries of self-made wealth, a contrast our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage frames through the companies behind the fortunes.

A note on the data. The figures show the primary industry of billionaires in 2026 by gender, from the Forbes list. Primary industry is the sector of each billionaires main fortune as classified by Forbes, and the shares are approximate, varying slightly between lists. A billionaire is defined here as an individual with a net worth of at least one billion US dollars, and the primary industry is the single sector in which each billionaires main fortune was made, as classified by Forbes. Because a billionaire can hold interests across several sectors, the primary-industry classification simplifies a more complex reality, but it captures the main source of each fortune and the broad gender pattern is clear.

The Table

Billionaire Industries by Gender

Primary Industries of Billionaires by Gender, 2026 Click any column to sort

INDUSTRY	FEMALE BILLIONAIRES	MALE BILLIONAIRES
Fashion & Retail	25%	9%
Food & Beverage	13%	6%
Manufacturing	11%	15%
Finance & Investments	10%	16%
Healthcare	9%	6%
Technology	8%	15%

Diversified	7%	5%
Real Estate	5%	6%

The table sets out the primary industries of billionaires by gender in 2026, showing the share of male and female billionaires in each. It highlights how women cluster in consumer industries while men lead in finance and technology. Reading across the two gender columns shows the split at a glance, with fashion and retail far higher among women and technology and finance far higher among men, a contrast that runs through every part of the ranking. Since the shares are approximate and depend on how each fortune is classified, the exact figures vary between lists, but the broad direction, with women concentrated in consumer industries and men in finance and technology, is entirely consistent across sources.

Women

What Are the Top Industries for Women?

Among female billionaires, fashion and retail is by far the leading industry, accounting for about a quarter of the world's women billionaires. Food and beverage, manufacturing and finance follow, together making up most of the female total. The dominance of fashion, retail and consumer industries in the female billionaire ranking is one of the most consistent findings in the data, and it reflects the deep roots of family wealth in these sectors. Fashion and retail about 25 percent of female billionaires leads the female ranking, followed by food and beverage on about 13 percent, manufacturing on 11 percent and finance on 10 percent, together most of the female total. The weight of fashion, retail and consumer goods in the female ranking has barely shifted in recent years, a sign of how durable the great family dynasties remain at the top of female wealth. The persistence of consumer and retail industries at the top of the female billionaire ranking, year after year, is one of the most stable patterns in the whole of global wealth data.

The concentration of women in fashion, retail and consumer goods reflects the long history of family dynasties in these industries, from Walmart to L'Oreal and Mars, the great consumer dynasties that dominate female wealth.

Primary Industries of Female Billionaires, 2026 (%) Fashion and retail leads.

Data:

Primary industries of billionaires around the world in 2026, by gender, as a share of male and female billionaires, derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list.



Note:

Primary industry is the sector of each billionaires main fortune, as classified by Forbes. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Fashion and retail leads: about a quarter of female billionaires made their fortunes in fashion and retail, ahead of food and beverage, manufacturing and finance.

Alice Walton, heir to the Walmart retail fortune, is the richest woman in the world in 2026, worth about 134 billion dollars, and her industry, retail, is the single most common source of great female wealth. The prominence of retail, through the Walton family and others, underlines how much of the greatest female wealth traces back to a small number of very large consumer and retail dynasties built over generations.

Men

What Are the Top Industries for Men?

Among male billionaires, finance and investments, technology and manufacturing are the leading industries, each accounting for about a sixth of the worlds men billionaires. Fashion and retail is far smaller among men than among women. The concentration of male billionaires in finance, technology and manufacturing reflects the industries that have generated the most self-made wealth over recent decades, and it sets the male pattern sharply apart from the female one. Finance and investments about 16 percent of male billionaires leads the male ranking, followed by technology and manufacturing each on about 15 percent, with fashion and retail far smaller among men on about 9 percent. The lead of finance and technology among men has, if anything, strengthened as the technology boom of recent years has created a new wave of very large self-made fortunes, almost all of them held by men. The lead of finance, technology and manufacturing among male billionaires reflects the industries that have created the most new wealth in recent decades, and it shows little sign of narrowing.

The concentration of men in finance and technology reflects the self-made nature of much male wealth, built in the industries that have grown fastest in recent decades, a rise our [technology and financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Primary Industries of Male Billionaires, 2026 (%) Finance and tech lead.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.



Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Finance and tech lead: finance and investments, technology and manufacturing each account for about a sixth of male billionaires, with fashion and retail far smaller.

Elon Musk, whose fortune spans technology and aerospace, is the richest man and richest person in the world in 2026, worth about 839 billion dollars, and technology is among the most common sources of great male wealth. The prominence of technology at the very top of the male ranking, through figures such as Musk, reflects how the largest self-made fortunes of the current era have been built in the technology sector above all.

The Gaps

Where Are the Biggest Gender Gaps?

The biggest gender gaps are in fashion and retail, where women are far more heavily represented than men, and in technology and finance, where men dominate. These gaps are the clearest feature of the industry split. The size of the gender gaps in individual industries is the single most revealing feature of the data, with fashion and retail at one extreme and technology at the other. The gender gaps within industries are the sharpest single illustration of how differently men and women reach billionaire status, and they have proved remarkably stable over time. The industries at the two extremes of the gender split, fashion and retail on one side and technology on the other, capture in a single contrast the different routes by which men and women reach the billionaire ranks.

The gap reflects the different ways men and women reach billionaire status, with women more likely to inherit consumer and retail fortunes and men more likely to build self-made fortunes in finance and technology, the divide that shapes the whole industry split.

Female vs Male Share by Industry, 2026 (%)The gender gaps.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

The gender gaps: women are far more heavily represented in fashion and retail and food and beverage, while men dominate technology, finance and manufacturing.

Fashion and retail is over-represented among women by a wide margin, while technology is over-represented among men, so the two industries sit at opposite ends of the gender split, capturing the whole pattern in a single contrast. The mirror-image positions of fashion and retail and of technology, the first dominated by women and the second by men, capture the entire gender split in a single, stark contrast between two industries. The stability of these gaps over time, even as the number of female billionaires has grown, underlines how deeply the gender split is rooted in the different origins of male and female wealth.

Within Industries

Which Industry Has the Most Women?

Looking within each industry, fashion and retail has the highest share of women, at about a fifth of its billionaires, followed by food and beverage and healthcare. Technology and energy have the fewest women, at under one in twenty. Measuring the share of women within each industry, rather than the industries within each gender, gives a different but equally telling view of where women have and have not broken through. Fashion and retail has the highest female share at about 22 percent, followed by food and beverage on about 20 percent and healthcare on 16 percent, while technology has only about 5 percent and energy about 4 percent. The share of women within each industry is one of the clearest measures of where women have broken through into great wealth and where they remain rare, and it varies enormously across the sectors.

The share of women within each industry mirrors the wider pattern, with consumer and family-dynasty industries having the most women and the newer, self-made industries of technology and energy having the fewest, a gap our [global markets](#) coverage frames.

Women as a Share of Billionaires in Each Industry (%) Highest in retail.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Highest in retail: fashion and retail has the highest female share at about a fifth, while technology and energy have the fewest women, at under one in twenty.

Overall, women make up about 13 percent of the world's billionaires, but their share ranges from about a fifth in fashion and retail down to only a few percent in technology, so the gender balance varies sharply from one industry to another, much as it varies across the regions our [billionaire population by region](#) coverage maps. The wide range in the female share, from around a fifth in fashion and retail to only a few percent in technology, shows that the overall figure of about 13 percent conceals very large differences between industries. The contrast between fashion and retail, where women are most numerous, and technology, where they are rarest, is the clearest single measure of where the gender balance in great wealth still stands in 2026.

Overall

Which Is the Biggest Industry Overall?

Across all billionaires, finance and investments is the largest industry, with about 512 billionaires, followed by manufacturing on 468 and technology on 467. Fashion and retail, food and beverage and healthcare follow. The overall industry ranking, combining both genders, is dominated by the same finance and technology sectors that lead among men, since men make up the large majority of billionaires. Finance and investments about 512 billionaires leads overall, followed by manufacturing on 468 and technology on 467, then fashion and retail on about 300 and food and beverage on about 230. The overall industry ranking, dominated by finance, manufacturing and technology, reflects the male pattern far more than the female one, since men make up close to nine in ten of the world's billionaires.

The overall industry ranking is dominated by finance, manufacturing and technology, the engines of self-made wealth, a concentration our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames through the firms that manage the money.

Billionaires by Industry, All, 2026 (number) Finance leads overall.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Finance leads overall: finance and investments has the most billionaires with about 512, followed by manufacturing on 468 and technology on 467.

Because men make up about 87 percent of billionaires, the overall industry ranking closely follows the male pattern, with finance and technology on top, while the female pattern, led by fashion and retail, is visible only when the genders are separated, as our [billionaire share by region](#) coverage shows for regions.

By Wealth

Which Industry Holds the Most Wealth?

By wealth rather than number, technology is the largest billionaire industry, with about 4.79 trillion dollars, followed by finance and investments on 3.22 trillion and fashion and retail on 2.33 trillion. Technology has by far the highest average fortune. Ranking industries by the wealth they hold rather than the number of billionaires they contain reorders the picture, and it puts technology far out in front on the strength of its enormous individual fortunes. Technology about 4.79 trillion dollars leads by wealth, followed by finance and investments on 3.22 trillion, fashion and retail on 2.33 trillion, manufacturing on 1.55 trillion and food and beverage on 1.26 trillion. The gap between the industries that hold the most billionaire wealth and those that hold the most billionaires is one of the most instructive features of the data, and it is widest in technology. The ranking of industries by wealth rather than by headcount is led by technology by a wide margin, a reflection of the enormous individual fortunes concentrated in that sector.

The dominance of technology by wealth reflects the enormous individual fortunes of its founders, which dwarf those in other industries, a concentration our [largest economies](#) coverage frames.

Billionaire Wealth by Industry, 2026 (USD trn) Technology leads.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Technology leads: technology holds about 4.79 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, ahead of finance on 3.22 trillion and fashion and retail on 2.33 trillion.

Fashion and retail ranks third by wealth despite a smaller number of billionaires, reflecting the very large fortunes of its leading families, many of whom are the women who lead the female billionaire ranking. The high placing of fashion and retail by wealth, despite its smaller number of billionaires, reflects the very large fortunes of its leading families, many of them the women who top the female billionaire ranking.

How Fortunes Are Made

Why the Split Exists

The industry split is closely tied to how fortunes are made. About 38 percent of female billionaires inherited their wealth entirely, against only about 5 percent of men, while about 62 percent of men are self-made, against about 22 percent of women. The link between the industry split and the way fortunes are made is the key to understanding the whole pattern, since inheritance and self-made wealth cluster in very different sectors. About 38 percent of female billionaires inherited their fortunes entirely against about 5 percent of men, while about 62 percent of men are self-made against about 22 percent of women, a gap that maps directly onto the industry split. The tight link between how a fortune was made and the industry it sits in is the thread that ties the whole gender split together, with inherited consumer wealth on one side and self-made finance and technology on the other. The close link between how a fortune was made and the industry it sits in is the single most important key to understanding the gender split, tying inherited consumer wealth to women and self-made finance and technology to men.

The higher rate of inheritance among women explains their concentration in the older consumer and retail dynasties, while the higher rate of self-made wealth among men explains their lead in technology and finance, a divide rooted in how each fortune began.

How Fortunes Were Made, by Gender, 2026 (%) Women inherit, men build.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:



Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Women inherit, men build: about 38 percent of female billionaires inherited their wealth entirely against 5 percent of men, while 62 percent of men are self-made against 22 percent of women.

As more women build self-made fortunes, especially in technology and healthcare, the industry split is slowly shifting, though inherited consumer wealth still dominates the female billionaire ranking in 2026. The gradual rise of self-made women, especially in technology and healthcare, is slowly loosening the tie between female wealth and inherited consumer dynasties, though the shift remains in its early stages.

Change

How Is the Split Changing?

The number of female billionaires has grown fast, from about 190 in 2015 to about 481 in 2026, and their industry mix is broadening. Self-made women are rising fastest in technology, healthcare and consumer services. The rapid growth in the number of female billionaires is slowly broadening the industries in which women hold great wealth, though the change has so far been gradual.

The growth of self-made women in newer industries is gradually reshaping the female billionaire ranking, a shift our [leading global billionaires](#) coverage follows through the rise of self-made entrepreneurs.

Number of Female Billionaires, 2015-2026A fast rise.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

A fast rise: the number of female billionaires has grown from about 190 in 2015 to about 481 in 2026, broadening the industries in which women hold great wealth.

Even so, the pace of change is slow, and fashion, retail and consumer goods remain the dominant industries for female billionaires, reflecting the enduring weight of family dynasties in the female wealth ranking, a wealth our [high net worth individuals by country](#) coverage sets in national context.

Concentration

How Concentrated Is Female Wealth?

Female billionaire wealth is concentrated by industry. The top three industries for women, fashion and retail, food and beverage and manufacturing, together account for about half of all female billionaires, a heavier concentration than among men. The degree to which female billionaire wealth is concentrated in a few industries is one of the clearest contrasts with the male pattern, and it reflects the dominance of a handful of consumer dynasties. The heavier concentration of female billionaires in a handful of consumer industries, compared with the more even spread of men, is one of the most consistent structural differences between the two groups.

The concentration reflects the dominance of a few consumer and family industries in the female ranking, a pattern our [billionaire wealth by region](#) coverage complements through the geography of the fortunes.

Share of Billionaires by Gender, 2026 (%)Men are the large majority.

Data:

Billionaire industry-by-gender data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata.

Note:

Primary industry reflects the main source of each fortune. Shares are approximate and vary slightly between lists.Switch views with the toolbar.

Men are the large majority: women make up about 13 percent of the worlds billionaires in 2026, with men accounting for the other 87 percent.

Male billionaires are spread a little more evenly, with their top three industries, finance, technology and manufacturing, accounting for just under half of the male total, so concentration is slightly lower among men than among women. The slightly more even spread of male billionaires across industries, compared with the heavier female concentration in consumer sectors, is a subtle but consistent feature of the gender split. The gradual broadening of the industries in which women hold great wealth, led by self-made entrepreneurs, may slowly narrow this difference, but in 2026 the female concentration in consumer industries remains pronounced.

Key Facts



Billionaire Industries by Gender in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Fashion and retail is the top industry for female billionaires, at about a quarter, while finance and technology lead among men, each at about a sixth, out of a world total of about 3,428 billionaires. These figures together map how differently men and women arrive at billionaire status, one route running through inherited consumer dynasties and the other through self-made finance and technology. Taken together, the numbers describe two different maps of great wealth, one female and rooted in consumer dynasties, the other male and built in finance and technology.

These figures matter because the industry split by gender shows how differently men and women reach great wealth, a picture our [billionaires around the world](#) and [top billionaire countries](#) coverage sets in context.

25% Fashion & Retail Top for women. 16% Finance Top for men. 13% Women Share of billionaires. 481 Female billionaires In 2026.

Together they describe a world where female wealth is rooted in consumer and family industries and male wealth in finance and technology, a divide that is only slowly narrowing. For now, the industries that make female billionaires and those that make male billionaires remain strikingly different, a lasting divide rooted in the different histories of inherited consumer wealth and self-made finance and technology.

Big Picture

Billionaire Industries by Gender: The Big Picture

Taken together, the primary industries of billionaires by gender in 2026 show a clear divide, with women concentrated in fashion, retail and consumer goods and men in finance and technology, a split rooted in the different histories of inherited and self-made wealth.

Whether the rise of self-made women narrows the industry divide will shape the picture for years, but in 2026 the split remains wide, rooted in the different ways men and women have built and inherited their fortunes.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Industries by Gender

Fashion and retail, which accounts for about a quarter of the world's women billionaires in 2026, followed by food and beverage, manufacturing and finance.

Finance and investments and technology, each accounting for about a sixth of the worlds men billionaires in 2026, followed by manufacturing.

Because much female wealth is inherited from consumer and retail family dynasties, such as Walmart, LOreal and Mars, which have passed fortunes down through generations.

Fashion and retail, where about a fifth of billionaires are women, followed by food and beverage and healthcare. Technology and energy have the fewest women.

Because much male wealth is self-made, built in the fast-growing industries of technology and finance, where about 62 percent of men are self-made against 22 percent of women.

Finance and investments, with about 512 billionaires, followed by manufacturing on 468 and technology on 467, according to the Forbes 2026 list.

Technology, with about 4.79 trillion dollars, followed by finance and investments on 3.22 trillion and fashion and retail on 2.33 trillion.

About 481 in 2026, or roughly 13 percent of the worlds billionaires, up from about 190 in 2015, driven by both inheritance and self-made ventures.

Slowly. Self-made women are rising fastest in technology, healthcare and consumer services, but fashion, retail and consumer goods still dominate the female ranking.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Altrata, compiled by BusinessStats. Primary industry is the sector of each billionaires main fortune.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the primary industries of billionaires by gender and their wealth.

Altrata and Forbes industry data - Source for gender breakdowns, historical detail and industry wealth, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual ranking of billionaires by industry.

Figures show the primary industry of billionaires in 2026 by gender, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. Fashion and retail is the top industry for female billionaires, at about a quarter, while finance and technology lead among men, each at about a sixth. Women make up about 13 percent of the worlds billionaires. Primary industry is the sector of each billionaires main fortune as classified by Forbes, and



shares are approximate. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Distribution of billionaires worldwide 2026, by gender

Updated Jul 11, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-gender-distribution

14% WOMEN	481 WOMEN	86% MEN
\$134B ALICE WALTON	122 SELF-MADE	11% OF WEALTH

Overview

Distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, by gender

Just 14 percent of the world billionaires are women in 2026. Of the 3,428 billionaires on the Forbes list, 481 are women and about 2,947 are men, so men make up about 86 percent of the total, though the share of women has been rising slowly. The gender distribution of the world billionaires is one of the clearest measures of how unevenly great wealth is shared between men and women, a gap that remains vast even as the number of women at the top slowly grows. On the 2026 Forbes list, 481 of the 3,428 billionaires are women, a record number, yet they still make up only about one in seven of the total, a ratio that has barely a decade of slow improvement behind it. The gap between men and women at the very top of the wealth distribution is far wider than in almost any other measure of economic life, a reminder that the accumulation of extreme fortunes has historically been, and largely remains, a male preserve.

The richest woman in the world is the Walmart heiress Alice Walton, worth about 134 billion dollars. The picture builds on our [richest people in America](#) and [richest women in the world](#) coverage.

Women Billionaires: Number and Share Over TimeA slow rise.

Data:

Distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, by gender, showing the number and share of men and women among the world 3,428 billionaires, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Figures are the 2026 snapshot. Switch views with the toolbar.

A slow rise: the number of women billionaires rose from about 138 in 2013 to 481 in 2026, and their share from about 9 percent to 14 percent.

Most women billionaires inherited their fortunes, though a growing number are self-made, and the number of women on the list rose to 481 in 2026 from 406 a year earlier, themes our [billionaires around the world](#) and [top billionaire countries](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026 by gender, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with the number and share of men and women. The figures are the 2026 snapshot, and some breakdowns are estimates. Because the count is a point-in-time snapshot from the annual Forbes list, the exact numbers change from year to year, but the broad picture, of a heavily male billionaire population with a slowly rising female share, is stable and clear. The gender figures are drawn from the annual Forbes World Billionaires list, which identifies the sex of each billionaire, and the regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates based on that list and on wealth-research data.

The Table

Billionaires by Gender

Billionaires by Gender, 2026 Click any column to sort

GENDER	BILLIONAIRES	SHARE
Men	2,947	86%
Women	481	14%
All billionaires	3,428	100%

The table shows the number and share of men and women among the world billionaires in 2026. It shows men making up the great majority, at about 86 percent, with women at 14 percent, a share that has risen slowly over the years. Reading the figures shows the scale of the imbalance, with about 2,947 men against 481 women, a ratio of roughly six to one, even after years in which the number of women has grown faster than the number of men. Because the figures are a snapshot tied to the annual list, the exact numbers shift from year to year, but the fundamental pattern, of a heavily male billionaire population slowly admitting more women, is stable and well documented. The roughly six-to-one ratio of men to women among billionaires stands in sharp contrast to the near-equal split of the world adult population, a gap that

captures the scale of the imbalance in access to extreme wealth.

The Split

What Share of Billionaires Are Women?

Women make up about 14 percent of the world billionaires in 2026, or 481 of the 3,428 on the Forbes list. Men make up the other 86 percent, about 2,947 people, a large imbalance that reflects the historical concentration of wealth and business among men. Among the richest people in the world, the gap is even wider, since the richest man in the world, and the richest person of all, is Elon Musk, while no woman ranks among the very top handful of the richest people in the world. The overwhelming male majority among billionaires reflects centuries of unequal access to business, capital, education and inheritance, imbalances that are only slowly beginning to narrow at the very top of the wealth distribution. The 481 women on the 2026 list, against about 2,947 men, mean that for every woman billionaire there are roughly six men, a ratio that has narrowed only slowly from about ten to one a decade earlier. Even as women have made enormous strides in education, the workforce and business leadership over recent decades, their representation among the very wealthiest people in the world has lagged far behind, changing only at a glacial pace.

The imbalance is one of the most striking features of the billionaire population, reflecting long-standing differences in access to business, capital and inheritance, a pattern our [billionaires by region](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Gender, 2026 (%) Mostly men.

Data:

Distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026, by gender, showing the number and share of men and women among the world 3,428 billionaires, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Figures are the 2026 snapshot. Switch views with the toolbar.

Mostly men: men make up about 86 percent of the world 3,428 billionaires in 2026, about 2,947 people, while women make up 14 percent, or 481.

Although women remain a small minority of billionaires, their share has risen steadily, from about 9 percent in 2013 to 14 percent in 2026, as more women build or inherit great fortunes. Even so, the richest people in



the world remain overwhelmingly male, and the title of richest woman in the world sits far below that of the richest man in the world. The rise from about 9 to 14 percent over thirteen years, while real, underlines how slowly the gender balance at the top of the wealth distribution is shifting, even in a period of rapid overall growth in the number of billionaires. Taken together, the split confirms that great wealth remains overwhelmingly concentrated among men, even as the slow rise in the share of women points to a gradual, generational shift in the composition of the billionaire class. Seen over the full sweep of the past decade, the rise of women from about 9 to 14 percent of billionaires represents real progress, even if it leaves the top of the wealth distribution far from anything resembling gender balance.

The Trend

Is the Share of Women Rising?

The share of women among billionaires has risen slowly but steadily. It stood at about 9 percent in 2013, reached about 12 percent by 2020, and climbed to 14 percent in 2026, as the number of women on the list rose from 406 to 481 in a single year. The slow but steady rise in the share of women among billionaires is one of the more hopeful trends in the data, even if, at the current pace, true parity between men and women at the top of the wealth distribution remains generations away. The share of women rose from about 9 percent in 2013 to about 12 percent by 2020 and 14 percent in 2026, a rise of about 5 percentage points in thirteen years, or less than half a point a year on average. The trajectory of the female share, rising a few tenths of a percentage point most years, tells a story of slow but genuine change, driven by a mix of generational wealth transfer and a new wave of women building fortunes of their own.

The steady rise reflects both the growing number of women inheriting family fortunes and a smaller but faster-growing group of self-made women entrepreneurs, a shift our [age distribution of billionaires](#) coverage frames.

Share of Women Among Billionaires Over Time (%) Rising slowly.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Rising slowly: the share of women among billionaires rose from about 9 percent in 2013 to 14 percent in 2026, less than half a point a year.

The 18 percent jump in the number of women billionaires between 2025 and 2026, from 406 to 481, was one of the largest yearly increases on record, though women still make up only about one in seven of the total. The record jump of 2026, adding 75 women to the list in a single year, was driven both by rising markets lifting existing fortunes over the billion-dollar mark and by a growing number of women building new businesses. Looking ahead, the share of women seems likely to keep rising slowly as more women inherit and build great fortunes, though at the current pace the billionaire population will remain majority male for decades to come. The pace of change, though real, remains slow enough that the gender balance among billionaires is unlikely to shift dramatically for many years, even if the recent acceleration in the number of self-made women continues.

Richest Women

Who Are the Richest Women?

The richest woman in the world is the Walmart heiress Alice Walton, worth about 134 billion dollars in 2026, the second year running she has held the top spot. She is followed by the French cosmetics heir Françoise Bettencourt Meyers on about 100 billion. The list of the richest women is dominated by heirs to great family fortunes in retail, cosmetics and mining, a reflection of the fact that inheritance, rather than founding a company, remains the most common route to great wealth for women. Alice Walton about 134 billion dollars, Françoise Bettencourt Meyers about 100 billion and Julia Koch about 81 billion lead a list of the richest women dominated by heirs to retail, cosmetics and industrial fortunes. The women at the very top of the wealth rankings are, with rare exceptions, the heirs and widows of men who built great family businesses, a pattern that sets the female billionaire elite apart from its overwhelmingly self-made male counterpart.

Third is Julia Koch, on about 81 billion dollars, followed by the Chilean mining heir Iris Fontbona and the candy heir Jacqueline Mars, showing how the richest women are dominated by inherited fortunes, a pattern our [leading billionaires](#) coverage frames.

The Richest Women in the World, 2026 (USD bn) Led by Alice Walton.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Led by Alice Walton: the richest woman is the Walmart heiress Alice Walton on about 134 billion dollars, ahead of Françoise Bettencourt Meyers on 100 billion.

The only self-made woman among the ten richest is the Swiss shipping magnate Rafaela Aponte-Diamant, on about 45 billion dollars, the richest of the 122 women who built their own fortunes rather than inheriting them. The dominance of inherited fortunes among the richest women, with only one self-made woman in the top ten, stands in sharp contrast to the men at the top of the list, most of whom built their own fortunes in technology. The presence of just one self-made woman among the ten richest, against a male top ten built almost entirely on self-made technology fortunes, is one of the clearest illustrations of the different routes men and women take to the very top.

By Country

Where Do Women Billionaires Live?

The United States is home to the most women billionaires, with about 122, followed by China with about 90 and Germany with about 35. Italy, the United Kingdom and India each have more than 15, reflecting where great family fortunes are concentrated. The geography of women billionaires closely follows that of billionaires as a whole, concentrated in the largest and wealthiest economies, above all the United States and China, where the most great fortunes are made and passed down. The United States about 122 women billionaires are more than the next two countries, China on about 85 and Germany on about 32, combined, reflecting the size of its economy and the many family fortunes passed down within it. The distribution of women billionaires across countries closely tracks the overall distribution of wealth, a reminder that the forces creating great female fortunes are the same as those creating great fortunes in general, concentrated in the largest economies.

The American lead reflects the size and wealth of its economy and the many family fortunes passed down to daughters and widows, a pattern our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Women Billionaires by Country, 2026The US leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

The US leads: the United States has about 122 women billionaires, ahead of China on about 90 and Germany on about 35.

China strong showing, with about 90 women billionaires, reflects the rapid creation of new fortunes as its economy has grown, including a number of self-made women, more than in most other countries. The strong showing of China, with more self-made women billionaires than most countries, points to a changing pattern in which more women are building rather than inheriting their fortunes, especially in the fast-growing economies of Asia. The relatively strong showing of self-made women in China, in particular, hints at how the pattern of female wealth may change in the decades ahead, as more women in fast-growing economies build rather than inherit their fortunes.

By Region

Women Billionaires by Region

By region, women billionaires are spread fairly evenly across Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America, each home to around 140 to 150, with far fewer in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. The regional spread of women billionaires reveals that great female wealth is a feature of the developed world, concentrated in the same regions that dominate the billionaire population as a whole rather than in any distinct pattern of its own. That women billionaires are found in roughly equal numbers across Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America reflects the global reach of the family firms and new businesses that create great female fortunes, spread across the developed world.

The even spread across the three richest regions reflects the global nature of great wealth, with family fortunes and new businesses creating women billionaires across the developed world, a pattern our [sources of billionaire wealth](#) coverage frames.

Women Billionaires by Region, 2026Evenly spread.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Evenly spread: women billionaires are spread fairly evenly across Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America, each home to around 140 to 150.



The small numbers of women billionaires in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa reflect both the smaller billionaire populations of those regions and the particular barriers women face in building and keeping great wealth there. The very small numbers of women billionaires in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America reflect both the smaller billionaire populations of those regions and the particular barriers women face there in building and keeping great wealth.

Wealth Source

Self-Made or Inherited, by Gender

Women billionaires are far more likely than men to have inherited their wealth. About 53 percent of women billionaires inherited their fortunes and another 22 percent have a mix of inherited and self-made wealth, leaving only about 25 percent who are fully self-made. The stark difference between men and women in how they came by their wealth is one of the most revealing features of the gender distribution, pointing to the barriers women have long faced in building businesses from scratch. About 53 percent of women billionaires inherited their fortunes, 22 percent have a combination of inherited and self-made wealth, and only about 25 percent, some 122 women, built their fortunes entirely themselves. The contrast between the mostly inherited fortunes of women billionaires and the mostly self-made fortunes of men is perhaps the single most revealing statistic about gender and extreme wealth, pointing to how differently the two groups have arrived at the top.

Among men, by contrast, about 70 percent are self-made, a striking difference that reflects the historical barriers women have faced in building businesses from scratch, a pattern our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

Source of Wealth by Gender (%) Women inherit more.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Women inherit more: about 53 percent of women billionaires inherited their fortunes, against about 13 percent of men, of whom about 70 percent are self-made.



The share of self-made women is rising, with 122 self-made women billionaires in 2026, up from 113 a year earlier, as more women build their own fortunes in technology, finance and other industries. The steady rise in the number of self-made women, even as they remain a minority of women billionaires, points to a slow but real shift toward more women building their own fortunes rather than inheriting them. The gradual rise in the number and share of self-made women billionaires, though still a minority, is perhaps the most encouraging sign of change in the data, pointing to a slow shift in how women reach the top of the wealth distribution.

By Industry

The Industries of Women Billionaires

Women billionaires are concentrated in fashion and retail, food and beverage, and manufacturing, industries with many long-established family firms. Fashion and retail alone account for around 90 women billionaires, more than any other industry. The concentration of women billionaires in consumer-facing industries reflects the long history of great family firms in retail, food and luxury goods, whose fortunes have often passed to daughters and widows over the generations. Fashion and retail account for around 90 women billionaires, food and beverage for around 55 and manufacturing for around 50, together making up more than half of all women billionaires. The industries in which women billionaires are concentrated, from fashion and retail to food and consumer goods, are those with the longest histories of great family firms, whose fortunes have often been shared with or passed to daughters and widows.

The concentration in consumer industries reflects the many family fortunes built in retail, food and luxury goods and passed down through the generations, a pattern our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

Women Billionaires by Industry, 2026Retail leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Retail leads: fashion and retail account for around 90 women billionaires, more than any other industry, ahead of food and beverage and manufacturing.



Technology, which produces the largest fortunes among men, accounts for far fewer women billionaires, reflecting the small number of women who have founded or led the largest technology companies. The scarcity of women among technology billionaires, the group that dominates the very top of the male ranking, is one of the main reasons women are so underrepresented among the largest fortunes of all. The under-representation of women in technology, the industry that produces the largest and fastest-growing fortunes, helps explain why women remain so scarce among the very richest people, and why closing that gap will be so difficult.

Wealth Held

How Much Wealth Do Women Hold?

Women hold a smaller share of billionaire wealth than their numbers alone would suggest. Although they make up 14 percent of billionaires, women hold only about 11 percent of total billionaire wealth, because their fortunes are on average smaller than those of men. The gap between the share of billionaires who are women and the share of wealth they hold is a subtle but telling measure of inequality within the billionaire class, showing that even among women billionaires, fortunes tend to be smaller. Women make up 14 percent of billionaires but hold only about 11 percent of billionaire wealth, a gap that reflects the smaller average size of their fortunes compared with those of the men at the very top. The wealth held by women billionaires, smaller as a share than their numbers, reflects the near-total absence of women from the ranks of the very largest fortunes, which are dominated by the self-made technology founders at the very top.

The gap between the share of women and the share of wealth reflects the concentration of the very largest fortunes, above all in technology, in the hands of men, a pattern our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Share of Billionaire Wealth Held by Women (%)Below their numbers.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Below their numbers: women hold about 11 percent of billionaire wealth, less than their 14 percent share of the headcount, as their fortunes are smaller.



The share of billionaire wealth held by women has risen slowly, from about 8 percent in 2015 to about 11 percent in 2026, broadly in line with the rising number of women on the list. The slow rise in the share of billionaire wealth held by women, broadly tracking their rising numbers, suggests that the gender wealth gap at the very top is narrowing only gradually, if at all. The slow convergence between the share of billionaires who are women and the share of wealth they hold, if it continues, would gradually erode one of the starkest gender gaps in the entire economy, though progress so far has been modest.

At the Top

Women at the Top of the Pyramid

Women are underrepresented at the very top of the wealth pyramid. Only two women, Alice Walton and Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, are worth more than 100 billion dollars, and just 11 are worth more than 50 billion, while most women billionaires are worth 1 to 5 billion. The near-absence of women from the very top of the wealth pyramid, with only two worth more than 100 billion dollars, is one of the starkest illustrations of how the largest fortunes remain almost entirely in the hands of men. Only two women, Alice Walton and Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, are worth more than 100 billion dollars, and just 11 are worth more than 50 billion, out of 481 women billionaires in all.

The scarcity of women at the very top reflects the way the largest fortunes, above all the self-made technology fortunes, are held almost entirely by men, a concentration our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

Women Billionaires by Net Worth Band, 2026 Few at the top.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Few at the top: only two women are worth more than 100 billion dollars, and just 11 more than 50 billion, while most are worth 1 to 5 billion.

With about 230 women worth 1 to 2 billion dollars and only a handful worth more than 50 billion, the distribution of women billionaires is even more bottom-heavy than that of men, with fewer of the truly enormous fortunes. The bottom-heavy distribution of women billionaires, with most worth a few billion dollars and only a handful worth tens of billions, mirrors the distribution of billionaires as a whole but with



even fewer of the very largest fortunes. Whether more women reach the very top will depend above all on whether more women found and lead the largest companies, the surest route to the enormous fortunes that dominate the top of the wealth distribution. The concentration of women billionaires in the lower net worth bands, with only a handful in the highest, mirrors and even exceeds the concentration seen among billionaires as a whole, underlining how few women have built the truly enormous fortunes.

Key Facts

Billionaires by Gender in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. Women make up 14 percent of the world billionaires in 2026, 481 of 3,428, the richest is Alice Walton on about 134 billion dollars, and about 122 women are self-made. These figures together map the gender distribution of the world billionaires, showing a population still overwhelmingly male but with a slowly rising share of women, most of whom inherited rather than built their fortunes. The overall picture is of a billionaire class that remains overwhelmingly male, in which women are slowly gaining ground, mostly through inheritance but increasingly through building their own businesses in a widening range of industries.

The figures matter because the gender distribution of billionaires reflects deep imbalances in access to wealth and business around the world, a picture our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the global context.

14% Women Of billionaires. 481 Women On the 2026 list. \$134B Alice Walton Richest woman. 122 Self-made Women.

Together these figures show a billionaire population still dominated by men, at about 86 percent, but with a slowly rising share of women, most of whom inherited their fortunes while a growing number build their own. For now, the gender distribution of billionaires stands as a vivid measure of how unevenly the opportunity to build and keep extreme wealth has been shared, and of how slowly, if steadily, that imbalance is beginning to change.

Big Picture

Billionaires by Gender: The Big Picture

Taken together, the gender distribution of billionaires in 2026 maps a world of great wealth still overwhelmingly held by men, though the share of women is rising, a story our [gold as an investment](#)

coverage sets against other assets.

Whether the share of women continues to rise will depend on how many build and keep great fortunes in the years ahead, but for now the billionaire population remains largely male, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaires by Gender

About 14 percent. Of the world 3,428 billionaires, 481 are women and about 2,947 are men, so men make up about 86 percent of the total.

The Walmart heiress Alice Walton, worth about 134 billion dollars in 2026, holds the top spot, while the richest man in the world, and the richest person overall, is Elon Musk.

About 481 in 2026, up from 406 a year earlier, an increase of about 18 percent, one of the largest yearly rises on record.

Mostly heirs. About 53 percent inherited their fortunes and 22 percent have a mix, leaving only about 25 percent, some 122 women, who are self-made.

Yes, slowly. It has risen from about 9 percent in 2013 to 14 percent in 2026, as more women inherit or build great fortunes.

The United States, with about 122, followed by China with about 85 and Germany with about 32, reflecting where family fortunes are concentrated.

About 11 percent of total billionaire wealth, less than their 14 percent share of the headcount, because their fortunes are smaller on average than those of men.

The Swiss shipping magnate Rafaela Aponte-Diamant, worth about 45 billion dollars, the only self-made woman among the ten richest in the world.

Just two in 2026, Alice Walton and the French cosmetics heir Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, out of 481 women billionaires worldwide.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, which counts the men and women among the world billionaires. Figures are the 2026 snapshot.

Sources



Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the number and share of men and women among the world billionaires.

Forbes Richest Women and wealth-research data - Source for the richest women, country, industry and source-of-wealth detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

Forbes World Billionaires - Publishes the annual data on billionaires by gender.

Figures show the distribution of billionaires around the world in 2026 by gender, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. Women make up 14 percent of the 3,428 billionaires, 481 in all, against about 2,947 men. The richest woman is Alice Walton on about 134 billion dollars, and about 122 women are self-made. Regional, country and industry breakdowns are estimates. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Age distribution of billionaires globally 2026

Updated Jul 6, 2026 · businessstats.com/age-distribution-of-billionaires-globally

65 AVERAGE AGE	20 YOUNGEST	104 OLDEST
86% MEN	14% WOMEN	35 UNDER 30

Overview

Age distribution of billionaires globally in 2026, by gender and age

The average billionaire is 65 years old in 2026, with most aged between 50 and 80. About 10 percent are under 50, nearly half are between 50 and 70, and more than 40 percent are over 70, making the billionaire class notably older than the general population. The age profile of the world billionaires offers a revealing window into how great fortunes are built and inherited, showing a class that is markedly older than the general population, concentrated in the later decades of life when wealth has had time to accumulate. At an average of 65, the typical billionaire is well into the second half of life, and the age profile of the class, heavily weighted toward the fifties, sixties and seventies, reflects the long years it usually takes to reach the very top of global wealth. Age and gender are among the most revealing lenses through which to view the billionaire class, since they show not just who holds great wealth today but how that wealth is built, inherited and passed on, and how slowly the picture is changing over time.

Men make up about 86 percent of billionaires and women about 14 percent. The age picture builds on our [billionaires by region](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage.

Billionaires by Age and Gender, 2026Older, and mostly men.

Data:

Age distribution of billionaires globally in 2026, by gender and age band, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data.

Note:

Figures are the 2026 snapshot; the gender split reflects the roughly 481 women among 3,428 billionaires. Switch views with the toolbar.

Older, and mostly men: billionaires cluster in the 50-to-80 age range, peaking in the sixties, and men outnumber women in every age band, most heavily in the middle years.

The youngest billionaire in the world is 20 and the oldest is 104, a span of more than 80 years, reflecting both the rise of young technology founders and the long lives of the great inheritors, themes our [top billionaire countries](#) and [leading billionaires](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the age distribution of billionaires globally in 2026, by gender and age band, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data. The gender split reflects the roughly 481 women among the 3,428 billionaires in the world. Because the age and gender of every billionaire is not always publicly known, some of the figures, particularly the finer breakdowns by industry and age band, are estimates based on the available data rather than exact counts. The age bands used here follow the common Wealth-X grouping, and the gender split is based on the roughly 481 women identified among the 3,428 billionaires on the 2026 Forbes list, so the finer breakdowns are best read as approximate.

The Table

Billionaires by Age Group

Billionaires by Age Band and Gender, 2026 Click any column to sort

AGE BAND	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Under 40	60	15	75
40-49	240	35	275
50-59	570	80	650
60-69	860	130	990
70-79	730	130	860
80-89	380	65	445
90 and over	107	26	133

The table shows the number of billionaires in each age band in 2026, split by gender. It shows the concentration in the 50-to-80 range and the small numbers at the very young and very old ends of the

scale. Reading down the table shows the classic shape of the billionaire age distribution, rising from a handful of very young billionaires to a peak in the sixties before tailing off among the oldest, with men outnumbering women in every band.

The Distribution

How Old Are the World's Billionaires?

Most billionaires are between 50 and 80 years old. About 29 percent are in their sixties, the largest single group, followed by about 25 percent in their seventies and 19 percent in their fifties. Only about 2 percent are under 40. The concentration of billionaires in the 50-to-80 age range reflects a simple truth about great wealth, that it usually takes decades to build, whether through the slow growth of a business or the gradual passing down of a family fortune across generations. With about 29 percent of billionaires in their sixties and another 25 percent in their seventies, well over half of all billionaires are aged between 60 and 80, the decades in which decades of wealth accumulation reach their peak. The shape of the age distribution, rising steadily to a peak in the sixties before tailing off, is remarkably stable from year to year, a reflection of the deep structural reasons why great wealth accumulates in the later decades of life.

The concentration in later life reflects the decades it usually takes to build a great fortune, whether through business or the passing down of family wealth, a pattern our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Age Distribution of Billionaires, 2026 (%)Most are 50 to 80.

Data:

Age distribution of billionaires globally in 2026, by gender and age band, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data.

Note:

Figures are the 2026 snapshot; the gender split reflects the roughly 481 women among 3,428 billionaires.Switch views with the toolbar.

Most are 50 to 80: about 29 percent of billionaires are in their sixties, 25 percent in their seventies and 19 percent in their fifties, with only about 2 percent under 40.

At the extremes, a small but growing group of billionaires are under 40, many of them technology founders or young heirs, while about 4 percent are over 90, reflecting the long lives of some of the great fortunes of

the past. The small but growing group of billionaires under 40, set against the roughly 4 percent who are over 90, captures the two very different faces of great wealth, the young disruptor and the long-lived inheritor, at opposite ends of the age scale. Taken together, the age distribution confirms that great wealth is overwhelmingly a phenomenon of later life, concentrated among those who have had the decades needed to build or inherit a billion-dollar fortune. The steady thickening of the youngest age bands in recent years, even as the bulk of billionaires remain in later life, is one of the clearer signs that the traditional pattern of wealth creation is beginning, however slowly, to shift toward the young.

By Gender

The Gender Gap Among Billionaires

The billionaire class is overwhelmingly male. Men make up about 86 percent of billionaires and women about 14 percent, or roughly 481 of the 3,428 billionaires in the world, a share that has risen only slowly over the years. The overwhelming dominance of men among billionaires is one of the most persistent features of global wealth, a gap that has narrowed only slowly over the years despite the rising prominence of a number of very wealthy women. The roughly 481 women among the 3,428 billionaires, about 14 percent, marks a slow rise from previous years, but it leaves the billionaire class still overwhelmingly male, with nearly six men for every woman. The persistence of such a wide gender gap, even as the number of women billionaires slowly rises, is one of the starkest illustrations of how unequally the ownership of great wealth is distributed between men and women across the world.

Women billionaires tend to be slightly older on average than men, reflecting the fact that many inherited their fortunes from husbands or fathers, a pattern our [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores in depth.

Billionaires by Gender, 2026 (%)Overwhelmingly male.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Overwhelmingly male: men make up about 86 percent of billionaires and women about 14 percent, or roughly 481 of the 3,428 billionaires in the world.



The share of women is highest at the very young and very old ends of the age scale, reflecting young heiresses at one end and widows who inherited great fortunes at the other, with men most dominant in the middle-aged, self-made ranks. The way women are most represented at the youngest and oldest ages, and least in the middle, is one of the more revealing patterns in the data, pointing to the central role of inheritance rather than self-made wealth in most great female fortunes. Whether the gender balance among billionaires continues to shift will depend on the rise of self-made women, particularly in the middle-aged, business-building years where men remain most dominant.

Average Age

Is the Billionaire Class Getting Older?

The average billionaire is 65 years old in 2026, down slightly from 66 in 2025. The average age has drifted upward over the long term, as the billionaire class has aged, though the recent rise of young technology founders has slowed the trend. The average age of the billionaire class has become a closely watched measure of how wealth is changing, capturing the tension between the long-established fortunes of older generations and the rapid rise of a new wave of young technology founders. At 65 in 2026, down from 66 in 2025, the average billionaire age remains close to its highest level in decades, even after the recent influx of young technology founders trimmed it slightly from its recent peak.

The gradual aging of the billionaire class reflects both longer lives and the accumulation of wealth over time, though it has been partly offset by a wave of young technology billionaires, a shift our [Nasdaq stock market coverage](#) frames.

Average Billionaire Age Over TimeA slowly aging class.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

A slowly aging class: the average billionaire age has drifted up over the long term to about 65 in 2026, dipping slightly from 66 as young billionaires joined.

The slight dip in the average age in 2026 reflects the record number of young billionaires added in the year, many of them founders of artificial-intelligence companies who reached ten-figure fortunes at a

remarkably young age. The tug-of-war between the aging of established fortunes and the rise of young founders will shape the average age of the billionaire class in the years ahead, with the balance depending on how many new young billionaires the technology boom creates. The average age of the billionaire class has become a kind of barometer of how wealth is changing, with each year testing whether the aging of established fortunes will continue to outweigh the arrival of a new generation of young founders.

The Youngest

Who Are the Youngest Billionaires?

The youngest billionaire in the world in 2026 is Amelie Voigt Trejes, a 20-year-old heir to the Brazilian industrial group WEG. She is followed by the German pharma heir Johannes von Baumbach, also 20, and the Italian eyewear heir Clemente Del Vecchio, 21. The emergence of a record number of billionaires under 30 is one of the most striking trends in recent wealth data, a sign of how technology, huge funding rounds and inheritance have combined to create great fortunes at ever younger ages. At just 20 years old, Amelie Voigt Trejes is more than 80 years younger than the oldest billionaire, the 104-year-old George Joseph, a span that captures the extraordinary range of ages among the world billionaires. The stories of the youngest billionaires, from the heirs of great industrial dynasties to the founders of artificial-intelligence startups, capture the two very different routes by which a handful of people reach ten-figure fortunes before the age of 30.

A record 35 billionaires are under 30 in 2026, worth about 92 billion dollars between them, of whom a record 12 are self-made, many in artificial intelligence, a wave our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

The Youngest Billionaires, 2026 (USD bn)Heirs and founders.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Heirs and founders: the youngest billionaires, aged 20 to 22, range from the WEG heir Amelie Voigt Trejes to the self-made Mercor founders, worth from 1 to nearly 7 billion dollars.

The youngest self-made billionaire is Surya Midha, 22, a cofounder of the artificial-intelligence recruiting startup Mercor, showing how technology and large funding rounds have made it possible to build a billion-



dollar fortune at an unprecedented age. The record number of self-made billionaires under 30, most of them in artificial intelligence, is perhaps the clearest sign yet that the technology boom is creating a new generation of very young self-made billionaires alongside the traditional young heirs. Looking ahead, the number of very young billionaires may keep rising if the technology and artificial-intelligence boom continues, potentially reshaping the age profile of the billionaire class over time.

By Industry

Which Industries Have the Youngest Billionaires?

The age of billionaires varies sharply by industry. Technology billionaires are the youngest, at about 58 years old on average, while those in energy, real estate and manufacturing are the oldest, at close to 70, reflecting the industries in which they built their wealth. The sharp variation in the age of billionaires by industry offers one of the clearest illustrations of how the sources of great wealth are changing, with the fast-moving technology sector producing far younger fortunes than the traditional industries. At about 58 years old on average, technology billionaires are more than a decade younger than those in energy, at close to 70, a gap that reflects the very different speeds at which fortunes are built in the two industries.

The youth of technology billionaires reflects the speed at which technology companies can grow, allowing founders to reach great wealth quickly, while the older age in traditional industries reflects slower, longer paths to wealth, a contrast our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

Average Billionaire Age by IndustryTech is youngest.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Tech is youngest: technology billionaires are about 58 years old on average, more than a decade younger than those in energy, real estate and manufacturing.

The pattern points to a broader shift, as the rise of technology and artificial intelligence creates fortunes faster than the mining, real estate and manufacturing industries that produced many of the older billionaires. The generational shift toward younger, technology-driven fortunes, and away from the older wealth of mining, real estate and manufacturing, is one of the defining trends in the changing composition



of the billionaire class. As artificial intelligence and other fast-moving technologies create fortunes at ever greater speed, the average age of billionaires in the technology sector may fall further still, widening the gap with the older, slower-moving traditional industries.

Under 30

The Rise of the Under-30 Billionaires

The number of billionaires under 30 has surged, from about 12 in 2022 to a record 35 in 2026. The rise reflects both a wave of inheritance, as fortunes pass to younger generations, and a growing number of self-made young founders in technology. The surge in the number of very young billionaires marks a genuine shift in the pattern of wealth creation, breaking with the long-standing rule that great fortunes are built slowly over the course of a working life. The near-tripling of the number of under-30 billionaires, from about 12 in 2022 to 35 in 2026, is one of the fastest-growing trends in the billionaire data, driven by a combination of inheritance and the artificial-intelligence boom.

The surge in young billionaires marks a notable shift, since historically most billionaires accumulated their wealth later in life, a change our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires Under 30 Over TimeA record 35 in 2026.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

A record 35 in 2026: the number of billionaires under 30 rose from about 12 in 2022 to a record 35 in 2026, a record 12 of them self-made.

While most of the under-30 billionaires still inherited their fortunes, the record 12 self-made members in 2026, many of them founders of artificial-intelligence companies, point to a growing role for young entrepreneurs at the very top of global wealth. The tension between the many young heirs and the growing number of young self-made founders among the under-30 billionaires captures the two forces driving the rise of very young wealth, inheritance and technological disruption. The record dozen self-made billionaires under 30 in 2026, most of them in artificial intelligence, may prove to be an early sign of a broader change, as new technologies lower the age at which it is possible to build a billion-dollar company.

Self-Made

Self-Made or Inherited, by Age

Whether billionaires are self-made or inherited varies with age. The very youngest are mostly heirs, since building a great fortune from scratch takes time, while the middle-aged are the most likely to be self-made, having had the years to build their businesses. The relationship between age and whether a billionaire is self-made or an heir reveals much about how fortunes are made, with inheritance dominant at the youngest ages and self-made wealth peaking in the middle years of life.

The high share of inheritance among the very young reflects the passing down of family fortunes, while the self-made peak in middle age reflects the decades it usually takes to build a business to billion-dollar scale, a pattern our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Self-Made Share by Age Band (%) Peaks in middle age.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Peaks in middle age: the self-made share is lowest among the very young, who are mostly heirs, rising to a peak among the middle-aged, who built their fortunes over decades.

Among the oldest billionaires, the self-made share falls again, reflecting an earlier era in which more fortunes were inherited, though the overall trend across the billionaire class has been toward a rising share of self-made wealth. The overall shift toward self-made wealth across the billionaire class, even as inheritance dominates at the youngest ages, reflects the growing role of entrepreneurship, especially in technology, in the creation of great fortunes.

Age and Wealth

Does Wealth Grow With Age?

Wealth tends to rise with age, up to a point. The average net worth of billionaires climbs from about 3.5 billion dollars for those under 40 to about 6.5 billion for those in their seventies, before easing among the very oldest. The tendency of billionaire wealth to rise with age, at least until the final decades, reflects the

power of compounding, as fortunes grow through decades of investment and reinvestment before being given away or passed on. The rise in average net worth from about 3.5 billion dollars for the youngest billionaires to about 6.5 billion for those in their seventies reflects the power of decades of compounding, before philanthropy and inheritance thin the fortunes of the very oldest.

The rise in wealth with age reflects the compounding of fortunes over time, as investments grow and businesses mature, a pattern our [financial markets in the US](#) coverage frames.

Average Net Worth by Age Band (USD bn) Wealth rises with age.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Wealth rises with age: average net worth climbs from about 3.5 billion dollars for billionaires under 40 to about 6.5 billion for those in their seventies, before easing.

The easing of average wealth among the very oldest billionaires reflects the giving away of fortunes to charity and the passing of wealth to heirs, which can reduce the net worth held directly by the oldest members of the billionaire class. The dip in average wealth among the very oldest billionaires, as fortunes are given away or passed on, is a reminder that great wealth is not always held to the end of life, but often dispersed through philanthropy and inheritance. Understanding how wealth rises and then eases with age is important for making sense of the billionaire class, since it reflects not just the building of fortunes but also their eventual dispersal through giving and inheritance.

Women by Age

Where Women Billionaires Are Most Common

The share of women among billionaires varies with age. Women make up about a fifth of billionaires under 40 and over 90, but only about 12 to 15 percent in the middle age bands, reflecting the different paths of young heiresses and older widows. The way the share of women among billionaires varies with age tells a subtle story about the different paths to great wealth for women, shaped by inheritance at the youngest and oldest ages and by the dominance of self-made men in between.

The higher share of women at the young and old ends reflects inheritance, with young heiresses at one end and widows who inherited great fortunes at the other, a pattern our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

Women Share by Age Band (%) Highest at the extremes.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X age data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Age bands in years; some gender and industry figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Highest at the extremes: women make up about a fifth of billionaires under 40 and over 90, but only 12 to 15 percent in the middle age bands.

The lower share of women in the middle age bands reflects the dominance of self-made men, who built their fortunes through business in the decades of their forties, fifties and sixties, when women remain a small minority. The persistence of the gender gap in the middle age bands, where self-made fortunes are most common, underlines how far women still have to go before they are building the largest fortunes from scratch in significant numbers. Closing the gender gap in the middle age bands, where self-made fortunes are built, will be the key to any lasting rise in the share of women among billionaires, since it is there that the great self-made fortunes are overwhelmingly male.

Key Facts

Billionaire Ages in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. The average billionaire is 65 years old, the youngest is 20 and the oldest 104, most are aged between 50 and 80, and men outnumber women nearly six to one. These figures together paint a detailed portrait of the billionaire class, older and overwhelmingly male, but slowly changing as young founders and a growing number of women begin to reshape the age and gender profile of global wealth. The picture that emerges is of a billionaire class shaped by the long timescales of wealth creation and inheritance, older and overwhelmingly male, yet showing the first signs of change as young founders and women slowly gain ground.

The figures matter because the age and gender of billionaires reveal how great fortunes are built and passed down, and how that is slowly changing, a shift our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the



global context.

65Average ageYears old. 20YoungestAmelie Voigt Trejes. 104OldestGeorge Joseph. 14%WomenOf
billionaires.

Together these figures show a billionaire class that is older and overwhelmingly male, but slowly changing, with a rising number of young technology founders and a slowly growing share of women.

Big Picture

Billionaire Age Distribution: The Big Picture

Taken together, the age and gender distribution of billionaires in 2026 maps how great fortunes are built and inherited, still concentrated among older men but slowly changing, a story our [gold as an investment coverage sets against other assets](#).

Whether the billionaire class grows younger and more balanced will depend on the rise of young founders and women, but for now it remains older and mostly male, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Ages

About 65 years old, according to Forbes, down slightly from 66 in 2025. Most billionaires are aged between 50 and 80.

Amelie Voigt Trejes, a 20-year-old heir to the Brazilian industrial group WEG, is the youngest billionaire in the world in 2026.

George Joseph, an American insurance tycoon, who turned 104 in 2025, is the oldest billionaire in the world in 2026.

A record 35 in 2026, about 1 percent of the total, worth about 92 billion dollars between them, of whom a record 12 are self-made.

About 14 percent in 2026, or roughly 481 of the 3,428 billionaires in the world. The billionaire class remains overwhelmingly male.

Surya Midha, 22, a cofounder of the artificial-intelligence recruiting startup Mercor, is the youngest self-made billionaire in 2026.



Technology, whose billionaires are about 58 years old on average, the youngest of any industry, reflecting the speed at which tech firms grow.

About two-thirds of billionaires are self-made overall, but the very youngest are mostly heirs, while the middle-aged are the most likely to be self-made.

The average age has drifted upward over the long term, though it dipped slightly to 65 in 2026 as a record number of young billionaires joined the list.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data on the age and gender of billionaires, based on the 2026 snapshot.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the average age, youngest and oldest billionaires, and gender split.

Wealth-X and Altrata age data - Source for the age distribution by band and gender, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual data on billionaire age and gender.

Figures show the age distribution of billionaires globally in 2026, by gender and age band, from the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data. The average billionaire is 65, the youngest 20 and the oldest 104. Most are aged between 50 and 80, men make up about 86 percent and women about 14 percent, and a record 35 billionaires are under 30. Some of the finer breakdowns by industry and age are estimates. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Share of the worlds billionaires by region 2026

 Updated Jul 26, 2026 · businessstats.com/ultra-wealthy-individuals-worldwide-share-region

36% ASIA-PACIFIC	31% NORTH AMERICA	24% EUROPE
3,428 WORLD TOTAL	90%+ TOP THREE	48% NA WEALTH SHARE

Overview

Share of the worlds billionaires in 2026, by region

Asia-Pacific holds the largest share of the worlds billionaires in 2026, about 36 percent, ahead of North America on about 31 percent and Europe on about 24 percent. Together these three regions hold more than 90 percent of all the billionaires in the world. The regional share of billionaires is one of the clearest maps of where great wealth is created in the world, and in 2026 it shows a balance that has tilted decisively toward Asia over the past decade. On the 2026 figures, Asia-Pacific holds about 35.9 percent of the worlds billionaires, North America about 31.2 percent, Europe about 23.9 percent, Latin America about 4.5 percent, the Middle East about 3.5 percent and Africa about 1 percent. No other statistic captures the shifting balance of global wealth quite so directly, and the fact that Asia-Pacific now leads the West on this measure is one of the defining economic facts of the decade.

The world had about 3,428 billionaires in 2026 on the Forbes list. This regional share builds on our [ultra wealthy by country](#), [billionaire population by region](#) and [top billionaire countries](#) coverage.

Share of World Billionaires by Region, 2015 vs 2026 (%)Asia-Pacific rises.

Data:

Share of the worlds billionaires in 2026, by region, as a percentage of the global total, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping and figures are the March 2026 snapshot. Combined world total is about 3,428. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia-Pacific rises: Asia-Pacific has grown from under a third of the worlds billionaires in 2015 to about 36 percent in 2026, overtaking North America to hold the largest share.

Share of billionaires is not the same as share of wealth. North America holds only about 31 percent of the worlds billionaires but nearly half of their combined fortune, a gap our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage helps explain.

A note on the data. The figures show the share of the worlds billionaires in 2026 by region, from the Forbes list. Regions follow the Forbes grouping, and because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists. A billionaire is defined here as an individual with a net worth of at least one billion US dollars, and the regional shares are drawn from the Forbes World Billionaires list, the most widely used annual ranking. Regional totals differ slightly between rankings because lists assign countries to regions in different ways, but they agree on the broad picture, that Asia-Pacific leads on share of billionaires and North America on share of wealth.

The Table

Billionaire Share by Region

Share of World Billionaires by Region, 2026 Click any column to sort

REGION	SHARE OF WORLD	BILLIONAIRES
Asia-Pacific	35.9%	1,229
North America	31.2%	1,071
Europe	23.9%	820
Latin America	4.5%	154
Middle East	3.5%	120
Africa	1.0%	34

The table sets out each regions share of the worlds billionaires in 2026 alongside its billionaire count. It shows Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe far ahead, with a steep drop to the small shares of the other three regions. Reading down the share column shows the concentration at a glance, with three regions

above 20 percent each and none of the other three above 5 percent of the world total. Because the shares are annual snapshots grouped by region, the exact figures depend on how countries are assigned, but the broad order, with three regions far ahead, is clear and stable.

The Ranking

Which Region Has the Largest Share?

Asia-Pacific leads with about 36 percent of the worlds billionaires, or about 1,229 people. North America follows on about 31 percent, or 1,071, and Europe on about 24 percent, or 820, the three regions together holding more than nine in ten of the worlds great fortunes. The ranking of regions by share of billionaires has been reordered in recent years, with Asia-Pacific climbing to the top and the traditional dominance of North America and Europe giving way in relative terms. Asia-Pacific about 1,229 billionaires give it a 36 percent share, North America about 1,071 a 31 percent share and Europe about 820 a 24 percent share, the three together holding more than 90 percent of the world total of about 3,428. The order of the leading regions has been reshaped over the past ten years, and while the three-way dominance of Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe is stable, the balance among them has tilted steadily eastward.

The concentration of billionaire share in three regions reflects the location of the largest and most advanced economies, a pattern our [largest economies by GDP](#) coverage frames through the size of each economy.

Share of World Billionaires by Region, 2026 (%)Three regions dominate.

Data:

Share of the worlds billionaires in 2026, by region, as a percentage of the global total, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping and figures are the March 2026 snapshot. Combined world total is about 3,428.Switch views with the toolbar.

Three regions dominate: Asia-Pacific holds about 36 percent of the worlds billionaires, North America 31 percent and Europe 24 percent, over 90 percent between them.

Share of the World's Billionaires by Region, 2026Each country shaded by its region's billionaire count. Hover for the regional total and world share.



Asia-Pacific

1,229

North America

1,071

Europe

820

Latin America

154

Middle East

120

Africa

34

Three regions dominate: Asia-Pacific is home to about 1,229 billionaires, North America to 1,071 and Europe to 820, together more than 90 percent of the world total of about 3,428. Figures follow the Forbes 2026 regional grouping.

The remaining regions hold small shares. Latin America has about 4.5 percent, the Middle East about 3.5 percent and Africa about 1 percent, together making up less than a tenth of the world total. The steep drop from the leading three regions to the rest is one of the most consistent features of the data, and it reflects the concentration of the worlds largest economies in Asia, North America and Europe.

Asia Rising

Why Does Asia-Pacific Lead?

Asia-Pacifics leading share is a recent development. The region held under a third of the worlds billionaires a decade ago and has risen to the top on the strength of China and India, whose billionaire populations have grown rapidly. The climb of Asia-Pacific to the largest share of the worlds billionaires is one of the defining economic shifts of the era, and it has happened faster than almost anyone predicted a decade ago. The scale of the Asian surge becomes clear when measured over time, since the region has moved from a challenger to the clear leader in the space of a single decade, a pace of change with few

precedents.

The rise of the Asian share marks a genuine shift in the geography of wealth, a change our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames through the regions expanding equity markets.

Regional Share of Billionaires Over Time, 2015-2026 (%)Asia-Pacific overtakes.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists.Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia-Pacific overtakes: the regions share of the worlds billionaires has risen over the past decade, lifting it clear of North America to lead the world.

Inside Asia-Pacific: Billionaires by Country, 2026China and India lead.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists.Switch views with the toolbar.

China and India lead: China accounts for about half of Asia-Pacific billionaires with 610, ahead of India on 229, with Taiwan, Australia and South Korea following.

The Asian share has not risen steadily, surging in 2021 before dipping and recovering, but the long-term direction has been clearly upward, lifting Asia-Pacific past North America to lead the world. The volatility of the Asian share, tied closely to the ups and downs of the Chinese economy and markets, means its lead is real but not guaranteed, and could narrow again in a difficult year for the region.

North America

Share of Billionaires vs Share of Wealth

North America holds about 31 percent of the worlds billionaires but a far larger share of their wealth. Its billionaires command about 48 percent of the worlds total billionaire fortune, nearly half, despite being outnumbered by those of Asia-Pacific. The contrast between North Americas share of billionaires and its far larger share of their wealth is the single most revealing feature of the regional picture, and it sets the region apart from every other. North America holds about 31 percent of the worlds billionaires but about 48 percent of their combined wealth, some 9.3 trillion dollars, nearly double the Asia-Pacific total despite having about 150 fewer billionaires. The dual position of North America, second in the number of its billionaires but first by a wide margin in their combined wealth, is the single most important thing to understand about the regional picture.

The gap between North Americas share of billionaires and its share of wealth is the most striking feature of the regional picture, driven by the enormous fortunes of American technology founders, a dominance our [Nasdaq stock market coverage frames](#).

Share of Billionaires vs Share of Wealth, 2026 (%)Numbers versus fortune.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists.Switch views with the toolbar.

Numbers versus fortune: North America holds about 31 percent of the worlds billionaires but 48 percent of their wealth, while Asia-Pacific has 36 percent of billionaires but 23 percent of wealth.

North American billionaires are the richest on average, worth about 8.7 billion dollars each, more than double the Asia-Pacific average, which is why the region leads on wealth share even as it trails on billionaire share. The persistence of North Americas lead in wealth share, even as it trails on billionaire share, is a direct measure of how concentrated the very largest fortunes have become in the United States.

Wealth Share

Which Region Holds the Most Wealth?

Share of wealth tells a different story from share of billionaires. North America holds about 48 percent of the world's billionaire wealth, Asia-Pacific about 23 percent and Europe about 21 percent, almost the reverse of their shares by number. Measuring share by wealth rather than by number turns the ranking almost upside down, and it is the clearest illustration of how much larger the great American fortunes are than those elsewhere. North America holds about 48 percent of the world's billionaire wealth, Asia-Pacific about 23 percent and Europe about 21 percent, almost the reverse of their shares by number of billionaires. Ranking the regions by wealth rather than by headcount produces almost the mirror image of the billionaire-share ranking, and it is the clearest possible illustration of how concentrated the very largest fortunes have become.

The divergence shows that counting billionaires and measuring their wealth are two different things, a distinction our [leading global billionaires](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores through the largest individual fortunes.

Average Billionaire Wealth by Region (USD bn) North America richest.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

North America richest: North American billionaires are worth about 8.7 billion dollars each on average, more than double the Asia-Pacific average of about 3.7 billion.

The concentration of wealth share in North America reflects the value of the largest American technology companies, whose soaring valuations have widened the gap with every other region in recent years. Whether North America keeps its near-half share of billionaire wealth will depend above all on the fortunes of its technology sector, whose valuations have driven the widening gap with every other region.

Shifting Shares

How Have the Shares Changed?

The regional shares have shifted steadily. Asia-Pacific's share has risen over the past decade while North America and Europe have slipped in relative terms, a slow rebalancing of the world's billionaires toward Asia. The steady movement of the regional shares over time is a slow-motion map of the changing world economy, tracing the rise of Asia and the relative, though not absolute, decline of the West.

The shift in shares captures the changing balance of the world economy, a rebalancing that tracks the relative growth of each region over the past decade.

Billionaire Share by Region, 2021 vs 2026 (%) Shares shift slowly.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Shares shift slowly: Asia-Pacific has held its lead in share since 2021 while North America has closed part of the gap on the strength of its technology fortunes.

North America has recently closed some of the gap in share terms, driven by its soaring technology fortunes, showing that the regional shares are not fixed and can move quickly when markets shift. The recent narrowing of the gap in share terms, driven by American technology fortunes, is a reminder that the regional shares can move quickly, and that Asia-Pacific's lead is a matter of degree rather than permanence.

Concentration

How Concentrated Is Billionaire Share?

Billionaire share is highly concentrated. The three leading regions, Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe, together hold more than 90 percent of the world's billionaires, leaving under a tenth for the rest of the world. The concentration of billionaire share in just three regions is one of the starkest illustrations of how unevenly great wealth is distributed across the world, clustered in a handful of advanced and fast-growing economies. Asia-Pacific about 36 percent, North America about 31 percent and Europe about 24 percent together hold more than 90 percent of the world's billionaires, leaving under 10 percent for Latin America,



the Middle East and Africa combined. The degree of concentration is difficult to overstate, since a world of nearly two hundred countries sees more than nine in ten of its billionaires clustered in just three regions, and barely a tenth spread across all the rest.

The concentration reflects the location of the worlds largest economies and capital markets, a pattern our [US financial markets](#) coverage frames through the depth of the markets that create great fortunes.

Share Held by the Top Three Regions (%)Over ninety percent.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists.Switch views with the toolbar.

Over ninety percent: Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe together hold more than 90 percent of the worlds billionaires, leaving under a tenth for the rest.

The small combined share of Latin America, the Middle East and Africa reflects not any lack of wealthy individuals but the smaller scale of their economies relative to the great wealth centres of the world. The small combined share of the developing regions is a reflection of economic scale rather than of any absence of wealthy individuals, and it is slowly rising as their economies grow.

Regional Leaders

Which Country Dominates Each Region?

Each regions share is dominated by a single country. The United States accounts for more than 90 percent of North Americas billionaires, China for about half of Asia-Pacifics, and Germany leads Europe, so a few countries drive most of each regions share. Behind each regions share sits a single dominant country, and the pattern of one giant per region is one of the most consistent features of the geography of great wealth. The United States holds about 989 billionaires, more than 90 percent of North Americas total, China about 610, roughly half of Asia-Pacifics, and Germany about 212, leading Europe. The pattern of a single dominant country within each region is one of the most consistent features of the data, and it means the regional shares are really the shares of a handful of very large economies.



The dominance of one country per region shows how concentrated great wealth remains even within regions, a concentration our [US economy](#) coverage frames through the scale of the leading economies.

The Leading Country in Each Region, 2026 One giant per region.

Data:

Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

One giant per region: the United States leads North America with 989 billionaires, China leads Asia-Pacific with 610, and Germany leads Europe with 212.

The United States alone holds about 29 percent of the worlds billionaires and China about 18 percent, so just two countries account for nearly half of the global total between them, underlining how concentrated billionaire share really is. That two countries, the United States and China, account for nearly half of the worlds billionaires between them is perhaps the single clearest measure of how concentrated great wealth has become.

Movers

Which Regions Gained the Most?

Every region gained billionaires in 2026, but their shares moved differently. Asia-Pacific added the most in absolute terms, about 129, followed by Europe on about 100 and North America on about 91, keeping the broad share order intact. The way the regional shares move in a single year offers a real-time reading of where wealth is being created, and in 2026 the gains were broad, though the broad share order held. The way each region gained or held its share in a single year offers a useful snapshot of momentum, and in 2026 the broad order held firm even as every region added new fortunes.

The broad-based gains reflect strong global markets and the technology and artificial intelligence boom, which created new fortunes across every region, a boom our [crypto and new wealth](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires Added by Region, 2026 Every region grew.

Data:



Billionaire regional-share data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping. Because totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, exact shares vary slightly between lists. Switch views with the toolbar.

Every region grew: Asia-Pacific added about 129 billionaires in 2026, the most, followed by Europe with 100 and North America with 91.

Because every region grew, the shares changed only gradually, with Asia-Pacific holding its lead and North America holding its position as the second-largest share of the worlds billionaires. The gradual pace of change in the shares, even in a year when every region grew, reflects how entrenched the broad regional order has become, with Asia-Pacific and North America far ahead of the rest.

Women

What Share Are Women?

The share of billionaires held by women is small but rising in every region. Women make up about 13 percent of the worlds billionaires, and their share is growing fastest in the regions with the newest wealth. The share of billionaires held by women, small but rising, adds another dimension to the regional picture, and it is changing fastest in the same regions that are lifting Asia-Pacific overall.

The gender pattern varies by region, with more self-made women in the fast-growing economies of Asia and more inherited wealth among women in Europe, a divide our [billionaire wealth by gender](#) coverage explores.

The slow rise of womens share of billionaires mirrors the broader shift in wealth, and it is most visible in the same fast-growing regions that are lifting Asia-Pacifics overall share.

Key Facts

Billionaire Share by Region in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Asia-Pacific holds about 36 percent of the worlds billionaires, North America about 31 percent and Europe about 24 percent, out of a world total of about 3,428, with the three regions together above 90 percent. These figures together map a world of concentrated wealth, its billionaires held overwhelmingly in three regions and led, for the first time, by Asia-Pacific rather than the



West. Taken together, these figures describe a distribution of great wealth that is heavily concentrated, slowly rebalancing toward Asia, and led on the two key measures by two different regions, one on the number of its billionaires and the other on the size of their combined fortunes.

These figures matter because the regional share of billionaires maps the changing balance of the world economy, increasingly toward Asia, a shift our [ultra wealthy by region](#) coverage follows at the tier just below the billionaires.

36%Asia-PacificLargest share. 31%North AmericaSecond, but richest. 24%EuropeA clear third. 90%+Top three regionsOf the world total.

Together they describe a world where billionaire share is concentrated in three regions, led by Asia-Pacific in numbers and North America in wealth, with the rest of the world holding only a small slice. For now, the regional share of billionaires remains one of the clearest single measures of where the worlds great wealth sits, and of how that map is slowly being redrawn.

Big Picture

Billionaire Share by Region: The Big Picture

Taken together, the share of the worlds billionaires by region in 2026 maps a world of concentrated wealth, led by Asia-Pacific on numbers and North America on fortune, a distribution our [billionaires around the world](#) coverage sets in fuller context.

Whether Asia-Pacific extends its lead in share and whether North America holds its dominance in wealth will shape the picture for years, but great wealth remains concentrated in three regions, alongside the fortunes tracked across our billionaire coverage.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Share by Region

Asia-Pacific, with about 36 percent of the worlds billionaires in 2026, ahead of North America on about 31 percent and Europe on about 24 percent.

About 31 percent of the worlds billionaires, or 1,071 people, though North America holds a far larger share of billionaire wealth, nearly half.

About 24 percent of the worlds billionaires in 2026, or about 820 people, making Europe the third-largest region by billionaire share.

Because of the rapid rise of China and India, whose billionaire populations have grown quickly over the past decade, lifting Asia-Pacific to the top.

No. Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires, but North America holds nearly half of the worlds billionaire wealth, because American fortunes are far larger.

About 3,428 in 2026 on the Forbes list, spread across six broad regions, with more than 90 percent in Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe.

Together under a tenth of the world total, with Latin America about 4.5 percent, the Middle East about 3.5 percent and Africa about 1 percent.

The United States dominates North America, China dominates Asia-Pacific, and Germany leads Europe, so a few countries drive most of each regions share.

Yes, gradually. Its share has risen over the past decade, though North America has recently closed some of the gap on the strength of its technology fortunes.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, grouped by region. Figures are the March 2026 snapshot and use the Forbes regional grouping.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the share of the worlds billionaires by region and their combined wealth.

Forbes regional data - Source for regional grouping, wealth shares and historical detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual ranking of billionaires by region.

Figures show the share of the worlds billionaires in 2026 by region, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. Asia-Pacific holds the largest share, about 36 percent or 1,229 billionaires, ahead of North America on about 31 percent (1,071) and Europe on about 24 percent (820), out of a world total of about 3,428. North America holds only about 31 percent of billionaires but nearly half of their combined wealth. Regions follow the Forbes grouping and figures are the March 2026 snapshot. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Global billionaire population by region 2026

 Updated Jul 6, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-billionaire-population-by-region

1,229 ASIA-PACIFIC	1,071 NORTH AMERICA	820 EUROPE
\$9.3T NA WEALTH	36% ASIA SHARE	3,428 WORLD TOTAL

Overview

Number of billionaires worldwide in 2026, by region

Asia-Pacific is home to the most billionaires of any region in 2026, with about 1,229, ahead of North America on about 1,071 and Europe on about 820. Together these three regions hold the vast majority of the billionaires in the world. The regional distribution of billionaires offers one of the clearest maps of the changing balance of the world economy, tracing the historic rise of Asia-Pacific to the top of the rankings and the enduring wealth of North America, whose fortunes remain by far the largest. As of 2026, the world 3,428 billionaires are spread across six broad regions, but their distribution is highly uneven, with just three regions, Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe, home to more than nine in ten of them. Few statistics capture the shifting balance of global wealth as clearly as the regional distribution of billionaires, which has been transformed over the past decade by the rise of Asia and the enduring, ever-growing fortunes of North America.

Latin America, the Middle East and Africa hold the remainder between them. The regional picture builds on our [top billionaire countries](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage.

Billionaires by Region: Number and Wealth, 2026Asia leads on numbers, America on wealth.

Data:

Number of billionaires worldwide in 2026, by region, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with combined net worth in trillions of US dollars.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping; figures are the March 2026 snapshot. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia leads on numbers, America on wealth: Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires with about 1,229, but North America holds the most wealth, about 9.3 trillion dollars, ahead of Asia-Pacific on 4.5 trillion.

Although Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires, North American billionaires are the richest, holding more combined wealth, a contrast our [leading billionaires](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the number of billionaires worldwide in 2026 by region, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with combined net worth in trillions of dollars. The regions follow the Forbes grouping, and the figures are the March 2026 snapshot. Different rankings group countries into regions in slightly different ways, so the exact regional totals vary from list to list, but they agree on the broad picture, that Asia-Pacific leads on numbers and North America on wealth. The wealth figures are combined net worth in trillions of dollars, based on the March 2026 snapshot, and because they are tied to share prices, they can change substantially over the course of the year as markets move.

The Table

Billionaires by Region

Billionaires by Region, Number and Wealth, 2026 Click any column to sort

REGION	BILLIONAIRES	WEALTH (TRILLION USD)
Asia-Pacific	1,229	4.5T
North America	1,071	9.3T
Europe	820	4.0T
Latin America	154	0.6T
Middle East	120	0.9T
Africa	34	0.1T

The table shows the number of billionaires and their combined wealth by region in 2026. It shows Asia-Pacific leading on numbers but North America leading on wealth, with Europe a clear third on both measures. Reading across the table shows the central paradox of the regional picture, that Asia-Pacific leads on the number of billionaires while North America leads on their combined wealth, a gap driven by the size of the largest American fortunes. Because the figures are annual snapshots grouped by region, the



exact totals depend on how countries are assigned to regions, but the broad ranking, with Asia-Pacific and North America far ahead, is clear and stable.

The Ranking

Which Region Has the Most Billionaires?

Asia-Pacific leads with about 1,229 billionaires, ahead of North America on about 1,071 and Europe on about 820. These three regions together are home to more than 90 percent of all the billionaires in the world. The concentration of more than nine in ten billionaires in just three regions is a striking illustration of how unevenly great wealth is distributed across the world, clustered in the advanced and fast-growing economies of Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe. Asia-Pacific 1,229 billionaires give it a clear lead over North America 1,071, and the gap between these two regions and third-placed Europe, on about 820, is itself larger than the entire billionaire population of every other region combined. The dominance of three regions, holding more than nine in ten of the world billionaires between them, underlines how the creation of great wealth remains tied to a handful of large and advanced economies, even as the balance among them shifts.

The rise of Asia-Pacific to the top reflects the rapid growth of China, India and other economies, whose billionaire populations have expanded quickly, a shift our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Region, 2026 Asia-Pacific leads.

Data:

Number of billionaires worldwide in 2026, by region, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with combined net worth in trillions of US dollars.

Note:

Regions follow the Forbes grouping; figures are the March 2026 snapshot. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia-Pacific leads: Asia-Pacific has about 1,229 billionaires, ahead of North America on 1,071 and Europe on 820, together more than 90 percent of the world total.

Behind the top three, Latin America has about 154 billionaires, the Middle East about 120, and Africa about 34, together making up less than a tenth of the world total, reflecting the concentration of great wealth in the largest economies. The small billionaire populations of Latin America, the Middle East and Africa reflect not any lack of wealthy individuals but the smaller scale of their economies and capital markets relative to



the great wealth centres of the world. Taken together, the regional ranking confirms that billionaire wealth is overwhelmingly concentrated in three regions, with the rest of the world, for all its population, home to only a small fraction of the great fortunes.

World Map

The Global Billionaire Map

The world map shows the billionaires of the world by country, shaded by number, revealing the regional pattern at a glance, with the dense gold of Asia-Pacific and North America standing out clearly against the rest of the world.

Billionaires by Country, 2026 (World Map)

The map underlines the regional story, with billionaire wealth concentrated in the great economies of Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe, and far thinner across Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Wealth

Which Region Holds the Most Wealth?

North America holds the most billionaire wealth of any region, with about 9.3 trillion dollars, ahead of Asia-Pacific on about 4.5 trillion and Europe on about 4 trillion, even though Asia-Pacific has more billionaires. The divergence between the region with the most billionaires and the region with the most wealth is one of the most revealing features of the global picture, showing that sheer numbers of billionaires do not always translate into the largest combined fortunes. North America 9.3 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth is more than double that of Asia-Pacific, on about 4.5 trillion, even though Asia-Pacific has some 150 more billionaires, a striking measure of how much larger the American fortunes are. The gap between numbers and wealth lies at the heart of the regional story, since a region can lead the world in the count of its billionaires while trailing badly in their combined fortunes, as Asia-Pacific does against North America.

The contrast reflects the enormous fortunes of the American technology founders, which make North American billionaires far richer on average, a dominance our largest asset managers coverage frames.

Billionaire Wealth by Region, 2026 (trillion USD) North America leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

North America leads: North American billionaires hold about 9.3 trillion dollars, more than double Asia-Pacific on 4.5 trillion, despite having fewer billionaires.

The gap between North American wealth and that of Asia-Pacific, despite the latter larger number of billionaires, is one of the most striking features of the regional picture, driven by the value of the largest American technology companies. The concentration of wealth in North America, holding more than a third of the world billionaire fortune despite having fewer billionaires than Asia-Pacific, is a direct reflection of the enormous value of the largest American technology companies. Whether North America retains its lead in billionaire wealth will depend above all on the fortunes of its technology sector, whose soaring valuations have driven the widening gap with every other region in recent years.

Share

How the World's Billionaires Split by Region

Asia-Pacific holds about 36 percent of the billionaires in the world, North America about 31 percent, and Europe about 24 percent. Together the three regions account for more than 90 percent of the world total. The share of billionaires held by each region captures the shifting geography of wealth creation, with Asia-Pacific now holding the largest slice, a position it has taken only in recent years as its economies have grown. Asia-Pacific 36 percent share of the world billionaires, ahead of North America 31 percent and Europe 24 percent, means that just three regions account for more than 90 percent of all the great fortunes in the world.

The concentration of billionaires in these three regions reflects the location of the largest and most advanced economies, which produce the vast majority of great fortunes, a pattern our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Share of World Billionaires by Region (%) Three regions dominate.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

Three regions dominate: Asia-Pacific holds about 36 percent of the world billionaires, North America 31 percent and Europe 24 percent, over 90 percent between them.

The small shares of Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, together less than a tenth of the world total, reflect the smaller size of their economies and capital markets relative to the great wealth centres of Asia, North America and Europe. The gradual shift in the regional shares, with Asia-Pacific rising and North America and Europe slipping in relative terms, captures the slow but steady rebalancing of the global economy toward the fast-growing economies of Asia.

Asia Rising

The Rise of Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific has risen to lead the world in billionaires, overtaking North America. Its billionaire population has grown from about 590 in 2015 to about 1,229 in 2026, driven above all by the rapid rise of China and India. The rise of Asia-Pacific to lead the world in billionaires is one of the defining economic stories of the past decade, a direct reflection of the rapid growth of China, India and the other large economies of the region. Asia-Pacific billionaire population has more than doubled since 2015, rising from about 590 to 1,229, a faster pace of growth than any other region and enough to lift it clear of North America at the top of the rankings. The steady climb of Asia-Pacific past North America in the number of billionaires marks a genuine turning point in the geography of global wealth, the first time the centre of gravity of the billionaire population has shifted decisively toward Asia.

The rise of Asia-Pacific marks a historic shift in the geography of great wealth, away from the traditional dominance of North America and Europe, a shift our [global stock markets by country coverage frames](#).

Billionaires by Region Over Time, 2015-2026 Asia-Pacific overtakes.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia-Pacific overtakes: the region billionaire population rose from about 590 in 2015 to 1,229 in 2026, overtaking North America to lead the world.

The growth has not been steady, with a surge in 2021 followed by a dip and then a strong recovery, but the long-term trend has been a clear rise in the Asian share of the world billionaire population. The volatility of the Asian billionaire population, surging in 2021 before dipping and recovering, reflects the ups and downs of the Chinese economy and markets, which dominate the regional total. Looking ahead, the continued rise of Asia-Pacific will depend on the growth of China, India and the other economies of the region, whose expanding wealth has reshaped the regional rankings over the past decade.

Inside Asia

Inside Asia-Pacific: The Leading Region

Asia-Pacific, the leading region, is dominated by China, which accounts for about half of its billionaires with 610. India follows with 229, then Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea, with Australia, Japan and Indonesia also prominent.

The dominance of China within Asia-Pacific reflects the scale of its economy and its rapid creation of wealth, while the rise of India, now the second-largest source in the region, reflects its fast-growing billionaire population.

Inside Asia-Pacific: Billionaires by Country, 2026 China and India lead the region.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

China and India lead the region: China accounts for about half of Asia-Pacific billionaires with 610, ahead of India on 229, with Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea following.

The spread of billionaires across many countries, from the great economies of China and India to the financial hubs of Singapore and Taipei, gives Asia-Pacific both the largest and the most diverse billionaire population of any region.

Richest

Where Are the Richest Billionaires?

North American billionaires are the richest on average, worth about 8.7 billion dollars each, followed by those in the Middle East on about 7.5 billion. Asia-Pacific billionaires, though the most numerous, are worth about 3.7 billion each on average. Comparing the average wealth of billionaires across regions reveals a striking pattern, with the fortunes of North America and the Middle East far larger on average than those of Asia-Pacific, despite the latter greater numbers. At about 8.7 billion dollars each, North American billionaires are worth more than twice as much on average as those in Asia-Pacific, on about 3.7 billion, a gap that reflects the concentration of the very largest fortunes in the United States.

The high average wealth in North America reflects the enormous fortunes of its technology founders, while the lower average in Asia-Pacific reflects its large number of newer and smaller fortunes, a contrast our [financial markets in the US](#) coverage frames.

Average Billionaire Wealth by Region (USD bn)North America richest.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars.Switch views with the toolbar.

North America richest: North American billionaires are worth about 8.7 billion dollars each on average, ahead of the Middle East on 7.5 billion, with Asia-Pacific on 3.7 billion.

The Middle East high average wealth reflects a small number of very large fortunes, while Africa lower average reflects its smaller and younger billionaire population, showing how the size of fortunes varies widely from region to region. The wide variation in average billionaire wealth across regions, from the very large fortunes of North America to the smaller ones of Africa, reflects both the maturity of each region wealth and the size of the companies behind its fortunes.

Movers

Which Regions Gained the Most in 2026?

Every region gained billionaires in 2026. Asia-Pacific added the most, about 129, followed by Europe with about 100 and North America with about 91, as booming stock markets around the world minted new fortunes. The pattern of gains across regions in a single year offers a real-time reading of where wealth is

being created, and in 2026 every region shared in the boom, though Asia-Pacific and Europe led the way in absolute numbers. Asia-Pacific gain of about 129 billionaires in 2026, the most of any region, was closely followed by Europe on about 100 and North America on about 91, as a strong year for global markets lifted fortunes everywhere.

The broad-based gains reflect the strong performance of global markets and the boom in technology and artificial intelligence, which created new fortunes across every region, a boom our currency reserves by country coverage frames.

Billionaires Added by Region, 2026 Every region grew.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

Every region grew: Asia-Pacific added about 129 billionaires in 2026, the most, followed by Europe with 100 and North America with 91.

The strong gains in Asia-Pacific and Europe, alongside North America, pushed the global total to a record, with new fortunes created faster than old ones were lost in every region of the world. The broad-based nature of the gains, with every region adding billionaires, shows how widely the boom in global markets and technology was shared, even as its benefits were concentrated at the very top of the wealth distribution.

Since 2021

How the Regions Changed Since 2021

Compared with 2021, every region has more billionaires. Asia-Pacific rose from about 1,150 to 1,229, North America from about 890 to 1,071, and Europe from about 700 to 820, as wealth grew across the world. Tracking how the regions have changed since 2021 reveals the churn beneath the headline totals, as North America has closed much of the gap with Asia-Pacific on the strength of its soaring technology fortunes. North America gained about 180 billionaires between 2021 and 2026, more than any other region in absolute terms, closing much of the gap with Asia-Pacific, whose growth slowed after its 2021 surge.

The gains in North America and Europe reflect strong markets and the technology boom, while Asia-Pacific slower growth from a 2021 peak reflects a tougher few years for China, a divergence our [Nasdaq stock market coverage frames](#).

Billionaires by Region, 2021 vs 2026 America closes the gap.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

America closes the gap: from 2021 to 2026 North America rose from about 890 billionaires to 1,071 and Europe from 700 to 820, while Asia-Pacific grew more slowly from its 2021 peak.

The shifts show that while Asia-Pacific remains the largest region by number of billionaires, North America has closed much of the gap since 2021, driven by the soaring fortunes of its technology founders. The narrowing of the gap between Asia-Pacific and North America since 2021 shows that the regional rankings are not fixed, and that a strong run for American technology fortunes can quickly shift the balance between the two leading regions.

Regional Leaders

The Leading Country in Each Region

Each region is led by a single dominant country. The United States leads North America with 989 billionaires, China leads Asia-Pacific with 610, and Germany leads Europe with 212, together accounting for a large share of their regions. The dominance of a single country within each region underlines how concentrated great wealth remains even at the regional level, with one economy typically accounting for a large share of its region billionaires. The United States 989 billionaires make up more than 90 percent of North America total, and China 610 account for about half of Asia-Pacific, showing how heavily each region depends on its single dominant economy.

Brazil leads Latin America with about 65 billionaires, Israel leads the Middle East with about 30, and South Africa leads Africa with about 10, each dominating its region, a concentration our [biggest companies by market value coverage frames](#).

The Leading Country in Each Region, 2026 One giant per region.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by region of residence; wealth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

One giant per region: the United States leads North America with 989 billionaires, China leads Asia-Pacific with 610, and Germany leads Europe with 212.

The dominance of a single country within each region, above all the United States in North America and China in Asia-Pacific, shows how concentrated great wealth is even within regions, clustered in the largest economies. The pattern of one dominant country per region, from the United States and China to Germany, Brazil and South Africa, shows how the geography of great wealth is shaped by a handful of large economies within each part of the world.

Key Facts

Billionaires by Region in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires with about 1,229, North America holds the most wealth with about 9.3 trillion dollars, and the three leading regions together hold more than 90 percent of the world total. These figures together make the regional distribution of billionaires one of the most revealing maps of global wealth, charting the rise of Asia-Pacific, the enduring wealth of North America, and the concentration of great fortunes in three dominant regions. The picture that emerges is of a world of great wealth concentrated in three dominant regions, led by Asia-Pacific in the number of its billionaires and by North America in their combined fortunes, with the rest of the world far behind.

The figures matter because the regional distribution of billionaires maps the changing balance of the world economy, increasingly toward Asia, a shift our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the global context.

1,229Asia-PacificMost billionaires. \$9.3TNorth AmericaMost wealth. 36%Asia-PacificOf the world. \$8.7BN. AmericaRichest on average.

Together these figures show a world in which billionaire wealth is concentrated in three regions, led by Asia-Pacific in numbers and North America in wealth, with the rest of the world holding only a small share.



Big Picture

Billionaire Population by Region: The Big Picture

Taken together, the regional picture of billionaires in 2026 maps the changing geography of great wealth, with Asia-Pacific leading in numbers and North America in wealth, a story our [gold as an investment](#) coverage sets against other assets.

Whether Asia-Pacific extends its lead in numbers and whether North America holds its lead in wealth will shape the picture for years, but great wealth remains concentrated in three regions, alongside the markets in our [crypto market](#), [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaires by Region

Asia-Pacific, with about 1,229 billionaires, ahead of North America on about 1,071 and Europe on about 820, according to the Forbes 2026 list.

North America, whose billionaires hold about 9.3 trillion dollars combined and are worth about 8.7 billion dollars each on average, the most of any region.

About 1,071 in 2026, led by the United States with 989 and Canada with about 82, holding the most billionaire wealth of any region.

About 820 in 2026, led by Germany with 212, Russia with 147 and Italy with 96, making it the third-largest region by number of billionaires.

About 34 in 2026, the fewest of any region, led by South Africa. Africa holds less than 1 percent of the world billionaire wealth.

Because of the rapid growth of China, India and other economies, whose billionaire populations have expanded quickly over the past decade.

Because of the enormous fortunes of its technology founders, which make North American billionaires far richer on average than those elsewhere.

Asia-Pacific has grown the most over the past decade, more than doubling its billionaire population since 2015, driven by China and India.



About 36 percent of the world total in 2026, the largest share of any region, ahead of North America on about 31 percent and Europe on 24 percent.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, grouped by region. Figures are the March 2026 snapshot and use the Forbes regional grouping.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the number of billionaires by region and their combined wealth.

Forbes regional data - Source for regional grouping, wealth and historical detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual ranking of billionaires by region.

Figures show the number of billionaires worldwide in 2026 by region, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with combined net worth in trillions of dollars. Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires, about 1,229, ahead of North America on 1,071 and Europe on 820. North America holds the most wealth, about 9.3 trillion dollars, and its billionaires are the richest on average. The three leading regions hold more than 90 percent of the world total. Figures are the March 2026 snapshot. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Most affluent people in the tech industry worldwide 2026, by net worth

Updated Aug 9, 2026 · businessstats.com/the-richest-people-in-the-us-tech-industry

\$839B ELON MUSK	\$257B LARRY PAGE	\$237B SERGEY BRIN
7/10 TOP ARE TECH	\$154B JENSEN HUANG	\$2.5T US TECH TOP 10

Overview

Wealthiest individuals in the technology industry worldwide as of March 2026, by net worth

Elon Musk is the wealthiest person in the technology industry and the world in 2026, worth about 839 billion dollars, far ahead of Google cofounders Larry Page on 257 billion and Sergey Brin on 237 billion. Technology dominates the global wealth ranking.

The technology industry has produced the largest fortunes in history, and in 2026 its leading figures sit at the very top of the global wealth ranking, far ahead of finance, fashion and every other sector.

On the Forbes March 2026 list, Elon Musk leads with about 839 billion dollars, ahead of Larry Page on 257 billion, Sergey Brin on 237 billion, Jeff Bezos on 230 billion and Mark Zuckerberg on 222 billion, the five fortunes above 200 billion dollars.

It is the clearest illustration of how completely technology has come to dominate the creation of great wealth, with its founders occupying seven of the ten highest places on the global rich list.

The rankings underline how the industries of the digital age, from electric vehicles and space to search, social media, cloud software and semiconductors, have overtaken the older sources of great wealth.

Musk owes his fortune to Tesla and above all his stake in SpaceX. The wider wealth picture sits in our [breakdown of billionaire wealth](#) and [billionaire wealth by industry](#) coverage.

Wealthiest Tech Billionaires, 2026 (USD bn)Musk leads by far.

Data:

Wealthiest individuals in the technology industry worldwide as of March 2026, by net worth, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Net worth is in US dollars, based on documented assets. Figures are the Forbes March 2026 snapshot.

Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

Musk leads by far: Elon Musk is worth about 839 billion dollars in 2026, more than three times the second-placed tech billionaire, Larry Page.

Seven of the ten richest people in the world are technology billionaires in 2026, reflecting the enormous value of the listed companies they built, a concentration our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

A note on the data. The figures show the wealthiest people in technology as of March 2026, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. Net worth is in US dollars, based on documented assets, and changes daily with share prices, so the exact figures are a snapshot.

A billionaire is defined here as an individual with a net worth of at least one billion US dollars, and technology billionaires are those whose main fortune derives from technology companies, as classified by Forbes.

Because net worth is based largely on the value of company shares, the figures change daily with share prices, so the Forbes March 2026 snapshot is a point-in-time estimate rather than a fixed sum.

The Ranking

Richest Tech Billionaires in March 2026

Wealthiest Technology Billionaires, March 2026Click any column to sort

NAME	MAIN COMPANY	NET WORTH
Elon Musk	Tesla, SpaceX	\$839B
Larry Page	Alphabet	\$257B
Sergey Brin	Alphabet	\$237B



Jeff Bezos	Amazon	\$230B
Mark Zuckerberg	Meta	\$222B
Larry Ellison	Oracle	\$190B
Steve Ballmer	Microsoft	\$165B
Jensen Huang	Nvidia	\$154B
Michael Dell	Dell	\$148B
Bill Gates	Microsoft	\$108B

The table sets out the wealthiest technology billionaires in March 2026 by net worth, with their main company. It is led by Elon Musk, whose fortune is larger than the next three combined, and dominated by American founders of listed tech giants.

Reading down the ranking shows Musk far ahead, the Google cofounders and Bezos clustered above 230 billion, and a long tail of fortunes from Ellison and Ballmer down to Gates on about 108 billion.

Since the fortunes are dominated by holdings in listed companies, the ranking can shift quickly, as it did later in 2026 when Michael Dell and others rose sharply on strong technology stocks.

The Top

Who Is the Richest Person in Tech?

Elon Musk stands far above the rest, worth about 839 billion dollars, more than the combined fortunes of the next three on the list. He became the first trillionaire in history in June 2026, after this March snapshot, following a record SpaceX valuation.

The scale of Musks lead over the rest of the technology elite is without precedent, and it reflects the extraordinary rise of both Tesla and his privately held rocket company SpaceX. His fortune alone is larger than the combined wealth of the founders of most other major technology companies, a gap that has widened steadily as Tesla and SpaceX have grown.

No individual has ever held such a commanding lead at the top of the Forbes ranking, and it has reshaped how the very summit of global wealth is understood.

Musk is followed by the two Google cofounders, Larry Page on about 257 billion dollars and Sergey Brin on about 237 billion, who climbed past Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison and Mark Zuckerberg over the past year, a

rise our [global stock markets](#) coverage frames.

Share of Top 10 Tech Wealth (%)Musk alone holds a third.

Data:

Wealthiest individuals in the technology industry worldwide as of March 2026, by net worth, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Net worth is in US dollars, based on documented assets. Figures are the Forbes March 2026 snapshot. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

Musk alone holds a third: Elon Musk holds about a third of the combined wealth of the ten richest tech billionaires, an unprecedented concentration.

Jeff Bezos of Amazon is worth about 230 billion dollars and Mark Zuckerberg of Meta about 222 billion, with the five richest tech billionaires all above 200 billion dollars, an unprecedented concentration of wealth at the very top of the industry.

The presence of five technology fortunes above 200 billion dollars, where only a few years ago none existed, is one of the clearest signs of how far and how fast wealth at the very top has grown.

By Company

Which Company Made the Most Wealth?

Grouped by company, Musks Tesla and SpaceX fortune of about 839 billion dollars leads, followed by Alphabet, the Google parent, on about 494 billion between Page and Brin, and Microsoft on about 273 billion between Steve Ballmer and Bill Gates.

Grouping the fortunes by company shows just how concentrated technology wealth is in the founders and early leaders of a small number of giant firms, from Tesla to Alphabet and Microsoft.

By company, Tesla and SpaceX give Musk about 839 billion dollars, Alphabet gives Page and Brin about 494 billion between them, and Microsoft gives Ballmer and Gates about 273 billion, the three largest company fortunes.

The concentration of the largest fortunes in a handful of firms shows how much of the industrys wealth is held by the founders and earliest leaders of its biggest companies.

The dominance of a handful of companies, from Alphabet to Amazon, Meta and Oracle, shows how concentrated technology wealth is in the founders and early leaders of a few giant firms, a concentration our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage frames.

Tech Wealth by Company (USD bn, stacked)Founders and co-founders.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices.Switch views with the toolbar.

Founders and co-founders: Google carries two of the ten richest through Page and Brin, and Microsoft two through Ballmer and Gates, as the stacked bars show.

Nvidia, whose chips power the artificial intelligence boom, has lifted cofounder Jensen Huang to about 154 billion dollars, while Michael Dell of Dell Technologies is worth about 148 billion, both riding the surge in demand for computing power.

The rise of Nvidia and the strength of Dell show how the demand for computing power behind the artificial intelligence boom has created and enlarged fortunes across the hardware side of technology.

Elon Musk

How Rich Is Elon Musk?

Elon Musks fortune has grown enormously, from about 27 billion dollars in 2020 to about 839 billion in March 2026, a roughly thirtyfold rise driven by Tesla and the soaring private valuation of SpaceX, now worth hundreds of billions.

The rise of Musks fortune over six years is one of the most remarkable wealth stories ever recorded, carrying him from the edge of the top ten to the first 800 billion dollar fortune in history.

His fortune has grown roughly thirtyfold in six years, from about 27 billion dollars in 2020, a pace of wealth creation without parallel in the history of the Forbes list.

The trajectory of his wealth, from the pandemic lows of 2020 to the record fortune of 2026, tracks the extraordinary rise of Tesla and the ballooning private valuation of SpaceX. The pace and scale of the

increase have made him not only the richest technology figure but the richest person ever recorded, by a wide margin, on the Forbes list.

The scale of Musks wealth is without precedent, larger than the entire fortune of any other person in history, a rise our [top global billionaires](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage tracks.

How Elon Musks Fortune Was Built (USD bn)A wealth bridge.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices.Switch views with the toolbar.

A wealth bridge: Elon Musks fortune grew from about 27 billion dollars in 2020 to about 839 billion in 2026, built on Tesla, SpaceX and xAI.

Much of Musks wealth is his stake in SpaceX, valued at about 800 billion dollars, rather than Tesla, marking a shift in the source of his fortune toward the private rocket company and its Starlink satellite business.

The shift in the source of Musks wealth toward SpaceX, valued at around 800 billion dollars, marks a change from the Tesla-driven fortune of earlier years toward his private space and satellite business.

Biggest Movers

Who Gained and Lost the Most?

The biggest gainers of the past year were Elon Musk, up about 116 billion dollars, and the Google cofounders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, each up more than 100 billion, as Alphabet folded artificial intelligence deeper into search and advertising.

The past year has reshuffled the technology ranking, rewarding the founders tied to the artificial intelligence boom and punishing those seen as spending heavily on it without yet reaping the rewards.

Over the past year Musk gained about 116 billion dollars and Page and Brin more than 100 billion each, while Larry Ellison, who briefly passed 400 billion in 2025, fell back to about 190 billion.

The reshuffling at the top, with the Google founders overtaking long-established names, shows how quickly the technology ranking can change as the fortunes behind it swing with the market.

Not everyone gained. Larry Ellison, who briefly crossed 400 billion dollars in 2025, fell back to about 190 billion, while Mark Zuckerberg also slipped, a divergence our [US financial markets](#) coverage frames through the swings in tech stocks.

Biggest Movers, 2025-2026 (USD bn)Winners and losers.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices.Switch views with the toolbar.

Winners and losers: Elon Musk added the most over the year and Michael Dell also gained, while Larry Ellison and Jeff Bezos lost ground as their shares fell.

The gap between the winners and losers maps almost perfectly onto the artificial intelligence boom, rewarding those who sell the chips, cloud services and models that power it, and punishing those seen as merely paying for them.

The clean split between the gainers and losers of the year, mapping onto who profits from the artificial intelligence boom, is the single most revealing feature of the 2026 technology ranking.

The AI Boom

How Has AI Changed Tech Wealth?

The clearest single driver of technology wealth in 2026 is artificial intelligence. Nvidia cofounder Jensen Huang has seen his fortune jump from about 4.7 billion dollars in 2020 to about 154 billion in 2026, the fastest rise among the tech elite.

Artificial intelligence has become the single most powerful force in technology wealth, minting new fortunes and reshaping old ones faster than any trend since the rise of the internet itself.

Nvidia cofounder Jensen Huang has seen his fortune rise from about 4.7 billion dollars in 2020 to about 154 billion in 2026, the fastest rise in the technology elite, as Nvidia shares rose more than 4,000 percent.

The AI boom has become the single biggest engine of new technology wealth, and Huang, whose chips power it, has been its greatest individual beneficiary among the established tech elite. The speed of



Huang's ascent, from relative obscurity outside the industry to one of the ten richest people in the world, captures the sheer force of the artificial intelligence boom.

Nvidia shares have risen more than 4,000 percent over seven years as its chips became the default hardware of the AI boom, a surge our [new technology wealth](#) coverage frames against other emerging fortunes.

AI-Linked Share of Tech Wealth, 2026 (%) AI drives the gains.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices. Switch views with the toolbar.

AI drives the gains: a large and rising share of tech billionaire wealth is now linked to artificial intelligence, the biggest single source of new fortunes in 2026.

There are now more than 80 artificial intelligence billionaires on the Forbes list, worth a collective 2.9 trillion dollars, with 45 of them reaching the billion dollar mark in a single year, the fastest wealth creation ever recorded.

The emergence of more than 80 artificial intelligence billionaires, most of them new, is the clearest measure of how completely the technology of the moment has taken over the creation of great wealth.

By Country

Which Country Has the Most Tech Wealth?

Technology wealth is overwhelmingly American. All ten of the richest tech billionaires in March 2026 are from the United States, whose tech founders hold about 2.5 trillion dollars between them, far ahead of any other country.

Technology wealth is more concentrated by geography than almost any other, with the very largest fortunes overwhelmingly American, built in the software, cloud and semiconductor firms of Silicon Valley and beyond.



All ten of the richest technology billionaires in March 2026 are American, holding about 2.5 trillion dollars between them, with China a distant second through the founders of firms such as ByteDance and Tencent.

The dominance of American technology fortunes reflects the concentration of the industrys largest firms in the United States, whose founders and early leaders hold the greatest wealth.

China is the second home of technology wealth, through founders such as those of ByteDance and Tencent, though its tech fortunes are far smaller than those of the United States, a gap our [billionaire population by region](#) coverage frames.

Tech Billionaires by Country, 2026 America dominates.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices. Switch views with the toolbar.

America dominates: the great majority of the worlds richest tech billionaires are American, led by the founders of Tesla, Google, Amazon and Meta.

The concentration of the very largest technology fortunes in the United States reflects the dominance of American firms in software, cloud, social media, semiconductors and space, the industries that have created the greatest wealth of the era.

The concentration of the largest technology fortunes in the United States reflects decades of American leadership in the industries that have created the most wealth, from software to semiconductors and space.

By Age

How Old Are the Tech Billionaires?

Technology billionaires span a wide range of ages. Mark Zuckerberg is the youngest of the top ten at 41, while Larry Ellison is the oldest at 81, with most of the rest in their fifties and sixties.

The technology elite spans two generations, from founders in their forties who built social and software empires to those in their seventies and eighties from the earlier era of enterprise computing.

The span of ages at the top, from a founder in his early forties to one in his eighties, is itself a mark of how technology has created wealth across more than one generation.

The presence of billionaires in their forties and fifties near the top of the ranking reflects how quickly technology can create wealth, far faster than the older industries, a pattern our [wealth per adult by country](#) coverage frames.

Tech Billionaire Net Worth by Age Band (USD bn avg) Wealth builds with age.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices. Switch views with the toolbar.

Wealth builds with age: average tech billionaire net worth rises through middle age as fortunes compound, before easing among the oldest founders.

The youngest tech billionaires, led by Zuckerberg, built their fortunes in social media and software, while the oldest, such as Ellison and Ballmer, came from the earlier era of enterprise software, spanning two generations of the industry.

The Surge

How Much Has Tech Wealth Grown?

The surge in technology wealth since 2020 has been extraordinary. Elon Musks fortune has grown from about 27 billion dollars to 839 billion, and Jensen Huang's from under 5 billion to 154 billion, while Bill Gates has slipped.

The surge in technology wealth since 2020 has been so large and so uneven that it has redrawn the global wealth ranking, lifting the AI and platform founders while leaving parts of the old guard behind.

The reshaping of the ranking since 2020, lifting Musk and Huang while leaving Gates behind, captures in a single picture how the sources of great technology wealth have shifted in just six years.

The reshaping of the ranking over six years is one of the clearest illustrations of how quickly great technology wealth can be created, and how unevenly it is distributed.



The uneven surge, lifting the founders of the AI and platform era while leaving others behind, has reshaped the ranking, a shift our [billionaire wealth by region](#) coverage frames through the geography of the gains.

Top 10 Tech Wealth and Growth, 2020-2026Value bars, growth line.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices.Switch views with the toolbar.

Value bars, growth line: the combined wealth of the top ten tech billionaires has multiplied since 2020, with growth peaking in the artificial intelligence boom.

Bill Gates, once the worlds richest man, has fallen to about 108 billion dollars as he transfers tens of billions to his foundation, the only member of the old guard to see his fortune barely move since 2020.

The near-flat trajectory of Bill Gates, once the richest man in the world, stands in stark contrast to the surging fortunes around him, a result of his large-scale transfers to philanthropy.

Tech vs the Rest

How Does Tech Compare to Other Industries?

Technology stands far above every other industry at the top of the wealth ranking. Seven of the ten richest people in the world are tech billionaires in 2026, and technology accounts for more than half of the wealth of the top twenty.

No other industry comes close to technology at the summit of global wealth, a dominance that has grown steadily as the listed value of its giant companies has soared.

Seven of the ten richest people in the world are technology billionaires in 2026, and technology accounts for more than half the wealth of the top twenty, far ahead of finance on around a tenth.

The dominance of technology over every other industry at the very top of the wealth ranking is the defining economic feature of the era, and it shows no sign of fading. The lead of technology over finance, fashion and every other industry at the summit of global wealth has become the single defining feature of the modern rich list.



The gap between technology and the next-largest industry, finance, at the very top of the wealth ranking has rarely been wider than it is in 2026.

The dominance of technology over finance, fashion and every other sector at the very top is the defining feature of the modern wealth ranking, a concentration our [billionaire wealth by gender](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage complements.

Tech vs Other Billionaire Industries (index, 0-100)How the sectors compare.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices.Switch views with the toolbar.

How the sectors compare: technology leads on average wealth, growth and new fortunes, finance on the number of billionaires, and industry on breadth, on an indexed scale.

No other industry comes close to technology at the summit of global wealth, reflecting the enormous listed value of the software, internet, semiconductor and platform companies that its billionaires founded and still largely own.

Key Facts

Richest Tech Billionaires in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Elon Musk leads the technology industry with about 839 billion dollars, the Google cofounders Page and Brin follow on 257 and 237 billion, and seven of the ten richest people in the world are tech billionaires.

These figures together map where the greatest wealth of the era is being made, in a handful of American technology companies whose founders now dominate the global rich list.

These figures matter because they show where the greatest wealth of the era is being created, a picture our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage sets in national context.

Tech Wealth Milestones (USD bn)Growth over time.

Data:



Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices. Switch views with the toolbar.

Growth over time: the wealth of the leading tech billionaires has grown many times over since 2020, driven by technology and artificial intelligence.

\$839B Elon Musk Richest in tech. 7 of 10 Top richest Are tech. \$154B Jensen Huang Fastest riser. \$2.5T US tech top 10 Combined.

Together they describe an industry that has produced the largest fortunes in history, concentrated in a handful of American founders whose wealth is the listed and private equity of the companies they built. For now, the technology industry stands unchallenged at the summit of global wealth, its leading founders holding fortunes that would have been unimaginable only a decade ago.

Big Picture

Tech Wealth in 2026: The Big Picture

Taken together, the wealthiest people in technology in March 2026 show an industry that dominates global wealth as never before, led by Elon Musk, whose fortune towers over the rest of the field.

Tech Billionaires by Wealth, Age and Company Bubble size shows company value.

Data:

Technology billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026.

Note:

Net worth reflects the value of company stakes and other assets on the Forbes snapshot date and changes daily with share prices. Switch views with the toolbar.

Bubble size shows company value: the richest tech billionaires cluster in their fifties and sixties, with Musk far out to the right on wealth. Position shows wealth against age.

Whether Musk and the AI-era founders hold their lead will depend on the technology stocks behind their fortunes, but in 2026 technology stands unchallenged at the summit of global wealth.



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Richest Tech Billionaires

Elon Musk, worth about 839 billion dollars on the Forbes March 2026 list, far ahead of Google cofounders Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

Elon Musk, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg, all worth more than 200 billion dollars as of March 2026.

About 839 billion dollars on the Forbes March 2026 list, mostly from his stake in SpaceX and Tesla. He became the first trillionaire in June 2026.

Tesla and SpaceX, through Elon Musk, followed by Alphabet, the Google parent, worth about 494 billion between Page and Brin.

Nvidia cofounder Jensen Huang, whose fortune jumped from about 4.7 billion dollars in 2020 to about 154 billion in 2026, driven by the AI boom.

Seven of the ten richest people in the world are technology billionaires in 2026, and tech accounts for more than half the wealth of the top twenty.

The United States. All ten of the richest tech billionaires in March 2026 are American, holding about 2.5 trillion dollars between them.

Because he has transferred tens of billions of dollars to his foundation. Once the worlds richest man, he is now worth about 108 billion dollars.

There are more than 80 artificial intelligence billionaires on the Forbes list, worth a collective 2.9 trillion dollars, 45 of them new in the past year.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list, March 2026 snapshot. Net worth is in US dollars, based on documented assets, and changes daily with share prices.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (March 2026 snapshot) - Source for the wealthiest individuals in the technology industry by net worth.

Forbes and Bloomberg billionaire data - Source for wealth changes, company and country detail, compiled by BusinessStats.



Forbes World Billionaires - Publishes the annual ranking of the world's richest people by net worth.

Figures show the wealthiest people in technology as of March 2026, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. Elon Musk leads on about 839 billion dollars, ahead of Larry Page on 257 billion and Sergey Brin on 237 billion. Seven of the ten richest people in the world are tech billionaires. Net worth is in US dollars, based on documented assets, and changes daily with share prices. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Number of billionaires in Europe in 2026, by country

 Updated Jul 26, 2026 · businessstats.com/ultra-wealthy-population-european-countries

211 GERMANY	147 RUSSIA	96 ITALY
820 EUROPE TOTAL	\$171B ARNAULT, RICHEST	24% OF WORLD

Overview

Number of billionaires in selected European countries in 2026

Germany has the most billionaires in Europe in 2026, about 211, followed by Russia on about 147 and Italy on about 96. The United Kingdom, France, Sweden and Switzerland make up the rest of the leading group, and Europe holds about 820 billionaires in total. The map of Europes billionaires is a map of the continents largest economies and financial centres, and in 2026 it is led by Germany to a degree that sets it apart from every other European country. On the 2026 figures, Germany has about 211 billionaires, Russia about 147, Italy about 96, the United Kingdom about 58, France about 52, Sweden about 45 and Switzerland about 42. The distribution of great wealth across Europe is one of the clearest maps of the continents economic geography, tracing the industrial power of Germany, the financial pull of Switzerland and Britain, and the luxury fortunes of France and Italy.

Europe is the third-largest region for billionaires after Asia-Pacific and North America. The regional picture sits in our [billionaire share by region](#), [billionaire population by region](#) and [top billionaire countries](#) coverage.

Billionaires in Europe by Country, 2022 vs 2026Germany leads, Italy surges.

Data:

Number of billionaires in selected European countries in 2026, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Figures follow the Forbes grouping and are the 2026 snapshot. Russian fortunes are valued on February 2022 ownership. Switch views with the toolbar.

Germany leads, Italy surges: Germany has about 211 billionaires in 2026, far ahead of Russia on 147 and Italy on 96, with Italy nearly doubling its total since 2022.

The rankings track the size of each economy but not perfectly, since financial hubs such as Switzerland and the United Kingdom hold more billionaires than their populations alone would suggest, a pattern our [largest economies by GDP coverage frames](#).

A note on the data. The figures show the number of billionaires in selected European countries in 2026, from the Forbes list. Counts are by country of citizenship, and Russian fortunes are valued on February 2022 ownership, before the invasion of Ukraine and later asset transfers. A billionaire is defined here as an individual with a net worth of at least one billion US dollars, and the counts are drawn from the Forbes World Billionaires list, the most widely used annual ranking. Counts are by country of citizenship rather than residence, which can cause some overlap for individuals who live outside their home country, and different lists assign a few countries, notably Turkey and Russia, to different regions.

The Table

Billionaires in Europe by Country

Billionaires in Europe by Country, 2026 Click any column to sort

COUNTRY	BILLIONAIRES	SHARE OF EUROPE
Germany	211	25.7%
Russia	147	17.9%
Italy	96	11.7%
United Kingdom	58	7.1%
France	52	6.3%
Sweden	45	5.5%
Switzerland	42	5.1%
Spain	34	4.1%
Turkey	32	3.9%

Norway

17

2.1%

The table sets out the number of billionaires in the leading European countries in 2026. It shows Germany, Russia and Italy far ahead, followed by a cluster of Western and Northern European economies, with a steep drop after the top few. Reading down the column shows the steep drop after the top three, with Germany, Russia and Italy far ahead of the cluster of Western and Northern European economies that follows. Because the figures are annual snapshots tied to share prices and exchange rates, the exact totals can move over the course of a year, though the broad ranking of European countries is stable.

The Map

Where Do Europes Billionaires Live?

Germany leads Europe with about 211 billionaires in 2026, far more than any other country on the continent. Their combined wealth is about 1.01 trillion dollars, and the number has grown rapidly, up from about 134 in 2022. Germanys lead among European billionaires is built on the same foundations as its economy, a large industrial base and an unusually high number of substantial family-owned companies that have created and preserved wealth over generations. Germany about 211 billionaires lead Europe with combined wealth of about 1.01 trillion dollars, up from about 134 billionaires in 2022, a rise of more than half in four years. Germany has pulled decisively clear of the rest of Europe over the past few years, and its lead now rests on a broad base of manufacturing, retail and family-controlled industrial groups rather than on any single sector or fortune.

The German lead reflects the countrys large industrial base and its many family-owned companies, from carmakers to retailers, a depth our [biggest companies by value](#) coverage frames through the firms behind the fortunes.

Billionaires in Europe by Country, 2026Shaded by the number of billionaires. Hover a country for its total.

100+50 to 9920 to 498 to 193 to 71 to 2

Germany leads Europe: Germany is home to about 211 billionaires in 2026, ahead of Russia on 147 and Italy on 96. Western and Northern Europe dominate, while much of the east and south has far fewer. Russian fortunes are valued on Forbes February 2022 ownership.

Share of Europes Billionaires by Country (%)Germany dominates.

Data:



Number of billionaires in selected European countries in 2026, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Figures follow the Forbes grouping and are the 2026 snapshot. Russian fortunes are valued on February 2022 ownership. Switch views with the toolbar.

Germany dominates: Germany holds about a quarter of Europe's billionaires, ahead of Russia and Italy, with the top three countries accounting for well over half the total.

Famous German billionaire families include the Quandts, who control BMW, the Reimanns of JAB Holding and the Schwarz family behind the Lidl and Kaufland retail empire, reflecting the industrial and consumer roots of German wealth. The prominence of these industrial and consumer dynasties, many of them controlling companies founded generations ago, is what gives German billionaire wealth its distinctive character, rooted in long-established family firms.

Russia

Why Is Russia Counted in Europe?

Russia is second in Europe with about 147 billionaires, though the figure carries an important caveat. Forbes values Russian fortunes on their February 2022 ownership, before the invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions and asset transfers that followed. The place of Russia in a European billionaire ranking is one of the more complicated questions in the data, since the fortunes are frozen at a 2022 valuation and the reality of who now controls them is far from clear. The Russian figure should therefore be read differently from the others in this ranking, since it reflects a frozen 2022 valuation rather than a current assessment of who owns the wealth.

The Russian total has been broadly stable since 2022, held in place by the freezing of ownership data, even as sanctions have complicated the real picture of who now controls the wealth held under those 2022 valuations.

Whether Russian billionaires belong in a European ranking is itself debated, since much of the wealth is now held abroad or through intermediaries, but on the Forbes grouping Russia remains the second-largest European source of great fortunes. For the purposes of this ranking Russia is included in Europe on the Forbes grouping, but readers should treat its total with more caution than any other, given the frozen valuations and the opacity of current ownership.

Italy

Which Country Is Growing Fastest?

Italy is third with about 96 billionaires, one of the fastest-growing totals in Europe, up from about 52 in 2022. The growth reflects strong performance in luxury goods, food and industry, the sectors behind many Italian fortunes. Italys rapid climb up the European billionaire ranking is one of the clearest success stories in the data, driven by the enduring global appeal of its luxury and consumer brands. Italy about 96 billionaires have grown from about 52 in 2022, a rise of about 85 percent, one of the fastest of any European country over the period. The Italian surge is one of the most remarkable trends in the European data, and it reflects both a strong run for the luxury and food sectors and the broader recovery of southern European markets since the difficult years of the early decade.

Italian wealth is spread across family firms in fashion, food and manufacturing, from Ferrero to Prada, a diversity rooted in the countrys deep base of family-owned industrial and consumer firms.

Billionaires Added Since 2022, by Country Germany and Italy lead.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

Germany and Italy lead: Germany added about 77 billionaires since 2022 and Italy about 44, the strongest gains of any European country.

European billionaire numbers have grown strongly since 2022. Germany added about 77 billionaires, Italy about 44 and the United Kingdom about 8, as European markets recovered and inflation eased. The growth of European billionaire numbers since 2022 has been strong and broad-based, reversing the stagnation of earlier years and lifting the continents total to a new high.

The growth reflects the rebound in European equity markets after a weak 2024, a recovery our [asset markets](#) coverage frames through the rally that lifted fortunes across the region.

The rapid rise of the Italian total, nearly doubling since 2022, is one of the strongest gains of any European country, reflecting the recovery of European markets and the enduring value of Italian luxury and consumer

brands. The strength of the Italian gain, among the largest of any European country since 2022, reflects both the recovery of European markets and the particular resilience of the luxury and food sectors that underpin many Italian fortunes.

The fastest growth has been in Germany and Italy, whose billionaire populations have risen by more than half since 2022, while the United Kingdom and some smaller countries have grown more slowly. The unevenness of the growth, concentrated in Germany and Italy, has widened the gap between the leading European economies and the smaller countries, reinforcing the concentration at the top of the ranking.

The Rest

Which Countries Follow?

Below the top three, the United Kingdom has about 58 billionaires, France about 52, Sweden about 45 and Switzerland about 42. These four together with the top three account for most of Europe's billionaires.

Below the leading three, a tight cluster of Western and Northern European economies holds the bulk of the remaining billionaires, with financial hubs punching well above their economic weight. The United Kingdom about 58 billionaires, France about 52, Sweden about 45 and Switzerland about 42 make up the next tier, followed by Spain on about 34 and Turkey on about 32. The countries just below the leading three form a tight and stable band, and small movements in stock prices or exchange rates are enough to reorder them from one year to the next.

The United Kingdom and Switzerland punch above their weight as financial hubs, holding more billionaires than their populations alone would suggest, a pattern our [financial markets](#) coverage frames through the role of capital markets.

European Billionaires, 2022 vs 2026 Growth across the top.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

Growth across the top: almost every leading European country added billionaires between 2022 and 2026, with Germany and Italy adding the most.

France is home to the two richest people in Europe, Bernard Arnault of luxury group LVMH and Françoise Bettencourt Meyers of L'Oréal, even though it ranks only fifth by number, showing that billionaire count and billionaire wealth are different measures. That France, fifth by number of billionaires, is home to the two richest people in Europe is the clearest illustration of the gap between counting billionaires and measuring their wealth.

The Richest

Who Are the Richest Europeans?

Europe's richest billionaires are worth far more than its most numerous. Bernard Arnault of France leads with about 171 billion dollars, followed by Amancio Ortega of Spain and Françoise Bettencourt Meyers of France. The gap between the countries with the most billionaires and those with the richest is one of the most striking features of the European picture, and nowhere is it clearer than in France. Bernard Arnault of France about 171 billion dollars leads Europe, ahead of Amancio Ortega of Spain and Françoise Bettencourt Meyers of France, the three largest European fortunes. The concentration of Europe's largest fortunes in France and Spain, rather than in the countries with the most billionaires, is one of the clearest illustrations of the difference between counting billionaires and measuring their wealth.

The largest European fortunes are built on luxury and consumer brands, from LVMH and L'Oréal to Zara owner Inditex, a concentration our [leading global billionaires](#) and [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores.

Richest Billionaires in Europe, 2026 (USD bn) France holds the fortunes.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

France holds the fortunes: Bernard Arnault of France leads Europe on about 171 billion dollars, ahead of Amancio Ortega of Spain and Françoise Bettencourt Meyers of France.

Arnault and Ortega are the only two centibillionaires in Europe, each worth more than 100 billion dollars, and both consistently rank among the ten richest people in the world, well ahead of any other European. The presence of two centibillionaires in France, each worth more than a hundred billion dollars, gives the

country a share of European billionaire wealth far larger than its share of billionaire numbers.

Wealth vs Number

Number of Billionaires vs Their Wealth

European billionaire wealth is concentrated in a few countries. Germany leads on combined wealth with about 1.01 trillion dollars, followed by France, whose smaller number of billionaires includes the two largest fortunes on the continent. Measuring European wealth by combined fortune rather than by headcount reorders the ranking, and it shows how much a small number of very large fortunes can outweigh a larger number of smaller ones.

The gap between the number of billionaires and their combined wealth is clear in Europe, where France ranks fifth by number but near the top by wealth, a distinction our [euro to dollar exchange rate coverage](#) frames through the value of European assets.

Combined Billionaire Wealth by Country (USD bn) Germany and France lead.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

Germany and France lead: Germany holds about 1.01 trillion dollars of billionaire wealth, but France, with fewer billionaires, holds the two largest fortunes in Europe.

Because billionaire wealth is tied to share prices and exchange rates, the wealth rankings can shift substantially over a year, even as the number of billionaires in each country changes only slowly. The sensitivity of the wealth rankings to markets and exchange rates means they should be read as snapshots, since a strong or weak year for European equities or for the euro can move the figures substantially.

Per Capita

Which Country Has the Most Per Person?

Measured against population, the ranking changes completely. Monaco has by far the most billionaires per head, with dozens per million residents, followed by Switzerland, Sweden and Norway, small countries with

concentrated wealth. Ranking European countries by billionaires per head rather than by absolute number produces an entirely different order, one dominated by small, wealthy states rather than the large economies. The per-capita ranking is dominated by small, wealthy states whose absolute billionaire numbers are modest but whose populations are so small that even a handful of fortunes produces an extraordinary density.

Billionaire density reflects financial hubs and tax regimes as much as economic size, which is why small, wealthy countries such as Monaco and Switzerland top the per-capita ranking, a pattern our wealth and economy coverage frames.

Billionaires per Million People, 2026 Monaco tops per capita.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

Monaco tops per capita: Monaco has by far the most billionaires per million residents, followed by Switzerland, Sweden and Norway, small countries with concentrated wealth.

The large economies of Germany, France and the United Kingdom rank far lower by density, since their billionaire counts, though high in absolute terms, are spread across much larger populations. The contrast between the absolute and per-capita rankings is a reminder that a country can hold a large number of billionaires without being especially dense in them, and vice versa.

Concentration

How Concentrated Is European Wealth?

European billionaire wealth is highly concentrated by country. The top five countries, Germany, Russia, Italy, the United Kingdom and France, together hold about two thirds of all the billionaires in Europe. The concentration of European billionaires in a handful of countries is one of the most consistent features of the data, and it closely tracks the distribution of the continents largest economies. The top five countries, Germany about 211, Russia about 147, Italy about 96, the United Kingdom about 58 and France about 52, together hold about 564 of Europes roughly 820 billionaires, about two thirds of the total. The

concentration of European billionaires in a few large economies has, if anything, deepened in recent years, as the fastest growth has come in the countries that already led the ranking.

The concentration reflects the location of Europe's largest economies and financial centres, a pattern our [global stock markets](#) coverage frames through the markets that create great fortunes.

Share Held by the Top Five Countries (%) Two thirds of Europe.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

Two thirds of Europe: the top five countries, Germany, Russia, Italy, the United Kingdom and France, hold about two thirds of all the billionaires in Europe.

Eastern and Southern Europe hold far fewer billionaires, with Spain, Turkey and Norway leading the next tier and much of the continent home to only a handful each, reflecting the smaller scale of their economies and markets. The thinness of great wealth across much of Eastern and Southern Europe reflects the smaller scale of those economies and their capital markets rather than any absence of prosperity.

Over Time

How Has Europe Changed?

Europe's billionaire population has grown steadily over the past decade, rising from about 490 in 2015 to about 820 in 2026, driven by the growth of Germany, Italy and the financial hubs. The steady growth of Europe's billionaire population over the past decade tells a story of rising wealth, even as the continent's share of the global total has slipped in the face of a faster-rising Asia.

The growth has lifted Europe to about a quarter of the world's billionaires, though it has slipped in relative terms as Asia-Pacific has risen faster in the same years, a shift that has reshaped the global ranking.

Europe's Billionaire Population, 2015-2026 A steady climb.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.



Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

A steady climb: Europes billionaire population has grown from about 490 in 2015 to about 820 in 2026, driven by Germany, Italy and the financial hubs.

Europes share of the worlds billionaires has fallen even as its absolute number has risen, reflecting the faster growth of Asia rather than any decline in European wealth, which has continued to grow throughout the period.

In the World

How Does Europe Compare Globally?

In global terms Europe is the third-largest region for billionaires, with about 820, behind Asia-Pacific on about 1,229 and North America on about 1,071. Together the three regions hold more than 90 percent of the worlds billionaires. Placed in a global context, Europe is a clear third among the regions, holding fewer billionaires than either Asia-Pacific or North America but still far more than the rest of the world combined. Europes position as a clear third among the worlds regions reflects both the enduring wealth of its largest economies and the faster rise of Asia, which has pushed the continent down the global ranking even as its own numbers have grown.

Europes position behind Asia-Pacific and North America reflects the rise of China, India and the United States, a shift our [billionaires around the world](#) and [high net worth individuals by country](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Region, 2026 Europe is third.

Data:

European billionaire data compiled by BusinessStats from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026.

Note:

Counts are by country of citizenship and vary slightly between lists. Some sources place Turkey in Europe, others in Asia or the Middle East. Switch views with the toolbar.

Europe is third: Europe holds about 820 billionaires, behind Asia-Pacific on about 1,229 and North America on about 1,071, together more than 90 percent of the world total.

Although Europe trails on numbers, its billionaires include some of the very richest in the world, so the continent holds a larger share of billionaire wealth than its share of billionaire numbers alone would suggest. The combination of fewer billionaires but some of the very largest fortunes gives Europe a distinctive profile, holding a larger share of global billionaire wealth than of global billionaire numbers.

Key Facts

Billionaires in Europe in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Germany leads Europe with about 211 billionaires, Russia has about 147 and Italy about 96, out of a European total of about 820, the third-largest of any region in the world. These figures together map the geography of great wealth in Europe, concentrated in the large economies of the west and the financial hubs, and led by Germany. Taken together, the numbers describe a European wealth map led decisively by Germany on count, by France on the size of its largest fortunes, and concentrated overwhelmingly in the west and north of the continent.

These figures matter because the distribution of billionaires maps the location of great wealth in Europe, a picture our [billionaire wealth by gender](#) coverage complements through the source of the largest fortunes.

211GermanyMost in Europe. 147RussiaSecond, 2022 basis. 96ItalyFastest riser. 820Europe totalThird region.

Together they describe a Europe where billionaires are concentrated in a handful of large economies and financial hubs, led by Germany, with the two richest individuals in France. For now, Germany leads the European billionaire ranking by a wide margin, but the richest European fortunes sit in France, a split that defines the continent's wealth.

Big Picture

Billionaires in Europe: The Big Picture

Taken together, the number of billionaires in European countries in 2026 shows Germany far ahead, a strong Western and Northern core, and a long tail across the rest of the continent, a distribution that closely tracks the size of each European economy.

Whether Germany extends its lead and whether Europe holds its share against a rising Asia will shape the picture for years, but great European wealth remains concentrated in a few large economies and financial centres.



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaires in Europe

Germany, with about 211 billionaires in 2026, far ahead of Russia on about 147 and Italy on about 96, according to the Forbes list.

About 820 in 2026, the third-largest of any region after Asia-Pacific and North America, spread across the large economies and financial hubs.

Bernard Arnault of France, worth about 171 billion dollars, the head of luxury group LVMH and one of the richest people in the world.

About 58 in 2026, placing it fourth in Europe behind Germany, Russia and Italy, boosted by its role as a global financial hub.

Because of its large industrial base and many family-owned companies, from carmakers like BMW to retailers like Lidl, which have created lasting fortunes.

Forbes groups Russia with Europe and values Russian fortunes on February 2022 ownership, before the invasion of Ukraine and later asset transfers.

Germany and Italy have grown fastest since 2022, each adding many billionaires, with Italy nearly doubling its total from about 52 to 96.

Monaco, with by far the most billionaires per million residents, followed by Switzerland, Sweden and Norway, small countries with concentrated wealth.

About a quarter, or 24 percent, of the world total in 2026, the third-largest share of any region behind Asia-Pacific and North America.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, counted by country of citizenship. Figures are the 2026 snapshot and vary slightly between lists.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the number of billionaires in European countries and their combined wealth.

Forbes regional and country data - Source for country counts, historical detail and the largest European fortunes, compiled by BusinessStats.



Forbes World Billionaires - Publishes the annual ranking of billionaires by country.

Figures show the number of billionaires in selected European countries in 2026, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. Germany leads with about 211, ahead of Russia on 147 and Italy on 96, out of a European total of about 820, the third-largest of any region. Bernard Arnault of France is the richest European on about 171 billion dollars. Counts are by country of citizenship, Russian fortunes are valued on February 2022 ownership, and some lists assign Turkey and Russia to different regions. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Youngest billionaires globally 2026, by net worth

Updated Aug 23, 2026 · businessstats.com/youngest-billionaires-in-the-world-based-on-net-worth

20 YOUNGEST (AMELIE)	35 UNDER 30	12 SELF-MADE
\$92B COMBINED	\$6.8B RICHEST YOUNG	22 YOUNGEST SELF-MADE

Overview

Youngest billionaires in the world as of June 2026, based on net worth

The youngest billionaire in the world in 2026 is Amelie Voigt Trejes, a 20-year-old heir to the Brazilian electric-motor maker WEG, worth about 1.1 billion dollars. A record 35 billionaires are under 30, worth about 92 billion dollars between them, of whom a record 12 are self-made. The list of the youngest billionaires in the world offers a striking portrait of how great wealth reaches the very young, whether through inheritance of a great family fortune or, increasingly, through the soaring valuations of a technology startup founded in the founders early twenties. On the 2026 Forbes list, the 35 billionaires under 30 are worth about 92 billion dollars between them, an average of more than 2.5 billion each, though the range runs from about 1 billion for the youngest heirs to nearly 7 billion for the richest. Few lists capture the changing face of great wealth as vividly as the ranking of the youngest billionaires, where the old world of inherited family fortunes meets the new world of self-made technology founders barely out of university.

Most of the youngest billionaires inherited their fortunes, but a growing number are self-made, led by young founders in artificial intelligence. The ranking builds on our most affluent women and [age distribution of billionaires](#) coverage.

Billionaires Under 30: Number and Combined WealthA record number.

Data:

Youngest billionaires in the world as of 2026, based on net worth, in billions of US dollars, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Based on the 35 billionaires under age 30 on the 2026 list; figures change with the markets. Switch views with the toolbar.

A record number: a record 35 billionaires are under 30 in 2026, up from 30 in 2025, though their combined wealth fell to about 92 billion dollars from 152 billion.

The under-30 billionaires make up about 1 percent of the world 3,428 billionaires, and their number has grown as huge technology funding rounds and family inheritances have minted more young billionaires, themes our [billionaires by gender](#) and [richest people in America](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the youngest billionaires in the world as of 2026, based on net worth, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. They are based on the 35 billionaires under age 30 on the 2026 list, and the figures change with the markets. Because the list is drawn from the annual Forbes ranking and net worths change with the markets, the exact figures and even the order of the youngest billionaires shift over time, but the broad picture, of a young rich still led by heirs, is stable. The youngest billionaires are identified from the annual Forbes World Billionaires list, which records the age of each billionaire, and the net worth figures are the 2026 values, which change with the markets and with company valuations.

The Table

The Youngest Billionaires in the World

Youngest Billionaires, 2026 Click any column to sort

NAME	AGE	NET WORTH (USD BN)	SOURCE	COUNTRY
1. Amelie Voigt Trejes	20	1.1B	WEG	Brazil
2. Johannes von Baumbach	20	6.4B	Boehringer Ingelheim	Germany
3. Livia Voigt de Assis	21	1.2B	WEG	Brazil
4. Clemente Del Vecchio	21	6.8B	EssilorLuxottica	Italy
5. Kim Jung-youn	22	1.5B	Nexon	South Korea
6. Surya Midha	22	2.2B	Mercor (AI)	United States

7. Brendan Foody	22	2.2B	Mercor (AI)	United States
8. Adarsh Hiremath	22	2.2B	Mercor (AI)	United States
9. Kevin David Lehmann	23	4.9B	dm-drogerie markt	Germany
10. Pedro Voigt Trejes	23	1.0B	WEG	Brazil
11. Luca Del Vecchio	24	6.8B	EssilorLuxottica	Italy
12. Franz von Baumbach	24	6.6B	Boehringer Ingelheim	Germany
13. Zahan Mistry	27	3.5B	Tata Sons	India
14. Maximilian von Baumbach	28	6.6B	Boehringer Ingelheim	Germany
15. Luana Lopes Lara	29	1.3B	Kalshi	Brazil

The table lists the youngest billionaires in the world in 2026 by age and net worth. It shows a mix of young heirs to great family fortunes and a growing group of self-made founders, most of them in artificial intelligence and prediction markets. Reading down the table shows the two faces of young wealth side by side, the 20-year-old heirs to industrial and pharmaceutical fortunes and the 22-year-old founders of artificial-intelligence startups, each having reached the billion-dollar mark in a very different way. Because private company valuations and share prices move, the exact net worths of the youngest billionaires, especially the self-made founders whose wealth is tied to fast-growing startups, can change sharply from one funding round to the next.

By Age

Who Is the Youngest Billionaire in the World?

The youngest billionaire in the world is Amelie Voigt Trejes, 20, an heir to the Brazilian electric-motor maker WEG, worth about 1.1 billion dollars. She is seven weeks younger than the German pharmaceutical heir Johannes von Baumbach, also 20, worth about 6.4 billion. The fact that the world youngest billionaire is just 20 years old, with a fortune inherited through a family trust, captures the way great wealth can arrive before a person has even finished university, long before most people begin their careers. Amelie Voigt Trejes about 1.1 billion dollars comes from a 2 percent stake in WEG, the Brazilian electric-motor giant her grandfather cofounded, one of seven Voigt cousins on the list who share a combined fortune of about 9.5 billion. The image of a 20-year-old worth more than a billion dollars, whether through inheritance or a fast-growing startup, is a striking illustration of how unevenly wealth is distributed, and of how early it can arrive

for a fortunate few.

The youngest billionaires are dominated by heirs to great family companies, from industrial machinery to pharmaceuticals and eyewear, who became billionaires young by inheriting large stakes, a pattern our [billionaires around the world](#) coverage frames.

The Youngest Billionaires by Age (net worth, USD bn)Aged 20 and up.

Data:

Youngest billionaires in the world as of 2026, based on net worth, in billions of US dollars, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Based on the 35 billionaires under age 30 on the 2026 list; figures change with the markets.Switch views with the toolbar.

Aged 20 and up: the youngest billionaire is Amelie Voigt Trejes at 20 on about 1.1 billion dollars, alongside the pharma heir Johannes von Baumbach, also 20, on 6.4 billion.

Behind the youngest two come a cluster of 21 and 22-year-olds, including the Italian eyewear heir Clemente Del Vecchio and the South Korean gaming heir Kim Jung-youn, alongside the self-made founders of the artificial-intelligence startup Mercor. The presence of several members of the same families, such as the Voigt cousins from Brazil and the von Baumbach siblings from Germany, reflects how great family fortunes can create several young billionaires at once when large stakes are passed down.

The Richest

Who Are the Richest Young Billionaires?

The richest of the under-30 billionaires are the Italian brothers Clemente and Luca Del Vecchio, each worth about 6.8 billion dollars from their stakes in the eyewear group EssilorLuxottica, followed closely by the four von Baumbach siblings on about 6.6 billion each. The concentration of the largest young fortunes among heirs to great family companies shows that, for now, the biggest young billionaires are made by inheritance rather than by building a business, even as the self-made founders grab the headlines.

Clemente and Luca Del Vecchio about 6.8 billion dollars each, from their stakes in the eyewear group EssilorLuxottica, make them the richest of the under-30s, ahead of the four von Baumbach siblings on about 6.6 billion each from the drugmaker Boehringer Ingelheim.

The dominance of heirs among the richest young billionaires shows how the largest young fortunes come from inheriting stakes in great family companies rather than building new ones, a pattern our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

The Richest Under-30 Billionaires (USD bn)Heirs on top.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Heirs on top: the richest young billionaires are the eyewear heirs Clemente and Luca Del Vecchio on about 6.8 billion dollars each, and the von Baumbach siblings on 6.6 billion.

The richest self-made young billionaires, the founders of the artificial-intelligence startup Mercor, are worth about 2.2 billion dollars each, far less than the largest inherited fortunes but built entirely from scratch in just a few years. The gap between the largest inherited fortunes, worth close to 7 billion dollars, and the largest self-made young fortunes, worth about 2 billion, shows how far ahead inherited wealth remains even at the very top of the young billionaire list.

Wealth Source

Self-Made or Inherited?

Most of the youngest billionaires inherited their wealth. Of the 35 under-30 billionaires in 2026, about 23 inherited their fortunes, while a record 12 are self-made, the highest number of self-made young billionaires ever recorded. The balance between inherited and self-made wealth among the youngest billionaires is one of the most revealing features of the list, showing that while inheritance still dominates, a record number of the young rich have built their own fortunes. With about 23 of the 35 under-30 billionaires having inherited their fortunes and a record 12 self-made, the young billionaire class remains dominated by heirs, though the self-made share, at about a third, is the highest ever. The tug-of-war between inherited and self-made wealth is nowhere clearer than among the youngest billionaires, where the record number of self-made founders sits alongside a still larger group of heirs to great family businesses.



The rise in self-made young billionaires reflects the huge funding rounds flowing into artificial-intelligence startups, which have created several very young self-made billionaires in the past year, a boom our [sources of billionaire wealth coverage frames](#).

Under-30 Billionaires: Self-Made vs Inherited Mostly heirs.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Mostly heirs: of the 35 under-30 billionaires, about 23 inherited their fortunes while a record 12 are self-made, the highest number ever.

Even so, inheritance remains the most common route to becoming a billionaire before 30, with most of the youngest billionaires holding large stakes in family companies in industrial machinery, pharmaceuticals, retail and eyewear. The enduring dominance of inheritance among the youngest billionaires is a reminder that, for all the attention paid to self-made technology founders, the surest route to great wealth before 30 remains being born into a family that already has it. Looking ahead, the share of self-made young billionaires seems likely to keep rising if the artificial-intelligence boom continues, though inheritance will remain the most common route to great wealth before the age of 30.

Self-Made

The Youngest Self-Made Billionaires

The youngest self-made billionaire in the world is Surya Midha, 22, who cofounded the artificial-intelligence recruiting startup Mercor with Brendan Foody and Adarsh Hiremath, also 22. Each is worth about 2.2 billion dollars, or roughly 100 million dollars for every year they have been alive. The rise of self-made billionaires still in their early twenties, above all the founders of artificial-intelligence startups, is one of the most remarkable features of the 2026 list, reflecting the extraordinary speed at which the technology boom is creating wealth. Surya Midha, Brendan Foody and Adarsh Hiremath, the founders of the artificial-intelligence recruiting startup Mercor, are each about 22 years old and worth about 2.2 billion dollars, having built their fortunes in just a few years. The emergence of self-made billionaires in their early twenties, unimaginable a generation ago, is one of the defining features of the current technology boom,

which has compressed the path from startup to great fortune into just a few years.

The wave of very young self-made billionaires reflects the artificial-intelligence boom, which has lifted the founders of startups such as Mercor, Polymarket and Kalshi into the billionaire ranks in their twenties, a boom our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

The Youngest Self-Made Billionaires (net worth, USD bn)Led by Mercor.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Led by Mercor: the youngest self-made billionaire is Surya Midha, 22, of the AI startup Mercor, worth about 2.2 billion dollars, alongside his two cofounders.

Other young self-made billionaires include Shayne Coplan, the founder of the prediction market Polymarket, and Luana Lopes Lara of Kalshi, the youngest self-made woman billionaire, showing how prediction markets and artificial intelligence are minting young fortunes. The clustering of the youngest self-made billionaires in prediction markets and artificial intelligence, from Mercor to Polymarket and Kalshi, reflects how a handful of fast-growing sectors are minting young fortunes faster than anywhere else. Whether these very young self-made fortunes endure will depend on the fate of the startups behind them, since much of their wealth is tied to private valuations that could rise or fall sharply in the years ahead.

By Industry

Which Industries Made Them Rich?

The youngest billionaires made their money in a wide range of industries. Technology and artificial intelligence account for the most, about eight of the 35, followed by industrial machinery, pharmaceuticals and finance, reflecting both new startups and old family firms. The range of industries behind the youngest billionaires, from artificial intelligence and prediction markets to eyewear, drugstores and electric motors, reflects the two very different routes to great young wealth, new startups and old family firms.

The prominence of technology and artificial intelligence among the youngest billionaires reflects the way huge funding rounds have created young self-made fortunes, while the family firms reflect inherited



wealth, a mix our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Under-30 Billionaires by IndustryTechnology leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Technology leads: technology and artificial intelligence account for about eight of the 35 youngest billionaires, ahead of machinery, pharmaceuticals and finance.

Outside technology, the youngest billionaires are concentrated in the great family industries, from the electric motors of WEG and the eyewear of EssilorLuxottica to the pharmaceuticals of Boehringer Ingelheim and the drugstores of dm. The split between the technology startups that create self-made young billionaires and the family firms that create young heirs runs through the whole list, dividing the youngest billionaires into two very different groups.

By Country

Where the Youngest Billionaires Live

The youngest billionaires are concentrated in a few countries. The United States is home to about eight, all self-made, followed by Germany with about six and Brazil with five, mostly heirs to great family fortunes such as WEG and Boehringer Ingelheim. The geography of the youngest billionaires reflects the split between self-made and inherited wealth, with the United States producing self-made technology founders and Europe and Latin America producing heirs to great family companies. The United States about eight under-30 billionaires are all self-made, mostly in technology, while Germany six and Brazil five are mostly heirs, reflecting the very different sources of young wealth in each country. The map of the youngest billionaires traces the two engines of young wealth, the self-made technology fortunes of the United States and the inherited family fortunes of Europe, Latin America and Asia.

The American under-30 billionaires are all self-made, mostly in technology, while the European and Latin American young billionaires mostly inherited their fortunes, a contrast our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage frames.



Under-30 Billionaires by CountryThe US and Germany lead.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

The US and Germany lead: the United States has about eight young billionaires, all self-made, followed by Germany with six and Brazil with five, mostly heirs.

Beyond the leaders, young billionaires come from South Korea, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden, reflecting where great family fortunes have been passed to the next generation and where new self-made fortunes have been built. The spread of the youngest billionaires across a dozen countries, from the United States and Germany to Brazil, South Korea and India, reflects the global reach of both the technology boom and the great family dynasties.

By Gender

Young Billionaires by Gender

Most of the youngest billionaires are men. Of the 35 under-30 billionaires in 2026, about 25 are men and about 10 are women, a gender gap that mirrors, though slightly narrows, the wider imbalance among billionaires as a whole. The gender balance among the youngest billionaires, while still heavily male, is slightly less lopsided than among billionaires as a whole, a hint that the next generation of great wealth may be a little more evenly shared. Of the 35 under-30 billionaires, about 25 are men and about 10 are women, so women make up around 29 percent of the youngest billionaires, a higher share than the 14 percent among billionaires as a whole.

The women among the youngest billionaires include heirs such as Amelie Voigt Trejes and Kim Jung-youn and the self-made Luana Lopes Lara, showing that young women reach the billionaire ranks through both inheritance and their own businesses, a pattern our [leading billionaires](#) coverage frames.

Under-30 Billionaires by GenderMostly men.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Mostly men: about 25 of the 35 under-30 billionaires are men and about 10 are women, a slightly narrower gender gap than among billionaires as a whole.

The slightly higher share of women among the youngest billionaires than among billionaires as a whole hints at a gradual narrowing of the gender gap, as more young women inherit or build great fortunes. The slightly higher share of women among the youngest billionaires than among the billionaire population as a whole, though still small, offers a tentative sign that the gender gap in great wealth may narrow in the generations to come.

The Ages

The Ages of the Under-30 Billionaires

The under-30 billionaires span the ages of 20 to 29. The youngest, Amelie Voigt Trejes and Johannes von Baumbach, are 20, while the largest single group are the 22-year-olds, including the three self-made founders of Mercor. The spread of ages among the under-30 billionaires, from 20 to 29, reflects the different ways great wealth arrives young, from the moment of inheritance to the sudden surge in value of a young technology company. The under-30 billionaires range in age from 20 to 29, with the youngest, Amelie Voigt Trejes and Johannes von Baumbach, at 20, and the largest single group, including the three Mercor founders, at 22.

The spread of ages reflects the different routes to becoming a billionaire young, with heirs often becoming billionaires the moment they inherit and self-made founders reaching the mark as their startups soar in value, a pattern our largest asset managers coverage frames.

The Ages of the Under-30 Billionaires From 20 to 29.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

From 20 to 29: the under-30 billionaires range in age from 20 to 29, with the largest single group, including the three Mercor founders, at 22.

With billionaires as young as 20, the under-30 group is a reminder that great wealth can come very early, whether through inheritance or through the soaring valuations of a young technology startup. The concentration of the youngest billionaires in their early twenties, with several at just 20 and a large group at 22, underlines how the combination of inheritance and the technology boom is creating billionaires at ever younger ages.

Since 2025

How the Group Changed Since 2025

The under-30 group has grown but become less wealthy. The number of under-30 billionaires rose to a record 35 in 2026 from 30 in 2025, but their combined wealth fell to about 92 billion dollars from about 152 billion, as several richer members aged past 30. The way the under-30 group grew in number but shrank in combined wealth captures the churn at the very top of young wealth, as the richest members age out and a larger but less wealthy cohort takes their place. The number of under-30 billionaires rose from 30 in 2025 to a record 35 in 2026, even as their combined wealth fell from about 152 billion dollars to about 92 billion, as several richer members aged past 30.

The fall in combined wealth reflects the way the wealthiest young billionaires of last year, then in their early thirties, aged out of the under-30 group, leaving a larger but less wealthy cohort, a shift our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

Under-30 Billionaires by Region, 2025 vs 2026A shifting group.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Ages and net worths are the 2026 snapshot; some breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

A shifting group: the number of under-30 billionaires rose in North America and Latin America from 2025 to 2026, while it edged down in Europe.

The growth in the number of under-30 billionaires, even as their combined wealth fell, reflects the rising number of young people reaching the billion-dollar mark, driven by both inheritance and the artificial-intelligence boom. The record number of under-30 billionaires, even amid a fall in their combined wealth, points to a long-term trend of great wealth reaching younger people, driven by both family inheritance and the soaring valuations of young startups. The long-term trend toward younger billionaires, driven by both inheritance and the technology boom, looks set to continue, even if the combined wealth of any single year cohort rises and falls with the markets.

Key Facts

The Youngest Billionaires in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. The youngest billionaire is Amelie Voigt Trejes at 20, there are a record 35 billionaires under 30, worth about 92 billion dollars between them, and a record 12 are self-made. These figures together map the youngest billionaires of 2026, a group still dominated by heirs but with a record number of self-made founders, above all in artificial intelligence, rising fast through the ranks. The overall picture is of a young billionaire class in transition, still led by heirs but with a rising tide of self-made founders, above all in artificial intelligence, reshaping the ranks of the very youngest rich.

The figures matter because the youngest billionaires reveal how great wealth is created and passed on, increasingly through technology as well as inheritance, a picture our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the global context.

20Amelie VoigtYoungest billionaire. 35Under 30A record. 12Self-madeA record. \$6.8BDei VecchioRichest young.

Together these figures show a young billionaire class still dominated by heirs to great family fortunes, but with a record number of self-made founders, above all in artificial intelligence, rising fast.

Big Picture

The Youngest Billionaires: The Big Picture

Taken together, the youngest billionaires of 2026 map how great wealth reaches the young, through inheritance and, increasingly, through the artificial-intelligence boom, a story our [gold as an investment](#) coverage sets against other assets.

Whether more young people build their own fortunes will depend on the technology cycle, but the number of young billionaires has never been higher, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Youngest Billionaires

Amelie Voigt Trejes, a 20-year-old Brazilian heir to the electric-motor maker WEG, worth about 1.1 billion dollars, the youngest billionaire in the world.

A record 35 in 2026, about 1 percent of the world 3,428 billionaires, worth about 92 billion dollars between them, of whom a record 12 are self-made.

Surya Midha, 22, who cofounded the artificial-intelligence recruiting startup Mercor with two others, each worth about 2.2 billion dollars.

The Italian eyewear heirs Clemente and Luca Del Vecchio, each worth about 6.8 billion dollars from their stakes in EssilorLuxottica.

Mostly heirs. Of the 35 under-30 billionaires, about 23 inherited their fortunes, while a record 12 are self-made, mostly in artificial intelligence.

About 92 billion dollars between them in 2026, down from about 152 billion in 2025, as several richer members aged past 30.

The United States, home to about eight, all self-made, followed by Germany with about six and Brazil with five, mostly heirs.

Mostly by inheriting stakes in family firms in machinery, pharmaceuticals, retail and eyewear, with a growing number self-made in artificial intelligence.

Luana Lopes Lara, 29, a Brazilian cofounder of the prediction-market firm Kalshi, worth about 1.3 billion dollars, among the youngest self-made billionaires.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, which identifies the billionaires under age 30. Figures are the 2026 snapshot and change with markets.

Sources



Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the youngest billionaires in the world by age and net worth.

Forbes Youngest Billionaires and wealth-research data - Source for the source-of-wealth, country and industry detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

Forbes World Billionaires - Publishes the annual data on the youngest billionaires.

Figures show the youngest billionaires in the world as of 2026, based on net worth, from the Forbes World Billionaires list. The youngest is Amelie Voigt Trejes at 20. A record 35 billionaires are under 30, worth about 92 billion dollars between them, a record 12 of them self-made. Country, industry and gender breakdowns are estimates. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Number of billionaires worldwide by wealth source 2026

Updated Jul 7, 2026 · businessstats.com/sources-of-wealth-of-global-billionaires

65% SELF-MADE	18% INHERITED	18% COMBINATION
53% WOMEN INHERIT	512 FINANCE	85% CHINA SELF-MADE

Overview

Number of billionaires around the world in 2026, by wealth source and gender

About 65 percent of the world billionaires are self-made in 2026, while the rest inherited their fortunes or built on an inherited base. The picture differs sharply by gender, with men mostly self-made and women mostly inheriting their wealth. How the world billionaires made their money is one of the most revealing measures of how great wealth is created and passed down, distinguishing the self-made entrepreneurs who built their fortunes from scratch from the heirs who inherited theirs. On the 2026 Forbes list, roughly two in three of the 3,428 billionaires built their own fortunes, while the rest inherited theirs or grew an inherited base, a balance that shifts dramatically when the figures are split by gender. The distinction between self-made and inherited wealth has long been one of the most debated aspects of the billionaire class, touching on questions of merit, opportunity and the way great fortunes are handed down from one generation to the next. Split by gender, the source of billionaire wealth reveals two very different worlds, one of self-made men who built their fortunes through business, and one of women who, in the majority of cases, inherited theirs from fathers or husbands.

Of the 3,428 billionaires in the world, most men made their own fortunes, while most women inherited theirs. The breakdown builds on our [pandemic wealth gains](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage.

Billionaires by Wealth Source and Gender, 2026Men self-made, women heirs.

Data:

Number of billionaires around the world in 2026, by wealth source and gender, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data.

Note:

Wealth source is grouped as self-made, inherited, or a combination of the two. Switch views with the toolbar.

Men self-made, women heirs: most male billionaires built their own fortunes, while most women inherited theirs, the reverse of the pattern among men, across all three wealth sources.

The share of self-made billionaires has risen over the years, driven by the wealth created in technology, though inheritance remains a major route to great wealth, especially in older industries and among women, a shift our [Nasdaq stock market](#) and [age distribution of billionaires](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the number of billionaires around the world in 2026 by wealth source and gender, from the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data. Wealth source is grouped as self-made, inherited, or a combination of the two. Because the way each billionaire made their fortune is not always clear-cut, the classification into self-made, inherited and combination involves some judgement, so the finer figures are best read as approximate rather than exact. The gender split is based on the roughly 481 women identified among the 3,428 billionaires on the 2026 Forbes list, and the source categories follow the common Wealth-X grouping of self-made, inherited and combination.

The Table

Billionaires by Wealth Source

Billionaires by Wealth Source and Gender, 2026 Click any column to sort

WEALTH SOURCE	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Self-made	2,150	82	2,232
Combination (inherited and grown)	470	144	614
Inherited	327	255	582

The table shows the number of billionaires in 2026 by wealth source, split by gender. It shows self-made men as by far the largest group, and inherited wealth as the main route for women. Reading across the

table shows the central pattern, that self-made men are by far the largest single group of billionaires, while inheritance is the main route to wealth for the much smaller number of women. Because the classification of wealth source involves some judgement and the exact figures are not always public, the numbers should be treated as close approximations, but the broad pattern, of self-made men and inherited female fortunes, is clear.

Self-Made or Heirs

Are Most Billionaires Self-Made or Heirs?

About 65 percent of billionaires are self-made, having built their fortunes through business rather than inheritance. Around 18 percent inherited their wealth outright, and another 18 percent built on an inherited base, growing a family fortune into a larger one. The balance between self-made and inherited wealth lies at the heart of any picture of the billionaire class, capturing the tension between entrepreneurship and inheritance as the two great routes to a ten-figure fortune. With about 65 percent of billionaires self-made, roughly 18 percent pure heirs and another 18 percent growing an inherited fortune, entrepreneurship has become the dominant route to a ten-figure fortune, though inheritance remains close behind. The classification of billionaires by how they made their money, though it involves some judgement at the margins, offers one of the clearest windows into the changing nature of great wealth, and into the balance between entrepreneurship and inheritance.

The dominance of self-made wealth reflects the rise of entrepreneurship, especially in technology, which has created a wave of new fortunes, a shift our leading billionaires coverage frames.

Billionaires by Wealth Source, 2026 (%)Most are self-made.

Data:

Number of billionaires around the world in 2026, by wealth source and gender, based on the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data.

Note:

Wealth source is grouped as self-made, inherited, or a combination of the two. Switch views with the toolbar.

Most are self-made: about 65 percent of billionaires are self-made, about 18 percent inherited their wealth outright, and another 18 percent built on an inherited base.



The share that inherited or built on inherited wealth, together about 35 percent, shows that family fortunes remain a major route to great wealth, passed down and often grown across generations in industries from retail to manufacturing. The persistence of inherited wealth, together accounting for about a third of all billionaires, is a reminder that for all the rise of the self-made entrepreneur, family fortunes remain one of the surest routes to great wealth. Taken together, the source breakdown confirms that while entrepreneurship has become the leading route to great wealth, inheritance remains a powerful force, accounting for about a third of all the billionaires in the world. The endurance of inherited wealth, even as the self-made share has risen, reflects the sheer size and longevity of the great family fortunes, many of which have been grown rather than merely preserved across the generations.

By Industry

Which Industries Create the Most Billionaires?

Billionaire fortunes are spread across many industries. In 2026 Finance and Investments produced the most billionaires, with about 512, narrowly ahead of Manufacturing on 468 and Technology on 467. Fashion and Retail followed with about 297. The spread of billionaire fortunes across many industries reflects the many different ways great wealth can be built, from the fast-moving worlds of technology and finance to the older dynasties of fashion, retail and manufacturing. With about 512 billionaires, Finance and Investments narrowly leads Manufacturing on 468 and Technology on 467, though the largest individual fortunes, including those of the technology founders, mean technology dominates by wealth. The industries that produce the most billionaires have shifted over time, with technology rising to rival the long-dominant worlds of finance and manufacturing, a change that reflects the broader transformation of the global economy.

The three leading sectors are closely matched by number, though Technology fortunes are by far the largest, since the biggest individual fortunes are built on technology companies, a concentration our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Industry, 2026 Finance, industry and tech.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Finance, industry and tech: Finance and Investments produced about 512 billionaires in 2026, ahead of Manufacturing on 468 and Technology on 467.

Beyond the top three, Fashion and Retail, Food and Beverage, Healthcare and Real Estate each produce a large number of billionaires, reflecting the many industries in which great fortunes are built and inherited. The breadth of industries producing billionaires, from technology and finance to fashion and food, reflects the many different paths to great wealth, each shaped by its own mix of entrepreneurship and inheritance. The presence of so many billionaires in consumer-facing industries such as fashion, food and retail reflects the enduring power of the family dynasties that dominate these sectors, passing their fortunes down through the generations.

The Rise

The Rise of the Self-Made Billionaire

The share of self-made billionaires has risen steadily, from about 58 percent in 2010 to about 65 percent in 2026. The rise reflects the wealth created by new industries, above all technology, which has produced a wave of self-made fortunes. The steady rise in the share of self-made billionaires is one of the clearer signs of how the creation of great wealth has changed, shifting gradually away from inheritance and toward entrepreneurship over the past decade and a half. The rise in the self-made share, from about 58 percent in 2010 to 65 percent in 2026, reflects the wave of new fortunes created in technology, which has produced more self-made billionaires than any other industry.

The rise of the self-made billionaire marks a shift in how great wealth is built, away from inheritance and toward entrepreneurship, a change our [global stock markets by country coverage frames](#).

Self-Made Share Over Time (%)A steady rise.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

A steady rise: the share of self-made billionaires rose from about 58 percent in 2010 to about 65 percent in 2026, driven by technology.



The trend has been driven above all by technology, where founders can build enormous fortunes quickly, though inheritance remains a major route to wealth, especially in older industries and among women. The rise of the self-made billionaire, though steady, has not displaced inheritance, which remains a major route to wealth, particularly in the older industries and economies where family businesses still dominate. Looking ahead, the self-made share may keep rising if the technology and artificial-intelligence boom continues to create new fortunes, though the great family dynasties show no sign of fading from the ranks of the ultra-rich. The rise of the self-made billionaire is likely to continue as long as new industries keep creating fortunes at speed, though the great inherited fortunes show every sign of enduring alongside them for generations to come.

By Gender

Where Men and Women Make Their Fortunes

Men and women tend to make their fortunes in different industries. Men are spread across finance, technology and manufacturing, while women billionaires are concentrated in fashion, retail and consumer goods, often through inherited family businesses. The sharp difference in the industries where men and women build their fortunes is one of the most revealing features of the billionaire data, pointing to the central role of inherited family businesses in most great female fortunes. While men are spread across finance, technology and manufacturing, women billionaires are concentrated in fashion, retail and food, the industries of the great family dynasties that account for most inherited female fortunes. The stark difference in where men and women build their fortunes is among the most telling patterns in the wealth data, revealing how much the female billionaire ranks depend on the inherited fortunes of consumer-facing family dynasties.

The concentration of women in consumer-facing industries reflects the family dynasties behind many of the great fortunes in fashion, retail and food, a pattern our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Industry and Gender, 2026 Different paths.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Different paths: men are spread across finance, technology and manufacturing, while women billionaires are concentrated in fashion, retail and food.

Men dominate the self-made fortunes of finance and technology, the industries that have produced the largest number of new billionaires, while women remain a small minority in these fast-growing, mostly self-made sectors. The concentration of men in the self-made fortunes of finance and technology, and of women in the inherited fortunes of consumer industries, captures one of the most persistent patterns in the geography of great wealth. This divide, with men dominating the self-made fortunes of finance and technology and women concentrated in the inherited dynasties of consumer goods, is among the most enduring patterns in the whole of the billionaire data.

Who Is Richer

Who Is Richer, Self-Made or Heirs?

Wealth varies by source. Billionaires who built on an inherited base are the richest on average, worth about 7.5 billion dollars each, ahead of those who inherited outright, at about 5.9 billion, and the self-made, at about 5.4 billion. The relationship between how a fortune was made and how large it is offers a subtle insight into the billionaire class, showing that those who grew an inherited business often end up richer than either pure heirs or the self-made. At about 7.5 billion dollars each, billionaires who grew an inherited fortune are worth more on average than either pure heirs, at about 5.9 billion, or the self-made, at about 5.4 billion, a subtle but telling gap.

The high average wealth of those who grew an inherited fortune reflects the advantage of starting with capital and a business already in place, a pattern our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Average Net Worth by Wealth Source (USD bn)Grown fortunes lead.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Grown fortunes lead: billionaires who grew an inherited fortune are worth about 7.5 billion dollars each, ahead of pure heirs on 5.9 billion and the self-made on 5.4 billion.

The self-made billionaires, though the most numerous, are worth slightly less on average, since their ranks include many who reached the billion-dollar mark only recently, alongside the handful of technology founders with the largest fortunes of all. The subtle differences in average wealth by source, with those who grew an inherited fortune the richest, reflect the compounding advantage of starting with capital and an established business already in hand. The subtle differences in average wealth by source underline a point often lost in debates about self-made versus inherited wealth, that the very richest often combine the two, growing an inherited business into something far larger.

By Country

Which Countries Have the Most Self-Made Billionaires?

The share of self-made billionaires varies widely by country. China has the highest, with about 85 percent self-made, followed by the United States on about 72 percent, while European countries such as Germany, Italy and France have far more inherited wealth. The wide variation in the self-made share from country to country reflects the different histories of their economies, distinguishing the entrepreneurial, technology-driven wealth of China and the United States from the older family fortunes of Europe. China roughly 85 percent self-made share, the highest of any major country, contrasts sharply with the far lower shares in Germany, Italy and France, where inherited family fortunes remain far more common. The variation in the self-made share from one country to the next offers a kind of map of economic history, distinguishing the young, entrepreneurial economies from the older ones where great family fortunes have been handed down for generations.

The high self-made share in China and the United States reflects their entrepreneurial economies and the wealth created by technology, while the lower share in Europe reflects older family fortunes, a contrast our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage frames.

Self-Made Share by Country, 2026 (%) China and the US lead.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

China and the US lead: about 85 percent of Chinese billionaires are self-made and 72 percent of American ones, far more than in Germany, Italy or France.



The prevalence of inherited wealth in parts of Europe reflects the long history of family businesses in industries such as luxury goods, food and manufacturing, passed down across generations rather than built anew. The contrast between the self-made wealth of Asia and the inherited fortunes of Europe is one of the most striking features of the geography of billionaire wealth, reflecting the very different ages and structures of their economies. Taken together, the country breakdown shows how the geography of self-made wealth mirrors the geography of economic dynamism, concentrated in the fast-growing, technology-driven economies rather than the older industrial ones.

Women

How Women Billionaires Made Their Fortunes

Women billionaires made their fortunes very differently from men. About 53 percent of women inherited their wealth, about 30 percent built on an inherited base, and only about 17 percent are fully self-made, the reverse of the pattern among men. The way women billionaires made their fortunes, overwhelmingly through inheritance, stands in stark contrast to the mostly self-made men, and it highlights the barriers that still stand between women and the building of great fortunes from scratch. Only about 17 percent of women billionaires are fully self-made, against roughly 53 percent who inherited their wealth outright, the mirror image of the pattern among men, who are overwhelmingly self-made. The way women billionaires overwhelmingly inherited their wealth, in near-mirror image of the mostly self-made men, is one of the starkest illustrations of the different routes to great wealth taken by women and men.

The dominance of inherited wealth among women reflects the historic barriers they have faced in building great fortunes from scratch, a pattern our [wealthiest women](#) coverage explores in depth.

Women Billionaires by Wealth Source (%) Mostly inherited.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Mostly inherited: about 53 percent of women billionaires inherited their wealth, about 30 percent grew an inherited fortune, and only about 17 percent are self-made.



The small but growing share of self-made women, especially in Asia, points to a gradual change, as more women build their own businesses to billion-dollar scale, though inheritance still dominates the female billionaire ranks. The gradual rise of self-made women, concentrated in Asia and in fast-growing industries, offers the clearest sign that the composition of female wealth may slowly be changing, even if inheritance still dominates. Whether the share of self-made women rises will depend on how many build their own businesses to billion-dollar scale, particularly in the fast-growing industries of Asia where most self-made women are found. The slow rise of self-made women, though still leaving them a small minority of female billionaires, hints at a gradual broadening of the routes by which women reach great wealth, especially in the fast-growing industries of Asia.

By Region

Wealth Source by Region

The share of self-made billionaires varies by region. Asia-Pacific has the highest, at about 75 percent, followed by North America on about 70 percent, while Europe has the most inherited wealth, with only about 48 percent self-made. The variation in the self-made share across regions captures the shifting geography of wealth creation, with the newer economies of Asia and North America producing far more self-made billionaires than the older economies of Europe. Asia-Pacific roughly 75 percent self-made share, the highest of any region, reflects the rapid creation of new fortunes across China and India, while Europe, at about 48 percent, has the most inherited wealth.

The high self-made share in Asia-Pacific reflects the rapid creation of new fortunes in China, India and across the region, a shift our [billionaires by region](#) coverage frames.

Self-Made Share by Region (%) Asia leads, Europe trails.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia leads, Europe trails: about 75 percent of Asia-Pacific billionaires are self-made, against about 48 percent in Europe, which has the most inherited wealth.

The prevalence of inherited wealth in Europe reflects its older economy and long history of family businesses, while the newer wealth of Asia and North America has produced a much higher share of self-made billionaires. The gap between the self-made wealth of Asia-Pacific and the inherited fortunes of Europe reflects the broader story of global wealth, with new economies producing new fortunes and old economies passing theirs down.

By Industry Source

Self-Made or Inherited, by Industry

Whether a billionaire is self-made or an heir varies sharply by industry. Technology and finance are dominated by self-made fortunes, while fashion, retail and food have far more inherited wealth, reflecting the family dynasties behind them. The sharp difference between the mostly self-made fortunes of technology and finance and the mostly inherited fortunes of fashion and food is one of the clearest illustrations of how different industries produce very different kinds of billionaire.

The concentration of self-made wealth in technology reflects the speed at which technology companies can grow, allowing founders to build great fortunes in a few years, a pattern our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

Self-Made vs Inherited, by IndustryTech self-made, fashion inherited.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Tech self-made, fashion inherited: technology and finance are dominated by self-made fortunes, while fashion, retail and food have far more inherited wealth.

The prevalence of inherited wealth in fashion, retail and food reflects the many family businesses in these industries, passed down and grown across generations rather than built from scratch. The clear divide between the self-made industries of technology and finance and the inherited industries of fashion and food shows how the source of a billionaire wealth is closely tied to the sector in which it was built. The clear split between the self-made industries and the inherited ones offers a useful shorthand for understanding the billionaire class, since knowing the industry in which a fortune was built says a great

deal about how it was acquired.

Key Facts

Wealth Source in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. About 65 percent of billionaires are self-made, men are mostly self-made while about 53 percent of women inherited their wealth, and Finance, Manufacturing and Technology produce the most billionaires. These figures together paint a detailed portrait of how the world billionaires made their money, increasingly self-made and driven by technology, but still shaped by inheritance, especially in Europe and among women. The picture that emerges is of a billionaire class in transition, increasingly self-made and driven by technology, yet still deeply shaped by inheritance, above all in the older economies of Europe and among the ranks of women.

The figures matter because how billionaires make their money reveals how great wealth is built and passed down, and how that is slowly changing, a shift our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the global context.

65%Self-madeOf billionaires. 35%InheritedOr grew a fortune. 53%WomenInherited wealth.
512FinanceMost billionaires.

Together these figures show a billionaire class increasingly self-made, driven by technology, but with inheritance still a major route to wealth, especially in Europe and among women.

Big Picture

Billionaires by Wealth Source: The Big Picture

Taken together, the breakdown of billionaires by wealth source and gender maps how great fortunes are built and inherited, increasingly self-made but still shaped by family wealth, a story our [gold as an investment](#) coverage sets against other assets.

Whether the self-made share keeps rising will depend on the pace of entrepreneurship, especially in technology, but inheritance remains a major route to wealth, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions: Wealth Source

About 65 percent of billionaires are self-made in 2026, while around 18 percent inherited outright and another 18 percent built on an inherited base.

About 65 percent in 2026, up from around 58 percent in 2010. The share has risen as technology has created a wave of new self-made fortunes.

Mostly through inheritance. About 53 percent of women billionaires inherited their wealth, about 30 percent built on an inherited base, and only about 17 percent are self-made.

Finance and Investments, with about 512 billionaires in 2026, narrowly ahead of Manufacturing on 468 and Technology on 467.

China, where about 85 percent of billionaires are self-made, followed by the United States on about 72 percent, reflecting their entrepreneurial economies.

Not on average. Those who grew an inherited fortune are the richest, at about 7.5 billion dollars each, ahead of heirs and the self-made.

Yes. It has risen from about 58 percent in 2010 to about 65 percent in 2026, driven by the wealth created in technology and other new industries.

Asia-Pacific, where about 75 percent of billionaires are self-made, followed by North America. Europe has the most inherited wealth.

Yes. Men are mostly self-made and spread across finance, technology and manufacturing, while women are mostly heirs, concentrated in fashion, retail and food.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026 and Wealth-X data on the source of billionaire wealth by gender, with some breakdowns estimated.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the number of billionaires by wealth source, gender and industry.

Wealth-X and Altrata data - Source for the self-made, inherited and combination breakdown, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual data on billionaire wealth source and gender.



Figures show the number of billionaires around the world in 2026 by wealth source and gender, from the Forbes World Billionaires list and Wealth-X data. About 65 percent are self-made, with men mostly self-made and about 53 percent of women having inherited their wealth. Finance, Manufacturing and Technology produce the most billionaires, and China has the highest self-made share. Some breakdowns by source, gender and industry are estimates. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Leading billionaire cities 2026

Updated Jul 6, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-top-cities

146 NEW YORK	132 SHENZHEN	120 SHANGHAI
102 LONDON	58% ASIA	4,020 WORLD TOTAL

Overview

Leading cities with the most billionaires in 2026

New York is the billionaire capital of the world in 2026, with 146 billionaires, the most of any city for the third year running. It is followed by the Chinese cities Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing, which take three of the next four places. The geography of billionaire cities offers one of the sharpest pictures of where great wealth is concentrated in the modern world, mapping not just which countries produce billionaires but which specific urban centres draw and create the largest fortunes on the planet. As of the 2026 rankings, the leading cities are home to hundreds of billionaires each at the very top, and together the great billionaire cities account for a large share of all the billionaires in the world, concentrated in a remarkably small number of urban centres. Billionaire wealth has always been an urban phenomenon, drawn to the great cities that offer capital, talent and connections, and the 2026 ranking shows just how tightly the fortunes of the ultra-rich are now clustered in a small number of dominant global centres.

London, Mumbai and Hong Kong follow close behind. The ranking extends our [wealthiest women](#) coverage and our [top billionaire countries](#) overview.

Top Billionaire Cities: Number Over Time, 2020-2026New York leads, China rises.

Data:

Leading cities with the most billionaires in 2026, by number of billionaire residents, from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026.

Note:

A snapshot of 15 January 2026. Other rankings, such as Forbes, count differently and give lower city totals. Switch views with the toolbar.

New York leads, China rises: New York grew from 92 billionaires in 2020 to 146 in 2026, while Shenzhen surged from 44 to 132, overtaking Shanghai and Beijing to become China leading billionaire city.

The rankings show the growing dominance of Asian cities, which now hold a majority of the billionaires among the leading centres, a shift our [billionaires around the world](#) and [leading billionaires](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures come from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, a snapshot of January 2026, and count the number of billionaire residents in each city. Other rankings, such as the Forbes list, count fewer billionaires and give lower city totals. Because the different rich lists use different definitions and cut-off dates, their city totals vary, but they agree on the broad picture, that New York leads the world and that the Chinese cities have risen rapidly to dominate much of the rest of the ranking. The figures used here are from the Hurun Global Rich List, which tends to count more billionaires than the Forbes list, so the city totals are higher than those in Forbes-based rankings, though the order of the leading cities is broadly similar.

The Table

Billionaires by City

Leading Cities by Number of Billionaires, 2026 Click any column to sort

RANK AND CITY	COUNTRY	BILLIONAIRES
1. New York	United States	146
2. Shenzhen	China	132
3. Shanghai	China	120
4. Beijing	China	107
5. London	United Kingdom	102
6. Mumbai	India	95
7. Hong Kong	Hong Kong	88
8. San Francisco	United States	86

9. Moscow	Russia	82
10. Hangzhou	China	65
11. New Delhi	India	64
12. Singapore	Singapore	59
13. Taipei	Taiwan	51
14. Paris	France	44
15. Sao Paulo	Brazil	41
16. Guangzhou	China	41
17. Los Angeles	United States	40
18. Bangkok	Thailand	40

The table lists the leading cities with the most billionaires in 2026. It shows New York far ahead, a cluster of Chinese cities close behind, and a mix of European, Indian and other centres filling out the ranking. Reading down the table shows the dominance of New York and the Chinese cities at the top, before a gradual decline through the European, Indian and other centres that fill out the ranking of the leading billionaire cities. Because the figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and different lists count differently, the exact numbers should be treated as approximate, but the broad ranking, with New York and the Chinese cities far ahead, is well established.

The Ranking

Which Cities Have the Most Billionaires?

New York leads with 146 billionaires, ahead of Shenzhen on 132, Shanghai on 120 and Beijing on 107. London is fifth on 102, followed by Mumbai on 95, Hong Kong on 88 and San Francisco on 86. The gap at the very top is striking, with New York and the leading Chinese cities each home to more than a hundred billionaires, far ahead of the long tail of cities that host a few dozen each, underlining how concentrated great wealth has become in a handful of global hubs. New York 146 billionaires give it a lead of 14 over second-placed Shenzhen, and the top four cities, New York and the three great Chinese centres of Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing, together are home to more than 500 billionaires. New York enduring position at the summit, even as the Chinese cities have surged, reflects the unmatched depth and diversity of its wealth ecosystem, spanning finance, media, real estate and corporate power in a way that no other

single city can quite match.

The dominance of New York reflects its role as the center of global finance, home to Wall Street, the major banks and countless corporate headquarters, a strength our leading investment banks coverage frames.

Leading Cities by Number of Billionaires, 2026 New York and China lead.

Data:

Leading cities with the most billionaires in 2026, by number of billionaire residents, from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026.

Note:

A snapshot of 15 January 2026. Other rankings, such as Forbes, count differently and give lower city totals. Switch views with the toolbar.

New York and China lead: New York has 146 billionaires, ahead of Shenzhen at 132, Shanghai at 120 and Beijing at 107, with London fifth at 102.

Behind the leaders, a mix of Asian, European and American cities, from Moscow and Hangzhou to Singapore, Paris and Los Angeles, each host between 40 and 85 billionaires, competing for the lower places in the ranking. The tight bunching of cities in the lower half of the ranking, each with a few dozen billionaires, means that a strong year in a single stock market can move a city up or down several places, making the middle of the ranking especially dynamic. Taken together, the ranking paints a picture of a world in which billionaire wealth is concentrated in a handful of great cities, led by New York but increasingly dominated in numbers by the rising cities of China.

World Map

The Billionaire Cities of the World: The Map

The world map shows the leading billionaire cities, with each circle sized by the number of billionaires living there. New York, the Chinese cities and London stand out as the largest, with a dense cluster across eastern China and another along the coasts of the United States.

Billionaire Cities of the World, 2026

The map makes the concentration of billionaire wealth in a handful of great cities clear at a glance, with the largest clusters in the United States, eastern China, Europe and India, and far fewer in Africa, Latin America and much of the rest of the world.



By Country

Which Countries Dominate the Billionaire Cities?

China has by far the most billionaires among the leading cities, with more than 500 across Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou and other centres. The United States follows, led by New York and San Francisco, then India, led by Mumbai and Delhi. Counting billionaires by the country of their cities reveals the same rivalry between China and the United States that dominates the wider wealth rankings, though China lead among cities is built on several large centres rather than a single dominant capital. With more than 500 billionaires across its leading cities, China has overtaken the United States as the country with the most billionaires among the great cities, though the United States retains the single largest city in New York.

The dominance of Chinese cities reflects the rapid growth of wealth in the country, spread across several large cities rather than concentrated in one, a pattern our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires in Leading Cities by Country, 2026China leads on cities.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts.Switch views with the toolbar.

China leads on cities: Chinese cities are home to more than 500 billionaires, ahead of the United States on about 330 and India on about 175.

The United States concentrates much of its billionaire wealth in New York and the San Francisco Bay Area, while India rise is led by Mumbai and Delhi, reflecting the growing wealth of its financial and industrial centres. The contrast between the American concentration of billionaire wealth in two or three cities and the Chinese spread across many is one of the most interesting features of the geography of billionaire cities, and it reflects the different shapes of the two economies. Whether China widens its lead among the billionaire cities will depend on the growth of its economy and markets, but for now its combination of several large wealth centres gives it more billionaire-city residents than any other country.

By Region

How the Billionaire Cities Split by Region

By region, Asia dominates the billionaire cities, home to about 58 percent of the billionaires among the leading centres. North America follows with about 22 percent, Europe about 15 percent, and Latin America and other regions the remainder. The regional split of the billionaire cities captures the historic shift of wealth toward Asia, which now hosts a clear majority of the billionaires among the leading urban centres, a balance that would have looked very different only a decade ago. Asia roughly 58 percent share of the billionaires among the leading cities is more than the shares of North America and Europe combined, a striking measure of how far the balance of great urban wealth has shifted toward the region.

The dominance of Asia reflects the rise of China and India, whose cities have added billionaires rapidly in recent years, a shift our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Leading-City Billionaires by Region (%)Asia dominates.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts.Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia dominates: Asia is home to about 58 percent of the billionaires among the leading cities, ahead of North America at 22 percent and Europe at 15 percent.

North America billionaire cities, led by New York and San Francisco, remain home to some of the largest concentrations of wealth, while Europe cities, led by London, Moscow and Paris, hold a smaller but still significant share. The enduring strength of the North American and European cities, even as Asia has risen, shows that the traditional financial capitals retain their pull, home to deep markets and networks that continue to draw and create great wealth.

Movers

Which Cities Gained the Most in 2026?

The fastest-growing billionaire cities in 2026 were in Asia. Shenzhen added about 32 billionaires, the most of any city, followed by London with 26, Shanghai with 25 and New York with 17, as booming markets minted new fortunes. The pattern of which cities gained the most billionaires in a single year offers a real-time reading of where wealth is being created fastest, and in 2026 that story was written above all in the booming technology and manufacturing hubs of southern China. Shenzhen gain of about 32 billionaires in a single year, the most of any city, capped a remarkable rise that has seen it overtake Shanghai to become China leading billionaire city, driven by its booming technology sector.

The rapid growth of the Chinese cities reflects the boom in manufacturing, technology and industry, which has created new fortunes faster than almost anywhere else, a shift our [currency reserves by country](#) coverage frames.

Change in City Billionaires, 2025-2026Shenzhen gains most.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts.Switch views with the toolbar.

Shenzhen gains most: Shenzhen added about 32 billionaires in 2026, followed by London with 26, Shanghai with 25 and New York with 17.

The strong gains in London and New York show that the established Western financial centres continue to attract and create billionaire wealth, even as the fastest growth has shifted to the rising cities of Asia. The combination of rapid growth in the Asian cities and steady gains in the established Western centres pushed the total number of billionaires in the leading cities to a record, with new fortunes created faster than old ones were lost.

Since 2024

How the Cities Changed Since 2024

The leading cities have grown enormously since 2024. New York rose from 119 billionaires to 146, Shenzhen from 84 to 132, and London from 71 to 102, as soaring stock markets lifted fortunes across the



world. Tracking how the leading cities have grown over just two years reveals the sheer speed of recent wealth creation, with several cities adding dozens of billionaires as soaring stock markets and new industries minted fortunes at a remarkable pace. Shenzhen near-doubling from 84 billionaires in 2024 to 132 in 2026 is one of the fastest rises of any city on record, a direct reflection of the explosive growth of its technology and manufacturing industries.

The gains reflect the strong performance of global markets in the year to January 2026, with major indices rising sharply, a boom our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

City Billionaires, 2024 vs 2026Rapid growth.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts.Switch views with the toolbar.

Rapid growth: from 2024 to 2026 New York rose from 119 billionaires to 146, Shenzhen from 84 to 132, and London from 71 to 102.

The especially rapid rise of Shenzhen, which added nearly 50 billionaires in two years to overtake Shanghai as China leading billionaire city, underlines the speed of wealth creation in the technology and manufacturing hubs of southern China.

Chinese Cities

The Rise of the Chinese Cities

Chinese cities dominate the ranking, with Shenzhen on 132 billionaires, Shanghai on 120, Beijing on 107, Hangzhou on 65 and Guangzhou on 41. Together the mainland Chinese cities hold more billionaires than any other country cities combined. The dominance of Chinese cities in the ranking is one of its most striking features, with the country wealth spread across a string of large centres, each a hub for a different mix of technology, finance, manufacturing and industry. The five leading Chinese cities, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou and Guangzhou, are together home to more than 460 billionaires, more than the leading cities of any other country, underlining China dominance of the ranking. The concentration of so much wealth in the cities of southern and eastern China marks one of the most rapid transformations in



the history of urban wealth, turning a string of cities into some of the greatest billionaire centres on the planet within a generation.

The spread of billionaire wealth across several Chinese cities, rather than one dominant capital, reflects the country broad-based economic growth, from technology in Shenzhen to finance in Shanghai, a pattern our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

China Leading Billionaire Cities, 2026A string of hubs.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts. Switch views with the toolbar.

A string of hubs: Shenzhen leads China with 132 billionaires, ahead of Shanghai at 120 and Beijing at 107, with Hangzhou and Guangzhou also prominent.

Shenzhen rise to become China leading billionaire city reflects its role as the country technology capital, home to major electronics, telecoms and internet companies, while Shanghai and Beijing remain centres of finance and industry. The rise of Shenzhen from a fishing village to one of the great billionaire cities of the world in a few decades is one of the most remarkable stories of wealth creation anywhere, a direct product of China transformation into a technology and manufacturing powerhouse.

American Cities

The Leading American Cities

The United States concentrates its billionaire wealth in a few cities. New York leads with 146 billionaires, far ahead of San Francisco on 86 and Los Angeles on 40, with Dallas, Palm Beach and Chicago following.

Unlike China, whose billionaires are spread across many cities, the United States concentrates much of its wealth in New York and the San Francisco Bay Area, reflecting the dominance of its finance and technology industries.

US Leading Billionaire Cities, 2026New York towers over the rest.

Data:



Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts. Switch views with the toolbar.

New York towers over the rest: New York has 146 billionaires, far ahead of San Francisco on 86 and Los Angeles on 40, with Dallas, Palm Beach and Chicago following.

The strength of San Francisco reflects the wealth created by the technology industry, while New York remains the center of global finance, together making the United States home to two of the great billionaire cities of the world.

Asia Share

The Shift Toward Asia

Asia share of the billionaires among the leading cities has risen steadily, from about 42 percent in 2018 to about 58 percent in 2026. The rise reflects the rapid growth of billionaire wealth in China and India over the period. The steady rise in Asia share of the billionaire cities is perhaps the single clearest measure of the shifting geography of great wealth, charting the movement of the centre of gravity of billionaire wealth eastward over the past decade. Asia share rose from about 42 percent of the leading-city billionaires in 2018 to about 58 percent in 2026, a gain of some 16 percentage points in eight years, driven almost entirely by the rise of the Chinese and Indian cities. The eastward shift in the geography of billionaire cities is more than a statistical curiosity, since it reflects a deeper rebalancing of the global economy that is gradually moving the centre of gravity of wealth and power toward Asia.

The steady climb in the Asian share marks a historic shift in the geography of great wealth, away from the traditional dominance of North America and Europe, a shift our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Asia Share of Leading-City Billionaires (%) A historic shift east.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts. Switch views with the toolbar.



A historic shift east: Asia share of the billionaires among the leading cities rose from about 42 percent in 2018 to about 58 percent in 2026.

Whether Asia share continues to rise depends on the growth of its economies and markets, but the trend of recent years points clearly toward a growing concentration of billionaire wealth in the great cities of the region. The historic shift of billionaire wealth toward Asia, if it continues, would mark a profound change in the global economy, with the great cities of China and India joining and perhaps one day surpassing New York and London at the summit of global wealth. Looking ahead, the continued rise of the Asian cities looks likely to reshape the top of the ranking further, though New York deep and diversified wealth ecosystem makes it hard to displace from the very top.

Concentration

How Concentrated Is Billionaire Wealth?

Billionaire wealth is highly concentrated in a few cities. The top city, New York, holds 146 billionaires, the top five more than 600, and the top ten more than 1,000, a large share of the billionaires among the leading centres. The extreme concentration of billionaires in a handful of cities mirrors the concentration of economic and financial power more broadly, with the same great urban centres dominating finance, corporate headquarters and the networks of the global elite. The top ten cities alone are home to more than 1,000 billionaires, a large share of the global total, a concentration that shows how overwhelmingly billionaire wealth is an urban phenomenon focused on a few great cities.

The concentration reflects the tendency of great wealth to cluster in a handful of global cities that offer deep financial markets, corporate headquarters and networks of the wealthy, a concentration our [financial markets in the US](#) coverage frames.

Cumulative Billionaires in Leading CitiesHeld by the few.

Data:

Derived from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by city of residence; figures are a snapshot of January 2026 and differ from Forbes counts.Switch views with the toolbar.



Held by the few: the top city, New York, has 146 billionaires, the top five more than 600, and the top ten more than 1,000.

The clustering of billionaires in a small number of cities means that a handful of urban centres, led by New York and the great Chinese cities, dominate the global geography of billionaire wealth. The clustering of billionaires in a small number of cities has profound effects on those cities, from property prices and philanthropy to politics and culture, since the presence of so much concentrated wealth reshapes everything around it.

Key Facts

Billionaire Cities in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. New York has the most billionaires of any city, with 146, three of the top four cities are Chinese, and Asia is home to about 58 percent of the billionaires among the leading cities. These figures together make the ranking of billionaire cities one of the most revealing maps of global wealth, charting the enduring dominance of New York, the rise of the great Chinese cities, and the steady shift of billionaire wealth toward Asia. The picture that emerges is of a world in which billionaire wealth is overwhelmingly concentrated in a handful of great cities, led by New York but increasingly shared with the rising urban centres of China and India.

The figures matter because the geography of billionaire cities maps where great wealth is concentrated, increasingly in Asia, a shift our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the global context.

146New YorkWorld number one. 3 of 4Chinese citiesIn the top four. 58%AsiaOf the leading cities.
102LondonTop in Europe.

Together these figures show a world in which billionaire wealth is concentrated in a handful of great cities, led by New York, but with the balance shifting steadily toward the rising cities of Asia.

Big Picture

Leading Billionaire Cities: The Big Picture

Taken together, the ranking of the leading billionaire cities in 2026 maps the urban geography of extreme wealth, dominated by New York but increasingly shaped by the great cities of Asia, a story our [gold as an investment](#) coverage sets against other assets.



Whether New York holds its lead and whether the Asian cities continue their rise will shape the ranking for years, but billionaire wealth remains an overwhelmingly urban phenomenon, alongside the markets in our [crypto market](#), [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Cities

New York, with 146 billionaires in 2026, the most of any city for the third year running, according to the Hurun Global Rich List.

New York, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing and London are the five cities with the most billionaires in the world in 2026, according to Hurun.

Shenzhen, with 132 billionaires in 2026, having overtaken Shanghai as the leading billionaire city in China and Asia.

About 102 in 2026, making it the fifth city in the world and the leading billionaire city in Europe, ahead of Moscow and Paris.

Mumbai, with about 95 billionaires in 2026, the financial capital of India, followed by New Delhi with about 64.

146 in 2026, the most of any city in the world. New York has been the billionaire capital of the world for three years running.

China, with several cities in the top ranks, including Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou and Guangzhou, together holding more than 500 billionaires.

Asia is home to about 58 percent of the billionaires among the leading cities in 2026, up from about 42 percent in 2018.

Great cities offer deep financial markets, corporate headquarters, professional networks and access to the wealthy, which draw and create billionaire fortunes.

From the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, a snapshot of January 2026. Other rankings, such as Forbes, count differently and give lower city totals.

Sources

Hurun Global Rich List 2026 - Source for the number of billionaires by city, a snapshot of January 2026.



Hurun Research Institute and Forbes - Source for city, country and regional detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

Hurun Report - Publishes the annual Global Rich List and billionaire city rankings.

Figures rank the leading cities with the most billionaires in 2026, by number of billionaire residents, from the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, a snapshot of January 2026. New York leads with 146, ahead of the Chinese cities Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing, with London and Mumbai close behind. Asia is home to about 58 percent of the billionaires among the leading cities. Other rankings, such as Forbes, count differently and give lower city totals. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Top 20 billionaire countries 2026

Updated Jul 5, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-top-countries

989 UNITED STATES	610 CHINA	229 INDIA
212 GERMANY	53% TOP 3	\$8.4T US WEALTH

Overview

The 20 countries with the most billionaires in 2026

The United States has the most billionaires in the world in 2026, with a record 989, ahead of China with 610 and India with 229. Together these three countries hold more than half of all the billionaires in the world.

The geography of billionaires is one of the clearest maps of where wealth is being created in the modern world, and in 2026 it remains dominated by a handful of large economies, above all the United States and China, which between them account for nearly half of all the great fortunes on the planet. The 2026 ranking, based on the Forbes list, spans 80 countries and territories that are home to at least one billionaire, from the United States with nearly a thousand to nations that recorded their very first billionaire this year.

Germany and Russia complete the top five. The ranking extends our [top global billionaires](#) coverage and our [billionaires around the world](#) overview.

Top Countries: Billionaires and Their Wealth, 2026Number and wealth together.

Data:

The 20 countries with the most billionaires in 2026, by number of billionaire residents, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

China includes Hong Kong. Figures are the March 2026 Forbes snapshot; other rankings such as Hurun differ.Switch views with the toolbar.

Number and wealth together: the United States leads on both, with 989 billionaires worth 8.4 trillion dollars, far ahead of China on 610 and 2.2 trillion, then India, Germany and Russia.

The concentration of billionaires in a few large economies reflects the depth of their capital markets and their dominance in technology and industry, themes our [biggest companies by market value](#) and [global stock markets by country](#) overviews explore.

A note on the data. The figures show the 20 countries with the most billionaires in 2026, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with China including Hong Kong. Other rankings, such as the Hurun list, use different methods and reach different totals. Because the different rankings use different definitions and cut-off dates, the totals vary from list to list, but they agree on the broad picture, that billionaires are overwhelmingly concentrated in the United States, China and a handful of other large economies. All the figures here use the Forbes list for consistency, with China including Hong Kong, and are the March 2026 snapshot, so they may differ from real-time counts and from other rankings published later in the year.

The Table

Billionaires by Country

Top 20 Countries by Number of Billionaires, 2026Click any column to sort

RANK AND COUNTRY	BILLIONAIRES
1. United States	989
2. China	610
3. India	229
4. Germany	212
5. Russia	147
6. Italy	96
7. Canada	82
8. Taiwan	67
9. Brazil	65
10. Singapore	59

11. United Kingdom	58
12. France	51
13. South Korea	49
14. Switzerland	48
15. Australia	47
16. Sweden	43
17. Japan	42
18. Indonesia	35
19. Israel	30
20. Spain	28

The table lists the 20 countries with the most billionaires in 2026. It shows the United States far ahead, China a clear second, and a long tail of European and Asian economies filling out the ranking. Reading down the table shows the extraordinary gap between the United States and the rest, with the leader home to more billionaires than the third through tenth ranked countries combined, a concentration that shapes the entire global picture. Because the figures are annual snapshots and different lists count differently, the exact numbers should be treated as close approximations, but the broad ranking, with the United States and China far ahead, is well established and stable.

The Ranking

Which Countries Have the Most Billionaires?

The United States leads with 989 billionaires, China follows with 610, and India is third with 229. Germany has 212 and Russia 147, with Italy, Canada, Taiwan and Brazil rounding out the top ten, each with between 65 and 96. The gulf between the top two countries and the rest is enormous, with the United States and China together home to more billionaires than the next eighteen countries in the ranking combined, a concentration that reflects the sheer scale of wealth creation in the two largest economies. The United States 989 billionaires and China 610 together account for nearly half of the world total, while India 229, Germany 212 and Russia 147 make up a clear second tier, ahead of a cluster of European and Asian economies.



The dominance of the United States and China reflects their size, their deep capital markets and their lead in technology, a strength our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

Top 20 Countries by Number of Billionaires, 2026The US and China lead.

Data:

The 20 countries with the most billionaires in 2026, by number of billionaire residents, from the Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

China includes Hong Kong. Figures are the March 2026 Forbes snapshot; other rankings such as Hurun differ.Switch views with the toolbar.

The US and China lead: the United States has 989 billionaires and China 610, more than the next eighteen countries combined, with India third on 229 and Germany fourth on 212.

Below the leaders, a group of European and Asian economies, from Singapore and the United Kingdom to France, South Korea and Switzerland, each host between 40 and 60 billionaires, competing for the lower places in the top twenty. The tight bunching of countries in the lower half of the top twenty, each with a few dozen billionaires, means that a strong or weak year in a single stock market can move a country up or down several places, making the middle of the ranking particularly dynamic. Taken together, the ranking paints a picture of a billionaire population overwhelmingly concentrated in the two economic superpowers and a handful of other large economies, with the rest of the world hosting only a small share of the great fortunes.

US vs China

Does the US or China Have More Billionaires?

Whether the United States or China has more billionaires depends on which list you read. Forbes puts the United States first, with 989 to China 610, but the Hurun list ranks China first, with about 1,110 billionaires, because the two use different methods. The question of whether the United States or China leads the world in billionaires has become a closely watched proxy for the wider economic rivalry between the two powers, and the fact that different lists reach opposite conclusions says much about how hard extreme wealth is to measure. On the Forbes measure, the United States leads China by 989 to 610, a lead that has widened as China billionaire count fell from its 2021 peak, but the Hurun list, using a broader definition, puts China well ahead with about 1,110.



The gap reflects how the lists count wealth and residency, with Hurun tending to find more billionaires in China, a difference our [developed and emerging share price index](#) coverage frames.

United States vs China: Billionaires Over TimeA widening lead (Forbes).

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong.Switch views with the toolbar.

A widening lead (Forbes): the United States has pulled ahead of China since 2021, reaching 989 billionaires to China 610, after China count fell from its 2021 peak.

On the Forbes measure used here, the United States has widened its lead over China in recent years, after China billionaire count fell from a 2021 peak, though China remains a clear and growing second. The reversal of the two countries positions between the Forbes and Hurun lists is a reminder that even the most basic questions about extreme wealth, such as which country has the most billionaires, can have more than one defensible answer depending on the method used. Whichever list is used, the broad conclusion is the same, that the United States and China are in a league of their own, home between them to roughly half of all the billionaires in the world.

World Map

Billionaires Around the World: The Map

The world map shows where the billionaires of the world live, shaded by the number in each country. The United States and China stand out in the brightest gold, holding far more billionaires than anywhere else, followed at a distance by India, Germany and Russia.

Billionaires by Country, 2026 (World Map)

The map makes the concentration clear at a glance, with a handful of large economies in North America, Europe and Asia holding the vast majority of the world billionaires, while much of Africa, Latin America and Central Asia has very few or none.

Concentration

How Concentrated Are the World's Billionaires?

The billionaires of the world are highly concentrated. The United States alone holds about 29 percent of the total, the top three countries about 53 percent, and the top twenty about 87 percent, leaving little for the remaining 60 countries. The degree of concentration in the billionaire population is remarkable even by the standards of global wealth, with a single country holding nearly a third of the total and just twenty nations accounting for the overwhelming majority of all the great fortunes in the world. That the top twenty countries hold about 87 percent of all billionaires, leaving 60 countries to share the remaining 13 percent, is one of the starkest illustrations of the geographic concentration of extreme wealth anywhere in the world.

The concentration reflects the uneven distribution of wealth creation, with a small group of large, advanced or fast-growing economies producing the vast majority of the world great fortunes, a pattern our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Share of World Billionaires by Group (%) Highly concentrated.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong. Switch views with the toolbar.

Highly concentrated: the United States holds about 29 percent of the world billionaires, China 18 percent, India 7 percent, and the rest of the top twenty and beyond the remainder.

The heavy concentration means that the fortunes of a few countries, above all the United States and China, dominate the global billionaire picture, with the rest of the world holding only a small share between them. The dominance of a few countries gives them an outsized role in the global economy, since the spending, investment and philanthropy of their billionaires ripple out across markets and borders far beyond their own shores.

Wealth

Which Countries Hold the Most Billionaire Wealth?

American billionaires are by far the richest, holding a combined 8.4 trillion dollars in 2026, more than a third of the world total. Chinese billionaires hold about 2.2 trillion, Indian billionaires about 1 trillion, and German billionaires a little less. Measuring billionaire wealth by country, rather than simply counting heads, reveals



an even starker concentration, since the American fortunes are not only the most numerous but also by far the largest, dominated by the value of a handful of technology giants. American billionaires 8.4 trillion dollars is roughly four times the wealth of Chinese billionaires and more than the combined fortunes of the billionaires of every country outside the top three, a staggering concentration of wealth in one nation.

The concentration of wealth in the United States reflects both its large number of billionaires and the enormous fortunes of its technology founders, a dominance our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Billionaire Wealth by Country, 2026 (trillion USD) America dominates.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong. Switch views with the toolbar.

America dominates: US billionaires hold a combined 8.4 trillion dollars, more than a third of the world total and roughly four times China at 2.2 trillion.

The gap between American billionaire wealth and that of every other country is striking, with the United States holding roughly four times as much billionaire wealth as second-placed China, driven by the value of its technology giants. The extraordinary concentration of billionaire wealth in the United States, holding more than a third of the global total, mirrors the dominance of American technology companies in the world stock markets and the outsized returns they have delivered. Whether this extraordinary concentration of wealth persists will depend on the fortunes of the technology sector, but for now the United States stands alone atop the wealth rankings, both in the number of its billionaires and in their combined fortunes.

Movers

Which Countries Gained the Most in 2026?

The biggest gains in 2026 came in Asia and America. China added about 96 billionaires, the United States 86, and Germany 41, while Italy, South Korea and Taiwan each gained more than a dozen, and a few countries such as France slipped. The pattern of gains and losses among countries in a single year offers a real-time reading of where wealth is being created, distinguishing the economies riding the technology and industrial booms from those facing tougher conditions. China gain of about 96 billionaires and the United States gain of 86 in 2026 show the two giants still leading the world in minting new fortunes, while

Germany surge of 41 marked one of the fastest expansions of any large economy.

The gains in China and the United States reflect booming technology and stock markets, while the strong rise in Germany and South Korea reflects growing industrial and technology wealth, a shift our [currency reserves by country](#) coverage frames.

Change in Billionaires by Country, 2025-2026 China and the US gain most.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong. Switch views with the toolbar.

China and the US gain most: China added about 96 billionaires in 2026 and the United States 86, followed by Germany with 41, while a few countries such as France slipped.

The broad-based gains across the largest economies pushed the global total to a record, with new fortunes created faster than old ones were lost, even as a few countries saw their billionaire ranks thin slightly. The addition of hundreds of new billionaires across the largest economies in a single year illustrates the dynamism of wealth creation at the top, where fortunes can be made quickly when stock markets and new industries boom.

Since 2021

How the Rankings Changed Since 2021

Compared with 2021, the rankings have shifted. The United States rose from 724 to 989 billionaires, India from 140 to 229, and Germany from 136 to 212, while China edged down from 626 to 610 after a difficult few years. Tracking how the rankings have shifted over just five years reveals the churn beneath the headline totals, as booming markets in some countries mint new fortunes while economic headwinds in others hold their billionaire ranks in check. The United States gained more than 260 billionaires between 2021 and 2026, and India nearly 90, while China total barely moved, a divergence that has widened the gap between the top two countries on the Forbes list.

The gains in the United States, India and Germany reflect strong markets and the technology boom, while China stagnation reflects tougher conditions for its economy and markets, a divergence our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Country, 2021 vs 2026The US and India surge.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong.Switch views with the toolbar.

The US and India surge: from 2021 to 2026 the United States rose from 724 to 989 billionaires and India from 140 to 229, while China edged down slightly.

The shifts show that the billionaire map is not fixed, with the balance tilting toward the United States, India and Germany in recent years, even as China remains firmly the second-largest home of the world great fortunes. The resilience of China at the second spot, despite a difficult few years, underlines the depth of wealth its economy has created, even as the United States, India and Germany have pulled further ahead in minting new billionaires.

By Region

Which Regions Have the Most Billionaires?

By region, Asia-Pacific is home to the most billionaires, with about 1,229, narrowly ahead of North America on about 1,065 and Europe on about 820. Latin America, the Middle East and Africa host the remainder between them. The regional distribution of billionaires captures the changing balance of the world economy, with Asia-Pacific now hosting more billionaires than any other region, even as the fortunes of North America remain by far the largest on average. Asia-Pacific 1,229 billionaires narrowly exceed the roughly 1,065 of North America, a milestone that reflects the long rise of China and India, even though the average North American fortune remains considerably larger.

The rise of Asia-Pacific to the top reflects the growth of China, India and other economies, though North America billionaires are far richer on average, a contrast our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Region, 2026Asia-Pacific leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia-Pacific leads: Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires with about 1,229, narrowly ahead of North America at 1,065 and Europe at 820.

Europe billionaire population is spread across many countries, led by Germany, Russia, Italy and France, while the Middle East and Africa have far fewer, reflecting the concentration of great fortunes in the largest and most advanced economies. The thinness of billionaire populations in Africa and much of Latin America relative to Asia, Europe and North America is a reminder that the ability to create great fortunes depends on deep capital markets and large, dynamic economies.

Per Capita

Which Country Has the Most Billionaires Per Person?

Measured by billionaires per person, the tiny principality of Monaco leads the world by a wide margin, with about 77 billionaires per million residents. Among larger countries, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore have the highest density. Measuring billionaires per person rather than in absolute numbers gives a very different picture, revealing that some of the smallest countries and territories are the most densely packed with the ultra-rich, drawn there by favourable tax and residency rules. Monaco roughly 77 billionaires per million residents dwarfs the density of every large country, a reflection of its role as a magnet for the wealthy rather than a place where great fortunes are actually built.

The extraordinary density in Monaco reflects its status as a tax haven that attracts the wealthy from around the world, rather than a place where great fortunes are built, a distinction our [financial markets in the US](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires per Million People, 2026 Monaco leads the world.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong. Switch views with the toolbar.

Monaco leads the world: Monaco has about 77 billionaires per million residents, far ahead of Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Among the largest countries, the United States, despite having the most billionaires, has a far lower rate per person than the small financial hubs, reflecting its much larger population. The contrast between the sparse billionaire populations per person of the large countries and the dense concentrations in the small tax havens highlights how residency choices, as much as wealth creation, shape the per-capita rankings.

Top Countries

How Much the Top Countries Control

The concentration of billionaires is stark. The single largest country, the United States, holds about 29 percent of the world total, the top three about 53 percent, the top ten about 75 percent, and the top twenty about 87 percent of all billionaires. The extreme concentration of billionaires in a handful of countries is a mirror of the concentration of economic and financial power more broadly, with the same large economies dominating billionaires, trade and cross-border investment alike. The single country holding nearly 29 percent of all billionaires, and the top three holding more than half, represents a concentration of extreme wealth that has few parallels in any other measure of the global economy.

This means the remaining 60 of the 80 countries with billionaires share just 13 percent of the world total between them, a concentration our [leading fund groups](#) coverage sets against the wider financial system.

Cumulative Share of World Billionaires (%)Held by the few.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Number of billionaires by country of citizenship; China includes Hong Kong.Switch views with the toolbar.

Held by the few: the top country holds about 29 percent of world billionaires, the top three 53 percent, the top ten 75 percent, and the top twenty 87 percent.

The heavy concentration reflects the uneven distribution of wealth creation, with a small group of large economies and financial hubs holding the vast majority of the world great fortunes. The stark concentration of billionaires in a handful of countries is ultimately a reflection of where the largest and most dynamic economies are, since only large, wealthy or fast-growing economies tend to produce great fortunes in significant numbers.



Key Facts

Billionaire Countries in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. The United States has 989 billionaires, China 610, and India 229, the top three hold more than half the world total, and the top twenty countries hold about 87 percent of all billionaires. These figures together make the ranking of billionaire countries one of the most revealing maps of global wealth, charting the dominance of the United States, the scale of China, and the concentration of great fortunes in a small group of leading economies.

The figures matter because the geography of billionaires maps the geography of wealth creation, increasingly in technology, a shift our [euro to dollar exchange rate coverage](#) sets in the global context.

989United StatesWorld number one. 610ChinaClear second. 53%Top 3Of the world. \$8.4TUS
WealthRichest by far.

Together these figures show a billionaire population concentrated overwhelmingly in the United States, China and a handful of other large economies, with the rest of the world holding only a small share.

Big Picture

Top Billionaire Countries: The Big Picture

Taken together, the ranking of the top billionaire countries in 2026 maps the distribution of extreme wealth across the world, dominated by the United States and China, a picture our [gold as an investment coverage](#) sets against other assets.

Whether the United States holds its lead and whether China resumes its rise will shape the ranking for years, but the great fortunes remain concentrated in a few large economies, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaire Countries

The United States, with a record 989 billionaires, according to the Forbes 2026 list. The Hurun list, which uses a different method, ranks China first.

About 610 according to Forbes, including Hong Kong, making it second in the world. The Hurun list counts far more, about 1,110, and ranks China first.

It depends on the list. Forbes puts the United States first with 989 to China 610, while the Hurun list ranks China first with about 1,110, due to different methods.

About 229 in 2026, the third most of any country, up from 209 a year earlier, driven by a strong stock market and rising wealth.

The United States, China, India, Germany and Russia are the five countries with the most billionaires in the world in 2026, according to Forbes.

China added the most, about 96, followed by the United States with 86 and Germany with 41, as booming markets minted new fortunes.

The United States, whose billionaires hold a combined 8.4 trillion dollars, more than a third of the world total and roughly four times those of China.

Monaco, with about 77 billionaires per million residents, far ahead of any large country. Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore also rank high.

About 80 countries and territories had at least one billionaire in 2026, from the United States with 989 to nations recording their first billionaire.

From the Forbes World Billionaires list, published each March. Other rankings, such as the Hurun Global Rich List, use different methods and reach different totals.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the number of billionaires by country and their combined wealth.

Forbes and Hurun rich lists - Source for country comparisons and alternative counts, compiled by BusinessStats.

[Forbes World Billionaires](#) - Publishes the annual count of billionaires by country.

Figures rank the 20 countries with the most billionaires in 2026, by number of billionaire residents, from the Forbes World Billionaires list, with China including Hong Kong. The United States leads with 989, ahead of China with 610 and India with 229, together holding more than half the world total. American billionaires are the richest, with a combined 8.4 trillion dollars. Other rankings, such as the Hurun list, use different



methods and rank China first. Figures are the March 2026 snapshot. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Billionaires around the world – statistics & facts

Updated Jul 5, 2026 · businessstats.com/billionaires-in-the-world

3,428 BILLIONAIRES	\$20.1T TOTAL WEALTH	989 UNITED STATES
610 CHINA	\$1.05T ELON MUSK	20 \$100B CLUB

Overview

Number and total wealth of billionaires worldwide, 2010 to 2026

There were a record 3,428 billionaires in the world in 2026, worth a combined 20.1 trillion dollars, the most ever recorded by Forbes. The number rose by 400 in a year, meaning the world added more than one new billionaire every day. The annual Forbes list of the world billionaires has become one of the most closely watched barometers of global wealth, a yearly snapshot of who controls the great fortunes of the planet, and its 2026 edition, the fortieth, broke every record in the list history. The 2026 list, spanning 80 countries and territories from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, paints a portrait of a world in which billionaires have never been more numerous, more wealthy, or more influential over politics, markets and the direction of the global economy. Few statistics capture the shape of the modern global economy as starkly as the billionaire count, which has become a shorthand for the concentration of wealth at the very top and a lightning rod in debates about inequality, taxation and the growing political power of the ultra-rich.

Elon Musk led the March list with a record 839 billion dollars, and by mid-2026 he had become the first ever trillionaire. The ranking sits alongside our [biggest companies by market value](#) and [largest asset managers](#) coverage.

Billionaires Worldwide: Number and Wealth, 2010-2026More billionaires, richer than ever.

Data:

Number and combined net worth of US dollar billionaires worldwide, from 2010 to 2026, from the annual Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Figures are snapshots taken in March each year; net worth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

More billionaires, richer than ever: the number of billionaires rose from about 1,000 in 2010 to a record 3,428 in 2026, and their combined wealth from 3.6 to a record 20.1 trillion dollars.

The surge in billionaire wealth, up 4 trillion dollars in a year, was driven largely by the boom in technology and artificial intelligence, themes our [global stock markets by country](#) and [hedge fund assets](#) overviews explore.

A note on the data. The figures show the number and combined net worth of dollar billionaires worldwide, from 2010 to 2026, from the annual Forbes World Billionaires list. The figures are snapshots taken each March, with net worth in trillions of dollars. Forbes compiles the list by poring over regulatory filings, court records and other documents, valuing stakes in public and private companies, real estate, art and other assets, and accounting for debt and charitable giving, though it excludes royalty and dictators. The net worth figures are snapshots based on stock prices and exchange rates from early March 2026, so they capture a moment in time and can change substantially as markets move over the course of the year.

The Table

Billionaires by the Numbers

Billionaires Worldwide, Number and Wealth Click any column to sort

YEAR	BILLIONAIRES	COMBINED WEALTH (TRILLION USD)
2010	1,011	3.6T
2013	1,426	5.4T
2015	1,826	7.0T
2018	2,208	9.1T
2020	2,095	8.0T
2021	2,755	13.1T
2022	2,668	12.7T
2023	2,640	12.2T

2024	2,781	14.2T
2025	3,028	16.1T
2026	3,428	20.1T

The table shows the number of billionaires and their combined wealth at key points from 2010 to 2026. It traces the steady climb, the pandemic surge of 2021, and the record highs of the mid-2020s. Reading down the table shows the steady march of both the number of billionaires and their combined wealth, interrupted only by the pandemic and the market downturn of the early 2020s, before the record-breaking surge of the middle of the decade. Because the figures are annual snapshots taken each March, they can miss sharp moves that occur later in the year, but the broad trend, a steady rise interrupted by occasional setbacks, is clear and well documented across the four decades of the list.

The Number

How Many Billionaires Are There?

The world had a record 3,428 billionaires in 2026, up from 3,028 in 2025 and just 1,011 in 2010. The number has more than tripled in sixteen years, with the fastest growth coming in the technology-driven booms of 2021 and 2026. The relentless rise in the number of billionaires is one of the defining economic stories of the past two decades, a sign both of the wealth created by globalisation and technology and of the widening gap between the very richest and everyone else. The jump from about 2,600 billionaires in 2023 to 3,428 in 2026 represents the fastest sustained growth in the history of the list, adding well over 800 new fortunes in just three years as markets boomed and artificial intelligence created a wave of new wealth. The tripling of the billionaire population in just sixteen years far outpaced the growth of the world economy over the same period, a divergence that lies at the heart of the debate over whether the gains of recent decades have flowed disproportionately to those already at the top.

The growth has not been steady, with dips during the pandemic in 2020 and the market downturn of 2022 and 2023, before the number surged again to new records, a volatility our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Number of Billionaires Worldwide, 2010-2026A record 3,428.

Data:

Number and combined net worth of US dollar billionaires worldwide, from 2010 to 2026, from the annual Forbes World Billionaires list.

Note:

Figures are snapshots taken in March each year; net worth in trillions of dollars. Switch views with the toolbar.

A record 3,428: the number of billionaires more than tripled from 1,011 in 2010, with the fastest growth in the technology-driven booms of 2021 and 2026, despite dips in 2020 and 2022.

The addition of 400 billionaires in a single year in 2026, more than one a day, reflects soaring stock markets and the wealth created by artificial intelligence, which minted dozens of new fortunes in technology and related fields. The pace of wealth creation in 2026 was so rapid that Forbes found new billionaires in fields from artificial intelligence to entertainment, including a number of celebrities, as soaring asset values pushed a record number of fortunes past the billion dollar threshold.

By Country

Which Countries Have the Most Billionaires?

The United States has by far the most billionaires, with a record 989 in 2026, followed by China with 610 and India with 229. Together these three countries hold more than half of all the billionaires in the world. The geography of billionaire wealth offers a revealing map of economic power, with the United States and China towering over the rest and a rising India signalling the gradual eastward shift of the global economy toward the great emerging markets of Asia. With 989 billionaires, the United States alone accounts for well over a quarter of the global total, and its lead has been widening, with more newcomers added in 2026 than any other country, including a string of celebrities and technology founders. The dominance of the United States and China in the country rankings mirrors their rivalry across the whole of the global economy, from technology and trade to finance and geopolitics, with the billionaire count offering one more measure of their competing economic might.

The American lead reflects the depth of its capital markets and its dominance in technology, while China rise and India emergence underline the shift of wealth toward Asia, a shift our [currency reserves by country](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Country, 2026 The US leads by far.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

The US leads by far: the United States has a record 989 billionaires in 2026, ahead of China with 610 and India with 229, together holding more than half the world total.

Beyond the top three, Germany has 212 billionaires and Russia 147, with a long tail of countries, from Canada and Italy to Brazil and Taiwan, each hosting a few dozen, and 80 countries in all having at least one billionaire. The spread of billionaires across 80 countries, from long-established financial powers to nations recording their first billionaire, illustrates how the creation of great wealth, once concentrated in a handful of Western economies, has gradually gone global. Taken together, the country rankings confirm that while billionaire wealth is spreading to more nations than ever, it remains overwhelmingly concentrated in a small group of large economies, above all the United States and China.

World Map

Billionaires Around the World: The Map

The world map shows where the billionaires of the world live, shaded by the number in each country. The United States and China stand out in the brightest gold, holding far more billionaires than anywhere else, followed at a distance by India, Germany and Russia.

Billionaires by Country, 2026 (World Map)

The map makes the concentration of wealth clear at a glance, with a handful of large economies in North America, Europe and Asia holding the vast majority of the world billionaires, while much of Africa, Latin America and Central Asia has very few or none at all.

The Richest

Who Are the Richest People in the World?

Elon Musk is the richest person in the world and became the first ever trillionaire in June 2026, worth about 1.05 trillion dollars, nearly four times the second-placed billionaire. He was the first person to pass 500, 600, 700, 800 and 900 billion dollars, then a full trillion. The fortunes at the very top of the list have

reached a scale that is difficult to comprehend, with the richest individuals now worth more than the annual output of entire nations, a concentration of wealth without real precedent in modern history. Elon Musk 839 billion dollars is the largest fortune Forbes has ever recorded, and his lead over the second-placed billionaire, Google cofounder Larry Page, is itself larger than the entire fortune of all but a handful of the world richest people. The gulf between Elon Musk and the rest of the field is so vast that it has effectively created a category of one, a single fortune so large that it distorts the shape of the entire list and raises questions that go well beyond the world of wealth rankings.

Behind Musk come the Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, then Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison and Mark Zuckerberg, with nine of the top ten fortunes built on technology, a dominance our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

The Ten Richest People, July 2026 (USD billion)Musk, the first trillionaire.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026.Switch views with the toolbar.

Musk, the first trillionaire: Elon Musk leads with about 1.05 trillion dollars, nearly four times Larry Page at 288 billion, with nine of the top ten fortunes built on technology.

The concentration of wealth at the very top is extreme, with Musk alone worth more than the combined fortunes of the next two billionaires, and the ten richest people together worth more than 2.5 trillion dollars. The dominance of technology fortunes at the top of the list marks a decisive shift from earlier decades, when the richest fortunes were built on oil, retail and manufacturing, and it reflects the extraordinary value the market now places on the leading technology firms. Looking ahead, the question hanging over the top of the list is whether Musk or any of his rivals will become the world first trillionaire, a once-unthinkable milestone that the relentless rise of technology fortunes has brought within reach.

By Region

Where in the World Do Billionaires Live?

Asia-Pacific is home to the most billionaires, with 1,229 in 2026, narrowly ahead of North America on about 1,065 and Europe on about 820. Latin America, the Middle East and Africa host the remainder between them. The regional distribution of billionaires captures the changing balance of the world economy, with Asia-Pacific now hosting more billionaires than any other region, even as the fortunes of North America remain by far the largest on average. Asia-Pacific 1,229 billionaires narrowly exceed the roughly 1,065 of North America, a milestone that reflects the long rise of China and India, even though the average North American fortune remains considerably larger.

The rise of Asia-Pacific to the top reflects the growth of China, India and other economies, though North America billionaires are far richer on average, a contrast our [developed and emerging share price index](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Region, 2026 Asia-Pacific leads.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

Asia-Pacific leads: Asia-Pacific has the most billionaires with 1,229, narrowly ahead of North America at about 1,065 and Europe at about 820.

Europe billionaire population is spread across many countries, led by Germany, Russia, Italy and France, while the Middle East and Africa have far fewer, reflecting the concentration of great fortunes in the largest and most advanced economies. The contrast between the many billionaires of Asia-Pacific and the far larger average fortunes of North America captures a key distinction, between the breadth of wealth creation in the emerging economies and the depth of it in the mature American market.

The 100B Club

The Rise of the \$100 Billion Club

The ultra-elite 100 billion dollar club has grown fast. In 2026 a record 20 people held twelve-figure fortunes, up from 15 in 2025 and just one in 2018, as soaring technology valuations pushed more fortunes



past the 100 billion mark. The emergence of a 100 billion dollar club, unimaginable barely a decade ago, is perhaps the single clearest sign of how far wealth at the very summit has pulled away from the rest, with a small group of technology founders amassing truly colossal fortunes. The 100 billion dollar club has swelled from a single member in 2018 to twenty in 2026, a twentyfold increase that captures the explosive growth of wealth at the very top, far outpacing the growth in the number of billionaires as a whole.

The rapid growth of the club reflects the extraordinary concentration of wealth at the very top, where a handful of technology founders have amassed fortunes once thought impossible, a concentration our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

The \$100 Billion Club Over TimeFrom one to twenty.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026.Switch views with the toolbar.

From one to twenty: the number of people worth more than 100 billion dollars rose from just one in 2018 to a record 20 in 2026, as technology fortunes soared.

The rise of the 100 billion dollar club is one of the clearest signs of widening wealth at the summit, with the threshold for the very richest rising far faster than for billionaires as a whole over recent years. The threshold for joining the ranks of the very richest has risen so fast that fortunes once considered enormous now rank well down the list, a sign of how completely the technology boom has reshaped the upper reaches of global wealth.

Since 2021

How the Rankings Changed Since 2021

Compared with 2021, the billionaire rankings have shifted. The United States rose from 724 to 989 billionaires, India from 140 to 229, and Germany from 136 to 212, while China edged down slightly from 626 to 610. Tracking how the rankings have shifted over just five years reveals the churn beneath the headline totals, as booming markets in some countries mint new fortunes while economic headwinds in others hold their billionaire ranks in check. The United States gained more than 260 billionaires between 2021 and

2026, and India added nearly 90, while China total barely moved, a divergence that has reshaped the balance at the top of the global wealth rankings.

The gains in the United States and India reflect strong stock markets and the technology boom, while China stagnation reflects a tougher few years for its economy and markets, a divergence our [leading fund groups](#) coverage frames.

Billionaires by Country, 2021 vs 2026The US and India surge.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026.Switch views with the toolbar.

The US and India surge: from 2021 to 2026 the United States rose from 724 to 989 billionaires and India from 140 to 229, while China edged down slightly.

The shifts show that the billionaire map is not fixed, with the balance tilting toward the United States and India in recent years, even as China remains firmly the second-largest home of the world great fortunes. The resilience of China at the second spot, despite a difficult few years, underlines the depth of wealth its economy has created, even as the United States and India have pulled further ahead in the race to mint new billionaires.

Elon Musk

Elon Musk and the Race to a Trillion

Elon Musk fortune has surged from about 25 billion dollars in early 2020 to 839 billion dollars on the March 2026 Forbes list, and then past 1 trillion by mid-2026, making him the first trillionaire in history. He added an estimated 497 billion in the year to the March list alone, the largest single-year gain ever recorded. The trajectory of the Musk fortune stands as the most extraordinary wealth story of the era, a rise so steep and so large that it has repeatedly redefined what was thought possible, and culminated in June 2026 in his becoming the world first trillionaire. Musk estimated gain of 497 billion dollars in a single year is larger than the entire net worth of any other person on the planet except the top three or four, a rise so vast that it has few if any parallels in financial history.

The surge, driven by the soaring value of Tesla, SpaceX and his other ventures, carried Musk past 1 trillion dollars in June 2026, after the record-breaking public listing of SpaceX, making him the first trillionaire in history, a milestone our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

Elon Musk Net Worth, 2020-2026 (USD billion)The first trillionaire.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026.Switch views with the toolbar.

The first trillionaire: Elon Musk net worth surged from about 25 billion dollars in 2020 to 839 billion on the March 2026 Forbes list, then past 1 trillion by mid-2026, making him the first trillionaire in history.

The scale of the Musk fortune, now above 1 trillion dollars, is without precedent, exceeding the gross domestic product of many countries, and it underlines the extraordinary concentration of wealth that the technology boom has created at the very top. The sheer size of the Musk fortune has itself become a subject of fascination and debate, raising questions about the concentration of economic and political power that such wealth can bring, questions that grew louder still when he crossed the trillion dollar mark.

Movers

Which Countries Gained the Most?

The biggest gains in 2026 came in Asia and America. China added the most billionaires, gaining about 115, followed by the United States with 106 newcomers and India with 29, while a few countries such as Japan saw small declines. The pattern of gains and losses among countries in a single year offers a real-time reading of where wealth is being created, distinguishing the economies riding the technology and consumer booms from those facing tougher conditions. China gain of about 115 billionaires in 2026, its highest tally ever, was driven by the artificial intelligence boom and a strong consumer sector, while the United States added 106 newcomers, extending its lead at the top of the country rankings.

The gains in China reflect a rebound driven by artificial intelligence and consumer goods, while the American newcomers included celebrities and technology founders, a wave our [largest ETFs](#) coverage frames.

Change in Billionaires by Country, 2025-2026 China and the US gain most.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

China and the US gain most: China added about 115 billionaires in 2026 and the United States 106, while India gained 29 and a few countries such as Japan slipped.

The broad-based gains across the largest economies pushed the global total to a record, with new fortunes created faster than old ones were lost, even as a few smaller countries saw their billionaire ranks thin. The addition of hundreds of new billionaires in a single year, even as others dropped off the list, illustrates the dynamism of wealth creation at the top, where fortunes can be made and lost with remarkable speed as markets move.

Wealth by Country

Which Countries Hold the Most Wealth?

American billionaires are by far the richest, holding a combined 8.4 trillion dollars in 2026, more than a third of the world total. Chinese billionaires hold about 2.2 trillion, Indian billionaires about 1 trillion, and German billionaires a little less. Measuring billionaire wealth by country, rather than simply counting heads, reveals an even starker concentration, since the American fortunes are not only the most numerous but also by far the largest, dominated by the value of a handful of technology giants. American billionaires combined 8.4 trillion dollars is roughly four times the wealth of Chinese billionaires and more than the combined fortunes of the billionaires of every country outside the top three, a staggering concentration of wealth. This concentration of wealth by country matters because it shapes everything from tax revenues and philanthropy to political influence, giving the nations at the top of the list, above all the United States, an outsized role in how the wealth of the ultra-rich is deployed.

The concentration of wealth in the United States reflects both its large number of billionaires and the enormous fortunes of its technology founders, a dominance our [financial markets in the US](#) coverage frames.

Billionaire Wealth by Country, 2026 (trillion USD) American fortunes dominate.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

American fortunes dominate: US billionaires hold a combined 8.4 trillion dollars, more than a third of the world total and roughly four times Chinese billionaires at 2.2 trillion.

The gap between American billionaire wealth and that of every other country is striking, with the United States holding roughly four times as much billionaire wealth as second-placed China, driven by the value of its technology giants. The extraordinary concentration of billionaire wealth in the United States, holding more than a third of the global total, mirrors the dominance of American technology companies in the world stock markets and the outsized returns they have delivered. Whether this extraordinary concentration of wealth persists will depend on the fortunes of the technology sector, but for now the United States stands alone atop the rankings, both in the number of its billionaires and in the scale of their combined wealth.

By Industry

Which Industries Create the Most Billionaires?

Billionaire fortunes are spread across many industries. In 2026 Finance and Investments produced the most billionaires, with 512, narrowly ahead of Manufacturing on 468 and Technology on 467. Fashion and Retail followed with about 297, and a long tail of sectors made up the rest.

The three leading sectors are closely matched by number, but Technology fortunes are by far the largest, since the biggest individual fortunes, including those of Elon Musk and the Google founders, are built on technology companies even as manufacturing and finance produce more billionaires overall.

Billionaires by Source of Wealth, 2026 Finance, industry and tech lead.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:



Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

Finance, industry and tech lead: Finance and Investments produced the most billionaires in 2026 with 512, ahead of Manufacturing at 468 and Technology at 467, though tech fortunes are by far the largest.

The rise of Manufacturing above Technology in the count reflects the growing weight of industrial and resource fortunes, especially in Asia, even as the very largest fortunes in the world remain concentrated in technology and artificial intelligence.

Women

How Many Billionaires Are Women?

A record 481 women were billionaires in 2026, about 14 percent of the total, up from 13.4 percent in 2025 and 13.3 percent in 2024. The share of women has risen slowly but steadily over the past decade, though the ranks remain heavily dominated by men.

Three-quarters of female billionaires inherited their fortunes, including the richest woman in the world, the Walmart heir Alice Walton, worth about 134 billion dollars. The wealthiest self-made woman is the shipping magnate Rafaela Aponte-Diamant, worth about 44.5 billion dollars.

Women Billionaires Worldwide, 2018-2026A slow, steady rise.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

A slow, steady rise: the number of women billionaires reached a record 481 in 2026, about 14 percent of the total, up from around 10 percent a decade earlier.

The number of self-made women is growing, with about 122 on the 2026 list, but they remain a small minority, reflecting the barriers that women still face in building great fortunes from scratch rather than inheriting them.

Self-Made

Are Billionaires Self-Made or Heirs?

About 67 percent of the billionaires in the world are considered self-made by Forbes, while 33 percent inherited their wealth. The self-made share is even higher in the United States, at about 73 percent, reflecting its entrepreneurial economy and deep capital markets.

Forbes measures self-made status on a scale, from those who simply inherited a fortune and do nothing to grow it, to those who built one after overcoming substantial obstacles, so the label covers a wide spectrum of paths to great wealth.

Self-Made vs Inherited Billionaires, 2026 (%)Most are self-made.

Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026.Switch views with the toolbar.

Most are self-made: about 67 percent of the world billionaires are self-made, while 33 percent inherited their wealth. In the United States the self-made share rises to about 73 percent.

The high share of self-made billionaires, especially in the United States and China, reflects the wealth created by new industries such as technology, even as inherited fortunes remain more common in Europe and parts of Asia.

Per Capita

Which Country Has the Most Billionaires Per Person?

Measured by billionaires per person, the tiny principality of Monaco leads the world by a wide margin, with about 77 billionaires per million residents. No other place comes close, with Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore far behind despite their wealth.

The extraordinary density in Monaco reflects its status as a tax haven that attracts the wealthy from around the world, rather than a place where great fortunes are actually built, unlike the larger economies further down the ranking.

Billionaires per Million People, 2026Monaco leads the world.



Data:

Derived from the Forbes World Billionaires list, 2026 edition, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Net worth in billions or trillions of dollars; based on Forbes valuations as of March 2026. Switch views with the toolbar.

Monaco leads the world: Monaco has about 77 billionaires per million residents, far ahead of Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore, reflecting its status as a magnet for the wealthy.

Among larger countries, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore have the highest billionaire density, reflecting their roles as global financial and business hubs, while the United States, despite having the most billionaires, has a far lower rate per person.

Key Facts

Billionaires in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. The world had a record 3,428 billionaires in 2026, worth 20.1 trillion dollars, led by the United States with 989 and Elon Musk with 839 billion, with a record 20 people worth more than 100 billion dollars each. These figures together make the billionaire rankings one of the most vivid illustrations of wealth concentration in the modern world, charting the explosive growth of great fortunes and their overwhelming concentration in technology and in a few dominant economies.

The figures matter because billionaire wealth is a measure of where fortunes are being made, increasingly in technology and artificial intelligence, a shift our euro to dollar exchange rate coverage sets in the global context.

3,4282026Record number. \$20.1TWealthCombined total. 989United StatesMost billionaires. \$1.05TElon MuskFirst trillionaire.

Together these figures show a billionaire class larger and richer than ever, concentrated in the United States and Asia, and dominated at the very top by a handful of technology fortunes of unprecedented size.

Big Picture

Billionaires Around the World: The Big Picture

Taken together, the billionaire statistics of 2026 map the extraordinary creation of wealth at the top of the global economy, driven by technology and artificial intelligence, a story our [gold as an investment](#) coverage sets against other stores of value.

Whether the billionaire boom continues depends on the markets and the technology cycle, but the class has never been larger or richer, reflecting the concentration of wealth in the modern economy, alongside the markets in our [debt capital market](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Billionaires

There were a record 3,428 billionaires in the world in 2026, according to Forbes, up from 3,028 in 2025 and just over a thousand in 2010.

Elon Musk. He was worth 839 billion dollars on the March 2026 Forbes list, and by mid-2026 he had become the first person ever worth more than 1 trillion dollars, far ahead of anyone else.

About 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, a record, up 4 trillion from 2025, driven largely by the boom in technology and artificial intelligence.

The United States, with a record 989 billionaires in 2026, followed by China with 610 and India with 229. Together they hold more than half the world total.

About 5.8 billion dollars in 2026, up from 5.3 billion in 2025, as soaring markets lifted fortunes across the board.

A record 481 women were billionaires in 2026, about 14 percent of the total. Three-quarters of them inherited their fortunes.

Alice Walton, the Walmart heir, with an estimated 134 billion dollars in 2026, the richest woman in the world for the second year running.

A record 20 people held fortunes above 100 billion dollars in 2026, up from 15 in 2025 and just one in 2018.

Mainly technology and artificial intelligence. Nine of the ten richest people made their fortunes in technology, and AI created dozens of new billionaires.



From the Forbes World Billionaires list, an annual ranking published each March since 1987, based on documented assets and net worth valuations.

Sources

Forbes World Billionaires list (2026 edition) - Source for the number, wealth and ranking of billionaires worldwide, 2010 to 2026.

Forbes annual billionaires lists - Source for country, regional and historical detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

Forbes World Billionaires - Publishes the annual ranking of the world billionaires.

Figures track the number and combined net worth of US dollar billionaires worldwide, from 2010 to 2026, from the annual Forbes World Billionaires list. A record 3,428 billionaires held a combined 20.1 trillion dollars in 2026, led by the United States with 989 and Elon Musk with 839 billion. The number rose by 400 in a year and wealth by 4 trillion, driven largely by technology and artificial intelligence. Figures are snapshots taken each March. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Net worth of the richest social media entrepreneurs 2026

 Updated May 22, 2026 · businessstats.com/net-worth-of-the-richest-social-media-entrepreneurs

\$241B ELON MUSK - #1 RICHEST SOCIAL MEDIA ENTREPRENEUR (APRIL 2026)	\$196B MARK ZUCKERBERG - #2, META FOUNDER (APRIL 2026)	\$1.39T COMBINED NET WORTH OF TOP 10 SOCIAL MEDIA BILLIONAIRES
+\$42B MUSK - LARGEST SINGLE-YEAR NET WORTH GAIN APR 2025 TO APR 2026	41 MARK ZUCKERBERG - YOUNGEST BILLIONAIRE IN TOP 10 (BORN 1984)	\$196B ZUCKERBERG NET WORTH UP FROM \$56B IN 2022 - +250% IN 4 YEARS

Overview

Leading social media billionaires as of April 2026, by net worth

The wealthiest social media entrepreneurs of April 2026 represent the individuals who either founded or became major equity holders in platforms and technologies that define the digital economy. Elon Musk's \$241 billion net worth - placing him at the top of both this social media billionaires ranking and the broader Forbes global billionaires list - reflects his stakes in multiple technology ventures, with X (formerly Twitter, acquired for \$44 billion in October 2022), Tesla, and SpaceX as the primary drivers. Musk's net worth in April 2026 is approximately \$29 billion higher than Jeff Bezos (\$212 billion), reflecting Tesla's continued stock price recovery and xAI's growing valuation as a competitor to OpenAI. The global economy context for the technology sector valuations underpinning these fortunes is in our [global economy analysis](#).

Mark Zuckerberg's \$196 billion net worth represents one of the most dramatic wealth recoveries in business history. Following Meta's disastrous 2022 - when the company's share price fell approximately 65% during the year of the metaverse pivot and Apple's ATT framework impact on advertising revenue - Zuckerberg's net worth collapsed from approximately \$98 billion to approximately \$56 billion. The subsequent recovery driven by Meta's "Year of Efficiency" (2023), the explosive growth of Instagram Reels and AI-powered advertising, and the successful development of Meta AI has restored and significantly exceeded his previous peak wealth. From \$56 billion in January 2023 to \$196 billion in April 2026 represents a +250% increase in three years - one of the fastest wealth recoveries of any billionaire on

record. The social media advertising revenue powering Meta's valuation is in our [social media ad spend worldwide analysis](#).

Full Net Worth Ranking

Elon Musk \$241B to Reed Hastings \$38B Top 10 Social Media Billionaires (April 2026)

Net worth richest social media entrepreneurs April 2026 - billion USD - Forbes Bloomberg estimate Richest Social Media Entrepreneurs - Net Worth (April 2026, Billion USD) Elon Musk: \$241B. Jeff Bezos: \$212B. Mark Zuckerberg: \$196B. Larry Ellison: \$145B. Jensen Huang: \$118B. Larry Page: \$121B. Sergey Brin: \$116B. Steve Ballmer: \$108B. Michael Dell: \$96B. Reed Hastings: \$38B. Sources: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg Billionaires Index April 2026. ±5-10%. \$241BMusk - #1

Net worth (billion USD) - April 2026 estimate

Jensen Huang's \$118 billion net worth - placing him fifth despite NVIDIA not being a traditional social media company - reflects the essential role of NVIDIA's AI chips (H100, H200, Blackwell series) in powering the AI infrastructure that social media platforms depend upon. TikTok, Meta, Google/YouTube, and X all use NVIDIA GPU clusters for AI-powered content recommendation, ad targeting, and content moderation at scale. NVIDIA's stock price appreciation of approximately 800% between 2022 and 2025 drove Huang's personal wealth to levels that rival the founders of the social media platforms his chips power. The AI market context for NVIDIA's dominant position is in our [AI market size worldwide analysis](#).

Full Data Table

Social Media Billionaires April 2026 Full Data Table

Richest Social Media Entrepreneurs - Net Worth as of April 2026 (Forbes / Bloomberg) Click column to sort

RANK	NAME	NET WORTH (\$B)	YOY CHANGE	PRIMARY COMPANY	WEALTH SOURCE	COUNTRY
1	Elon Musk	\$241B	+\$42B	X / Tesla / SpaceX	X platform, Tesla equity, SpaceX stake	USA
2	Jeff Bezos	\$212B	+\$18B	Amazon / AWS	Amazon founder equity, AWS cloud	USA

3	Mark Zuckerberg	\$196B	+\$38B	Meta	Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp ownership	USA
4	Larry Ellison	\$145B	+\$22B	Oracle	Oracle cloud, enterprise software	USA
5	Larry Page	\$121B	+\$12B	Alphabet / Google	Google Search, YouTube, Google Ads	USA
6	Jensen Huang	\$118B	+\$28B	NVIDIA	NVIDIA AI chips, GPU dominance	USA
7	Sergey Brin	\$116B	+\$11B	Alphabet / Google	Google Search, YouTube, Google Ads	USA
8	Steve Ballmer	\$108B	+\$8B	Microsoft	Microsoft equity, LinkedIn owner	USA
9	Michael Dell	\$96B	+\$5B	Dell Technologies	Dell, VMware cloud infrastructure	USA
10	Reed Hastings	\$38B	+\$8B	Netflix	Netflix streaming, co-founder equity	USA

Sources: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List April 2026. Bloomberg Billionaires Index April 2026. Net worth estimates based on share price x ownership stake plus known private assets minus known liabilities. ±5–10% per individual. YoY change = April 2025 vs April 2026. Figures in nominal USD billions. Billionaire net worth fluctuates daily with stock prices - these are April 2026 snapshot estimates.

Larry Page and Sergey Brin - co-founders of Google (now Alphabet) - hold the #5 and #7 positions respectively, with their wealth tied primarily to their Alphabet ownership stakes. Both stepped back from active management roles (Page as CEO in 2019, Brin as President in 2019) but retain significant equity. YouTube - a key social platform within Alphabet's portfolio - generated approximately \$36 billion in advertising revenue in 2025, and represents a substantial portion of the underlying business value supporting their net worth. Steve Ballmer at #8 (\$108 billion) built his fortune through stock received during his tenure as Microsoft CEO (2000-2014) - a position that includes the LinkedIn acquisition (\$26.2 billion in 2016) which brought a major social media platform into Microsoft's portfolio. The internet companies revenue context for these platforms is in our [internet companies revenue analysis](#).

Year-on-Year Changes

Musk +\$42B, Zuckerberg +\$38B, Huang +\$28B Biggest Net Worth Gains Apr 2025 to Apr 2026

Year-on-year net worth change social media billionaires April 2025 to April 2026 - billion USD gain Social Media Billionaire Net Worth Change - April 2025 to April 2026 (Billion USD) Elon Musk: +\$42B. Mark Zuckerberg: +\$38B. Jensen Huang: +\$28B. Larry Ellison: +\$22B. Jeff Bezos: +\$18B. Larry Page: +\$12B. Sergey Brin: +\$11B. Reed Hastings: +\$8B. Steve Ballmer: +\$8B. Michael Dell: +\$5B. Sources: Forbes, Bloomberg April 2025/2026. ±5-10%. +\$42BMusk - top YoY gain

Net worth increase (billion USD, April 2025 to April 2026)

Elon Musk's +\$42 billion net worth gain from April 2025 to April 2026 reflects primarily Tesla's stock performance and the increasing valuation attributed to xAI - his artificial intelligence company and OpenAI competitor which raised significant funding at valuations exceeding \$50 billion in 2025. Zuckerberg's +\$38 billion reflects Meta's continued outperformance of advertising revenue expectations, driven by AI-powered targeting improvements through Meta's Advantage+ platform, Instagram Reels growth, and WhatsApp's early monetisation through WhatsApp Business. Jensen Huang's +\$28 billion reflects NVIDIA's continued AI chip dominance even as competition from AMD, Intel, and custom silicon from Google and Amazon accelerates. The biggest social media platforms that depend on NVIDIA's infrastructure are in our [biggest social media platforms by users analysis](#).

Zuckerberg Net Worth History

Zuckerberg Net Worth 2019 to 2026 From \$62B to \$196B, Through the 2022 Collapse and Recovery

Mark Zuckerberg net worth 2019 to 2026 - billion USD - Forbes Bloomberg estimate annual Mark Zuckerberg Net Worth - 2019 to April 2026 (Billion USD, Forbes/Bloomberg Annual Estimate) 2019: \$62B. 2020: \$85B. 2021: \$98B (peak pre-metaverse). 2022: \$56B (metaverse crash, ATT impact). 2023: \$82B. 2024: \$125B. 2025: \$158B. Apr 2026: \$196B. Sources: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg Billionaires Index. ±5-10% per year. \$196BApril 2026 net worth +250%Recovery from 2022 low

Mark Zuckerberg's 2022 net worth collapse - from approximately \$98 billion to \$56 billion in a single year - represents the largest single-year personal wealth destruction by any tech billionaire since the dot-com crash of 2000-2001. The collapse was driven by three simultaneous forces: Apple's App Tracking Transparency (ATT) framework reducing Meta's advertising targeting effectiveness and costing the



company an estimated \$10 billion in revenue; Meta's expensive pivot to the metaverse (spending approximately \$13-15 billion per year on Reality Labs with minimal returns); and the broader tech sector valuation compression from rising interest rates. Zuckerberg's decision to declare 2023 the "Year of Efficiency" - cutting approximately 21,000 jobs (approximately 25% of Meta's workforce) and refocusing on AI and social media core products - triggered one of the most dramatic corporate turnarounds in tech history. The social media platforms context for Meta's core revenue recovery is in our [social media platforms used by marketers worldwide analysis](#).

Musk Net Worth History

Musk Net Worth 2019 to 2026 From \$22B to \$241B, the Most Volatile Billionaire Trajectory

Elon Musk net worth 2019 to 2026 - billion USD - Forbes Bloomberg estimate annual Elon Musk Net Worth - 2019 to April 2026 (Billion USD, Annual Estimate) 2019: \$22B. 2020: \$25B. 2021: \$151B (Tesla surge). 2022: \$140B (Twitter acquisition, Tesla decline). 2023: \$180B. 2024: \$195B. 2025: \$199B. Apr 2026: \$241B. Musk briefly held a \$300B+ peak valuation in 2021. Sources: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg. ±5-10%. \$241BApril 2026

Elon Musk net worth (billion USD)

Elon Musk's net worth trajectory from \$22 billion in 2019 to \$241 billion in April 2026 - a nearly 11x increase in seven years - is one of the most extraordinary wealth creation stories in human history, driven almost entirely by Tesla's stock price explosion from 2020 to 2021. The 2021 surge to approximately \$151 billion (and briefly over \$300 billion at peak) reflected Tesla's inclusion in the S&P 500 (driving passive fund buying), record electric vehicle delivery numbers, and euphoric tech/EV sector valuations. The \$44 billion Twitter acquisition in October 2022 - widely seen as financially reckless at the time - has not yet generated a clear return on investment from X's operations, but Musk's broader portfolio recovery through Tesla and SpaceX's subsequent valuations has more than compensated. The world population context for the global markets driving Tesla and X's valuation is in our [world population analysis](#).

Platform Revenue Context

Meta \$164B Revenue vs X \$3.4B The Vast Gap Between Social Media Platform Revenues

Annual revenue of social media platforms owned by top billionaires - 2025 - billion USD Annual Revenue of Key Social Media Platforms - 2025 (Billion USD) Meta (Zuckerberg): \$164B total revenue (Facebook+Instagram+WhatsApp advertising). YouTube/Google (Page+Brin): \$36B YouTube revenue. Netflix (Hastings): \$38B streaming revenue. X formerly Twitter (Musk): \$3.4B (significant decline from \$5B+ Twitter peak). Sources: Company earnings reports, Statista 2025. $\pm 3\text{-}5\%$. \$164B Meta revenue 2025 48x Meta vs X revenue gap

The revenue comparison between the platforms owned by these billionaires reveals a striking paradox: Elon Musk is the wealthiest social media entrepreneur at \$241 billion, yet X generates only approximately \$3.4 billion in revenue - approximately 48x less than Meta's \$164 billion. Musk's wealth ranking is therefore primarily a function of his Tesla and SpaceX stakes rather than X's commercial performance. Meta's \$164 billion in revenue - generated almost entirely from advertising across Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp - makes Mark Zuckerberg the richest founder whose wealth is most directly tied to social media platform performance. Netflix at \$38 billion and YouTube (standalone) at \$36 billion are broadly comparable in revenue, but Netflix's business model (subscription) is structurally different from YouTube's advertising model. The social media advertising spending context is in our social media ad spend worldwide analysis.

Net worth of top social media entrepreneurs grouped by age - April 2026 - scatter context Social Media Billionaires - Net Worth by Age (April 2026, Billion USD) Mark Zuckerberg (41): \$196B - youngest top-10 billionaire. Elon Musk (54): \$241B. Larry Page (52): \$121B. Sergey Brin (51): \$116B. Reed Hastings (55): \$38B. Michael Dell (60): \$96B. Steve Ballmer (69): \$108B. Jensen Huang (62): \$118B. Jeff Bezos (61): \$212B. Sources: Forbes April 2026. $\pm 5\text{-}10\%$. 41Zuckerberg - youngest

Net worth by age (bar = net worth \$B, label = age)

Mark Zuckerberg at 41 years old is the youngest member of the top-10 social media billionaires by a significant margin - Larry Page and Sergey Brin at 52 and 51 respectively are the next youngest. Zuckerberg is also the only member of the top 10 who founded his company as a teenager/young adult (Facebook launched from his Harvard dorm room in 2004 when he was 19). His trajectory - from \$0 to \$196 billion in 22 years - represents one of the fastest personal wealth accumulations in human history. The iPhone social media apps context for the platforms that drive these platforms' usage and revenue is in our [top iPhone social networking apps analysis](#).

Top 10 social media billionaires combined net worth share April 2026 - individual percentage of 1.39 trillion
 total Top 10 Social Media Billionaires - Share of Combined \$1.39 Trillion Net Worth (April 2026) Musk
 17.3%, Bezos 15.2%, Zuckerberg 14.1%, Ellison 10.4%, Page 8.7%, Huang 8.5%, Brin 8.3%, Ballmer 7.8%,
 Dell 6.9%, Hastings 2.7%. Total: \$1.391 trillion combined. Sources: Forbes, Bloomberg April 2026. ±5-10%.
 \$1.39TTop 10 combined 17.3%Musk share

Key Statistics

Richest Social Media Entrepreneurs Key Statistics (April 2026)

\$241BElon Musk - World's Richest Person and Richest Social Media Entrepreneur (April 2026)Elon Musk's
 estimated net worth of approximately \$241 billion as of April 2026 makes him both the world's wealthiest
 person and the richest social media entrepreneur. His wealth comes from stakes in Tesla (approximately
 13% equity), SpaceX (approximately 42% equity), X (approximately 74% ownership, acquired for \$44
 billion in 2022), and xAI (majority stake in AI company valued at \$50B+). Musk's net worth is approximately
 \$29 billion ahead of Jeff Bezos (\$212B) in second place. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg
 April 2026. ±5-10%. **\$196B**Mark Zuckerberg - #2 at \$196B, Up +250% from 2022 Low of \$56B - Fastest
 Billionaire RecoveryMark Zuckerberg's net worth of approximately \$196 billion as of April 2026 represents
 a +250% recovery from his January 2023 low of approximately \$56 billion - one of the fastest billionaire
 wealth recoveries ever recorded. Zuckerberg owns approximately 13% of Meta Platforms, which operates
 Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp globally. Meta's 2025 annual revenue of approximately \$164 billion
 (98% from advertising) is the primary driver of Zuckerberg's net worth. He is 41 years old in 2026 - the
 youngest top-10 social media billionaire. Source: Forbes, Bloomberg April 2026. ±5-10%. **\$1.39T**Combined
 Net Worth of Top 10 Social Media Billionaires - Exceeds GDP of Most CountriesThe combined estimated net
 worth of the top 10 social media entrepreneurs in April 2026 is approximately \$1.39 trillion - a figure
 exceeding the GDP of Spain (\$1.6T), Mexico (\$1.3T), and almost every country outside the G7. All 10 of the
 richest social media entrepreneurs are American, reflecting the US technology industry's global dominance
 in founding and scaling digital platforms. The top 3 alone (Musk \$241B, Bezos \$212B, Zuckerberg \$196B)
 account for \$649 billion combined - approximately 47% of the top-10 total. Source: Forbes, Bloomberg
 April 2026. ±5-10%. **+\$42B**Musk - Largest Single-Year Net Worth Gain Among Social Media Billionaires
 (Apr 2025 to Apr 2026)Elon Musk gained approximately \$42 billion in net worth from April 2025 to April
 2026 - the largest single-year wealth gain among the top 10 social media billionaires. This gain was
 primarily driven by Tesla's stock price recovery and xAI's rising valuation as a credible competitor to
 OpenAI. Mark Zuckerberg's \$38 billion gain is the second largest, driven by Meta's continued advertising



revenue outperformance and AI integration into its ad targeting tools. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg April 2025/2026. $\pm 5\text{--}10\%$. \$164B Meta Revenue 2025 - Zuckerberg's Wealth Most Directly Tied to Social Media Platform Performance Meta Platforms generated approximately \$164 billion in total revenue in 2025 - almost entirely from advertising across Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. This makes Mark Zuckerberg the billionaire whose wealth is most directly tied to social media platform commercial performance. Elon Musk's \$241 billion is primarily driven by Tesla and SpaceX rather than X's \$3.4 billion revenue. The Meta/X revenue gap of approximately 48x illustrates that owning a social media platform alone is not sufficient - Meta's advertising infrastructure is what creates extraordinary wealth. Source: Meta earnings reports, Statista 2025. $\pm 3\text{--}5\%$. 48x Meta vs X Revenue Gap - \$164B vs \$3.4B - Platform Revenue Does Not Guarantee Founder Wealth Meta generates approximately 48x more annual revenue than X (formerly Twitter) - approximately \$164 billion vs \$3.4 billion in 2025. Yet Musk (\$241B) is ranked above Zuckerberg (\$196B) in net worth, because Musk's wealth derives primarily from Tesla and SpaceX rather than X. This 48x revenue gap illustrates a key truth about social media entrepreneur wealth: platform revenue matters for wealth tied to that platform, but diversified founders (Musk across Tesla/SpaceX/X/xAI) can accumulate greater total wealth than a founder concentrated in a single platform. Source: Company earnings, Forbes April 2026. $\pm 3\text{--}5\%$. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions Richest Social Media Entrepreneurs 2026

Elon Musk is the richest social media entrepreneur in 2026 with an estimated net worth of approximately \$241 billion as of April 2026 - also making him the world's wealthiest person. His wealth comes from stakes in X (formerly Twitter), Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI. Mark Zuckerberg (Meta) is second at approximately \$196 billion. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg April 2026. $\pm 5\text{--}10\%$.

Mark Zuckerberg's estimated net worth is approximately **\$196 billion as of April 2026** - up from approximately \$56 billion in early 2023 and \$125 billion in 2024. His wealth comes primarily from approximately 13% ownership in Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp). Meta generated approximately \$164 billion in revenue in 2025, almost entirely from advertising. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg April 2026. $\pm 5\text{--}10\%$.

Elon Musk's estimated net worth is approximately **\$241 billion as of April 2026** - the highest of any individual globally. His wealth breaks down approximately as: Tesla equity (~\$180B+), SpaceX stake (~\$40B+), X (Twitter) ownership (~\$10-15B), and xAI stake (~\$15B+). He acquired Twitter for \$44 billion in October 2022 and renamed it X. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg April 2026. $\pm 5\text{--}10\%$.

Mark Zuckerberg lost approximately **\$42 billion in net worth in 2022** - from approximately \$98 billion to approximately \$56 billion - in one of the largest single-year billionaire wealth destructions ever recorded. The collapse was driven by Meta's share price falling approximately 65% due to Apple's ATT tracking changes hurting advertising revenue, and Meta's expensive metaverse pivot (Reality Labs). His subsequent recovery to \$196 billion represents a +250% gain from the 2022-2023 low. Source: Forbes, Bloomberg. ±5–10%.

The top 5 richest social media entrepreneurs as of April 2026 are: (1) **Elon Musk (\$241B)** - X/Tesla/SpaceX, (2) Jeff Bezos (\$212B) - Amazon/AWS, (3) Mark Zuckerberg (\$196B) - Meta, (4) Larry Ellison (\$145B) - Oracle, and (5) Larry Page (\$121B) - Google/YouTube/Alphabet. Combined their net worth is approximately \$1.015 trillion. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg April 2026. ±5–10%.

Jensen Huang (NVIDIA CEO, \$118B net worth) is included because NVIDIA's AI chips power the recommendation algorithms, content moderation, and advertising systems of every major social media platform - TikTok, Meta, YouTube, and X all run on NVIDIA GPU infrastructure. His wealth is directly tied to the AI-driven growth of social media. NVIDIA's stock appreciated approximately 800% between 2022 and 2025 driven by AI/social media platform demand. Source: Forbes, Bloomberg April 2026. ±5–10%.

X (formerly Twitter) generates approximately **\$3.4 billion in annual revenue** as of 2025 - significantly below Twitter's peak of approximately \$5.1 billion in 2021. Elon Musk paid \$44 billion to acquire Twitter in October 2022. The platform's current valuation by investors is estimated at approximately \$12-20 billion - well below the acquisition price. X's revenue declined significantly following advertiser departures after Musk's content moderation changes. Source: Statista, company reports, Forbes 2025-2026. ±10–20%.

The combined estimated net worth of the top 10 social media entrepreneurs is approximately **\$1.39 trillion as of April 2026** - a figure exceeding the entire GDP of most individual countries. All 10 of the wealthiest social media entrepreneurs are American. The top 3 alone (Musk \$241B, Bezos \$212B, Zuckerberg \$196B) account for approximately \$649 billion. Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires, Bloomberg April 2026. ±5–10%.

Sources

[Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List - April 2026](#) - Primary source for net worth rankings and individual estimates. Forbes methodology: share price x ownership stake plus known private assets minus known liabilities. Updated daily. ±5–10% per individual.



[Bloomberg Billionaires Index - April 2026](#) - Secondary cross-validation source for net worth estimates.

Bloomberg uses a similar methodology to Forbes but with some differences in private asset valuation. $\pm 5\text{--}10\%$ per individual.

[Statista - Billionaire Net Worth and Platform Revenue Data 2019-2026](#) - Source for historical net worth trend data and platform revenue comparisons. $\pm 5\text{--}10\%$ historical estimates.

[Meta Investor Relations - Annual Revenue Reports 2025](#) - Source for Meta annual revenue figures. Meta's quarterly earnings reports are the authoritative source for Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp advertising revenue. $\pm 1\text{--}3\%$.

All net worth figures are estimates based on publicly available information (share prices, ownership stakes, public filings) as of April 2026. Private company valuations (SpaceX, xAI) carry higher uncertainty ($\pm 15\text{--}25\%$). Billionaire net worth fluctuates daily with stock markets - these are April 2026 snapshot estimates. YoY change = April 2025 vs April 2026. Not investment advice.



HOW TO CITE THIS BOOK

Business Stats (2026). **Billionaires: statistics and facts**. Retrieved Oct 18, 2026,
<https://businesstats.com/billionaires-topic-overview/>

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