



BusinessStats

Data · Insights · Statistics

STATISTICS BOOK

Wealth: statistics and facts

12 full reports · Edition October 2026

63%

PUBLIC, UNDER 50

47.5%

TOP 1% (2026)

2-20bn

RANGE OF
ESTIMATES, RM

+44%

INDUSTRIALS

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Wealth: statistics and facts

This page brings together 12 Business Stats reports on Wealth, grouped into Billionaire (8 reports) and Global Wealth (2 reports).

Among the figures you will find here: 63% (Public, under 50), 47.5% (Top 1% (2026)), 2-20bn (Range of Estimates, RM) and +44% (Industrials).

Most recently revised are Billionaire Wealth by Asset and Age 2026 and Top 1% Share of Global Wealth 2002-2026. Each report links to its original source and offers its data as a free download. This page updates itself as reports are added or revised, most recently on Oct 18, 2026.

Also in this topic: Jewish Wealth in Nazi Germany: Estimates of 2 to 20bn RM, Pandemic Billionaire Wealth by Industry 2020 and Global Wealth Distribution 2026 (Pyramid).

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 19, 2026.

CONTENTS

1. Billionaire

1	Billionaire Wealth by Asset and Age 2026	4
2	Pandemic Billionaire Wealth by Industry 2020	20
3	Billionaire Wealth by Region 2026: US Leads	33
4	Billionaire Wealth Source by Gender 2026	46
5	Total Billionaire Wealth Distribution 2026	59
6	Billionaire Wealth Gains During the Pandemic 2026	72
7	\$20.1T Wealth — Billionaires Around the World Statistics & Facts 2026	85
8	2,781 Billionaires Hold \$14.2T — Wealth vs World 2026	97



2. Global Wealth

9	Top 1% Share of Global Wealth 2002-2026	110
10	Global Wealth Distribution 2026 (Pyramid)	123

3. More statistics

11	Jewish Wealth in Nazi Germany: Estimates of 2 to 20bn RM	136
12	Wealth per Adult by Country 2026: Swiss Lead	143

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 Americas 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 \$839.6B
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

3,428 Billionaires 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. \$20.1T Combined Billionaire Wealth 2026 Up \$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. \$839B Elon Musk — World's Richest 2026 First 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. 989 USA — #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. 20 Centi-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. 114 AI Billionaires Created 2026 AI 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. 80 Countries 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 HNWI 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

Share of the global wealth held by the richest percent 2002-2026

Updated Jul 9, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-wealth-richest-percent

47.5% TOP 1% (2026)	44% TOP 1% (2002)	50.8% 2016 PEAK
1% BOTTOM HALF	6.1% TOP 0.001%	0.88 WEALTH GINI

Overview

Share of the global net personal wealth held by the richest percent from 2002 to 2026

The richest 1 percent of adults held about 47.5 percent of all global net personal wealth in 2026, up from about 44 percent in 2002. The share rose to a peak of nearly 51 percent in 2016 before easing and then climbing again in recent years. The share of the world wealth held by the richest 1 percent is one of the single most powerful measures of global inequality, capturing in one number how far the fortunes of the top have pulled away from those of everyone else over the past two decades. At about 47.5 percent in 2026, the share of the richest 1 percent is close to its highest level in decades, a striking figure that means a single percent of adults holds nearly as much wealth as the entire rest of the world combined. Tracked over nearly a quarter of a century, the share of the richest 1 percent offers a long view of how global wealth concentration has evolved, through booms and busts, financial crises and recoveries, and the rise of a new class of the ultra-wealthy.

The concentration of wealth at the very top has grown over the past two decades, though not in a straight line. The trend builds on our [global wealth distribution](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage.

Wealth Shares Over Time: Top 1%, Top 10%, Bottom 50%
A widening gap.

Data:

Share of global net personal wealth held by the richest 1 percent of adults, from 2002 to 2026, in percent, based on Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data.

Note:

Figures reflect changing methodology after the UBS takeover of Credit Suisse in 2023. Switch views with the toolbar.

A widening gap: the top 1 percent hold about 47.5 percent of global wealth and the top 10 percent more than 80 percent, while the bottom half hold just about 1 percent.

The share held by the richest 1 percent is one of the most closely watched measures of global inequality, tracking how far the wealth of the top has pulled away from the rest, themes our [billionaire wealth distribution](#) and [total billionaire wealth](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the share of global net personal wealth held by the richest 1 percent of adults from 2002 to 2026, in percent, from Credit Suisse and UBS data. The figures reflect a change in methodology after UBS took over Credit Suisse in 2023. Because the methodology changed after UBS took over Credit Suisse in 2023, the most recent figures are not perfectly comparable with the earlier ones, so the long-run trend should be read as broadly indicative rather than exact. The reference measure is the share of total net personal wealth, gross assets minus debts, held by the richest 1 percent of the adult population, expressed in percent and tracked from 2002 through 2026.

The Table

The Top 1 Percent Share Over Time

Top 1% Share of Global Wealth, 2002-2026 Click any column to sort

YEAR	TOP 1% SHARE OF WEALTH
2002	44.0%
2006	43.5%
2010	45.4%
2014	48.0%
2016	50.8%
2018	47.2%

2020	45.8%
2022	44.5%
2024	47.0%
2026	47.5%

The table shows the share of global wealth held by the richest 1 percent from 2002 to 2026. It shows a rise to a peak around 2016, a dip toward the end of the decade, and a renewed climb in the most recent years. Reading down the table shows the arc of the past two decades, a rise from about 44 percent in 2002 to a peak near 51 percent in 2016, a dip toward the end of the decade, and a renewed climb to about 47.5 percent by 2026. Because the figures combine data from before and after the change in methodology, and because wealth shares move with asset prices, the year-to-year numbers should be read as broadly indicative of the trend rather than precise.

The Share

How Much Wealth Does the Top 1% Hold?

The richest 1 percent of adults held about 47.5 percent of all global wealth in 2026, close to half of everything owned in the world. That share is up from about 44 percent in 2002, having peaked at nearly 51 percent in 2016. The fact that a single percent of the world adults holds close to half of all the wealth on the planet is a startling measure of concentration, and its slow rise over two decades points to an inequality that has deepened rather than eased. The 47.5 percent share of 2026 is up more than 3 percentage points from about 44 percent in 2002, and although it sits below the 2016 peak of nearly 51 percent, it points to a long-run trend of rising concentration. The proximity of the figure to the symbolic halfway mark, with a single percent of adults holding close to half of all the wealth in the world, is what gives the statistic its power as a shorthand for the state of global inequality.

The rise in the share of the top 1 percent reflects the long boom in asset prices, especially shares and property, which are owned disproportionately by the wealthy, a pattern our [billionaires by region](#) coverage frames.

Top 1% Share of Global Wealth, 2002-2026 (%)Close to half.

Data:



Share of global net personal wealth held by the richest 1 percent of adults, from 2002 to 2026, in percent, based on Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data.

Note:

Figures reflect changing methodology after the UBS takeover of Credit Suisse in 2023. Switch views with the toolbar.

Close to half: the share of the richest 1 percent rose from about 44 percent in 2002 to a peak of nearly 51 percent in 2016, then eased and climbed again to about 47.5 percent.

The share has not risen in a straight line, dipping in the years after 2016 as some fortunes fell, before climbing again in the strong markets of the 2020s, showing how closely wealth concentration tracks the ups and downs of asset prices. The close link between the share of the top 1 percent and the ups and downs of the stock and property markets is one of the clearest lessons of the data, since the wealthy hold most of their fortunes in exactly these assets.

Today

How Is Global Wealth Split Today?

Global wealth is split very unevenly. The richest 1 percent hold about 47.5 percent, the next 9 percent hold about 35 percent, and the next 40 percent hold about 16 percent, leaving the poorest half of the world adults with only about 1 percent. The way global wealth splits into a top that holds almost everything and a bottom half that holds almost nothing is the defining feature of the distribution, a gulf that has proved remarkably resistant to change. With the top 1 percent on about 47.5 percent, the next 9 percent on about 35 percent, and the next 40 percent on about 16 percent, the richest tenth of adults hold more than 80 percent of all wealth, leaving 1 percent for the bottom half. The four-way split of global wealth, from a top percent holding almost half to a bottom half holding almost nothing, is one of the most quoted illustrations of inequality, and it has changed remarkably little in its broad shape over the years.

The concentration at the top means the richest tenth of adults hold more than 80 percent of all wealth, while the bottom half hold almost nothing, a pattern our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage frames.

How Global Wealth Splits Today (%) Top-heavy.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.



Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Top-heavy: the top 1 percent hold about 47.5 percent of global wealth, the next 9 percent about 35 percent, and the poorest half just about 1 percent.

The near-total exclusion of the bottom half of the world adults from wealth, holding just 1 percent between them, is the starkest feature of the global distribution, unchanged even as the world has grown far richer overall. The persistence of the bottom half near 1 percent, decade after decade, is a reminder that the great rise in global wealth has flowed overwhelmingly to those who were already wealthy, leaving the poorest largely untouched. Taken together, the country figures show that while wealth concentration varies widely, it is high almost everywhere, from the extreme levels of Russia and South Africa to the more moderate but still substantial concentration of Western Europe.

In Dollars

The Growing Fortune of the Top 1%

In dollar terms, the wealth of the top 1 percent has grown enormously, from about 55 trillion dollars in 2002 to more than 250 trillion in 2026. The rise reflects both the growing total of global wealth and the rising share held at the top. Tracking the wealth of the top 1 percent in dollars, rather than as a share, reveals the sheer scale of the fortunes involved, which have multiplied several times over as asset prices have soared through the past two decades. The wealth of the top 1 percent has risen from about 55 trillion dollars in 2002 to more than 250 trillion in 2026, a near-fivefold increase that far outpaces the growth of the world economy over the same period.

The near-fivefold rise in the wealth of the top 1 percent over two decades reflects the long boom in the value of shares, property and other assets, a rise our largest asset managers coverage frames.

Wealth of the Top 1% Over Time (trillion USD) A near-fivefold rise.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

A near-fivefold rise: the wealth of the top 1 percent rose from about 55 trillion dollars in 2002 to more than 250 trillion in 2026.

The growing fortune of the top 1 percent, now more than 250 trillion dollars, is larger than the combined economic output of every country in the world in a year, a measure of the sheer scale of wealth concentrated at the top. The sheer scale of the wealth now held by the top 1 percent, more than 250 trillion dollars, is difficult to grasp, dwarfing the annual output of the world economy and representing an unprecedented concentration of resources.

By Country

Which Countries Are the Most Unequal?

The share held by the richest 1 percent varies widely by country. It is highest in Russia, at about 59 percent, and South Africa and Brazil, at about 55 and 50 percent, while it is lower in Japan and much of Western Europe, at around 20 percent. The wide variation in wealth concentration from country to country shows that inequality is not fixed but shaped by history, policy and the structure of each economy, ranging from the extreme concentration of Russia to the more even spread of Japan. At about 59 percent, Russia has the highest top 1 percent wealth share of any major economy, more than double Japan roughly 19 percent, a range that captures the vast differences in wealth concentration around the world. The country-by-country picture is a reminder that the global figure is an average of very different national experiences, from societies where a small elite holds most of the wealth to those where it is spread more evenly.

The high concentration in Russia, South Africa and Brazil reflects their histories of inequality and the dominance of a small elite, while the lower shares in Japan and parts of Europe reflect more even distributions, a contrast our [leading billionaires](#) coverage frames.

Top 1% Share of National Wealth by Country (%)Russia leads.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

Russia leads: the top 1 percent hold about 59 percent of national wealth in Russia, against about 19 percent in Japan, with the United States on about 35 percent.

The United States, with the top 1 percent holding about 35 percent of national wealth, is more unequal than most of Western Europe, reflecting the concentration of its enormous fortunes at the very top. The relatively high concentration in the United States, greater than in most of Western Europe, is a reminder that wealth inequality is not confined to developing or transition economies but is a feature of the richest country in the world.

The Gini

The Global Wealth Gini

The global wealth Gini coefficient, a measure of inequality where 0 is perfect equality and 1 is total concentration, stands at about 0.88 in 2026. It has remained extremely high throughout the period, reflecting the persistence of extreme wealth inequality. The global wealth Gini coefficient, a single summary measure of inequality, captures how extreme the concentration of wealth has become, standing far above the levels seen for income and close to the theoretical maximum. At about 0.88, the global wealth Gini coefficient sits close to the theoretical maximum of 1, far above the figure for income inequality and a stark measure of how concentrated the world wealth has become.

The very high global wealth Gini, far above the levels seen for income, reflects the way wealth is even more concentrated than earnings, built up and passed down over generations, a pattern our [global stock markets by country coverage frames](#).

Global Wealth Gini Coefficient Over TimeExtreme and stable.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Extreme and stable: the global wealth Gini coefficient stands at about 0.88, far above income inequality and close to its theoretical maximum.

The stability of the global wealth Gini at such a high level, despite the rise of billions of people out of poverty, shows how deeply entrenched wealth inequality remains at the global level. The stubborn stability of the global wealth Gini at such an extreme level, even as billions have risen out of poverty, underlines how the reduction of poverty and the concentration of wealth at the top can proceed side by side. Looking

ahead, the global wealth Gini seems likely to remain extremely high, since the forces concentrating wealth at the top, above all rising asset prices, show little sign of easing.

Billionaires

The Rising Share of Billionaires

Billionaires hold a growing share of global wealth. Their combined fortunes have risen from about 1.5 percent of all global wealth in 2010 to about 4 percent in 2026, as the largest fortunes have grown faster than the rest. The rising share of global wealth held by billionaires is one of the clearest signs of concentration at the very top, as the largest fortunes have grown faster than global wealth as a whole for well over a decade. Billionaires share of global wealth has risen from about 1.5 percent in 2010 to about 4 percent in 2026, meaning a group of a few thousand people now holds one dollar in every twenty-five of the world wealth.

The rising share of billionaires reflects the extraordinary growth of the very largest fortunes, especially in technology, which have outpaced the growth of global wealth as a whole, a boom our Nasdaq stock market coverage frames.

Billionaire Share of Global Wealth Over Time (%) Rising fast.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Rising fast: billionaires share of global wealth rose from about 1.5 percent in 2010 to about 4 percent in 2026, faster than any other group.

Although billionaires are a tiny fraction of the top 1 percent, their share of global wealth has grown faster than that of any other group, reflecting the concentration of wealth at the very apex of the distribution. The faster growth of the billionaire share than of any other group captures the way the very largest fortunes have outpaced not just the rest of society but even the rest of the wealthy, concentrating wealth ever more tightly at the apex.

Since 2002

Concentration Since 2002, by Country

Wealth concentration has risen within many countries since 2002. In Russia the share of the top 1 percent rose from about 45 to 59 percent, in India from about 32 to 40 percent, and in China from about 25 to 31 percent, while Western shares changed less. Looking at how concentration has changed within individual countries since 2002 reveals a more varied picture than the global figure alone, with the sharpest rises in the fast-growing and transition economies.

The sharp rise in concentration in Russia, India and China reflects the rapid creation of new fortunes as their economies grew and opened, a shift our [biggest companies by market value](#) coverage frames.

Top 1% Share by Country, 2002 vs 2026 (%) Concentration rose.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Concentration rose: since 2002 the top 1 percent share rose from about 45 to 59 percent in Russia and from about 32 to 40 percent in India.

The more modest changes in the United States and Western Europe reflect their already high and more stable levels of concentration, though even there the share of the top 1 percent has drifted upward over the period. The drift upward in concentration even in the United States and Western Europe, where levels were already high, shows that the trend toward greater wealth inequality has been broad-based, if less dramatic in the established rich world.

The Ultra-Rich

The Top 0.001% Pull Away

At the very top, the richest 0.001 percent, a group of about 56,000 people, have pulled away fastest. Their share of global wealth has risen from about 3.7 percent in 1995 to about 6.1 percent in 2025, according to the World Inequality Report. The pulling away of the ultra-rich, the richest 0.001 percent, is perhaps the most extreme expression of rising wealth concentration, as a group small enough to fit in a stadium has come to hold a growing slice of the world wealth. The share of the richest 0.001 percent has risen from about 3.7 percent in 1995 to about 6.1 percent in 2025, meaning about 56,000 people now hold more than



the poorest four billion combined.

The rise of the ultra-rich reflects the concentration of wealth at the very apex, where a few thousand fortunes have grown faster than almost any other group, a pattern our [crypto market](#) coverage frames.

Share of the Richest 0.001% Over Time (%)The ultra-rich pull away.

Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

The ultra-rich pull away: the share of the richest 0.001 percent, about 56,000 people, rose from about 3.7 percent in 1995 to about 6.1 percent in 2025.

The fact that about 56,000 people now hold more wealth than the poorest half of the world population combined is perhaps the starkest single measure of how extreme wealth concentration has become at the very top. The comparison between the 56,000 people at the very top and the poorest four billion is perhaps the most vivid illustration of global wealth inequality, a gap so vast it can be hard to comprehend.

Movers

Where Concentration Rose the Most

The change in the share of the top 1 percent since 2002 varies widely. Concentration rose most in Russia and India, by more than 8 percentage points, followed by China and the United States, while it fell slightly in a few Western European countries. The pattern of where wealth concentration has risen the most since 2002 offers a map of the changing geography of inequality, dominated by the transition and fast-growing economies rather than the established rich nations. Russia roughly 14 percentage point rise in the top 1 percent share since 2002, and India about 8 points, dwarf the changes in the United States and Western Europe, marking the sharpest rises in wealth concentration.

The differing paths reflect the very different histories of these economies, with the fast-growing and transition economies seeing the sharpest rises in concentration, a contrast our [leading investment banks](#) coverage frames.

Change in Top 1% Share Since 2002 (pct points)Sharpest in the East.



Data:

Derived from Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Report data, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Wealth shares in percent; some country and historical figures are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Sharpest in the East: the top 1 percent share rose most in Russia and India since 2002, while it changed little or fell slightly in parts of Western Europe.

The overall trend, of rising concentration in most large economies, has pushed the global share of the top 1 percent upward over the period, even as the picture has varied from one country to the next. The broad rise in concentration across most large economies, pushing the global share of the top 1 percent upward, shows that the trend is not the story of any one country but a widespread feature of the modern global economy. Whether global concentration continues to rise will depend on the path of asset prices and on policy, but the broad trend of the past two decades has been clearly toward a larger share for the richest 1 percent.

Key Facts

The Top 1% Share in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. The richest 1 percent held about 47.5 percent of global wealth in 2026, up from 44 percent in 2002, the top 0.001 percent held about 6 percent, and the poorest half of the world held just 1 percent. These figures together track the rising share of the richest 1 percent over two decades, a measure of growing global wealth concentration driven by soaring asset prices and led by the ultra-rich at the very top. The picture that emerges is of wealth concentration that has risen over two decades and now sits close to its highest level in decades, with the very richest pulling away fastest of all at the apex of the distribution.

The figures matter because the share held by the richest measures how far the wealth of the top has pulled away from the rest, a picture our [euro to dollar exchange rate coverage](#) sets in the global context.

47.5%Top 1%Of global wealth. 50.8%2016 peakHighest on record. 1%Bottom halfOf global wealth.
6.1%Top 0.001%And rising.

Together these figures show a world in which wealth has grown more concentrated at the very top over two decades, with the richest 1 percent holding close to half of everything, and the ultra-rich pulling away



fastest.

Big Picture

Wealth of the Richest Percent: The Big Picture

Taken together, the rising share of the richest 1 percent maps two decades of growing wealth concentration, driven by soaring asset prices and led by the ultra-rich, a story our [gold as an investment coverage](#) sets against other assets.

Whether the share of the top keeps rising will depend on markets, growth and policy, but wealth concentration remains close to its highest level in decades, alongside the markets in our [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Top 1% Wealth Share

About 47.5 percent in 2026, close to half of all global net personal wealth, up from about 44 percent in 2002, according to Credit Suisse and UBS data.

Yes. It rose from about 44 percent in 2002 to a peak of nearly 51 percent in 2016, eased later in the decade, and has climbed again since.

Just about 1 percent. The poorest 50 percent of the world adults hold only about 1 percent of global wealth between them, little changed over two decades.

Russia, where the top 1 percent hold about 59 percent of national wealth, followed by South Africa and Brazil. Japan and much of Western Europe are less concentrated.

About 6.1 percent of all global wealth in 2025, up from 3.7 percent in 1995. This group of about 56,000 people holds more than the poorest half of the world.

Slightly. The share of the richest 1 percent has risen over two decades, and the global wealth Gini remains extremely high at about 0.88.

More than 250 trillion dollars in 2026, up from about 55 trillion in 2002, larger than the combined annual output of every country in the world.

About 0.88 in 2026, where 0 is perfect equality and 1 is total concentration. It is far higher than income inequality and has stayed high for decades.



A growing one. Billionaires held about 4 percent of all global wealth in 2026, up from about 1.5 percent in 2010, though they are a tiny fraction of the top 1 percent.

From the Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Reports, which estimate personal wealth worldwide.

Methodology changed after UBS took over Credit Suisse in 2023.

Sources

Credit Suisse and UBS Global Wealth Reports - Source for the share of global wealth held by the richest 1 percent over time.

World Inequality Report and UBS data - Source for the ultra-rich, country and Gini detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

[UBS Global Wealth Report](#) - Publishes the annual data on the global distribution of wealth.

Figures show the share of global net personal wealth held by the richest 1 percent of adults from 2002 to 2026, in percent, from Credit Suisse and UBS data. The share was about 47.5 percent in 2026, up from about 44 percent in 2002, having peaked near 51 percent in 2016. The poorest half of the world hold just 1 percent. Methodology changed after UBS took over Credit Suisse in 2023, and some figures are estimates. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Worldwide wealth distribution by net worth of individuals 2026

Updated Jul 8, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-wealth-distribution-by-net-worth

48% TOP 1.5% SHARE	57.5M MILLIONAIRES	23.6M US MILLIONAIRES
41% UNDER \$10K	\$9K MEDIAN WEALTH	\$500T+ TOTAL WEALTH

Overview

Global wealth distribution in 2026, by net worth of individuals

Global wealth is highly concentrated. In 2026 the richest 1.5 percent of adults, those worth more than 1 million dollars, hold about 48 percent of all the wealth in the world, while the poorest 41 percent, worth less than 10,000 dollars each, hold less than 1 percent. The global distribution of wealth is one of the most revealing measures of inequality on the planet, showing how the vast bulk of the world personal wealth is held by a tiny fraction of its adults, while billions hold almost nothing at all. On the 2026 figures, a world of more than 5.5 billion adults holds more than 500 trillion dollars of personal wealth, but that wealth is divided so unequally that a tiny sliver at the top holds nearly as much as everyone else combined. Few statistics lay bare the state of the world as starkly as the global distribution of wealth, which shows a planet where a small, immensely rich minority holds most of what there is, while the great majority of humanity holds very little.

There are about 57.5 million millionaires in the world, and total personal wealth has risen to more than 500 trillion dollars. The picture builds on our [total billionaire wealth](#) and [billionaires around the world](#) coverage.

Global Wealth Pyramid: Adults and Wealth by Band, 2026 Billions at the base, wealth at the top.

Data:

Global wealth distribution in 2026, by net worth of individuals, showing the share of adults and of total wealth in each net worth band, based on the UBS Global Wealth Report.

Note:

Reference year 2025; wealth is gross assets minus debts per adult. Switch views with the toolbar.

Billions at the base, wealth at the top: about 2.3 billion adults are worth under 10,000 dollars but hold under 1 percent of wealth, while 57.5 million millionaires hold about 48 percent.

The base of the pyramid has shrunk, as billions of people have risen out of the poorest band, but wealth remains concentrated at the top, themes our [billionaire wealth distribution](#) and [billionaires by region](#) coverage explores.

A note on the data. The figures show the global wealth distribution in 2026 by net worth of individuals, from the UBS Global Wealth Report, with a reference year of 2025. Wealth is measured as gross assets minus debts per adult, and some breakdowns are estimates. Because the UBS report estimates wealth across 56 markets covering more than 92 percent of the world wealth, the figures for the largest economies are robust, while those for smaller and poorer countries involve more estimation. The reference year for the figures is 2025, and because wealth is measured in US dollars, exchange-rate movements can affect the totals for individual countries from one year to the next, alongside changes in asset prices.

The Table

The Global Wealth Pyramid

The Global Wealth Pyramid, 2026 Click any column to sort

NET WORTH BAND	ADULTS (MILLIONS)	SHARE OF WEALTH
Less than \$10,000	2,300 M	1%
\$10,000 - \$100,000	1,900 M	13%
\$100,000 - \$1 million	1,280 M	38%
More than \$1 million	57.5 M	48%

The table shows the global wealth pyramid in 2026, with the number of adults and their share of total wealth in each net worth band. It shows billions of adults at the bottom holding little, and a small group at the top holding most of the wealth. Reading down the table shows the classic pyramid shape, with billions of adults crowded into the lower bands holding little wealth, narrowing to a small band of millionaires at the top holding nearly half of the total. Because the figures are estimates drawn from many sources and

converted into dollars, the exact numbers should be treated as approximate, but the overall shape of the pyramid, broad at the base and narrow at the top, is clear and robust.

The Pyramid

How Is Global Wealth Distributed?

The world adult population forms a wealth pyramid. About 2.3 billion adults, or 41 percent, are worth less than 10,000 dollars, while about 1.9 billion are worth 10,000 to 100,000 dollars and 1.3 billion are worth 100,000 to 1 million. Just 57.5 million are millionaires. The image of a wealth pyramid, broad at the base and narrow at the top, captures the essential structure of global wealth, with the great mass of humanity at the bottom and a small, immensely wealthy group at the peak. With about 2.3 billion adults in the lowest band, 1.9 billion in the next and 1.3 billion in the third, the great majority of the world adults are worth less than 1 million dollars, and most far less than that. The wealth pyramid is one of the most enduring images in the study of global inequality, a simple shape that captures a profound truth about how the world personal wealth is shared among its billions of adults.

The shape reflects the way wealth is distributed across the world, with a broad base of people holding little and a narrow top holding most of the wealth, a pattern our [global stock markets by country](#) coverage frames.

Adults by Net Worth Band, 2026 (millions)A broad base.

Data:

Global wealth distribution in 2026, by net worth of individuals, showing the share of adults and of total wealth in each net worth band, based on the UBS Global Wealth Report.

Note:

Reference year 2025; wealth is gross assets minus debts per adult.Switch views with the toolbar.

A broad base: about 2.3 billion adults are worth less than 10,000 dollars, 1.9 billion are worth 10,000 to 100,000, and just 57.5 million are millionaires.

The base of the pyramid is far wider than the top, with billions of adults in the lowest bands, yet those bands hold only a small share of the wealth, while the small top band holds nearly half of it. The sheer width of the base, with billions of adults holding only a few thousand dollars or less, against the tiny peak of millionaires, is the defining visual of global wealth, a pyramid far more lopsided than any national one.

Taken together, the pyramid confirms that the great majority of the world adults hold only a small share of its wealth, while a tiny group at the top holds most of it, the defining structure of global wealth.

Who Holds It

Who Holds the World's Wealth?

Wealth is held overwhelmingly at the top. The millionaires, just 1.5 percent of adults, hold about 48 percent of all wealth, and those worth 100,000 to 1 million dollars hold another 38 percent. The bottom two bands, most of the world adults, hold about 14 percent between them. The concentration of wealth at the top of the global distribution is even starker than the distribution of the population, since the small group of millionaires holds nearly half of all the wealth in the world. The 57.5 million millionaires, just 1.5 percent of the world adults, hold about 48 percent of all wealth, while the 2.3 billion adults in the poorest band, some 41 percent of the total, hold less than 1 percent between them. The near-equal split, with the richest tiny minority holding about as much as everyone else combined, is the defining fact of global wealth, and it has proved remarkably persistent even as the world has grown far richer overall.

The concentration reflects the way wealth builds on itself, through property, investment and inheritance, a pattern our [top billionaire countries](#) coverage frames.

Share of Global Wealth by Band (%)Held at the top.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Held at the top: the richest 1.5 percent of adults hold about 48 percent of all wealth, and those worth 100,000 to 1 million hold another 38 percent.

The contrast is stark. The richest 1.5 percent of adults hold nearly half of all wealth, while the poorest 41 percent, some 2.3 billion people, hold less than 1 percent between them, the essential shape of global wealth inequality. The concentration is if anything understated by the bands, since within the top band the billionaires and centimillionaires hold far more than the everyday millionaires, extending the concentration further still toward the very top.

World Map

Where the Millionaires Live: The Map

The world map shows the millionaires of the world by country, shaded by number. The United States stands out in the brightest gold, home to 23.6 million millionaires, about 41 percent of the world total, far more than any other country. The geography of the world millionaires is dominated by a handful of large, wealthy economies, above all the United States, whose millionaire population dwarfs that of every other country and colours the map a bright gold. The United States 23.6 million millionaires, about 41 percent of the world total, make it by far the brightest country on the map, more than four times the number in second-placed China.

Millionaires by Country, 2026 (World Map)

The map makes the concentration clear, with the United States and China alone home to more than half of the world millionaires, and a cluster of wealthy countries across Europe and the Asia-Pacific holding most of the rest. The near-empty appearance of much of the map, across Africa, much of Asia and Latin America, is itself a powerful illustration of how unevenly the world millionaires, and its wealth, are distributed.

By Country

Which Countries Have the Most Millionaires?

The United States has by far the most millionaires, with about 23.6 million, roughly 41 percent of the world total. China is second with about 5.3 million, followed by the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Japan, each with more than 2 million. The ranking of countries by their number of millionaires offers one of the clearest maps of where the world wealth is concentrated, dominated by the United States and China but with Europe strongly represented. The United States 23.6 million millionaires are more than four times China 5.3 million, and the United States and China together are home to more than half of all the personal wealth in the world.

The American lead reflects the size and wealth of its economy and its buoyant financial markets, which have created millionaires faster than anywhere else, a pattern our [leading billionaires](#) coverage frames.

Millionaires by Country, 2026 (millions) The US leads by far.

Data:



Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

The US leads by far: the United States has about 23.6 million millionaires, roughly 41 percent of the world total, ahead of China on 5.3 million.

Europe places ten countries among the global top twenty, while China rise reflects its rapid growth, together making the millionaire population one of the clearest maps of where wealth is concentrated around the world. The strong showing of European countries in the millionaire ranking, ten of them among the global top twenty, reflects the region long history of accumulated wealth, spread more evenly across many countries than in Asia.

The Rise

The Rise of the Millionaires

The number of millionaires has grown fast, from about 25 million in 2010 to 57.5 million in 2026. Nearly 1 million new millionaires were created in 2025 alone, more than 2,600 a day, as rising markets and property prices lifted people over the mark. The rapid growth of the millionaire population is one of the defining wealth trends of recent decades, as rising asset prices have lifted millions of people over the million-dollar mark year after year. The millionaire population has more than doubled since 2010, from about 25 million to 57.5 million, growing even through periods of economic turmoil as asset prices rose over the long term.

The relentless rise of the millionaire population, adding roughly a million people a year, is one of the clearest signs of how the long boom in asset prices has reshaped the top of the global wealth distribution.

The rapid growth reflects the long rise in asset prices, especially in shares and property, which has lifted millions of people into the millionaire band, a boom our [Nasdaq stock market](#) coverage frames.

Number of Millionaires Over Time (millions) More than doubled.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

More than doubled: the number of millionaires rose from about 25 million in 2010 to 57.5 million in 2026, with nearly 1 million added in 2025 alone.

The United States accounted for almost half of the new millionaires in 2025, adding more than 440,000 people, followed by China, Japan, Germany and other large economies, as the millionaire population grew in every market UBS tracks. The fact that every single market tracked by UBS ended 2025 with more millionaires than it began, for the first time on record, is a striking measure of how broadly the recent rise in wealth has been felt.

The Base

The Shrinking Base of the Pyramid

The base of the pyramid has shrunk dramatically. The share of adults worth less than 10,000 dollars has fallen from about 75 percent in 2000 to just over 41 percent in 2025, as billions of people have risen into the higher bands. The shrinking of the base of the pyramid is one of the most important and least appreciated changes in the global distribution of wealth, reflecting real gains for billions of people, especially across Asia. The share of adults in the poorest band has fallen by more than 30 percentage points since 2000, from about 75 percent to just over 41 percent, one of the largest shifts in the global distribution of wealth on record.

The shrinking base reflects real gains for billions of people, especially in Asia, as economic growth has lifted them out of the poorest band, a shift our [global financial markets](#) coverage frames.

Share of Adults Under \$10,000 Over Time (%) A shrinking base.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

A shrinking base: the share of adults worth less than 10,000 dollars fell from about 75 percent in 2000 to just over 41 percent in 2025.

The contraction of the poorest band marks one of the most important changes in the global distribution of wealth, even as the top has pulled further ahead, reshaping the classic pyramid into a fuller, more diamond-like shape in the middle. The reshaping of the pyramid, with its base contracting and its middle filling out, marks a genuine broadening of wealth, even as the very top has pulled away, a tension at the heart of the modern wealth story. Looking ahead, the base of the pyramid is likely to keep shrinking as economic growth continues to lift people in the developing world, even as the concentration of wealth at the very top shows little sign of easing.

By Region

Wealth Per Adult by Region

Wealth per adult varies enormously by region. North America leads with about 560,000 dollars per adult, followed by Oceania on about 430,000 and Western Europe on about 215,000, while Africa averages just 8,000 dollars per adult. The enormous variation in wealth per adult from region to region is one of the starkest measures of global inequality, reflecting centuries of divergent economic development between the richest and poorest parts of the world. At about 560,000 dollars per adult, North America is worth roughly seventy times as much per person as Africa, on about 8,000 dollars, a gap that captures the extremes of global wealth inequality.

The regional gaps reflect the very different levels of development, asset ownership and financial markets around the world, a contrast our [largest asset managers](#) coverage frames.

Wealth Per Adult by Region, 2026 (USD thousand)North America leads.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates.Switch views with the toolbar.

North America leads: wealth per adult is about 560,000 dollars in North America, against about 8,000 in Africa, a gap of roughly seventy to one.

The gap between North America and Africa, of about seventy to one in wealth per adult, is one of the starkest measures of global inequality, reflecting centuries of divergent economic development. The vast



regional gaps in wealth per adult, far wider than gaps in income, reflect the cumulative nature of wealth, built up over generations in the richer regions and largely absent in the poorer ones.

Regional Wealth

Which Regions Hold the Most Wealth?

Global wealth is concentrated in a few regions. North America holds about 38 percent of all personal wealth, despite having a small share of the world adults, followed by Western Europe on about 25 percent and China on about 20 percent.

The dominance of North America reflects the size and wealth of the United States, which alone holds about 36 percent of all personal wealth in the world, more than any other country by far.

Share of Global Wealth by Region, 2026 (%) North America leads.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

North America leads: North America holds about 38 percent of all personal wealth, ahead of Western Europe on 25 percent and China on 20 percent, with the United States alone holding about 36 percent.

The United States and China together hold more than half of all personal wealth, while Africa and India, home to a large share of the world adults, hold only a small fraction, one of the starkest measures of global inequality.

Density

Where You Are Most Likely to Be a Millionaire

The chance of being a millionaire varies widely by country. In Switzerland about 16 percent of adults are millionaires, the highest share in the world, followed by Luxembourg, Australia and the United States, where about one adult in ten is a millionaire. The chance of being a millionaire varies enormously from country to country, and the ranking of nations by millionaire density offers a very different picture from the raw count, favouring small, wealthy countries.

The high millionaire density in small, wealthy countries reflects their high average wealth, driven by property, financial assets and favourable conditions, a pattern our [leading investment banks coverage](#) frames.

Millionaires as a Share of Adults, 2026 (%) Switzerland leads.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

Switzerland leads: about 16 percent of Swiss adults are millionaires, the highest share in the world, followed by Luxembourg and Australia.

The contrast between the high millionaire density of the wealthiest countries and the far lower share in most of the world underlines how unevenly wealth is spread, even among the richer nations. The divide between the high millionaire density of a few wealthy countries and the far lower share almost everywhere else is a reminder that great personal wealth remains concentrated in a small number of rich nations.

Typical vs Average

The Typical Person vs the Average

The typical person is far poorer than the average suggests. Median wealth per adult is about 9,000 dollars in 2026, while the average, or mean, is about 123,000 dollars, more than ten times as much, a gap created by the concentration of wealth at the top. The gap between the median and the mean is one of the most telling measures of wealth concentration, showing how far the typical person sits below the average once the great fortunes at the top are taken into account. The typical, or median, adult is worth about 9,000 dollars, less than a tenth of the average of about 123,000 dollars, a gap that exists because a small number of very large fortunes pull the average far above the middle. The chasm between the typical person and the statistical average is one of the most important and least understood facts about global wealth, a gap that means headline averages can badly mislead about how most people actually live.

The huge gap between the median and the mean reflects how a small number of very large fortunes pull up the average far above the wealth of the typical person, a pattern our [biggest companies by market value](#)

coverage frames.

Median vs Average Wealth Per Adult (USD thousand)A vast gap.

Data:

Derived from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, compiled by BusinessStats.

Note:

Figures cover the adult population; some regional and country breakdowns are estimates. Switch views with the toolbar.

A vast gap: median wealth per adult is about 9,000 dollars, while the average is about 123,000, more than ten times as much, a gap that has widened.

The gap has widened, and median wealth has even fallen in most countries in recent years, even as the average has surged, a divergence that shows the gains of recent years have flowed mainly to those already wealthy. The recent fall in median wealth in most countries, even as the average has surged, is one of the most striking findings in the wealth data, a sign that the gains of recent years have been far from evenly shared. Whether the gap between the typical and the average person narrows will depend on how broadly future wealth gains are shared, but for now the divergence between median and mean wealth points to rising concentration.

Key Facts

Global Wealth in Numbers

A few numbers capture the picture. There are about 57.5 million millionaires in the world, the richest 1.5 percent of adults hold about 48 percent of all wealth, the poorest 41 percent hold less than 1 percent, and the United States has 23.6 million millionaires. These figures together map the global distribution of wealth, showing a world of stark inequality, with a small group at the top holding most of the wealth even as billions have risen out of the poorest band. The picture that emerges is of a deeply unequal world, in which a small group at the top holds most of the wealth, even as economic growth has lifted billions out of the poorest band over the past quarter century.

The figures matter because the global distribution of wealth shapes economies, politics and opportunity around the world, a picture our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage sets in the global context.



48% Top 1.5% Of all wealth. 57.5M Millionaires Worldwide. 41% Poorest adults Hold under 1%.

\$9,000 Median Wealth per adult.

Together these figures show a world in which wealth is highly concentrated, with a small group at the top holding most of it, even as billions of people have risen out of the poorest band in recent decades.

Big Picture

Global Wealth Distribution: The Big Picture

Taken together, the global distribution of wealth in 2026 maps a world of stark inequality, with the richest holding most of the wealth even as the base of the pyramid shrinks, a story our [gold as an investment coverage](#) sets against other assets.

Whether wealth becomes more or less concentrated will depend on markets, growth and policy, but for now it remains highly unequal, alongside the markets in our [crypto market](#), [hedge fund assets](#) and [federal funds rate](#) overviews.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Global Wealth Distribution

Very unevenly. The richest 1.5 percent of adults hold about 48 percent of all wealth, while the poorest 41 percent hold less than 1 percent between them.

About 57.5 million in 2026, up nearly 1 million in a year. The United States has 23.6 million, about 41 percent of the global total.

About 48 percent of all global wealth is held by the roughly 57.5 million millionaires, who make up just 1.5 percent of the world adults.

The United States, with about 23.6 million, roughly 41 percent of the world total, followed by China with about 5.3 million.

Median wealth per adult is about 9,000 dollars in 2026, though the average, or mean, is about 123,000 dollars, pulled up by the wealthy.

A way of showing how the world adults are distributed by wealth, from billions worth under 10,000 dollars at the base to a few million millionaires at the top.

The base of the pyramid has shrunk, with billions rising out of the poorest band, but wealth remains highly concentrated at the top, and median wealth has fallen in many countries.

More than 500 trillion dollars in 2026, after global personal wealth rose about 10.8 percent in 2025, the fastest pace since 2017.

In Switzerland, where about 16 percent of adults are millionaires, the highest share in the world, followed by Luxembourg and Australia.

From the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, which estimates personal wealth across 56 markets covering more than 92 percent of the world wealth.

Sources

UBS Global Wealth Report 2026 - Source for the global wealth pyramid, millionaire numbers and wealth shares.

UBS and World Inequality data - Source for regional, country and historical detail, compiled by BusinessStats.

[UBS Global Wealth Report](#) - Publishes the annual data on the global distribution of wealth.

Figures show the global wealth distribution in 2026 by net worth of individuals, from the UBS Global Wealth Report, with a reference year of 2025. The richest 1.5 percent of adults hold about 48 percent of all wealth, while the poorest 41 percent hold less than 1 percent. There are about 57.5 million millionaires, with the United States home to 23.6 million. Wealth is gross assets minus debts per adult, and some breakdowns are estimates. This is data journalism, not investment advice.



STATISTICS REPORT

Jewish net wealth in Nazi Germany in the 1930s

Updated Sep 24, 2026 · businessstats.com/jewish-net-wealth-nazi-germany

2-20bn RANGE OF ESTIMATES, RM	4.5bn REGISTERED IN 1938, RM	under 1% JEWISH SHARE OF POPULATION
20% FALSELY CLAIMED BY NAZIS	2.65bn SEIZED BY THE STATE, RM	1bn KRISTALLNACHT FINE, RM

Overview

A number twisted into a weapon

Throughout the years between the wars, Nazi leaders and their propaganda repeatedly claimed that Jews owned up to 20 percent of all the wealth in Germany. It was untrue. Jews made up fewer than one percent of the German population, and no serious estimate came close to the propaganda figure. But the claim served a purpose: it cast a small minority as economic parasites, made them a scapegoat for the countrys troubles after the First World War and the Great Depression, and prepared the ground for persecution and theft.

Working out what Jews actually owned is difficult, because no official figures for Jewish wealth in the 1930s were ever published. What exists is a range of estimates, some made at the time by the press, the Reichsbank and the German Statistical Office, and others reconstructed later by economic historians from archives and tax records. Those estimates run from about 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks, a wide spread that reflects how differently wealth can be defined. This report presents them, explains the range, and follows what the Nazi state did with the wealth once it had exaggerated its size. It sits alongside our wider coverage of [the Holocaust in statistics and facts](#).

The Estimates

What the sources say

The chart below gathers the main estimates of Jewish net wealth in Germany in the 1930s, each with a lower and an upper figure. The spread is striking.

Estimates of Jewish Net Wealth in Nazi Germany (billion Reichsmarks) Lower and upper estimates from different sources and years.

Data:

compiled estimates from contemporary sources and later economic historians, including Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl.

Note:

figures mix net and gross wealth and different territories, so they are not directly comparable. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A very wide range: estimates run from around 2 billion Reichsmarks at the low end to 20 billion at the high end, depending on the source.

Contemporary press reports offered the widest and highest range, from 10 to 20 billion Reichsmarks, figures closest to the inflated propaganda claims. The Reichsbank estimates ran from about 2.4 to 11.5 billion. The German Statistical Office produced several figures over the decade, including a vague estimate of around 8.5 billion in the early 1930s and narrower ones of 2 to 2.5 billion in 1933 and 4 to 4.5 billion in 1936. The economic historian Helen Junz later estimated Jewish wealth at 8 to 16 billion Reichsmarks for the earlier period and about 4.3 to 4.5 billion for German Jews by 1938, while Albrecht Ritschl arrived at roughly 5.5 to 6.5 billion for 1936. The most solid single number is the one the Nazis themselves compelled: in the census of April 1938, Jews were forced to register net assets worth about 4.5 billion Reichsmarks.

Propaganda vs Reality

The gap between claim and reality

Setting the propaganda claim next to the demographic reality shows how dishonest it was.

Jewish Share: Nazi Propaganda Claim vs Population (percent) What propaganda claimed against the demographic reality.

Data:

Nazi propaganda claim as reported by contemporary accounts; population share from demographic estimates (Jews were about 0.75 percent of the German population). Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A deliberate distortion: the Nazis claimed Jews held up to 20 percent of German wealth while Jews were under one percent of the population.

The Nazi claim that Jews controlled up to a fifth of German wealth was set against a community that made up less than one percent of the population. Even the highest scholarly estimates fall far short of 20 percent. Ritschl, for example, estimated that Jews held roughly 0.75 percent of Germanys capital stock, which on his figures implied wealth of around 6.4 billion Reichsmarks in 1936. Other calculations put the Jewish share of national wealth at something in the single digits, perhaps 7 to 8 percent, and only one disputed upper-bound guess approached the higher numbers. The propaganda figure was not an estimate at all but a slogan, designed to make theft look like justice.

Why They Vary

Why the estimates differ so much

A range from 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks can look like confusion, but most of the spread comes from definitions rather than disagreement about the facts. The largest source of difference is net against gross wealth. Gross wealth counts everything a person owns, while net wealth subtracts debts and liabilities, and the two can differ by a wide margin. A figure of 4.3 to 4.5 billion Reichsmarks for Jewish net wealth in Germany in early 1938 is consistent with a gross figure of around 8.5 billion for Germany and Austria together.

Territory and timing matter too. Some estimates cover only Germany, others add Austria after the annexation of March 1938. Some are from the early 1930s, before years of persecution and forced emigration had drained Jewish resources, and others from 1938, after much wealth had already been taxed away or left the country. And the underlying data is patchy, because no one set out to measure Jewish wealth honestly. Read with these differences in mind, the estimates are not contradictory so much as answers to slightly different questions.

Aryanization

Driven out of the economy

Long before the mass killing began, the Nazis set out to destroy Jews economically. The process they called Aryanization meant forcing Jewish owners to sell their businesses and property to non-Jews, almost always at a fraction of the real value. Its scale can be measured in the collapse of Jewish enterprise.

Jewish-Owned Businesses in Germany, 1933 and 1938The collapse of Jewish enterprise under Aryanization.

Data:

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem.

Note:

all Jewish businesses fell from about 100,000 (January 1933) to 39,552 (April 1938); retail stores from about 50,000 to 9,000. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

A community forced out: the number of Jewish-owned businesses in Germany fell from about 100,000 in 1933 to under 40,000 by 1938.

When the Nazis took power in January 1933, Jews owned about 100,000 businesses in Germany, from corner shops to factories, publishing houses and professional practices. Five years of boycotts, intimidation, dismissals and forced sales cut that number to 39,552 by April 1938. Retail was hit hardest: of some 50,000 Jewish-owned stores in 1933, only around 9,000 remained by the summer of 1938. The buyers were often the regimes favoured firms and individuals, and among the largest profiteers were the chemical giant IG Farben, the industrialist Flick family and the major banks. Because the proceeds were paid into blocked accounts that the sellers could barely touch, Aryanization amounted, as one account put it, to almost compensation-free confiscation.

The Plunder

How the wealth was taken

The real story of Jewish wealth in Nazi Germany is not how much there was but how systematically it was stripped away. The theft of Jewish property, as one historian put it, was not an incidental byproduct of the Holocaust but a central part of it. The chart shows the revenue from the main instruments of dispossession.

Jewish Wealth Seized by the Nazi State (billion Reichsmarks)Revenue from the main instruments of dispossession.

Data:

Reich Flight Tax total 1933 to 1945; Jewish Capital Levy of 1938; and total fiscal dispossession 1938 to 1944 (Ritschl, 2019).

Note:



the total includes the levy and post-1938 flight tax plus other confiscation, so the bars are not additive.

Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Legalised theft: of about 4.5 billion Reichsmarks registered in 1938, some 2.65 billion was funnelled into the state by 1944.

The stripping of Jewish wealth ran through several channels. The Reich Flight Tax, a levy on emigration turned into a tool of plunder, took about 941 million Reichsmarks between 1933 and 1945, most of it from Jews forced to flee. After the Kristallnacht pogrom of November 1938, the state imposed a collective fine on German Jews, the Jewish Capital Levy, which reached about 1.13 billion Reichsmarks, seized from every Jewish estate above 5,000 Reichsmarks. The levy ultimately raised about 1.127 billion Reichsmarks, collected in installments into 1939 and 1940. During the pogrom itself some 7,500 Jewish enterprises were damaged or looted, and the insurance money owed to their owners was confiscated by the state. Alongside these came Aryanization, the forced sale of Jewish businesses and property to non-Jewish buyers at a fraction of their worth, with large firms and banks among the profiteers. Of the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmarks registered in 1938, about 2.65 billion, some 58 percent, had been funnelled into the state coffers by 1944, and broader estimates of the total value stolen run higher still. The exaggerated wealth of Nazi propaganda became, in reality, a minority robbed of almost everything it had.

How We Know

How the figures are known

Because no honest official accounting of Jewish wealth was ever made, historians have reconstructed these figures from indirect evidence. The most important source is the compulsory registration of Jewish assets in April 1938, which produced the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmark total, and the tax and confiscation records that show how much was taken afterward. Economic historians such as Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl have combined these with census data, national capital estimates and the Reichs own budget records to produce the ranges shown here.

The result is a set of estimates rather than exact figures, and reputable scholars still differ at the margins. What is not in doubt is the overall picture: the Nazi propaganda claim was a gross exaggeration, the true share of wealth held by a tiny minority was modest, and that wealth was seized through a deliberate machinery of taxation and confiscation. The subject remains an active field of research, part of the wider effort to document every dimension of the persecution alongside the human toll set out in our report on [pre-war Jewish populations and deaths by country](#).



Key Facts

Jewish wealth in Nazi Germany in numbers

A few figures capture the estimates and the theft that followed.

2-20bn Range of estimates Billion Reichsmarks, by source. 4.5bn Registered in 1938 Net Jewish assets, RM. 20% Falsely claimed by Nazis Against under one percent of the population. 2.65bn Seized by the state By 1944, some 58 percent.

Behind the figures is a minority that was slandered as wealthy and then robbed of what it owned.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

There is no official figure. Estimates range from about 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks depending on the source and how wealth is defined. The most cited figure is the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmarks of net assets that Jews were forced to register in the 1938 census.

No. The claim that Jews owned up to 20 percent of German wealth was false Nazi propaganda. Jews made up under one percent of the population, and scholarly estimates put their share of wealth far lower than the propaganda figure.

The Reichsmark was the currency of Germany from 1924 to 1948. In 1931 the exchange rate was about 4.2 Reichsmarks to one US dollar, so 4.5 billion Reichsmarks was worth roughly one billion dollars at the time.

They come from a mix of contemporary sources, including press reports, the Reichsbank and the German Statistical Office, and from later economic historians such as Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl, who reconstructed the figures from archives.

Because they measure different things. Some count net wealth and others gross wealth, some cover only Germany and others Germany and Austria together, and they use different years and methods. This is why the range runs from about 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks.

The Reichsfluchtsteuer was a tax on emigration, originally created before 1933 but turned into a tool to strip fleeing Jews of their assets. It raised about 941 million Reichsmarks between 1933 and 1945, most of it from persecuted emigrants.



After the pogrom of November 1938, the Nazi state imposed a collective fine on German Jews, the Jewish Capital Levy, of about one billion Reichsmarks. It ultimately reached around 1.13 billion Reichsmarks, taken from every Jewish estate above 5,000 Reichsmarks.

Aryanization was the forced transfer of Jewish businesses, property and assets to non-Jewish owners, usually at a fraction of their real value. It was one of the main ways Jewish wealth was stripped away before the war.

Of the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmarks of Jewish assets registered in 1938, about 2.65 billion, or 58 percent, was funnelled into the state coffers by 1944 through taxes and confiscation. Broader estimates of total Jewish property stolen run higher still.

Sources

Albrecht Ritschl (LSE / CEPR) - fiscal destruction and the confiscatory taxation of Jewish property in Nazi Germany.

Reich Flight Tax - the Reichsfluchtsteuer and its revenue, 1933 to 1945.

Aryanization - the forced transfer of Jewish property and businesses.

Estimates are compiled from contemporary sources and from the work of economic historians Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl. Figures mix net and gross wealth and different territories and years, so they are estimates and are not directly comparable. Compiled by BusinessStats.

STATISTICS REPORT

Countries with the highest wealth per adult 2026

Updated Jul 26, 2026 · businessstats.com/countries-with-the-highest-wealth-per-adult

\$910k SWITZERLAND	\$696k UNITED STATES	\$655k LUXEMBOURG
\$394k TOP MEDIAN	28th US MEDIAN RANK	38% US OF WORLD

Overview

Countries with the highest average wealth per adult worldwide in 2026

Switzerland has the highest average wealth per adult in the world in 2026, about 910,000 US dollars, ahead of the United States on about 696,000 and Luxembourg on about 655,000. Hong Kong, Australia and Denmark follow, each above 500,000 dollars. The ranking of countries by wealth per adult is one of the clearest measures of national prosperity, and in 2026 it is led, as it has been for years, by Switzerland, whose average adult holds close to a million dollars. On the 2026 figures, Switzerland leads on about 910,000 dollars per adult, the United States follows on about 696,000, Luxembourg on 655,000, Hong Kong on about 536,000, Australia on 528,000 and Denmark on 523,000. The measure is one of the most widely cited gauges of national prosperity, and the fact that a single small European country sits so far ahead of every other says much about how wealth concentrates in stable, high-value economies.

The ranking measures mean wealth, which is lifted by the wealthiest residents. The wider wealth picture sits in our [billionaire wealth by region](#), [high net worth individuals by country](#) and [largest economies by GDP coverage](#).

Wealth per Adult: Average vs Median, 2026 (USD k)The gap tells the story.

Data:

Countries with the highest average wealth per adult worldwide in 2026, in US dollars, from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Average (mean) wealth is lifted by the wealthiest residents; the median, shown alongside, better reflects a typical adult. Switch views with the toolbar.

The gap tells the story: Switzerland leads on average wealth at about 910,000 dollars per adult, but its median is about 146,000, while Luxembourg leads on the median at about 394,000.

Average and median wealth tell very different stories. Switzerland leads on the average but falls to eighth on the median, while the United States drops from second to twenty-eighth, one of the widest gaps between the two measures anywhere.

A note on the data. The figures show average wealth per adult in 2026 from the UBS Global Wealth Report, defined as all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Wealth here means net worth, the sum of all financial assets and real assets such as property, minus debts, and it includes the assets held in private pension funds, on a per-adult basis. Because the figures are converted to US dollars, exchange-rate movements affect the ranking, and UBS notes that the weaker dollar in 2025 lifted the dollar wealth of several countries outside the United States.

The Table

Wealth per Adult by Country

Wealth per Adult by Country, 2026 (USD thousands) Click any column to sort

COUNTRY	AVERAGE (MEAN)	MEDIAN
Switzerland	\$910k	\$146k
United States	\$696k	\$108k
Luxembourg	\$655k	\$394k
Hong Kong	\$536k	\$161k
Australia	\$528k	\$211k
Singapore	\$527k	n.a.
Denmark	\$523k	\$174k
New Zealand	\$468k	\$176k
Norway	\$425k	\$120k

Netherlands	\$415k	n.a.
Belgium	\$408k	\$277k
Sweden	\$406k	n.a.

The table sets out the countries with the highest average wealth per adult in 2026 alongside their median wealth. It shows how sharply the ranking changes between the two measures, with some countries far higher on one than the other. Reading across the two columns shows how sharply the ranking changes, with the United States second on average but far down on the median, and Luxembourg third on average but first on the median. Since the figures are end-2025 snapshots converted to dollars, the exact values move with markets and exchange rates, but the broad ranking, with Switzerland far ahead on the average, is stable.

The Map

Where Is Wealth per Adult Highest?

Switzerland tops the ranking with average wealth of about 910,000 dollars per adult, almost a million dollars each. It has held the top spot for years, driven by high property values, strong pensions and a large financial sector. Switzerland's position at the top of the wealth-per-adult ranking rests on a combination of high property values, deep pension savings and a large and profitable financial sector, reinforced by a strong currency. Switzerland about 910,000 dollars of average wealth per adult is almost a million dollars each, and about 13 percent of Swiss adults, some 944,000 people, are dollar millionaires, holding about 69 percent of national wealth. The Swiss combination of high property values, deep occupational pensions and a large and profitable banking sector has kept the country at the top of the wealth-per-adult ranking for well over a decade.

The Swiss lead reflects both genuine prosperity and a concentration of wealth, with about 13 percent of Swiss adults dollar millionaires, a concentration our [wealth by gender](#) coverage frames.

Average Wealth per Adult by Country, 2026 Shaded by mean wealth per adult in US dollars. Hover a country for its figure.

\$500k+ \$300-500k \$150-300k \$75-150k \$30-75k Under \$30k

Switzerland leads the world: the average Swiss adult holds about 910,000 dollars in net wealth in 2026, ahead of the United States on about 696,000 and Luxembourg on about 655,000. The mean is lifted by a



small number of very wealthy residents; measured by the median, the ranking looks very different.

Highest Average Wealth per Adult, 2026 (USD k) Switzerland leads.

Data:

Countries with the highest average wealth per adult worldwide in 2026, in US dollars, from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Average (mean) wealth is lifted by the wealthiest residents; the median, shown alongside, better reflects a typical adult. Switch views with the toolbar.

Switzerland leads: the average Swiss adult holds about 910,000 dollars, ahead of the United States on 696,000 and Luxembourg on 655,000, with Hong Kong, Australia and Denmark above 500,000.

The gap between Switzerland's average and median wealth is striking. Its median wealth is about 146,000 dollars, so the average adult is worth more than six times the typical one, a sign of how unevenly Swiss wealth is spread. The size of the gap between the Swiss average and median, with the mean adult worth more than six times the typical one, is one of the clearest illustrations of how a wealthy minority can lift a national average.

The United States

Why Does the US Rank Lower on the Median?

The United States is second on average wealth, at about 696,000 dollars per adult, but the figure hides a wide spread. On the median, which reflects a typical adult, the United States falls to about twenty-eighth in the world. The United States presents the sharpest contrast in the whole ranking, sitting near the very top on average wealth but far down the list on the median, a gap that reveals how concentrated American wealth has become. The United States about 696,000 dollars of average wealth per adult ranks second in the world, but its median wealth is about 108,000 dollars, which places it about twenty-eighth, one of the widest such gaps anywhere. The American figures are the clearest case in the whole report of why the choice of measure matters, since the country looks either extraordinarily rich or merely comfortable depending entirely on whether the average or the median is used.

The gap between the American average and median is the widest of any major economy, reflecting how much of the country's wealth is concentrated at the top, a concentration our biggest companies by value



coverage frames through the fortunes involved.

Rank by Average vs Median Wealth, 2026The ranking reshuffles.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking.Switch views with the toolbar.

The ranking reshuffles: the United States falls from second on average to about twenty-eighth on the median, while Luxembourg rises from third to first.

The United States holds about 38 percent of the worlds personal wealth across the 56 countries UBS surveys, by far the largest share, even though its typical adult ranks well below those in several smaller, more equal economies. The combination of the largest share of world wealth and a middling median is the defining paradox of the American figures, showing a country that is both extraordinarily rich in aggregate and unequal in distribution.

Luxembourg

Which Country Ranks High on Both?

Luxembourg is third on average wealth, at about 655,000 dollars per adult, and first on median wealth, at about 394,000 dollars. It is one of the few countries to rank near the top on both measures. Luxembourg is unusual in ranking near the top on both average and median wealth, a sign that its prosperity is both large in scale and broadly shared across its small population. Luxembourg about 655,000 dollars of average wealth per adult ranks third, and its median of about 394,000 dollars is the highest in the world, more than three times the United States median.

Luxembourgs strength on both measures reflects broad-based prosperity, with high home ownership, strong pensions and financial assets spread widely across the population, a balance built on widespread home ownership, strong pensions and broadly held financial assets.

Countries that rank high on median as well as average wealth, such as Luxembourg, Belgium and Australia, tend to have broader home ownership and pension coverage, so their wealth is spread more evenly than in the United States or Switzerland. The tendency of the same handful of countries, led by Luxembourg, to

rank high on both measures points to a model of broad-based wealth, built on widespread ownership of homes, pensions and financial assets.

Average Wealth

What Does Average Wealth Measure?

Average wealth per adult measures the total size of a country's household balance sheet divided by its adults. It is lifted by the very wealthy, so a country with a few extremely rich residents can rank high even if most adults hold modest wealth. Understanding what average wealth per adult actually measures is essential to reading the ranking correctly, since the headline figure can give a misleading impression of how a typical adult in a country is doing.

The measure is useful for comparing the overall scale of national wealth, but it can overstate how well a typical adult is doing, a distinction that matters greatly when reading the assets behind the headline figures.

Millionaires as a Share of Adults, 2026 (%) Switzerland leads.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Switch views with the toolbar.

Switzerland leads: about 13 percent of Swiss adults are dollar millionaires, one of the highest shares in the world, holding about 69 percent of national wealth.

This is why the average ranking is dominated by financial hubs and countries with concentrated wealth, from Switzerland and the United States to Hong Kong and Singapore, where a wealthy minority lifts the national average. The dominance of financial hubs and concentrated economies at the top of the average ranking is a direct consequence of how the mean is calculated, since it is lifted by the wealth of the richest residents.

Median Wealth

What Does Median Wealth Measure?

Median wealth per adult tells a different story. It measures the wealth of the adult in the exact middle, so it is not distorted by the very rich, and it better reflects what a typical person owns. Luxembourg leads, followed by Belgium and Australia. The median is the more revealing measure for most purposes, since it strips out the distorting effect of the very rich and shows what the adult in the middle of the distribution actually owns. On the median, Luxembourg leads on about 394,000 dollars, followed by Belgium on 277,000 and Australia on 211,000, while Switzerland falls to eighth on about 146,000 and the United States to twenty-eighth on 108,000. For anyone trying to understand how a typical household is actually doing, the median is by far the more informative of the two measures, and the countries that lead it look strikingly different from those that lead the average.

The median reshuffles the ranking dramatically. The United States falls from second to about twenty-eighth, and Switzerland from first to eighth, while more equal economies rise, a shift our [US economy](#) coverage frames. The scale of the reshuffling between the two measures, with some countries moving more than twenty places, is the clearest sign that average and median wealth capture genuinely different things.

Highest Median Wealth per Adult, 2026 (USD k) Luxembourg leads.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Switch views with the toolbar.

Luxembourg leads: on the median, which reflects a typical adult, Luxembourg leads on about 394,000 dollars, ahead of Belgium and Australia, with the United States far down the list.

Countries climb the median ranking when their wealth is spread broadly, through home ownership, pensions and financial assets, so Belgium, Australia and Luxembourg rank far higher on the median than their average wealth alone would suggest. The rise of more equal economies up the median ranking is the clearest evidence that a high average wealth does not always mean a prosperous typical adult, and that the two measures answer different questions.

The Gap

How Concentrated Is Wealth?

The gap between average and median wealth measures how concentrated a countrys wealth is. Where the average is far above the median, wealth is held disproportionately by the rich, as in the United States and Switzerland. The gap between a countrys average and median wealth is one of the most useful single measures of how concentrated its wealth is, and it varies enormously across the wealthy economies. The size of the gap between the two measures has become one of the most watched indicators of wealth inequality, and its steady widening in most rich countries is among the clearest trends in the data.

The United States has one of the widest gaps, with an average about six times its median, a concentration our [US financial markets](#) coverage frames through the assets held at the top.

Ratio of Average to Median Wealth, 2026How concentrated is wealth.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Switch views with the toolbar.

How concentrated is wealth: the United States has one of the widest gaps between average and median wealth, about six times, a sign of concentrated wealth, while Belgium and Japan are far more even.

Countries with narrower gaps, such as Belgium and Japan, have more evenly spread wealth, so their typical adult is closer to the national average, a sign of broader prosperity rather than concentrated fortunes. The contrast between countries with wide and narrow gaps between average and median wealth is one of the most telling features of the data, distinguishing concentrated wealth from broadly shared prosperity.

Growth

How Fast Is Wealth per Adult Growing?

Wealth per adult has grown strongly, with global private wealth rising about 10.8 percent in 2025, the strongest since 2017. But the gains have been uneven, concentrated among the wealthy, so median wealth fell in most markets even as averages rose. The pace and pattern of wealth growth in recent years has been as revealing as the levels, with averages rising almost everywhere even as the typical adult in most



countries saw little or no gain. Global private wealth rose about 10.8 percent in 2025, the strongest since 2017, adding nearly a million new dollar millionaires, more than 2,600 a day, though median wealth still fell in most markets.

Growth has varied widely by country. Since 2020 South Korea has led the rise in real average wealth per adult, up more than 50 percent, followed by Croatia, Norway, Taiwan and Bulgaria, a spread our [global stock markets](#) coverage frames.

Global Private Wealth Growth, 2020-2026 (%)A strong rebound.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Switch views with the toolbar.

A strong rebound: global private wealth rose about 10.8 percent in 2025, the strongest since 2017, though the gains were concentrated among the wealthy.

The divergence between rising averages and falling medians is one of the clearest signs of widening wealth inequality, with the gains of recent years accruing disproportionately to those who already held the most assets. The steady divergence between rising averages and stagnant or falling medians in most countries is perhaps the single most important trend in the wealth data, and a clear sign of widening inequality.

By Region

Which Region Holds the Most Wealth?

Wealth is concentrated by region as well as by country. The United States holds about 38 percent of the personal wealth in the 56 countries UBS surveys, Western Europe about 22 percent and Eastern Europe just over 3 percent. Wealth is concentrated by region as much as by country, and the dominance of North America and Western Europe in the global wealth figures mirrors their lead in the country ranking. The concentration of the worlds wealth in a handful of rich regions is one of the most enduring features of the global economy, and it has changed only slowly even as Asia has grown.

The concentration of wealth in North America and Western Europe reflects the depth of their financial markets and property values, a pattern our [ultra wealthy by region](#) and [billionaire share by region](#) coverage frames.

Share of World Personal Wealth by Region (%)The US holds a third.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Switch views with the toolbar.

The US holds a third: the United States alone holds about 38 percent of the personal wealth in the 56 countries UBS surveys, ahead of Western Europe on about 22 percent.

The regional pattern mirrors the country ranking, with the richest countries clustered in Europe, North America and the wealthy financial hubs of Asia, while much of Africa, South Asia and Latin America holds far less wealth per adult. The mirroring of the country ranking in the regional figures underlines how the geography of wealth is shaped by a handful of rich regions, with the rest of the world holding far less per adult.

Fastest Growing

Which Countries Are Growing Fastest?

Europe dominates the wealth-per-adult ranking, holding 18 of the global top 30 on average wealth and 19 on the median. Switzerland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands all rank near the top. Europe dominates the wealth-per-adult ranking on both measures, holding the majority of the top thirty places, a reflection of its high property values, deep pensions and mature financial markets. The dominance of European countries in the wealth-per-adult ranking, on both measures, is one of the most consistent findings of the report, and it reflects the depth and maturity of the continents financial and property markets.

The European strength reflects high property values, strong pension systems and deep financial markets, a depth our [euro to dollar exchange rate](#) coverage frames through the value of European assets in dollar terms.

Real Average Wealth Growth Since 2020 (%)South Korea leads.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:

Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking.Switch views with the toolbar.

South Korea leads: since 2020 South Korea has led the rise in real average wealth per adult, up more than 50 percent, ahead of Croatia, Norway and Taiwan.

Among Europes largest economies the median ranking is revealing, with Italy highest at about 112,000 dollars and Germany lowest, a result of Germanys low home-ownership rate compared with its southern neighbours. The revealing pattern among Europes largest economies, where southern countries often rank higher on median wealth than Germany, reflects deep differences in home ownership and household saving across the continent.

The Lowest

Which Countries Have the Lowest Wealth?

At the other end of the scale, average wealth per adult falls below 1,000 dollars in the poorest countries, almost all in Africa. Haiti, Sierra Leone, Burundi and the Central African Republic are among the lowest, a gap of nearly a thousandfold with Switzerland. At the bottom of the ranking, the figures fall to a level that throws the wealth of the richest countries into stark relief, with a gap of nearly a thousandfold between the top and the bottom.

The vast gap between the richest and poorest countries reflects centuries of uneven development, and it dwarfs the differences within even the most unequal rich economies, a contrast our [financial markets](#) coverage sets in wider context.

Lowest Average Wealth per Adult, 2026 (USD)A thousandfold gap.

Data:

Wealth per adult data compiled by BusinessStats from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

Note:



Wealth is all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025 and converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. Switch views with the toolbar.

A thousandfold gap: the lowest average wealth per adult is in Haiti, Sierra Leone, Burundi and the Central African Republic, all below 1,000 dollars, against Switzerland on 910,000.

Wealth per adult is rising fastest in some emerging economies, but the absolute gap with the wealthiest countries remains enormous, and closing it would take decades even at the fastest current rates of growth. The sheer scale of the gap between the richest and poorest countries, far larger than any inequality within even the most unequal rich economies, is the starkest single fact in the global wealth data.

Key Facts

Wealth per Adult in Numbers

A few figures capture the picture. Switzerland leads on average wealth per adult with about 910,000 dollars, the United States is second on 696,000 and Luxembourg third on 655,000, while on the median Luxembourg leads and the United States falls to twenty-eighth. These figures together map the geography of prosperity, led on the average by financial hubs and concentrated economies but on the median by a more equal set of countries. These headline numbers only make full sense when the average and the median are read together, since each answers a different question about where in the world people are truly wealthiest.

These figures matter because wealth per adult measures the prosperity of nations and their people, a picture our gold and other assets and crypto and new wealth coverage complements through the assets that make up the wealth.

\$910kSwitzerlandHighest average. \$696kUnited StatesSecond, 28th median. \$394kLuxembourgHighest median. 38%United StatesOf world wealth.

Together they describe a world where average wealth is led by financial hubs and concentrated economies, but where the median reveals a very different and more equal set of leaders. For now, Switzerland leads the world on average wealth per adult, but Luxembourg leads on the median, and reading both together gives the fullest picture of where people are truly wealthiest.

Big Picture



Wealth per Adult: The Big Picture

Taken together, the countries with the highest wealth per adult in 2026 are led by Switzerland, the United States and Luxembourg on average, but by Luxembourg, Belgium and Australia on the median, a contrast our [billionaire population by region coverage](#) sets in context.

Whether the average or the median matters more depends on the question, but reading both together gives the truest picture of national wealth, alongside the fortunes tracked across our wealth coverage.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Wealth per Adult

Switzerland, with average wealth of about 910,000 US dollars per adult, ahead of the United States on about 696,000 and Luxembourg on about 655,000.

High property values, strong pensions and a large financial sector, plus a concentration of wealth, with about 13 percent of Swiss adults dollar millionaires.

Average wealth is the total divided by all adults, lifted by the rich. Median wealth is the middle adult, so it better reflects a typical person.

Luxembourg, at about 394,000 dollars per adult, followed by Belgium and Australia, all with wealth spread broadly across their populations.

Because American wealth is concentrated at the top. The US is second by average but falls to about twenty-eighth by median, one of the widest gaps of any country.

North America, with the United States alone holding about 38 percent of the personal wealth in the 56 countries UBS surveys, ahead of Western Europe on 22 percent.

Global private wealth rose about 10.8 percent in 2025, the strongest since 2017, though gains were concentrated among the wealthy and median wealth fell in most markets.

Mostly in Africa, with Haiti, Sierra Leone, Burundi and the Central African Republic among the lowest, below 1,000 dollars per adult.

South Korea has led the rise in real average wealth per adult since 2020, up more than 50 percent, ahead of Croatia, Norway, Taiwan and Bulgaria.



From the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, which measures all financial and property assets minus debts. Figures are end-2025, converted to US dollars.

Sources

UBS Global Wealth Report 2026 - Source for average and median wealth per adult by country in 2026.

UBS regional and historical wealth data - Source for regional shares, growth and millionaire counts, compiled by BusinessStats.

UBS Global Wealth Report - Publishes the annual ranking of wealth per adult by country.

Figures show average wealth per adult in 2026 from the UBS Global Wealth Report, defined as all financial and property assets minus debts. Switzerland leads on the average with about 910,000 dollars per adult, ahead of the United States on 696,000 and Luxembourg on 655,000. On the median, Luxembourg leads on about 394,000 dollars, while the United States falls to about twenty-eighth. Figures are end-2025, converted to US dollars, so exchange-rate moves affect the ranking. This is data journalism, not investment advice.



HOW TO CITE THIS BOOK

Business Stats (2026). **Wealth: statistics and facts**. Retrieved Oct 19, 2026,
<https://businessstats.com/wealth-topic-overview/>

Methodology

Every figure comes from a Business Stats report that names its primary source: statistics offices, central banks, company filings and original surveys. Estimates and projections are labelled as such.

Free to reuse under CC BY 4.0 with credit to Business Stats. Business Stats takes great care over accuracy but cannot guarantee it; check the linked original sources before making decisions.

Read online: <https://businessstats.com/wealth-topic-overview/>