
Eleven Million Millionaires Worldwide

By Editor Test *Wed, Jun 29, 2011*

About 40,000 Americans have investable assets of \$30 million or more, according to the 15th annual World Wealth Report from Merrill Lynch and Capgemini.

The world's high net worth individuals (HNWIs—those with \$1 million or more in investable assets—expanded in numbers and in total wealth in 2010, surpassing 2007 pre-crisis levels in nearly every region, according to the 15th annual [World Wealth Report](#), released today by Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management and Capgemini.

Global HNWI population and wealth growth reached more stable levels in 2010, with the population of HNWIs increasing 8.3% to 10.9 million and HNWI financial wealth growing 9.7% to reach US\$42.7 trillion (compared with 17.1% and 18.9% respectively in 2009).

The global population of Ultra-HNWIs (those with \$30 million or more in investable assets) grew by 10.2% in 2010 and its wealth by 11.5%.

The global HNWI population remained highly concentrated in the U.S., Japan and Germany, which together accounted for 53.0% of the world's HNWIs. The U.S. is still home to the single largest HNWI segment in the world, with its 3.1 million HNWIs accounting for 28.6% of the global HNWI population.

In an environment of relatively stable but uneven recovery, equities and commodities markets, as well as real estate (specifically in Asia-Pacific), performed solidly throughout 2010.

By the end of 2010, HNWIs held 33% of all their investments in equities, up from 29% a year earlier. Allocations to cash/deposits dropped to 14% in 2010 from 17% in 2009 and the share held in fixed-income investments dipped to 29% from 31%. Among alternative investments, many HNWIs favored commodities. Commodity investments accounted for 22% of all alternative investments in 2010, up from 16% in 2009.

The global population of Ultra-HNWIs grew 10.2% to 103k in 2010, and their wealth jumped by 11.5%, after surging 21.5% in 2009. A disproportionate amount of wealth remains concentrated in the hands of Ultra-HNWIs. At the end of 2010, Ultra-HNWIs represented only 0.9% of the global HNWI population, but accounted for 36.1% of global HNWI wealth. That was up slightly from 35.5% in 2009.

North America still has the largest regional number of Ultra-HNWIs. At the end of 2010, the number of Ultra-HNWIs there totaled 40,000, up from 36,000 in 2009 (but remains down from 41,000 in 2007). Regionally, Latin America still has the highest percentage of Ultra-HNWIs relative to the overall HNWI population—2.4%, compared with the global average of 0.9%.

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