Personal Wealth, 1995

by Barry W. Johnson

There were an estimated 4.4 million individuals in the United States with gross assets of $600,000 or more in 1995. These "top wealth holders" represented about 2.5 percent of the total U.S. adult population. As a group, top wealth holders owned more than $6.7 trillion in assets, or 27.4 percent of total U.S. personal wealth. Almost 2.8 million, or 63.4 percent, of these wealthy individuals were male, and 1.6 million were female. The number of individuals with net worth of $1 million or more grew to almost 1.6 million in 1995.

Background

The distribution and composition of personal wealth in the United States are topics of great interest among researchers and policy planners. Unfortunately, these issues are difficult to study, since there are few sources of data on the wealth holdings of the very rich. Administrative records, specifically, Federal estate tax returns (Form 706), provide a unique source from which to study the nation's wealthiest individuals. The estate tax return contains a complete listing of a decedent's assets and debts, as well as a demographic profile of the decedent and information on the costs of administering the estate. A decedent's estate has up to 9 months to file an estate tax return, but use of a 6-month extension is common. It is, therefore, necessary to combine returns filed over a number of calendar years in order to capture data representative of all estate tax decedents dying in a single year.

The estate multiplier technique is used to estimate the wealth of living individuals with data from Federal estate tax returns. The fundamental assumption underlying this methodology is that estate tax returns filed for decedents who died in a particular year represent a random sample, designated by death, of the living population in that year. Estimates of the wealth holdings of the living population are derived by applying a multiplier, based on appropriate mortality rates, to this sample. Preliminary estimates for 1995 were reported in the winter 1997-1998 *SOI Bulletin*. The estimates presented in this article supercede those and are considered final estimates for 1995.

Barry W. Johnson is an economist with the Special Studies Special Projects Section. This article was prepared under the direction of Michael Alexander, Chief.

Limitations

While the sample size and richness of available data make this estimation technique attractive, there are limitations to be noted. First, and most important, estate tax returns provide a presumably random sample, stratified by age, not of the total population, but of living persons with gross estates at or above the estate tax filing threshold. Research has proven that "individuals who are economically or socially better off also live longer and are healthier" [1]. Factors such as access to better health services, better diet and nutrition, fewer risks on the job, and access to better housing seem to contribute to this phenomenon. Therefore, determining a mortality rate appropriate to this sample poses a challenge. Further, it has been shown that, while estimates of patterns of wealth holding, such as differences in portfolio composition among various age and sex groups, appear quite robust over a variety of reasonable alternate assumptions about the longevity of the very wealthy, overall aggregate estimates are relatively sensitive to the selection of the mortality rates [2]. (See the Appendix to this article for a more complete discussion of the estate multiplier technique.)

Second, while estate tax returns are generally prepared by professionals and are, therefore, likely to be more accurate in detail than survey responses, the values reported are used to compute tax liability, so there is a natural tendency for the values to be somewhat conservative. This is especially true for hard-to-value assets, such as businesses and certain types of real estate. It should also be noted that the estate tax data used for these estimates are pre-audit figures. A recent Statistics of Income (SOI) study based on the results of IRS audits of estate tax returns filed in 1992 estimated that detected undervaluation of assets was about 1.2 percent of total asset holdings [3]. In addition, it is common to claim substantial discounts when valuing ownership interests of less than 50 percent in small companies, partnerships, and for other, non-liquid assets. Taken together, these two factors may account for undervaluation of about 2 percent in the estimates presented below [4].

Third, while estate tax returns report assets that are owned outright (what has been called prime

wealth), total wealth would ideally include wealth to which a person has an income interest but not necessarily actual title. Examples of the latter include defined-benefit pension plans and Social Security benefits. Finally, the wealth of some individuals near death may differ somewhat from that of the general population in the same age cohort. For some, wealth will have been reduced through expenses related to a final illness. For others, effective estate planning will have reduced the value of the estate reportable for tax purposes.

Valuation Measures

The level of wealth to which these estimates apply is $600,000 or more in gross estate, the estate tax filing threshold in effect in 1987-1997. *Gross estate* is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth that does not conform to usual definitions of wealth, primarily because it includes the face value of life insurance in the wealth of the decedent. Therefore, three measures of wealth are used in this article: gross assets (or gross estate), total assets, and net worth.

Gross assets reflect the gross value of all assets, including the full face value of life insurance, reduced by the value of any policy loans, but excluding any reduction for other indebtedness. This measure defines the individuals included in the top wealth holder group. *Total assets* are a lower wealth value, but are still essentially a gross measure. They differ from gross assets in that the cash, or equity, value of life insurance (i.e., the value of insurance immediately before the policyholder's death) replaces the "at death" value of life insurance included in gross assets [5]. *Net worth* is total assets minus debts.

Top Wealth Holders, 1995

There were an estimated 4,400,225 adults, age 21 and older, with gross assets of $600,000 or more in 1995 (see Table 1). Combined, they owned more than $6.7 trillion in total assets. These top wealth holders had debts that totaled $660.4 billion, meaning that, as a group, their combined net worth was nearly $6.1 trillion, or almost 29.5 percent of total U.S. personal net worth in 1995 [6].

The U.S. top wealth holder population included 2,790,915 males, or 63.4 percent of total top wealth holders population in 1995 (see Table 2). These males had a combined net worth of $3.8 trillion, and their average net worth was $1.37 million. An estimated 954,000 of these men, or 34.2 percent, had net worth of $1 million or more. Most male top wealth holders, 70.9 percent, were married, while 6.3 percent were widowed, and 14.7 percent were single (see Figure A). Only 8.1 percent of wealthy males were divorced or separated.

Females accounted for 1,609,310, or 36.6 percent, of U.S. top wealth holders in 1995 (see Table 3). Their combined net worth exceeded $2.2 trillion, with an average net worth of $1.38 million, virtually the same as that of their male counterparts. Nearly half of all female top wealth holders, 49.2 percent, were married, while 30.8 percent were widowed, a much higher percentage of widowed individuals than for wealthy males. Only 10.9 percent of wealthy females were single, while 9.0 percent were separated or divorced.

Portfolio Composition

Figure B shows the major portfolio components for male top wealth holders, by size of net worth. Overall, for males with gross assets of at least $600,000 and net worth less than $1million, the combined value of personal residences, real estate, and retirement assets (individual retirement accounts (IRA's), annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans) dominated their portfolios, accounting for more than half of total assets. As wealth increased, the significance of personal residence, as a share of total assets, decreased. For males with net worth be-

Figure A

Top Wealth Holders, Marital Status, by Sex, 1995

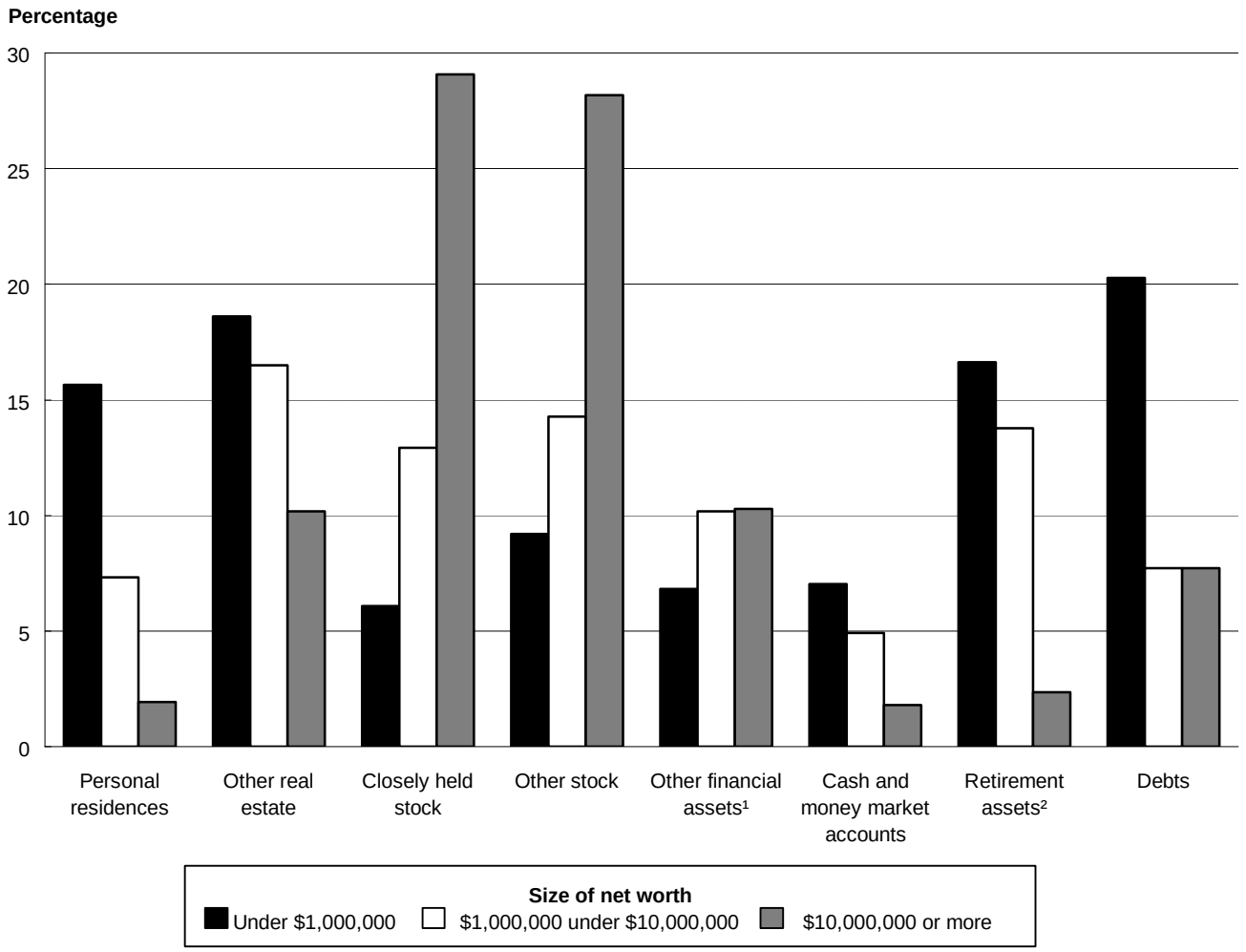
Marital status	Males	Percentage	Females	Percentage
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total	**2,790,915**	**100.0**	**1,609,310**	**100.0**
Married	1,979,615	70.9	792,165	49.2
Widowed	175,337	6.3	496,377	30.8
Single	409,912	14.7	176,156	10.9
Other[1]	226,051	8.1	144,612	9.0

[1] Includes individuals who were separated or divorced and those for whom marital status was not determinable.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Figure B

Male Top Wealth Holders: Selected Assets and Debts as a Percentage of Total Assets, by Size of Net Worth, 1995

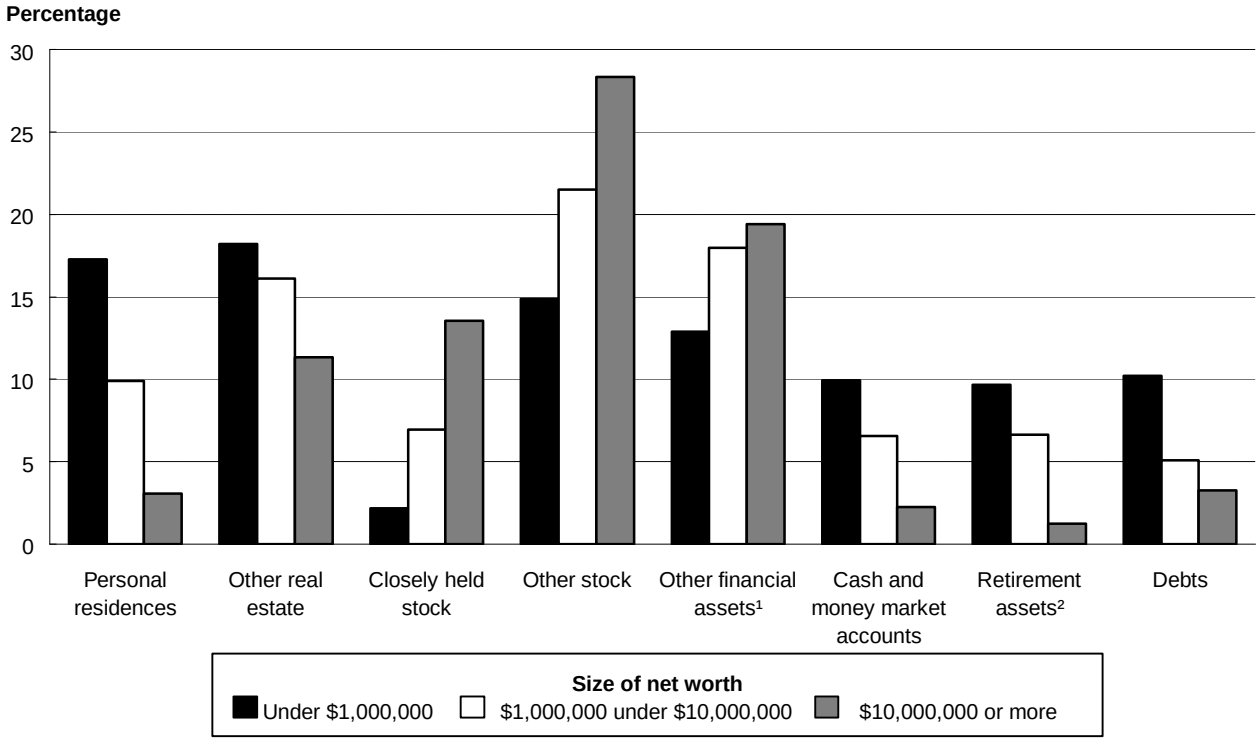


[1] Includes Federal, corporate, and tax-exempt bonds as well as mixed portfolio mutural funds.
[2] Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

tween $1 million and $10 million, investment real estate (real estate holdings that exclude personal residences) comprised the single largest share of their aggregate portfolio, 17.2 percent. Publicly traded stock was the second largest component of their portfolio, 14.9 percent of total assets, followed by retirement assets (14.3 percent) and investments in the stock of closely held companies (13.5 percent) [7]. For males with net worth of $10 million or more, financial assets dominated the combined portfolio. Stock in closely held companies accounted for 29.1 percent of total assets, while investments in publicly traded stock accounted for 28.2 percent. In addition, investments in other financial assets, including Federal bonds, tax-exempt State and local government bonds, and mutual funds made up of combinations of stocks and bonds accounted for 10.3 percent of total assets. Investment real estate

Figure C

Female Top Wealth Holders: Selected Assets and Debts as a Percentage of Total Assets, by Size of Net Worth, 1995



¹ Includes Federal, corporate, and tax-exempt bonds as well as mixed portfolio mutural funds.
² Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

accounted for a little more than 10 percent of the combined portfolio of this wealthiest group of males. Unlike males in the lowest net worth category, retirement assets constituted a scant 2.3 percent of total assets.

The most striking difference between the portfolio makeup of male and female top wealth holders in 1995 was in the much smaller share investments in closely held corporations contributed to the portfolios of female top wealth holders (see Figure C). In contrast, holdings of publicly traded stock and other financial assets, primarily tax-exempt State and local government bonds, made up a much greater percentage of total assets for wealthy women. The portfolio all of females with net worth of less than $1 million was much more balanced than that of their male counterparts. For wealthier women, the portfolio shifted toward stock and other financial assets, with 28.3 percent of total assets invested in publicly traded stock for those with net worth of $10 million or more. Stock in closely held companies comprised just 13.5 percent of total assets for females in this highest net worth category, less than half that of the males in this net worth group. Female wealth holders, overall, had a much lower debt-to-asset ratio than their male counterparts.

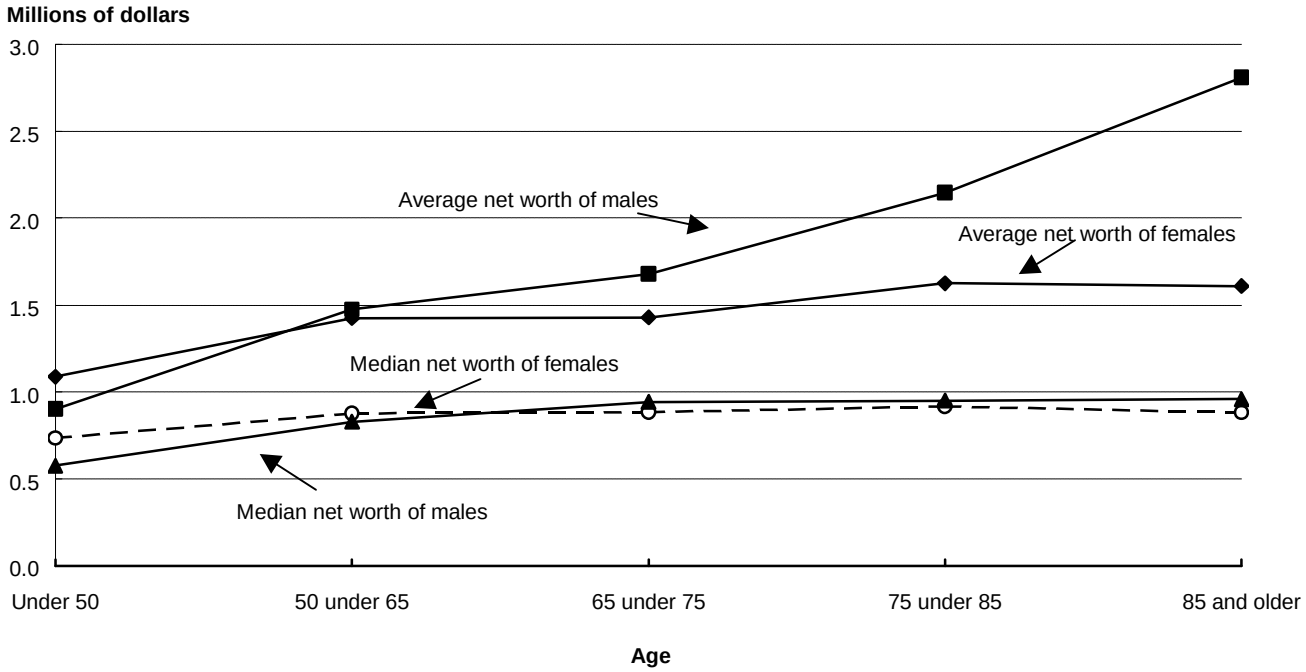
Age

The average age of adult male top wealth holders in 1995 was 55.4 years. Male top wealth holders under age 50 had an average net worth of $905,957. Figure D shows that average net worth increased significantly with age, rising to $2.8 million for males age 85 and older. For male top wealth holders, the median value of net worth also increased with age, from a low of $576,282 for males under 50 to $959,030 for males age 85 and older.

Figure D also reports the median and average net

Figure D

All Top Wealth Holders: Average and Median Net Worth, by Sex and Age, 1995



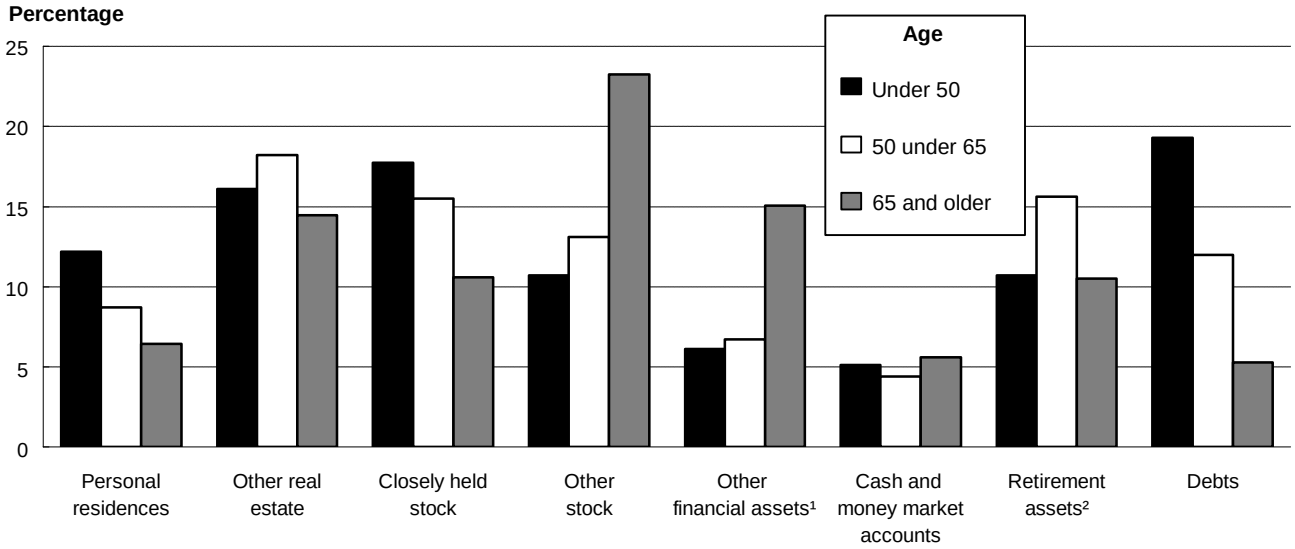
worth for female top wealth holders, by age. The average age of adult female top wealth holders was 61.2, higher than that of their male counterparts. The average net worth of wealthy females under the age of 50 was $1.1 million. For all female top wealth holders, women in the 75-under-85 age category had the highest average net worth, $1.63 million. Women under age 50 had the lowest median net worth, $734,113, while those in the 75-under-85 age category had the highest median net worth among female top wealth holders, $916,533. Unlike male top wealth holders, both the average and median values of net worth declined slightly for female top wealth holders age 75 and older. Interestingly, while the average net worth of women was significantly lower than that of men in most comparable age categories, the median values were virtually the same for individuals of both sexes age 50 and older.

The asset composition of male top wealth holders varied by age cohort (see Figure E). For wealthy males under age 50, stock in closely held corporations made up the largest share of total assets, 17.7 percent. Investment real estate made up the second largest share of the total, 16.1 percent, followed by the value of the personal residence, 12.2 percent. Males under age 50 also had the highest debt-to-asset ratio of the age groups examined, 19.3 percent of total assets. For male top wealth holders in the 65-and-older age category, publicly traded stock was dominant, accounting for 23.2 percent of total portfolio assets. Other financial assets, including Federal, corporate, and tax-exempt bonds issued by State or local governments as well as mixed portfolio mutual funds, accounted for 15.1 percent of total assets, the second largest component of the total for this age group. Wealthy males age 65 and older also had the lowest debt-to-asset ratio of the age groups examined, 5.3 percent of total assets.

Investments in real estate, including personal residences, comprised more than 30 percent of total assets for female top wealth holders age 50 and under (see Figure F). For females in this age group, investments in publicly traded stock were the second largest component of total assets, 14.5 percent, and, unlike males in this age group, exceeded the share invested in closely held stock (10.7 percent). Female

Figure E

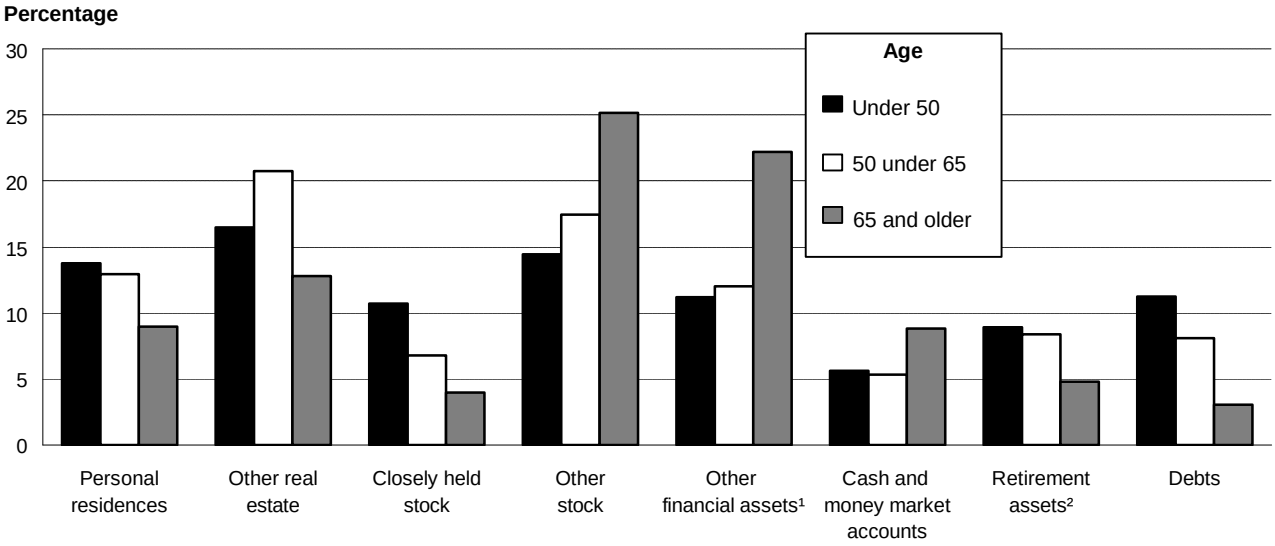
Male Top Wealth Holders: Selected Assets and Debts as a Percentage of Total Assets, by Age, 1995



¹ Includes Federal, corporate, and tax-exempt bonds as well as mixed portfolio mutual funds.
² Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

Figure F

Female Top Wealth Holders: Selected Assets and Debts as a Percentage of Total Assets, by Age, 1995



¹ Includes Federal, corporate, and tax-exempt bonds as well as mixed portfolio mutual funds.
² Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

wealth holders in this youngest age group had the highest debt-to-asset ratio of age groups examined for women, 11.2 percent of total assets, still significantly lower than that of their male counterparts. Investments in publicly traded stock and other financial assets, primarily tax-exempt State and local government bonds, dominated the portfolios of females in the 65-and-older age category, similar to males in this same age group. Wealthy women in this oldest age group had the lowest debt-to-asset ratio all of age groups examined for both men and women, 3.0 percent of total assets.

State Data

Figure G reports the States with the largest number of millionaires [8]. California, with its large population, had the greatest number of individuals with net worth of $1 million or more, 228,000. New York had the second largest number of millionaires, 120,000, while Florida with 112,000 millionaires was third in this ranking.

Looking at the number of millionaires on a per capita basis eliminates the distortions caused by the large populations in some States and thereby presents a somewhat different picture of the distribution of wealth across States [9]. Using this measure, Connecticut, the 27th largest state in terms of population size, had the greatest concentration of individuals with net worth of $1 million or more, 1,265 millionaires per 100,000 residents. The District of Columbia, the 48th largest "state" by population size, ranked second with 1,230 millionaires per 100,000 residents, and New Jersey was third with 1,084 millionaires per 100,000 residents. California, the state with the greatest number of millionaires and almost 12 percent of the total U.S. population, ranked fifth with 1,000 millionaires per 100,000 residents. Figure H classifies the States into three groups ranked by the per capita number of millionaires: the top third, those above the median; the middle third, the median; and those below the median. The Figure shows that individuals with net worth of $1 million or more were most highly concentrated in the Northeast and on the West Coast.

Figure G

States with the Largest Number of Resident Millionaires, 1995[1]

[Numbers are in thousands.]

State	Number of millionaires	Total population	Millionaires as a percentage of State population
	(1)	(2)	(3)
California	228	22,795	1.00
New York	120	13,599	0.89
Florida	112	10,795	1.04
Illinois	78	8,704	0.89
Texas	76	13,323	0.57
Pennsylvania	70	9,163	0.76
New Jersey	65	5,982	1.08
Ohio	47	8,291	0.57
Michigan	37	7,029	0.52
Massachusetts	36	4,642	0.77

[1] Millionaires defined as individuals with net worth of $1 million or more.

Top Wealth Holders, 1986-1995

The number of adult top wealth holders increased 24.1 percent between 1986 and 1995, while their total asset holdings increased 22.6 percent [10]. Figure I shows that there was an increase in the number of top wealth holders between 1986 and 1989, a period marked by economic expansion. The economy entered a recession at the end of 1990, one that officially lasted until March 1991. While the economic downturn was short-lived, recovery was slow and uneven. The effect of the recession is reflected in the slight decrease in the number of top wealth holders between 1989 and 1992. However, the growth in the number of top wealth holders between 1992 and 1995 is evidence of the economic recovery that occurred after the recession. In fact, the increase in the number of top wealth holders between 1992 and 1995 more than made up for the losses of the prior period.

Figure J shows the distribution of top wealth holders by sex for 1986-1995. Overall, males made up about two-thirds of this group, although, on average, they accounted for only 48.8 percent of the total U.S. population during this period [11]. However, the percentage of top wealth holders who were male declined over these 10 years. In contrast, the percentage of total top wealth holders who were female increased steadily between 1986 and 1995, despite

Figure H

Concentration of Top Wealth Holders with Net Worth of $1 Million or More, by State, 1995

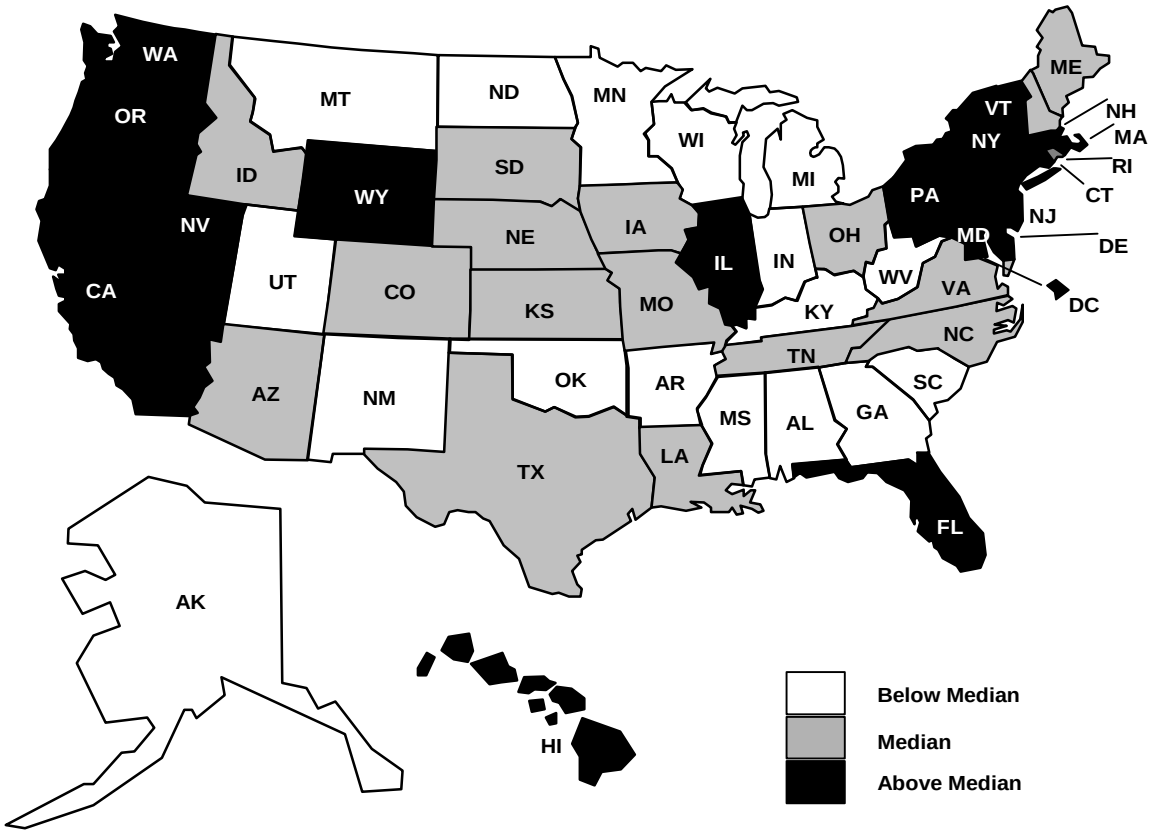


Figure I

Number of Top Wealth Holders With at Least $750,000 in Gross Assets, Selected Years, 1986-1995

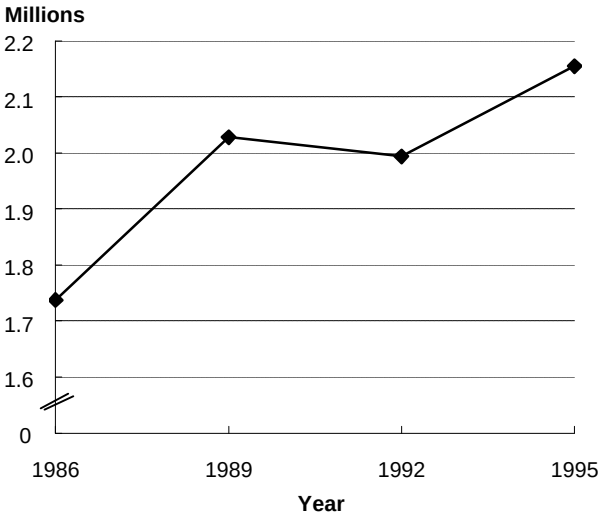
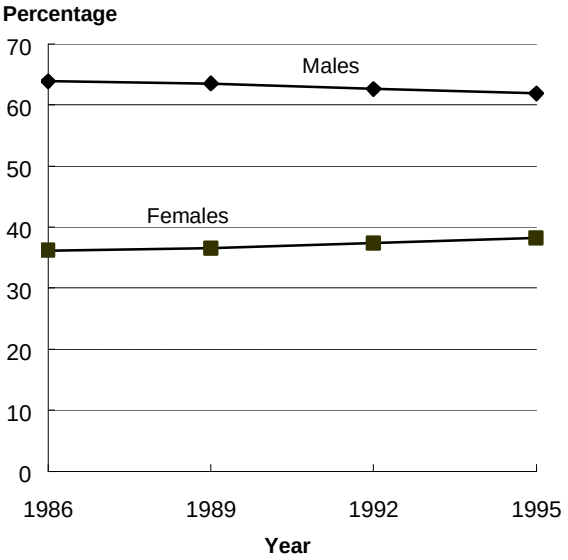


Figure J

Percentage of Top Wealth Holders, by Sex, Selected Years, 1986-1995



the 0.2-percent decline in the percentage of women in the overall U.S. population during the same period.

Figure K depicts changes in the age composition of male top wealth holders over time. The median age of male top wealth holders was relatively stable between 1986 and 1995, declining slightly from 68 to 66. The percentage of males age 40 and younger declined from 16.1 percent to 11.0 during this period. Likewise, the percentage of wealthy males who were between the ages of 40 and 50 declined. However, the percentage of all male top wealth holders who were between the ages 50 and 65 did not change between 1986 and 1995. In contrast, the percentage of male top wealth holders who were age 65 or older increased during the 10-year period. These patterns suggest an overall aging of the existing wealth holder population with relatively fewer "new" young male top wealth holders entering the population during the period.

Looking at female top wealth holders by age over the 10 years between 1986 and 1995 reveals a somewhat different picture (see Figure L). While there was a decline in the percentage of all female top wealth holders in the youngest age category during the period, the trends in the remaining age categories are much less clear. The percentage of wealthy females between the ages of 40 and 50 increased between 1986 and 1989, but the relative size of this group remained unchanged between 1989 and 1995. There is no real change in the percentage of all female wealth holders who were between the ages of 50 and 65. The percentage of female top wealth holders who were age 85 or older increased between 1986 and 1995. The relative stability in the percentage of wealthy females in most age categories indicates that the steady growth in the number of female wealth holders between 1986 and 1995, seen earlier in Figure J, occurred in all age groups. Like their male counterparts, there was a slight decline in the median age for female top wealth holders between 1986 and 1995, from 78 to 76.

Figure M shows that, during the same 10-year period, the majority of male top wealth holders, over 70 percent, were married, slightly higher than the

Figure K

Percentage of Male Top Wealth Holders, by Age, Selected Years, 1986-1995

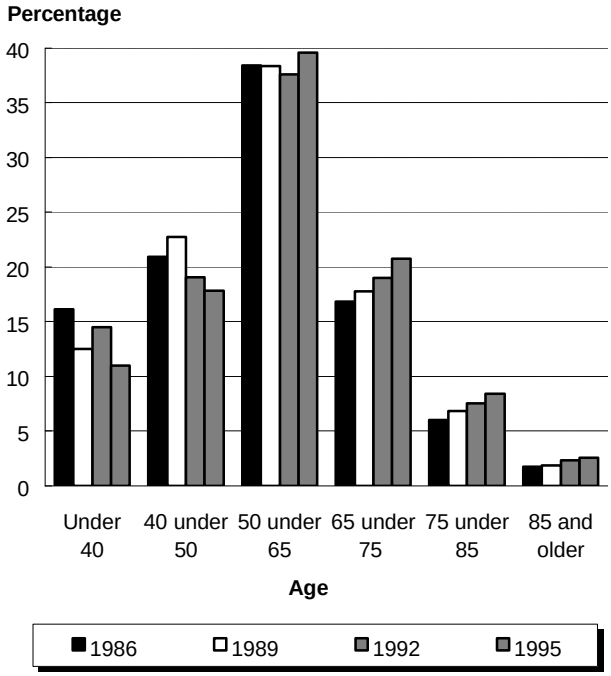
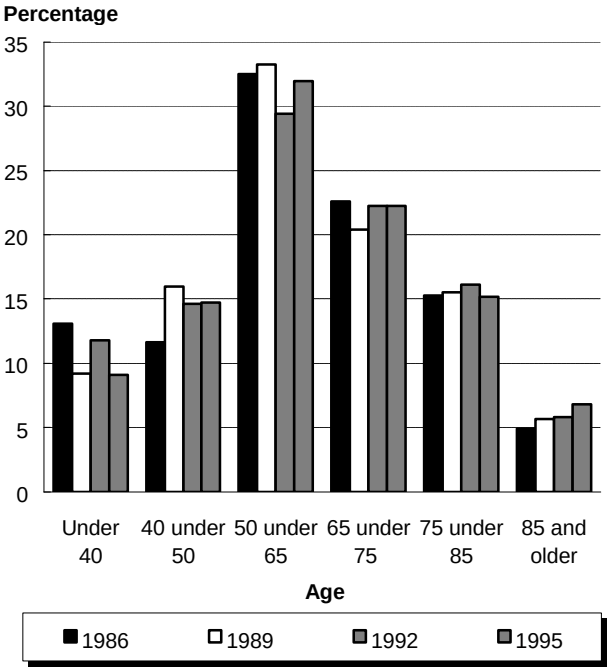


Figure L

Percentage of Female Top Wealth Holders, by Age, Selected Years, 1986-1995



average 65 percent of all males who were married in the general U.S. population [12]. Interestingly, the percentage of married male top wealth holders did not change during this period, even though the percentage of married males in the general population had been declining for several decades. The percentage of wealthy males who were widowed, about 6 percent, is higher than the percentage of widowed men in the general population, which averaged about 3 percent of all males between 1986 and 1995. The category "Other" in Figure M mainly includes men who were separated or divorced. The percentage of divorced or separated males in the top wealth holder population was slightly more than 6 percent. It is significant that the percentage of top wealth holders in this category did not change over time, while the percentage of divorced males in the general population rose from 6.6 in 1986 to 8.0 in 1995.

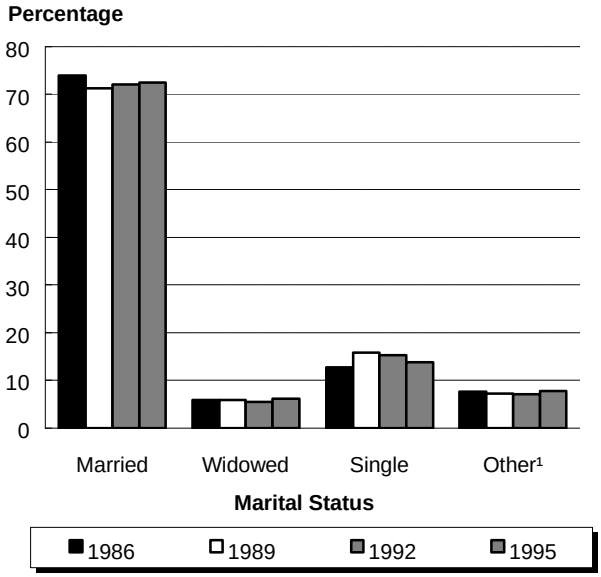
Figure N shows females top wealth holders classified by marital status. While just under 60 percent of the general female population were married, a significantly smaller proportion (about 51 percent) of female top wealth holders were married. On the other hand, a much larger portion of wealthy females, around 30 percent, were widowed, while only about 10 percent of females in the general population were surviving spouses. However, it is interesting to note both the declining proportion of widowed female top wealth holders and the increase in the proportion of married and single wealthy women. These observations might suggest that the increase in the overall percentage of women in the top wealth holder group is attributable to factors such as the increasing number of female entrepreneurs and business executives. The percentage of divorced and separated female top wealth holders was a relatively stable 8 percent between 1986 and 1995, compared to the increase in the percentage of divorced women in the general population from 8.9 percent in 1986 to 10.3 percent in 1995.

Portfolio Composition

Looking at the asset portfolios of top wealth holders by sex shows some important differences. For male top wealth holders, investments in stock accounted for the largest share of their portfolios (see Figure O). A portion of this was invested in closely held or untraded stock. Further, there was a clearly increasing trend in the share of total assets held as stock

Figure M

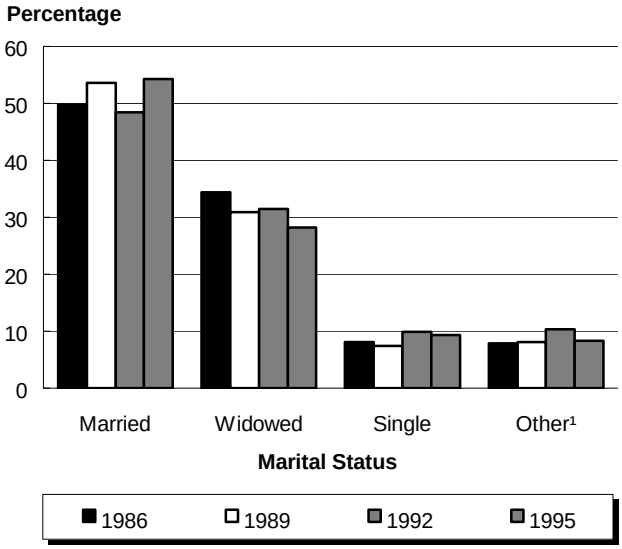
Percentage of Male Top Wealth Holders, by Marital Status, Selected Years, 1986-1995



¹ Includes individuals who were separated or divorced and those for whom marital status was not determinable.

Figure N

Percentage of Female Top Wealth Holders, by Marital Status, Selected Years, 1986-1995



¹ Includes individuals who were separated or divorced and those for whom marital status was not determinable.

between 1989 and 1995, in keeping with the overall rise in stock values as evidenced by an increase in Standard and Poor's common stock index of 67 percent between 1989 and 1995. This trend is mirrored in the steadily declining percentage of total assets held as real estate in the portfolios of male top wealth holders between 1986 and 1995, and coincides with the nationwide decline in the value of investment real estate in the late 1980's and into the 1990's. It is also interesting to note the declining portion of the portfolio held as cash, probably due to the increasing number of relatively liquid, higher yielding mutual funds that were introduced between 1986 and 1995. The increased share of total assets invested in retirement assets between 1986 and 1995, mainly IRA and Keogh accounts, is due to the increased popularity of defined-contribution retirement plans during this period.

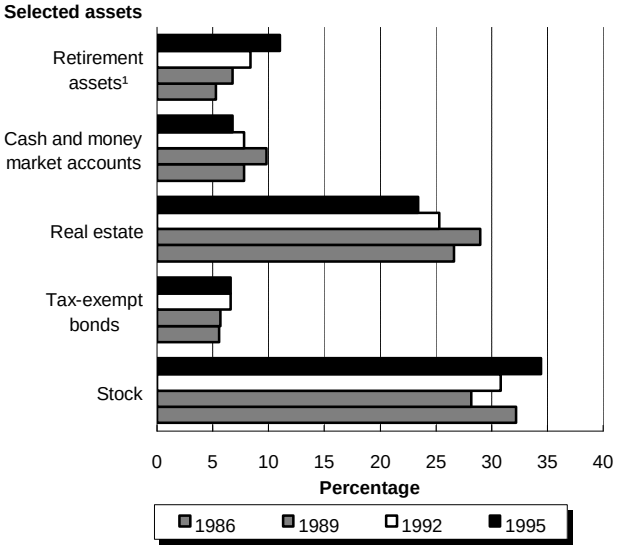
Female top wealth holders, like their male counterparts, invested the largest share of their total assets in stock, although, in contrast to males, a larger share of their stock investments was invested in publicly traded equities, rather than in stock issued by closely held corporations (see Figure P). Again, the portion of total assets invested in real estate declined after 1989, but, overall, women held a somewhat higher percentage of their assets in real estate than males. Compared to male top wealth holders, women also held a significantly higher percentage of their portfolios in tax-exempt State or local government bonds. This may be a reflection of the higher median age for female top wealth holders, since it is typical for older investors to favor the stable, tax-exempt income produced by these bonds.

Concentration Estimates

One way of looking at year-to-year changes in the distribution of wealth is to examine the share of total U.S. wealth held by a constant percentage of the population. Some researchers claim that the share of wealth held by the top 1.0 percent of the population has increased in recent years [13]. Figure Q reports the percentages of total U.S. personal wealth held by the top 1.0 percent and top 0.5 percent of the population, 1989-1995 [14]. In 1995, individuals representing just 1 percent of the total U.S. adult population held 22.47 percent of total U.S. personal wealth, nearly the same as in 1992. While Figure Q shows an almost 1.0-percent increase in the share of wealth

Figure O

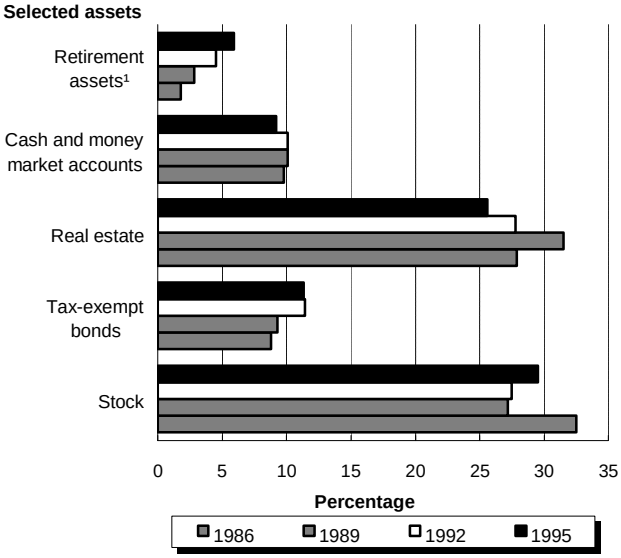
Male Top Wealth Holders: Selected Assets as a Percentage of Total Assets, Selected Years, 1986-1995



¹ Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

Figure P

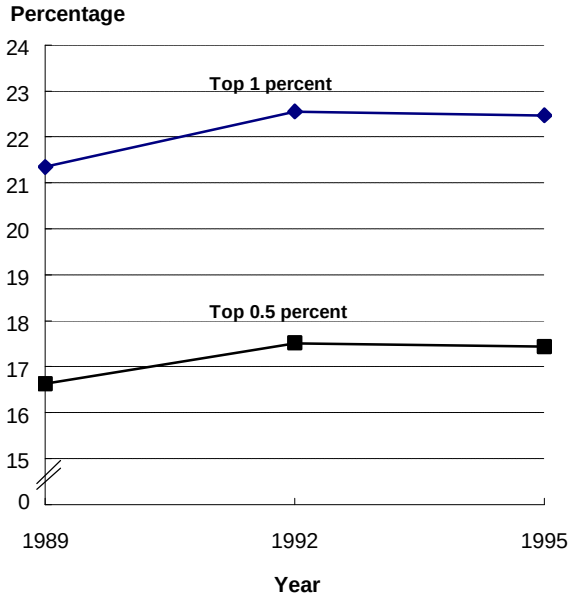
Female Top Wealth Holders: Selected Assets as a Percentage of Total Assets, Selected Years 1986-1995



¹ Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

Figure Q

Percentage of Total U. S. Net Worth Held by the Top 1 Percent and Top 0.5 Percent of the U. S. Population, 1989-1995



held by this group from 1989 to 1995, the increase is not statistically significant, given the margin of error of these estimates. In fact, the percentage of wealth held by the top 1.0 percent of the population remained relatively stable during the 6-year period 1989-1995. The same is true for the share of wealth held by the top 0.5 percent of the total U.S. adult population. The number of individuals in this elite group ranged from about 885,000 in 1989 to about 935,000 in 1995. They held about 17 percent of the nation's net worth during this period. These results suggest that, while the real wealth of the nation's top wealth holders increased between 1989 and 1995, it did so at a rate that was not significantly different from that of the overall adult population. These results are consistent with those derived from the Federal Reserve Board's 1989-1995 Surveys of Consumer Finances [15].

Summary

There were 4.4 million individuals in the United States with gross assets of $600,000 or more in 1995. These individuals represented 2.5 percent of the total U.S. population and owned 27.4 percent of total U.S. personal wealth. While the number of individuals in this elite group increased over time, the percentage of wealth held by the top 1.0 percent and the top 0.5 percent of the population did not change significantly in recent years, which indicates that the concentration of wealth in the United States has been relatively stable.

The demographic composition of top wealth holders in 1995 differed significantly from that of the general population. Research has shown that wealthy individuals of both sexes live longer than average Americans. Males made up 63.4 percent of this group, more than their 48.8-percent representation in the overall U.S. population, while women were underrepresented in the top wealth holder group. A smaller percentage of wealthy individuals were divorced or separated, while the percentages of this group who were married or widowed were higher than those of the overall population. Both age and sex seemed to play a role in the portfolio preferences of top wealth holders. Younger wealth holders tended to hold larger portions of their portfolios in equities and investment real estate and had higher debt-to-asset ratios than older wealth holders, who favored lower risk, tax-preferred investments. As a group, wealthy males held a greater percentage of their portfolios in stocks issued by closely held businesses than female wealth holders.

There were a number of notable changes in both the demographic makeup and the portfolio holdings of America's top wealth holders between 1986 and 1995. During this 10-year period, the percentage of women in this group grew steadily across most age groups. Between 1986 and 1995, the percentage of the U.S. population that was divorced increased, while the marital status of the top wealth holder population was remarkably stable. Changes in the asset holdings of America's top wealth holders, 1986-1995, reflected the explosive development of new investment opportunities during this period. There was a distinct trend away from real estate investments in favor of equity investments. The proliferation of mutual funds and relatively secure money market accounts provide a partial explanation for this trend. The percentage of total assets held as retirement assets also increased, reflecting the growing popularity of defined contribution retirement plans during this period.

Appendix: The Estate Multiplier Technique

The estate multiplier technique assumes that estate tax returns, taken as a whole, represent a random sample of the living wealthy population, and thus provide a means of producing reasonable estimates of personal wealth. The multiplier is equivalent to a sampling weight where the probabilities of selection include the probability of being a decedent and also that of being included in the Statistics of Income sample of estate tax returns. The more difficult computation is determining the probability of being a decedent. Mortality rates for the general population, by age and sex, available from the National Center for Health Statistics, provide the basis for the estimates. However, as mentioned, there is much evidence that the wealthy have mortality rates significantly lower than those of the entire population. The following sections describe the sampling criteria used to select the underlying estate tax returns, as well as recent efforts to develop mortality rates appropriate for this elite segment of the population.

Estate Tax Return Sample Design

Statistics of Income collects data from an annual sample of Federal estate tax returns that are used primarily for policy and budget purposes. The sample follows a 3-year cycle that is designed mainly to accommodate year-of-death estimates, with each study concentrating on decedents who died in the first year, the focus year, of the 3-year cycle. The annual samples are adequate for producing estimates by filing year as well. Year-of-death estimates are desirable because filing extensions and other filing delays mean that returns filed in any given calendar year can represent decedents who died in many different years. Thus, estate tax return data for a single filing year can reflect different economic and tax law conditions. By concentrating on a single year of death, these limitations can be overcome, making it possible to study the data in the context of a single time period.

Returns are selected using a stratified random sample with three stratifying variables. Since 1982, the stratifying variables have been year of death (focus year, non-focus year), total gross estate, and age at death. Gross estate is divided into five categories: $600,000 under $1 million, $1 million under $2.5 million, $2.5 million under $5 million, $5 million under $10 million, and $10 million or more. Age at death is divided into age under 40, 40 under 50, 50 under 65, 65 under 75, and 75 and older. Sample rates vary from 3 percent to 100 percent, with over half the strata selected with certainty, i.e., at the 100-percent rate.

SOI has combined Federal estate tax returns filed over 3-year periods to produce the estimates of wealth for 1986, 1989, 1992, and 1995 presented here. One of the strengths of the estate multiplier technique is the large sample upon which the estimates are based. The 1986 sample includes over 17,000 returns; the 1989, 22,000 returns; the 1992 more than 16,000 returns; and the 1995 more than 19,000 returns [16].

Mortality Differentials

Research has proven that individuals who are economically or socially better off live longer and are healthier than individuals in the general population. Therefore, it is important to determine a mortality rate appropriate to the wealthy decedents in the estate tax return sample. If mortality and wealth are correlated, then biased estimates will result using mortality rates unadjusted for wealth level. Evidence suggests that there is an inverse relationship between these factors, meaning that unadjusted multipliers would be too low and, thus, underestimate wealth [17].

There have been a considerable number of attempts to quantify differences between the mortality of the general population and that of the very wealthy, looking at factors such as education, income, and occupation, but focusing mainly on white males. In fact, very little research has focused on the effects of these factors on the mortality of women. The first U.S. estimates of personal wealth from estate tax returns used mortality data supplied by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for large, whole life insurance policies to adjust national mortality rates. This practice was used by SOI for many years. One drawback was the inability to calculate adjustments that were sex-specific from this data source. Thus, an alternate data set, the National Longitudinal Mortality Study (NLMS), produced by the National Institutes of Health, was used here [18].

The NLMS is a random sample of 1.3 million Americans of all ages, races, and sexes in the civil-

ian, non-institutionalized population. The sample was drawn mainly from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. Interviews, done by telephone, achieved a 96-percent response rate. Respondents were at least 14 years of age.

Because the NLMS did not contain information on a respondent's wealth, income and occupation were used to identify survey respondents with characteristics similar to estate tax decedents. Mortality differentials were produced within age and sex groups by calculating a simple ratio of the mortality rate for NMLS decedents whose incomes and occupations were similar to the incomes and occupations of estate tax decedents to the mortality rate for all individuals in the NMLS sample. National mortality rates, published by the National Center for Health Statistics, were then multiplied by the differential to obtain mortality rates appropriate for wealthy U.S. decedents [19].

The differences between the mortality rates of the general population and those of individuals with characteristics similar to the estate tax decedent population, captured in the magnitude of the mortality rate differentials, were most pronounced for young decedents; these differences disappeared entirely by age 85. For example, the mortality rate for a wealthy male in the NMLS sample under the age of 40 was about half that of all males in the sample. However, for males over 85 years of age, the mortality rates were the same for both groups. The mortality differentials estimated here for wealthy males using the NMLS are comparable with estimates by other researchers using other data sources [20]. Wealth seems to have had a much smaller effect on the mortality rates of females in the NMLS sample than on their male counterparts. The mortality rate for wealthy females in the NMLS sample under age 40 was 89 percent of that for all females in the sample. Again, for females over 85 years of age, the mortality rates were the same for both groups.

Multipliers

The multipliers (or sample weights) were calculated as:

$MULT = 1 / (p \cdot r \cdot d)$ where:

p = probability of selection to the estate tax sample,

r = mortality rate,

d = rate differential.

They ranged from 2 to 2000. Some additional smoothing of the multipliers was employed to constrain both tails of the net worth distribution [21].

Notes and References

[1] See Menchik, Paul, "Economic Status as a Determinant of Mortality Among Nonwhite and White Older Males: or, Does Poverty Kill?", Institute for Research on Poverty, Discussion Paper Number 93891, 1991.

[2] Scheuren, Fritz, "Historical Perspectives on IRS Wealth Estimates With a View to Improvements," *Compendium of Federal Estate Tax Data and Personal Wealth Studies*, Department of the Treasury, IRS Publication 1773, 1994, p. 358.

[3] Eller, Martha and Johnson, Barry, "Using a Sample of Federal Estate Tax Returns To Examine the Effects of Audit Revaluation on Pre-Audit Estimates," *1999 Proceedings of the American Statistical Association, Section on Government Statistics*, forthcoming.

[4] Unpublished SOI data were used to estimate the effects of discounts on these estimates.

[5] Estimates of the equity value of life insurance included in total assets were approximated, based on the face value reported on Federal estate tax returns and on the decedent's age. A ratio of the cash value to the face value was developed, using data from wealthy respondents to the 1989, 1992, and 1995 Surveys of Consumer Finances. A simple regression was used to predict the values used in the Statistics of Income estimates. The same set of ratios was used for both males and females, due to a lack of sex-specific data.

[6] Estimates of both the total assets and net worth of the United States are from household estimates derived from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), found in Kennickell, Arthur and Woodburn, Louise, "Consistent Weight Design for the 1989, 1992, and 1995 SCF's and the Distribution of Wealth," Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System,

working paper, 1997, p. 6.

[7] A closely held company is a corporation whose stock is not publicly traded, usually that of a small family-owned corporation.

[8] While the size of the underlying sample of estate tax returns makes estimates of wealth derived using the estate multiplier technique fairly robust, estimates of wealth by State can be subject to significant year-to-year fluctuations for States with relatively small decedent populations. This is especially true for individuals at the extreme tail of the net worth distribution. For this reason, Table 6 is limited to individuals with net worth of $10 million or less.

[9] Estimates of the U.S. adult population, by State, were obtained from U.S. Bureau of the Census, press release CB96-88, also published in U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996 (116th) edition*, Washington, DC 1996, Table 34.

[10] Estimates for 1986, 1989, 1992, and 1995 have been converted to constant 1989 dollars for consistency, using the overall Implicit Price Deflator for Gross Domestic Product (GDP). See U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, January/February 1996. In addition, estimates for all years were calculated using a consistent estimation methodology and may differ somewhat from previously published figures (see the Appendix to this article for a discussion of the estimation methodology). Finally, the population examined is limited to individuals with at least $750,000 in gross assets (in constant 1989 dollars), so that there is complete coverage for all of the years examined.

[11] Population estimates obtained from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, P25-1130, also published in *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996, 116th edition*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC, 1996, Table 13.

[12] Marital status estimates for the general population, by sex, obtained from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, P20-450, also published in *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996, 116th edition*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC, 1996, Table 58.

[13] See, for example, Wolff, Edward, *Top Heavy: A Study of the Increasing Inequality of Wealth in America*, Twentieth Century Fund Press, New York, 1995.

[14] See Kennickell and Woodburn, *op. cit.*, pp. 3-6. This section is limited to the period 1989-1995 because there are no comparable estimates of total U.S. wealth for 1986. The Survey of Consumer Finances is a household survey, while the SOI figures are estimates of individual wealth. An estimate of total household wealth should be equivalent to an estimate of total individual wealth. On the other hand, one would not expect estimates for specific points on a distribution of household wealth and a distribution of individual wealth to be identical since some households are made up of more than one individual. For example, the number of households with net worth of $1 million or more would include single individuals with at least $1 million, as well as two-person households where each of the individuals had assets of less than that threshold individually, but where the combined wealth was at least $1 million. On the other hand, only individuals in the first group would be included in the SOI estimates of individuals with $1 million in net worth, whereas individuals in the second type of household would not.

[15] Kennickell and Woodburn, *op. cit.*, pp. 21-22.

[16] Although the overall sample of estate tax returns is large, the number of decedents who were young (age less than 40) or extremely wealthy (gross assets of $5 million or more) in any given year varies considerably and is small in comparison to their number in the living population. Because of this, the resulting estimates of wealth for these two categories of living individuals would be subject to significant fluctuations from period to period. To reduce this variance, the sample is 'smoothed' by

including *all* returns for young or wealthy decedents filed during the 3-year sample period without regard to their years of death. These segments of the sample are then post-stratified and re-weighted to represent the true decedent population for the year of interest. This technique reduces the effect of outliers on estimates of personal wealth.

[17] Smith, James, "Estimating the Wealth of Top Wealth-Holders from Estate Tax Returns," *Compendium of Federal Estate Tax Data and Personal Wealth Studies*, Department of Treasury, IRS Publication 1773, 1994, p. 336.

[18] A more detailed description of this study is found in: *A Mortality Study of 1.3 Million Persons by Demographic, Social, and Economic Factors: 1979-1985 Follow-up*, U.S. National Longitudinal Mortality Study, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH Publication Number 92-3297, 1992.

[19] Mortality data for 1989, 1992, and 1995 were obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics, as reported in the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*. Data for 1989 are found in Volume 40, Number 11, January 7, 1992; data for 1992 are found in Volume 43, Volume 6, March 22, 1995; data for 1995 are found in Volume 45, Number 11, June 12, 1997. Mortality data for 1986 were obtained from *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1986, Volume II*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, 1988.

[20] See, for example, Menchik, *op. cit*.

[21] For a more complete methodological discussion, see Johnson, Barry, "Updating Techniques for Estimating Wealth from Federal Estate Tax Returns," *1997 Proceedings of the American Statistical Association, Section on Business and Economic Statistics.*

SOURCE: IRS, Statistics of Income Bulletin, Winter 1999/2000, Publication 1136, Rev. 2/00.

Table 1.--All Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1995

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealth holders	Total assets	Debts		Net worth		Personal residence	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	**4,400**	**6,713,127**	**3,469**	**660,375**	**4,400**	**6,052,753**	**3,151**	**653,236**
Under $600,000[1]	1,089	613,288	986	219,737	1,089	393,551	836	133,224
$600,000 under $1,000,000	1,739	1,459,430	1,264	124,596	1,739	1,334,834	1,189	203,483
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	1,201	1,909,089	913	136,880	1,201	1,772,209	855	190,841
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	249	905,612	202	61,024	249	844,588	180	64,775
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	82	594,822	69	38,042	82	556,780	62	33,403
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	27	402,337	24	25,155	27	377,182	20	14,945
$20,000,000 or more	13	828,550	12	54,941	13	773,609	10	12,565

Size of net worth	Other real estate		Closely held stock		Other stock		Tax-exempt bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	**2,718**	**1,083,955**	**939**	**777,413**	**3,046**	**1,172,696**	**1,671**	**498,624**
Under $600,000[1]	581	128,254	182	31,675	586	37,335	149	7,289
$600,000 under $1,000,000	1,052	254,353	278	64,700	1,234	195,822	693	77,231
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	806	334,743	320	166,140	916	292,046	607	146,957
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	180	150,125	95	113,323	206	173,774	144	86,211
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	64	87,344	39	95,948	69	126,290	53	62,430
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	24	54,864	15	86,756	23	92,479	18	40,934
$20,000,000 or more	12	74,273	8	218,870	12	254,951	9	77,571

Size of net worth	Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Mixed bond mutual funds[2]	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	**615**	**19,703**	**938**	**150,434**	**520**	**37,160**	**404**	**19,121**
Under $600,000[1]	127	1,272	84	3,511	45	1,247	54	1,463
$600,000 under $1,000,000	291	9,907	433	38,642	221	9,382	180	5,786
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	160	5,596	309	46,929	180	8,977	133	7,104
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	27	2,106	71	20,342	47	7,442	24	1,742
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	7	663	26	14,970	17	2,827	9	1,255
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	2	130	9	9,464	6	2,837	3	984
$20,000,000 or more	1	28	5	16,574	4	4,449	1	786

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.--All Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1995--Continued

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Mixed portfolio mutual funds[2]		Cash and money market accounts		Mortgages and notes		Equity value, life insurance	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	**1,150**	**75,317**	**4,210**	**383,777**	**1,220**	**194,666**	**3,163**	**145,501**
Under $600,000[1]	204	5,391	1,035	33,514	222	15,056	1,004	52,209
$600,000 under $1,000,000	486	25,583	1,661	133,817	440	41,380	1,142	36,835
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	350	28,008	1,157	130,302	383	55,563	794	37,100
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	73	8,667	237	40,386	110	30,363	148	10,441
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	23	4,138	80	22,341	41	18,723	50	5,107
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	9	2,118	26	10,453	15	11,821	16	2,516
$20,000,000 or more	5	1,411	13	12,964	9	21,761	8	1,293

Size of net worth	Noncorporate businesses		Limited partnerships		Retirement assets[3]		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)
Total	**943**	**223,543**	**664**	**119,657**	**3,044**	**707,070**	**4,041**	**264,193**
Under $600,000[1]	215	27,746	81	3,739	788	86,274	1,001	33,635
$600,000 under $1,000,000	326	42,537	222	10,778	1,169	205,701	1,582	57,737
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	283	51,934	239	21,195	839	254,409	1,107	68,358
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	69	24,879	70	15,368	168	93,333	233	34,403
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	30	21,299	32	16,565	55	42,173	79	22,285
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	12	19,963	13	11,299	16	14,548	26	15,665
$20,000,000 or more	6	35,185	8	40,713	9	10,632	13	32,111

[1] Includes top wealth holders with negative net worth.

[2] Mutual funds with a single investment objective are grouped with similar direct investments in this table.

[3] Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 2.--Male Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1995

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealth holders	Total assets	Debts		Net worth		Personal residence	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	**2,791**	**4,339,772**	**2,226**	**507,262**	**2,791**	**3,832,510**	**2,005**	**385,869**
Under $600,000[1]	844	468,967	763	179,193	844	289,774	649	97,631
$600,000 under $1,000,000	993	850,981	719	88,231	993	762,750	680	108,959
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	721	1,173,264	549	97,635	721	1,075,629	506	104,953
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	152	563,393	125	42,975	152	520,417	111	37,112
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	53	387,443	45	30,085	53	357,358	39	19,990
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	19	282,418	17	21,901	19	260,517	13	8,278
$20,000,000 or more	9	613,307	9	47,242	9	566,065	7	8,947

Size of net worth	Other real estate		Closely held stock		Other stock		Tax-exempt bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	**1,744**	**701,645**	**724**	**626,519**	**1,865**	**689,651**	**895**	**255,750**
Under $600,000[1]	436	93,307	161	28,141	451	26,857	99	4,420
$600,000 under $1,000,000	627	152,169	207	52,027	684	94,479	348	34,029
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	499	213,224	237	126,049	537	153,384	319	67,569
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	115	93,890	71	85,200	124	89,690	80	43,171
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	41	57,869	29	74,822	45	72,808	31	36,341
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	16	39,486	12	67,728	15	57,899	11	25,114
$20,000,000 or more	8	51,701	7	192,552	8	194,534	6	45,106

Size of net worth	Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Mixed bond mutual funds[2]	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	**378**	**10,287**	**487**	**69,647**	**287**	**21,293**	**217**	**9,678**
Under $600,000[1]	102	901	63	2,752	32	807	38	804
$600,000 under $1,000,000	163	4,845	207	17,202	110	4,414	88	2,691
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	92	2,772	156	20,589	99	4,553	69	3,461
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	16	1,517	36	10,088	28	4,392	14	709
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	4	148	15	6,500	11	1,774	5	597
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	1	84	6	4,972	4	2,321	2	829
$20,000,000 or more	1	20	3	7,544	3	3,031	1	585

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.--Male Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1995--Continued

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Mixed portfolio mutual funds[2]		Cash and money market accounts		Mortgages and notes		Equity value, life insurance	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	**693**	**40,736**	**2,673**	**217,243**	**800**	**127,989**	**2,316**	**126,709**
Under $600,000[1]	159	4,182	798	24,145	170	10,402	797	45,620
$600,000 under $1,000,000	260	12,695	956	68,525	267	23,812	774	31,502
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	206	13,757	697	70,869	246	33,929	575	32,407
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	42	4,844	145	23,917	71	19,520	110	9,066
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	16	2,672	51	13,836	28	13,571	40	4,638
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	6	1,575	18	7,515	11	9,437	14	2,228
$20,000,000 or more	3	1,011	9	8,436	7	17,318	7	1,247

Size of net worth	Noncorporate businesses		Limited partnerships		Retirement assets[3]		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)
Total	**686**	**167,508**	**425**	**76,797**	**2,053**	**545,036**	**2,566**	**160,549**
Under $600,000[1]	177	22,837	66	3,239	615	70,193	775	25,320
$600,000 under $1,000,000	227	31,068	127	6,961	716	149,175	907	33,298
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	197	35,942	152	15,678	549	198,266	665	42,804
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	50	18,725	44	9,724	114	75,657	142	18,107
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	22	17,489	21	11,207	39	30,735	51	12,839
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	9	17,255	9	7,858	13	12,779	18	9,561
$20,000,000 or more	4	24,192	5	22,129	7	8,231	9	18,620

[1] Includes top wealth holders with negative net worth.

[2] Mutual funds with a single investment objective are grouped with similar direct investments in this table.

[3] Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 3.--Female Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1995

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealth holders	Total assets	Debts		Net worth		Personal residence	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	**1,609**	**2,373,355**	**1,243**	**153,112**	**1,609**	**2,220,243**	**1,146**	**267,367**
Under $600,000[1]	245	144,321	223	40,543	245	103,778	187	35,594
$600,000 under $1,000,000	746	608,450	545	36,366	746	572,084	509	94,524
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	479	735,824	364	39,245	479	696,580	349	85,888
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	97	342,219	77	18,049	97	324,171	69	27,664
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	30	207,380	24	7,958	30	199,422	23	13,413
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	8	119,919	7	3,254	8	116,665	7	6,666
$20,000,000 or more	4	215,243	4	7,699	4	207,544	3	3,618

Size of net worth	Other real estate		Closely held stock		Other stock		Tax-exempt bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	**974**	**382,310**	**215**	**150,894**	**1,181**	**483,045**	**777**	**242,873**
Under $600,000[1]	144	34,947	22	3,534	135	10,479	50	2,869
$600,000 under $1,000,000	424	102,184	71	12,673	550	101,343	345	43,202
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	307	121,519	83	40,091	379	138,661	287	79,388
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	65	56,234	24	28,123	82	84,084	64	43,041
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	23	29,475	9	21,127	25	53,482	21	26,089
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	7	15,378	4	19,028	7	34,580	6	15,820
$20,000,000 or more	3	22,572	1	26,318	3	60,416	3	32,465

Size of net worth	Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Mixed bond mutual funds[2]	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	**237**	**9,416**	**450**	**80,786**	**232**	**15,867**	**187**	**9,444**
Under $600,000[1]	26	372	21	759	13	439	16	659
$600,000 under $1,000,000	128	5,062	226	21,441	111	4,967	92	3,095
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	68	2,824	152	26,340	81	4,424	64	3,643
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	11	589	35	10,254	19	3,050	11	1,033
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	3	515	11	8,470	6	1,052	4	658
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	1	46	4	4,493	2	516	1	156
$20,000,000 or more	1	8	2	9,030	1	1,418	1	201

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.--Female Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1995--Continued

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Mixed portfolio mutual funds[2]		Cash and money market accounts		Mortgages and notes		Equity value, life insurance	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	**458**	**34,581**	**1,537**	**166,534**	**420**	**66,676**	**847**	**18,792**
Under $600,000[1]	45	1,209	237	9,369	52	4,654	207	6,589
$600,000 under $1,000,000	226	12,888	705	65,292	172	17,567	368	5,332
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	144	14,252	461	59,434	137	21,634	219	4,692
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	31	3,823	93	16,469	39	10,843	38	1,375
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	7	1,466	29	8,505	14	5,152	10	469
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	3	543	8	2,938	4	2,384	2	288
$20,000,000 or more	1	400	4	4,528	2	4,443	1	46

Size of net worth	Noncorporate businesses		Limited partnerships		Retirement assets[3]		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)
Total	**257**	**56,035**	**239**	**42,859**	**991**	**162,033**	**1,475**	**103,645**
Under $600,000[1]	39	4,909	15	500	173	16,081	226	8,315
$600,000 under $1,000,000	99	11,469	96	3,816	453	56,526	675	24,439
$1,000,000 under $2,500,000	87	15,992	87	5,516	290	56,143	442	25,554
$2,500,000 under $5,000,000	20	6,154	26	5,644	54	17,677	91	16,297
$5,000,000 under $10,000,000	8	3,810	10	5,358	16	11,438	28	9,446
$10,000,000 under $20,000,000	3	2,708	4	3,441	4	1,769	8	6,104
$20,000,000 or more	2	10,993	2	18,584	2	2,400	4	13,491

[1] Includes top wealth holders with negative net worth.

[2] Mutual funds with a single investment objective are grouped with similar direct investments in this table.

[3] Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 4.--Male Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Age, 1995

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Age	Number of top wealth holders	Total assets	Debts		Net worth		Personal residence	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	**2,791**	**4,339,772**	**2,226**	**507,262**	**2,791**	**3,832,510**	**2,005**	**385,869**
Under 50	1,048	1,176,023	921	226,580	1,048	949,443	754	143,306
50 under 65	1,009	1,692,161	826	202,786	1,009	1,489,375	758	147,805
65 under 75	476	857,247	320	56,698	476	800,549	336	66,126
75 under 85	198	436,496	119	12,759	198	423,737	127	22,961
85 and older	60	177,845	40	8,439	60	169,405	29	5,671

Age	Other real estate		Closely held stock		Other stock		Tax-exempt bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	**1,744**	**701,645**	**724**	**626,519**	**1,865**	**689,651**	**895**	**255,750**
Under 50	572	189,502	296	208,306	607	125,803	205	41,047
50 under 65	698	308,034	299	262,065	690	222,103	298	67,276
65 under 75	327	144,181	101	85,719	361	143,837	227	66,266
75 under 85	121	49,172	25	49,843	158	135,911	126	53,744
85 and older	26	10,757	4	20,586	48	61,996	38	27,417

Age	Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Mixed bond mutual funds[1]	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	**378**	**10,287**	**487**	**69,647**	**287**	**21,293**	**217**	**9,678**
Under 50	116	1,151	122	12,146	67	4,425	55	2,421
50 under 65	138	2,379	153	20,188	96	6,637	72	3,164
65 under 75	81	3,718	116	16,685	74	7,079	56	2,233
75 under 85	35	2,326	74	13,283	38	2,231	26	1,339
85 and older	9	713	22	7,346	13	920	7	521

Age	Mixed portfolio mutual funds[1]		Cash and money market accounts		Mortgages and notes		Equity value, life insurance	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	**693**	**40,736**	**2,673**	**217,243**	**800**	**127,989**	**2,316**	**126,709**
Under 50	234	10,919	992	60,352	251	34,318	900	47,097
50 under 65	241	14,008	974	74,422	317	51,826	869	58,940
65 under 75	146	9,349	456	44,712	163	28,428	376	15,650
75 under 85	54	4,548	192	27,483	55	10,360	139	4,182
85 and older	17	1,913	59	10,273	13	3,058	33	840

Age	Noncorporate businesses		Limited partnerships		Retirement assets[2]		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)
Total	**686**	**167,508**	**425**	**76,797**	**2,053**	**545,036**	**2,566**	**160,549**
Under 50	252	63,214	122	17,413	754	125,941	960	57,137
50 under 65	273	60,858	168	32,928	811	264,240	934	59,218
65 under 75	113	23,703	95	19,023	368	131,498	441	25,996
75 under 85	40	7,473	33	5,108	107	21,470	180	12,617
85 and older	8	12,261	6	2,325	13	1,888	51	5,580

[1] Mutual funds with a single investment objective are grouped with similar direct investments in this table.

[2] Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 5.--Female Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by Age, 1995

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Age	Number of top wealth holders	Total assets	Debts		Net worth		Personal residence	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	**1,609**	**2,373,355**	**1,243**	**153,112**	**1,609**	**2,220,243**	**1,146**	**267,367**
Under 50	435	536,581	359	60,254	435	476,327	309	73,733
50 under 65	475	736,054	365	59,433	475	676,621	374	95,183
65 under 75	351	525,580	255	23,381	351	502,200	268	58,803
75 under 85	236	391,279	177	7,093	236	384,187	154	30,918
85 and older	112	183,861	88	2,952	112	180,908	42	8,731

Age	Other real estate		Closely held stock		Other stock		Tax-exempt bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	**974**	**382,310**	**215**	**150,894**	**1,181**	**483,045**	**777**	**242,873**
Under 50	245	88,482	80	57,335	274	77,607	132	26,585
50 under 65	339	152,796	78	49,793	344	128,510	217	51,435
65 under 75	223	76,777	38	23,591	282	116,572	212	66,079
75 under 85	121	43,324	15	9,602	190	101,220	150	72,750
85 and older	47	20,930	3	10,573	91	59,135	65	26,024

Age	Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Mixed bond mutual funds[1]	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	**237**	**9,416**	**450**	**80,786**	**232**	**15,867**	**187**	**9,444**
Under 50	45	808	77	16,820	41	3,723	36	2,663
50 under 65	56	1,433	123	19,078	67	4,177	59	2,058
65 under 75	70	3,091	111	15,245	58	3,594	43	1,697
75 under 85	43	2,159	93	17,699	45	2,781	35	1,932
85 and older	23	1,924	47	11,945	21	1,591	14	1,094

Age	Mixed portfolio mutual funds[1]		Cash and money market accounts		Mortgages and notes		Equity value, life insurance	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	**458**	**34,581**	**1,537**	**166,534**	**420**	**66,676**	**847**	**18,792**
Under 50	111	9,447	409	30,196	105	22,941	299	8,028
50 under 65	147	10,122	449	39,201	129	18,313	283	6,304
65 under 75	106	6,746	339	40,622	102	15,383	147	2,880
75 under 85	67	5,480	230	37,152	63	8,183	87	1,282
85 and older	27	2,786	110	19,362	21	1,856	30	298

Age	Noncorporate businesses		Limited partnerships		Retirement assets[2]		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)
Total	**257**	**56,035**	**239**	**42,859**	**991**	**162,033**	**1,475**	**103,645**
Under 50	74	18,483	51	7,824	305	47,728	394	24,974
50 under 65	95	23,610	84	15,797	350	61,692	445	33,289
65 under 75	50	7,863	60	7,559	227	39,274	325	21,267
75 under 85	28	5,066	36	10,474	90	11,384	214	16,415
85 and older	10	1,014	9	1,205	18	1,956	97	7,700

[1] Mutual funds with a single investment objective are grouped with similar direct investments in this table.

[2] Includes individual retirement accounts, annuities, and self-employed retirement or Keogh plans.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 6.--Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More and Net Worth Under $10,000,000: Total and Selected Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by State of Residence, 1995

[All figures are estimates based on samples -- numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts		Net worth	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total	**4,360**	**5,482,241**	**3,433**	**580,279**	**4,360**	**4,901,962**
Alabama	50	57,997	39	4,553	50	53,445
Alaska	10	10,397	10	1,437	10	8,960
Arizona	52	66,624	42	6,125	52	60,499
Arkansas	24	26,760	14	1,807	24	24,953
California	653	889,820	543	132,961	653	756,860
Colorado	65	79,573	58	7,901	65	71,672
Connecticut	87	122,382	75	11,963	87	110,419
Delaware	12	13,851	9	1,020	12	12,832
District of Columbia	15	19,645	14	2,255	15	17,390
Florida	298	417,251	222	42,208	298	375,043
Georgia	88	107,043	75	13,454	88	93,588
Hawaii	24	25,944	20	2,745	24	23,199
Idaho	11	17,811	10	2,613	11	15,198
Illinois	226	292,736	183	29,318	226	263,418
Indiana	60	76,322	47	6,343	60	69,978
Iowa	61	60,611	39	6,378	61	54,233
Kansas	42	49,423	32	5,597	42	43,825
Kentucky	39	47,993	29	6,856	39	41,137
Louisiana	43	51,771	38	4,822	43	46,950
Maine	15	19,617	11	2,244	15	17,373
Maryland	81	102,135	62	7,849	81	94,286
Massachusetts	130	151,389	114	18,008	130	133,382
Michigan	115	145,908	91	11,174	115	134,734
Minnesota	73	78,988	53	9,439	73	69,548
Mississippi	25	29,792	18	3,907	25	25,884
Missouri	68	89,869	52	6,652	68	83,217
Montana	16	17,593	13	3,474	16	14,119
Nebraska	32	37,087	25	4,274	32	32,813
Nevada	21	37,729	18	3,329	21	34,400
New Hampshire	19	22,936	13	3,283	19	19,654
New Jersey	190	239,321	135	18,570	190	220,751
New Mexico	24	27,157	18	4,469	24	22,687
New York	400	487,457	306	44,896	400	442,561
North Carolina	109	129,585	89	10,665	109	118,920
North Dakota	13	14,491	9	2,170	13	12,321
Ohio	169	194,877	120	15,826	169	179,051
Oklahoma	39	40,713	27	2,876	39	37,837
Oregon	56	75,041	43	11,391	56	63,650
Pennsylvania	175	224,065	143	16,890	175	207,175
Rhode Island	14	14,421	11	966	14	13,455
South Carolina	65	70,134	51	7,880	65	62,255
South Dakota	13	11,894	9	842	13	11,052
Tennessee	76	92,481	55	7,930	76	84,551
Texas	254	312,664	213	32,024	254	280,640
Utah	19	24,690	13	2,640	19	22,050
Vermont	9	10,986	8	823	9	10,163
Virginia	95	117,340	77	15,775	95	101,566
Washington	92	118,578	72	10,622	92	107,956
West Virginia	15	18,349	14	2,425	15	15,924
Wisconsin	60	71,211	46	4,808	60	66,403
Wyoming	9	10,266	5	1,077	9	9,190
Other areas[1]	7	9,523	5	725	7	8,798

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 6.--Top Wealth Holders with Gross Assets of $600,000 or More and Net Worth Under $10,000,000: Total and Selected Assets, Debts, and Net Worth, by State of Residence, 1995--Continued

[All figures are estimates based on samples--numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Real estate		Corporate stock		Cash and money market accounts		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Total	**3,963**	**1,580,544**	**3,358**	**1,297,053**	**4,171**	**360,360**	**2,360**	**571,283**
Alabama	47	13,473	42	13,281	50	3,848	25	7,721
Alaska	9	3,435	7	1,422	9	411	5	356
Arizona	50	21,760	41	14,964	49	4,438	34	9,171
Arkansas	22	6,101	17	6,527	24	2,697	15	3,237
California	613	360,220	480	165,456	636	53,682	338	75,159
Colorado	61	25,121	53	17,043	61	4,584	35	7,617
Connecticut	77	33,395	67	34,531	85	7,771	50	11,117
Delaware	10	2,608	9	4,026	12	1,003	8	1,440
District of Columbia	12	6,143	9	4,143	14	1,139	7	2,858
Florida	271	107,065	234	106,687	279	23,399	181	63,943
Georgia	80	33,960	69	27,956	85	6,735	39	7,902
Hawaii	23	12,607	15	3,796	23	1,613	8	1,790
Idaho	10	5,584	8	5,197	11	814	6	1,132
Illinois	203	83,455	179	71,771	215	18,646	119	30,555
Indiana	53	19,363	47	20,069	58	6,547	29	7,811
Iowa	55	16,433	41	13,404	59	4,864	37	5,388
Kansas	39	12,747	33	10,346	40	4,045	23	6,123
Kentucky	38	12,025	31	12,249	37	5,439	22	4,487
Louisiana	41	14,591	35	11,268	41	3,253	29	6,750
Maine	14	6,781	10	5,542	14	859	6	1,748
Maryland	73	26,492	66	28,648	78	4,846	48	12,515
Massachusetts	122	45,960	104	39,547	125	9,842	68	13,591
Michigan	106	31,208	96	40,655	111	9,147	61	11,762
Minnesota	68	21,690	58	18,181	67	5,023	36	7,090
Mississippi	23	6,581	20	8,631	24	2,722	11	2,332
Missouri	57	18,967	52	24,010	65	7,303	44	12,609
Montana	14	6,853	11	3,707	15	1,686	8	908
Nebraska	29	10,163	21	8,323	30	2,909	14	3,081
Nevada	21	11,608	18	11,179	20	1,616	10	4,358
New Hampshire	17	5,676	15	6,611	18	1,693	10	2,419
New Jersey	175	61,712	150	58,494	183	17,167	108	30,287
New Mexico	20	6,685	17	7,046	24	2,063	12	2,733
New York	337	128,537	290	100,607	377	34,247	221	58,034
North Carolina	102	37,612	84	33,553	103	7,553	54	11,084
North Dakota	12	4,614	11	3,164	13	869	5	582
Ohio	143	45,418	135	57,656	156	13,221	88	19,742
Oklahoma	34	8,477	26	8,865	38	4,309	18	5,643
Oregon	52	25,600	47	17,515	52	3,653	26	5,820
Pennsylvania	153	44,678	137	55,108	161	14,676	102	26,491
Rhode Island	12	3,804	10	4,403	14	828	9	2,046
South Carolina	60	22,078	47	14,360	63	3,304	34	5,924
South Dakota	12	3,377	10	2,451	12	759	8	1,141
Tennessee	71	24,373	53	23,403	72	7,645	39	7,727
Texas	236	72,432	201	70,761	251	24,227	139	35,033
Utah	17	6,332	14	6,652	17	1,896	6	1,312
Vermont	8	2,266	9	3,560	9	678	6	1,652
Virginia	91	35,328	78	30,388	91	6,914	54	10,042
Washington	87	37,695	73	25,576	90	7,557	55	10,715
West Virginia	15	3,770	13	7,066	15	1,306	11	2,148
Wisconsin	54	18,629	53	21,011	59	3,934	34	4,765
Wyoming	8	3,204	7	2,746	9	389	3	443
Other areas[1]	5	1,858	6	3,498	6	595	3	950

[1] U.S. citizens domiciled abroad. Persons who acquired U.S. citizenship solely by virtue of being a citizen of Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands are not included.

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.