

CHAPTER 3

Personal Wealth Data

The first paper in this section, "Personal Wealth Estimated From Estate Tax Returns, 1962," written by Dr. Fritz Scheuren, was the first in a series of SOI personal wealth reports. Originally presented as a book of about 80 pages, it remains the most comprehensive personal wealth report ever produced at SOI, containing a description of the estate multiplier methodology used to derive the estimates, an analysis of the data including numerous charts and tables, and a detailed discussion of the limitations of wealth estimates derived from Federal estate tax returns. The text of that report is faithfully reproduced here; however, only selected tables have been included due to space considerations.

The second and third papers, personal wealth estimates for 1969 and 1972, respectively, were also originally produced as books. However, the methodological sections and appendices of each drew heavily from the 1962 report. Therefore, only those sections which present "new" material are included here, along with a few basic tables. The entire reports for 1962, 1969, and 1972 are available from the SOI Statistical Information Office ((202) 874-0410). The remaining personal wealth papers are reprinted in their entirety.

The papers by Dr. Eugene Steuerle are based on a special data base which was a collation of estate tax returns, income tax returns of decedents in years before death, and income tax returns of heirs in years both prior to and following the death of their benefactor. These data provided a unique opportunity to look at the relationships between wealth and income as well as the effects of inheritances on income and employment. SOI is currently compiling similar data bases for decedents who died in 1989 and 1992. In addition to Federal income tax returns, these data bases will include gift and fiduciary tax returns filed for both decedents and beneficiaries.

Statistics of Income

1962

Supplemental Report

by Fritz Scheuren, Ph.D

Personal Wealth

*Estimated from
Estate Tax Returns
filed during
calendar year 1963*



*Prepared under the direction of the
Commissioner of Internal Revenue
by the Statistics Division*

U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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Introduction and summary

INTRODUCTION

This report, a supplement to *Statistics of Income-1962, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns*, provides estimates of the assets and demographic characteristics of individuals with gross holdings of \$60,000 or more in 1962. The report focuses on the age, sex and marital status of these "top wealthholders", as well as the size and composition of their wealth.

The estimates of the wealth of the living are based on Federal estate tax returns filed during 1963 for decedents with a gross estate of \$60,000 or more. Each decedent's estate was weighted by the inverse of the mortality rate appropriate to his age and sex, a device known as the "estate multiplier technique".¹ The underlying assumption is that "death" draws a random sample from the living population. A technically more precise way of looking at the estimates is that they represent all those for whom a Federal estate tax return would have been required had they died in 1962.

A number of problems associated with this approach are discussed in the technical appendix. However, mention of them is made at this time in order to provide an indication of the limitations imposed by the nature of the technique.

The estate tax return is an administrative document designed for the purpose of collecting taxes. It is also a rich source of economic information and draws notable strength from having been prepared from records, generally by highly skilled people and under exacting requirements of law. The wealth reported on the return is not however identical with what is ordinarily considered a man's personal wealth. One obvious difference is life insurance. The financial value of such insurance to a living person is its cash surrender value; the estate of a deceased person includes the insurance at its full face value. In the estimates presented insurance proceeds were adjusted so both equity and face values of insurance could be included in different concepts of wealth.

Perhaps the chief problem that confronts all applications of the estate multiplier technique is the lack of exact mortality rates appropriate to the wealthy. This deficiency is very important for there is much evidence to support the view that the mortality structure of the wealthy is more favorable than that for the general population. However, only an approximation to this structure could be made. The approximation, while reasonable, may contain biases which lead to under- or overestimates of the number and wealth of top wealthholders.

The report was intended to show the patterns of asset holdings among different age, sex, and marital groups of the wealthy. For this purpose the estimates are believed

¹A history and bibliography are given in "Estimating the Wealth of Top Wealthholders from Estate Tax Returns", a paper by James D. Smith and Staunton K. Calvert of the Statistics Division, 1965 *Proceedings of the Business and Economic Statistics Section*, American Statistical Association, pp. 249-250, 260-261.

to be fairly reliable. However, other uses of the present statistics, for example to study wealth concentration, may yield imprecise results. As mentioned, there are important differences in concept between wealth subject to the estate tax and the more usual notions of personal wealth. The estimation technique is approximate and may not be reliable for all purposes.

The estate multiplier technique is a potentially powerful research tool. Future studies will further refine this means of learning about the wealthy. In prospect are the use of better estimates of the mortality of the rich coupled with more study of the differences among the various measures of personal wealth.

SUMMARY

There were 4.1 million individuals with gross assets of \$60,000 or more in 1962, about 3.7% of the mid-year U.S. adult population. Table A shows that these "top wealthholders" had real estate, stocks and bonds, cash, notes, equity in life insurance, and other assets which totaled \$752 billion. They also had debts of \$82.7 billion leaving a net worth of \$669.3 billion.

About 1.8 million individuals had net worth of \$100,000 or more and 177,000 had net worth of \$500,000 or more. Corporate stock was the most heavily favored investment for both these groups. Real estate was the first choice for those with net worth of less than \$100,000.

Overall, corporate stock at \$325.8 billion was the largest single item in the top wealthholders' balance sheet. Real estate was second at \$188.0 billion. Together these two assets constituted more than two-thirds of all the assets of top wealthholders.

Three-fifths, or about 2.5 million, of the top wealthholders were men, with average asset holdings of \$173,000. The women were wealthier, however, with an average of \$196,000. More than half of the top wealthholders were married - 84% of the men and 48% of the women.

Table A. —1962 SUMMARY STATISTICS BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

Item	Total	Size of net worth			
		Under \$60,000	\$60,000 under \$100,000	\$100,000 under \$500,000	\$500,000 or more
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	(Thousands)				
Number of top wealthholders.....	4,132	878	1,455	1,622	177
	(Billion dollars)				
Total assets.....	752.0	54.8	126.7	329.0	241.5
Real estate.....	188.0	26.0	47.1	89.2	25.7
Bonds.....	47.9	1.0	5.7	17.7	23.6
Corporate stock.....	325.8	7.7	31.2	132.5	154.5
Cash.....	70.7	4.2	18.5	35.5	12.5
Notes and mortgages.....	30.4	1.4	7.0	15.5	6.5
Insurance equity.....	15.6	4.5	3.3	6.2	1.6
Other assets.....	73.5	10.0	14.0	32.4	17.2
Debts.....	82.7	23.3	13.7	28.5	17.2
Net worth (less deficit).....	669.3	31.5	113.0	300.5	224.3

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

Top wealthholders tended to be in middle or later life. The average age for the men was 54 years, while the women were a little older, about 57.² The overall average ages for married, single and widowed top wealthholders are shown below.

Average age of top wealthholders (in years)

	Men	Women
Married	53	52
Single	51	57
Widowed	68	70

Chart 1 shows the expected relation between age and the amount of wealth held. The pattern for men is fairly regular; men with net worth of less than \$60,000 averaged 45 years of age - for men worth \$1 million or more the average age was 67. The strength of this relationship is more dramatically highlighted by examining the average size of net worth for each age group. In fact, the net worth of male top wealthholders increases without a break from about \$100,000 for those under 40 to nearly \$250,000 for those 85 or older.

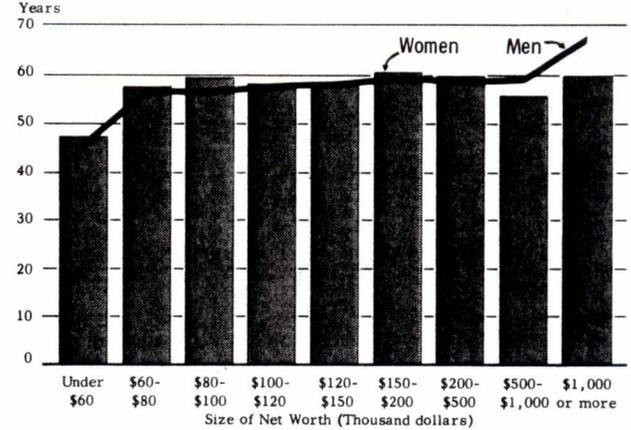
The chart also shows that while for female top wealthholders there is a tendency for wealth and age to increase together, this is much less pronounced than for men.

Not only does total wealth vary with age but so does asset composition. In general, there are marked differences in asset preferences related to age, sex, marital status and the size of wealth itself. These patterns and some possible reasons for them are discussed in the section which follows.

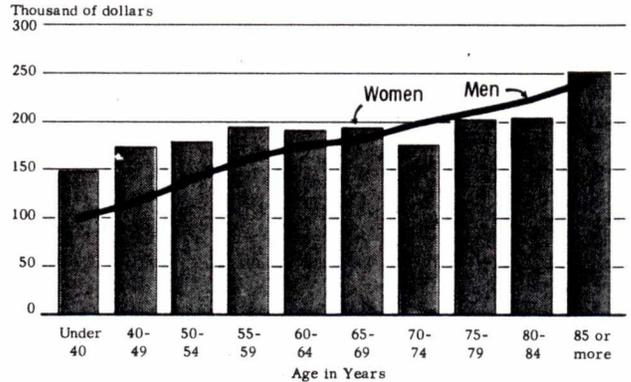
²Average ages shown in chart 1 and elsewhere in this report were computed using the actual ages of top wealthholders. Averages computed using grouped data (for example, in tables 22-23) would yield slightly different results.

Chart 1 - Age and Wealth of Top Wealthholders

Average Age by Size of Net Worth



Average Net Worth by Age



Top wealthholders in 1962

MEN AND WOMEN - HOW THEY INVEST THEIR WEALTH

The summary in table B points up some of the more obvious differences between the holdings of men and women. For example, proportionally more men than women own real estate, notes and mortgages, insurance and annuities; women own more bonds and corporate stock. These overall differences are not very great except in the case of insurance where about 87% of the men had some insurance, versus only 46% of the women.

Men also have a much heavier debt burden than women with 14% of their total assets owed as debts and mortgages compared with less than 7% for women. In the investment pattern of men there is a greater emphasis on unincorporated business interests (included in "Other assets") and on real estate. These assets are included at their gross value in total assets. Debts against them, particularly mortgages on real estate, are by far the most important of the liabilities incurred by top wealthholders.

death of the husband and the coming of age of the children. Federal estate taxation favors this arrangement, in that up to half of the total value of the estate may be removed from taxation if the assets are bequeathed to the surviving spouse. These assets may then be transferred by gift at a considerable tax saving.

AGE AND ASSET COMPOSITION

Marked differences in asset composition exist among age groups. Chart 2 shows that there is a shift in the asset mix toward financial assets with advancing age, partly reflecting changed requirements.

Real estate reaches a peak in the 40 to 49 year age group both in the incidence with which it is held (88%) and in the share of total assets invested in it (29%). Real estate declines in appeal for older groups and for those age 85 or more it represents only 15% of their wealth. One of the first purchases for top wealthholders seemingly is the family home, thus real estate's importance for those under 50 years of age. However, further purchases of real estate do not keep pace with the acquisition of more wealth - in fact in many cases homes may be liquidated by older people in favor of other living arrangements.

There is a sharp decline in the holding of insurance as top wealthholders age, from 83% of all those under 40 to less than 30% of those 85 or more. This decline, of course, reflects the reduction in the need for protection as the family matures and as the amount of wealth held increases.

The holding of securities tends to increase from the under 40 age group to those 85 years old or older. Bonds exhibit the most dramatic rise, from 3 to 12 percent of total assets and from 39 to 61 percent of the top wealthholders. This may be due, in part, to the correlation between wealth and age. State and local bonds, whose interest is not subject to the Federal income tax, become attractive as wealth increases.

The gradual shift toward corporate stock with increasing age is probably due to a number of factors. Generally business activities decline with age so that there is a tendency to liquidate equity in sole proprietorships, partnerships and real estate in favor of less demanding forms of investment. Another factor already mentioned in connection with bonds is the relationship between age and wealth. The importance of corporate stock in a top wealthholder's asset composition seems to be directly related to the size of his wealth. Part of this relationship is reflected when looking at the asset composition of different age groups.

Table B. —ASSETS OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

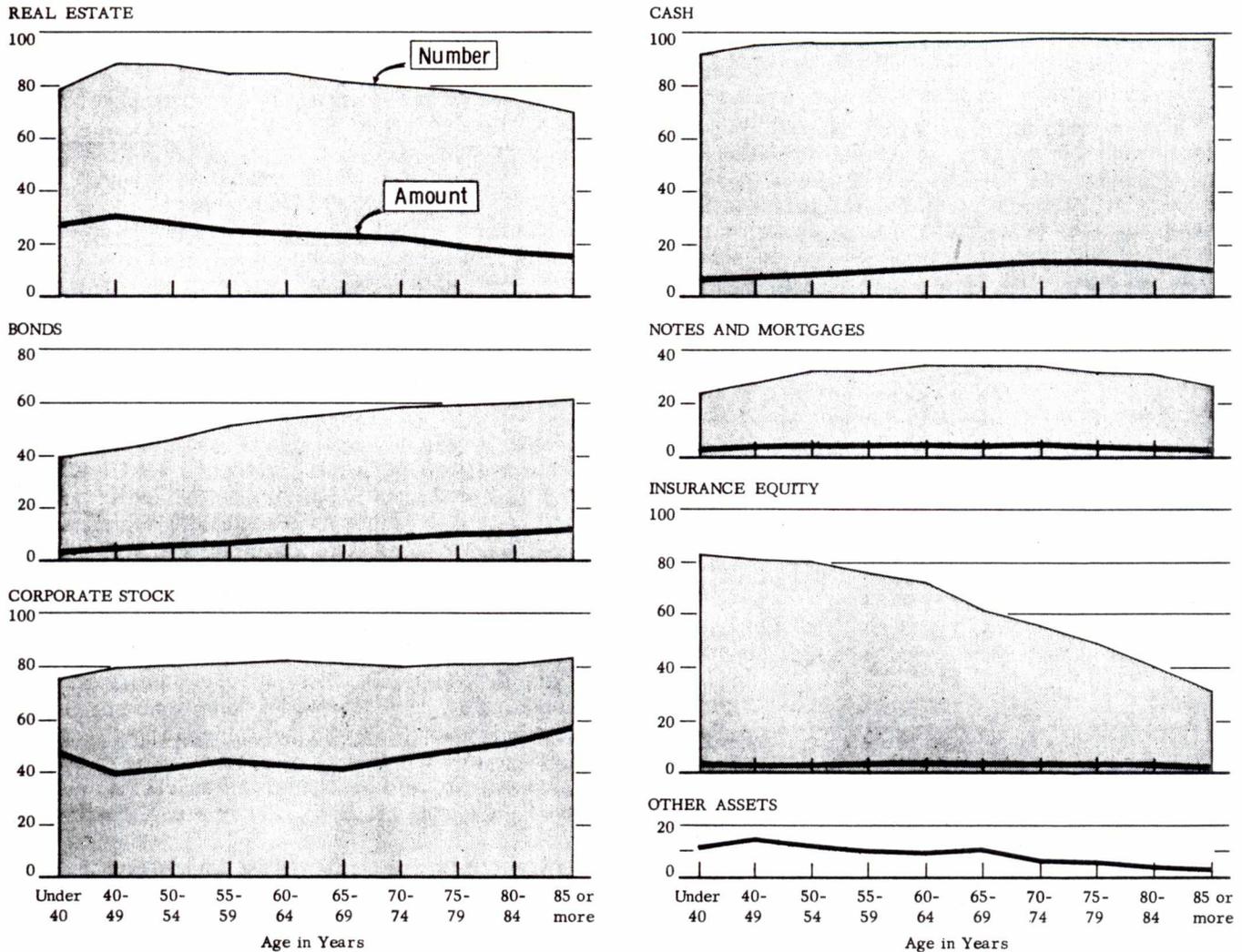
Item	Total		Men		Women	
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount
	(Thousands)	(Billion dollars)	(Thousands)	(Billion dollars)	(Thousands)	(Billion dollars)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total assets.....	4,132	752.0	2,539	439.1	1,594	312.9
Real estate.....	3,444	188.0	2,194	118.3	1,250	69.7
Bonds.....	2,021	47.9	1,175	23.5	846	24.4
Corporate stock.....	3,283	325.8	1,983	175.7	1,300	150.1
Cash.....	3,955	70.7	2,432	38.7	1,523	32.0
Notes and mortgages.....	1,279	30.4	803	19.8	476	10.6
Insurance equity.....	2,950	15.6	2,215	13.9	735	1.6
Other assets.....	(¹)	73.5	(¹)	49.1	(¹)	24.4
Annuities.....	463	4.9	323	3.6	141	1.3
Debts.....	3,655	82.7	2,280	61.7	1,375	21.0
Net worth (less deficit)...	4,132	669.3	2,539	377.4	1,594	291.9
Information items:						
Insurance face.....	2,950	95.6	2,215	86.5	735	9.0
Jointly owned property..	2,545	109.7	1,789	81.9	765	27.9
Powers of appointment...	45	6.6	11	0.7	34	5.9

¹Not available.

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

Further insight into differences between the holdings of men and women can be gained by looking at property held under a power of appointment, in this context the right to confer the enjoyment or use of property on oneself or anyone else even though "title" to the property is not held. More than 3 out of 4 wealthholders with such rights are women. Presumably the power is conferred to provide for these women during life and for them in turn to provide for others, their children perhaps. More frequently women may act as the conservator and temporary repository of family wealth in that period between the

Chart 2 - Number and Amount of Asset Holdings as a Percent of Total¹, by Type of Asset and Age Group



¹Number of top wealthholders with specified asset as a percent of the total number in each age group.
 Amount of top wealthholders holdings in a specified asset as a percent of total assets.

WEALTH AND ASSET COMPOSITION

Chart 3 highlights the marked differences in the asset composition of top wealthholders when arrayed by size of net worth. In fact a top wealthholder's asset preference seems to bear a direct relationship to his net worth. Real estate, for example, made up nearly half the assets for those with net worth of less than \$60,000; corporate stock only between 13 and 17 percent. For the 60,000 top wealthholders with net worth of \$1,000,000 or more, there was a complete change with real estate constituting between 7 and 9 percent of total assets while corporate stock had climbed to more than two-thirds of the total. In fact about one-third of all the corporate stock of top wealthholders is held by persons with assets of more than

Table C. —NUMBER AND ASSETS OF MILLIONAIRES UNDER THREE SEPARATE MEASURES OF WEALTH

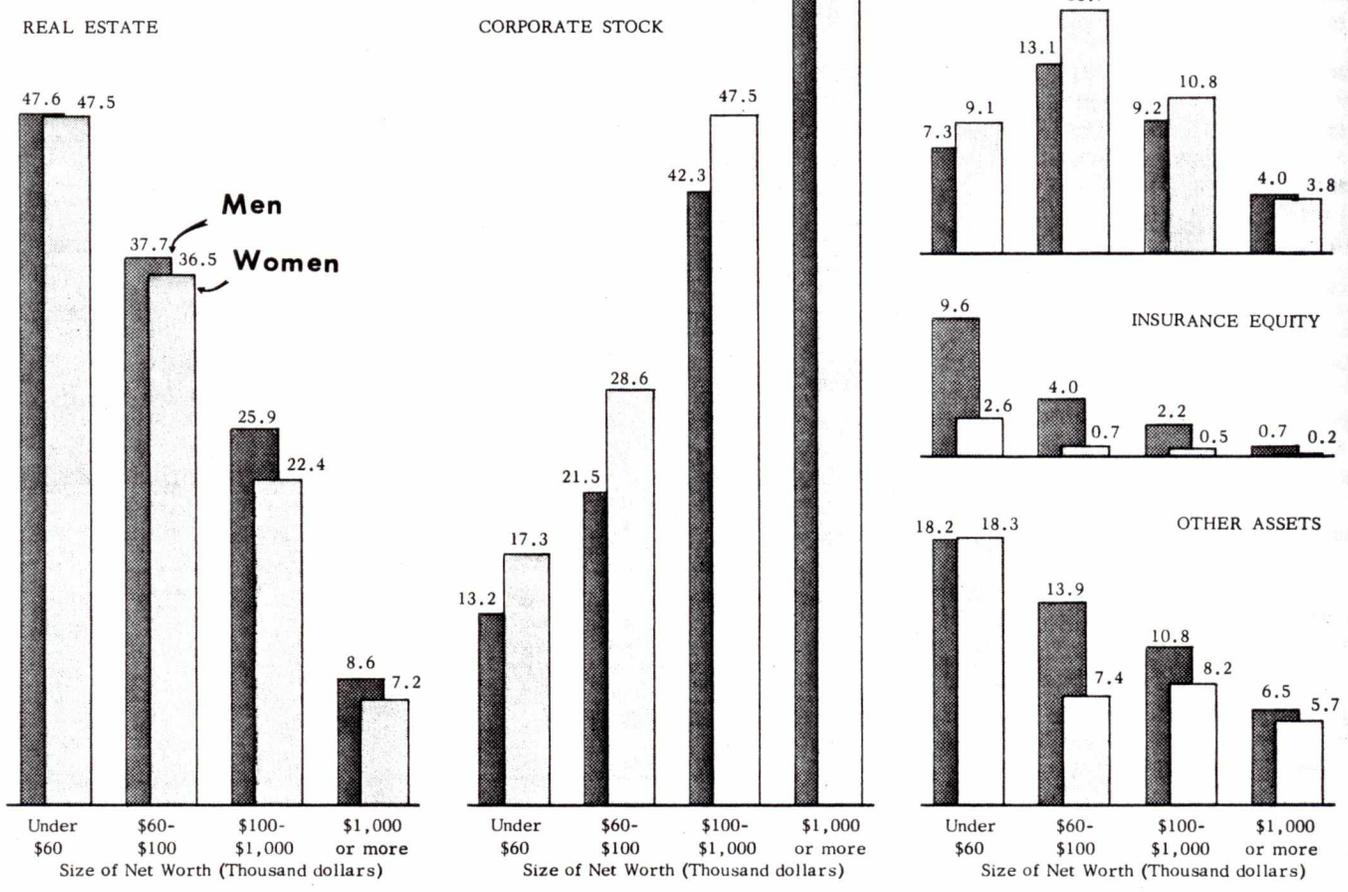
Item	Net worth	Total assets	Gross estate
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Number of millionaires.....	60,000	67,000	71,000
(Billion dollars)			
Total assets.....	156.5	167.7	170.8
Real estate.....	12.4	15.9	16.6
Bonds.....	16.8	17.1	17.2
Corporate stock.....	107.2	111.6	113.4
Cash.....	6.2	6.4	6.5
Notes and mortgages.....	3.6	5.2	5.3
Insurance equity.....	0.8	0.8	0.9
Other assets.....	9.6	10.6	10.9
Debts.....	12.0	17.6	18.4
Net worth (less deficit).....	144.5	150.1	152.4

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

Chart 3 - Asset Composition and Size of Net Worth



Percent of each asset to total assets



one million dollars, 36,000 of whom, as tables 20 and 21 show, are millionaires by virtue of stock alone.

CONCEPTS OF WEALTH

There are three major concepts or measures of wealth used in this report - net worth, total assets and gross estate. Each presents a different profile of the size of a top wealthholder's asset holdings. As table C shows, there were between 60,000 and 71,000 persons with

assets of more than one million dollars in 1962, depending on what measure of wealth is used.

Gross estate is the gross value of all assets including the full face value of insurance. There were 71,000 people in 1962 with gross estates of \$1,000,000 or more, an increase of more than 50 percent from the 47,000 in 1958.¹

¹In past wealth estimates, notably for 1958 - see table 32, gross estate was the only available size classifier. The 1962 wealth of top wealth-holders is shown by size of gross estate in table 28.

Total assets, while still essentially a gross measure, is obtained by using the more appropriate equity value of the life insurance asset (tables 16-18). There were 67,000 individuals with total assets of \$1,000,000 or more.

Net worth, of course, is the level after all debts have been removed. Since it is the more usual concept of wealth, net worth is the major classifier in this report.

The relationship between these three levels of wealth is shown in tables 19, 29 and 30 in this report. Shifts in the size profiles between net worth and total assets are highlighted in table 19; between net worth and gross estate in table 30.

Table 29 may be especially useful in focusing on those with net worth of less than \$60,000. Of the 4 million people with a gross estate of \$60,000 or more in 1962, nearly half a million are included who did not have total assets of that amount. More than one-fifth of the wealthholders estimated in this report did not have a net worth of \$60,000 or more. This latter group, seven out of eight of whom were men, have large insurance policies or debts. They are also considerably younger than average - 46 years of age as compared to 58 years for wealthholders with net worth of \$60,000 or more. While of interest in themselves, they are clearly a special case and the reader may wish to treat them somewhat differently. With a few minor exceptions they are shown separately in the basic tables.

ASSET TYPES

The composition of wealth is related to age, sex, marital status, and the total amount of wealth held. For a number of reasons, the present report can only provide partial answers to the question of the direction and magnitude in which these influences interact. One limitation is that the asset categories are quite broad and not always very homogeneous.

Individual movements within an asset category may be obscured or confounded by other, perhaps opposite, tendencies. Even within such a relatively homogeneous cate-

gory as publicly traded stock, important but unobserved changes in portfolio composition may occur. Because of the graduated income taxes, there may be a shift toward growth stocks with lower yields as wealth increases.

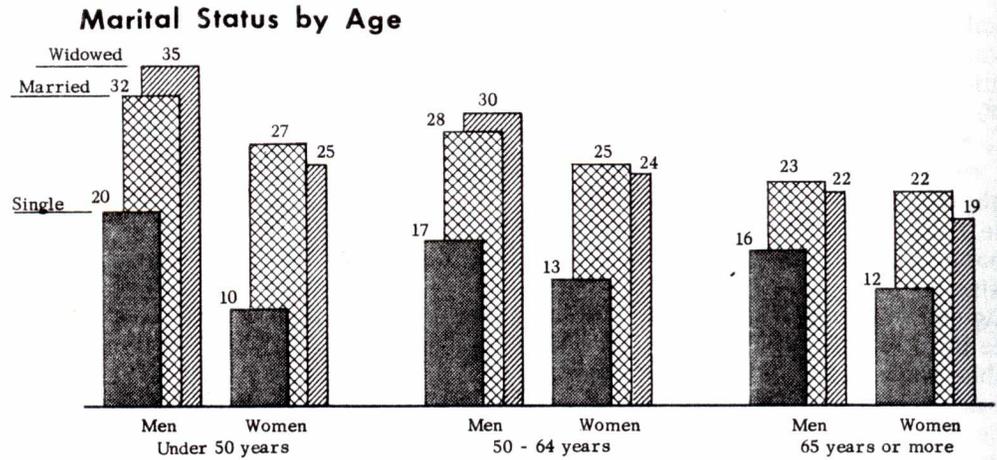
The charts on the following pages give some idea of the direction and importance of the interaction of age, sex, marital status and size of wealth. Data for a more extensive analysis of asset composition will be found in tables 22-27.

In general, the size of a top wealthholder's net worth bears the most persistent and dominant relation to asset composition, particularly in the holding of insurance, stock, and real estate. Sex and age play less important roles but are useful classifiers of such assets as insurance which is considerably more common among men and the holding of bonds which is closely related to age. Single people also seem to differ in asset preference from the married and widowed. However, sometimes differences between groups are so small that it is impossible to determine whether the differences are due to anything more than sampling variability. A summary of these relationships and description of major shifts is presented with the charts which follow.

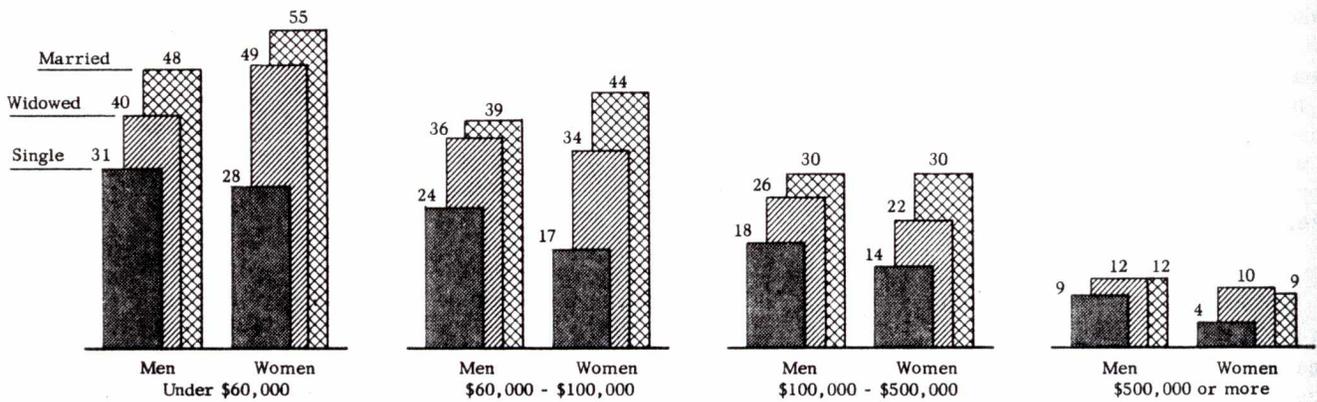
Each chart presents three profiles of the holding of a particular asset, or of debts. The proportion of the asset to total assets is shown for each marital group by age and by amount of wealth and also for each age group by size of holding, separately for men and women. As an illustration of how the charts might be used, consider the real estate holdings of single people. The chart for real estate on the next page shows that single men under 50 years of age have 20% of their total assets invested in real estate; single women under 50 only about 10%. In fact, for every age group and size of net worth single men own relatively more real estate than single women. The chart also shows that the real estate holdings decline for single men as they get older or wealthier. Finally, the chart reveals that single people always have a smaller proportion of their assets in real estate than married or widowed top wealthholders - this regardless of age, sex, or amount of wealth.

Chart 4 Real Estate

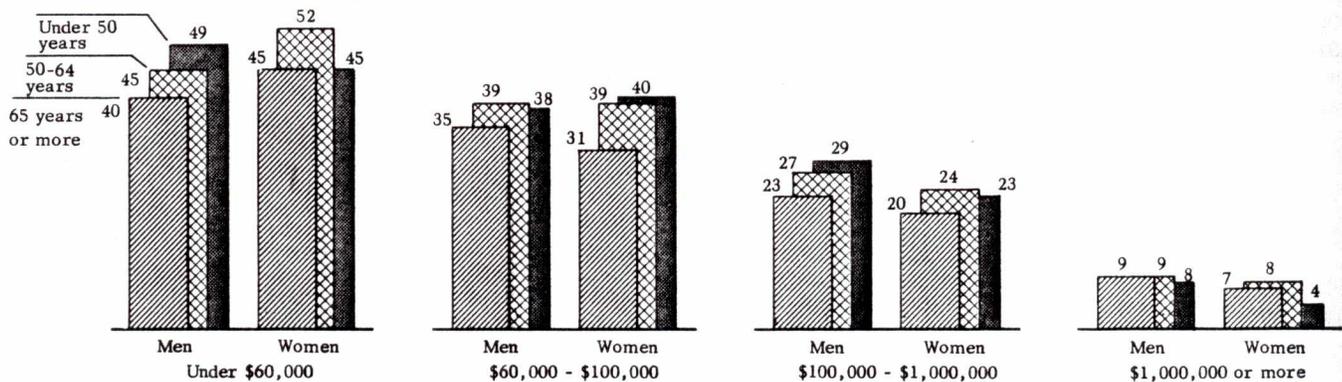
Holdings as a percent of total assets



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



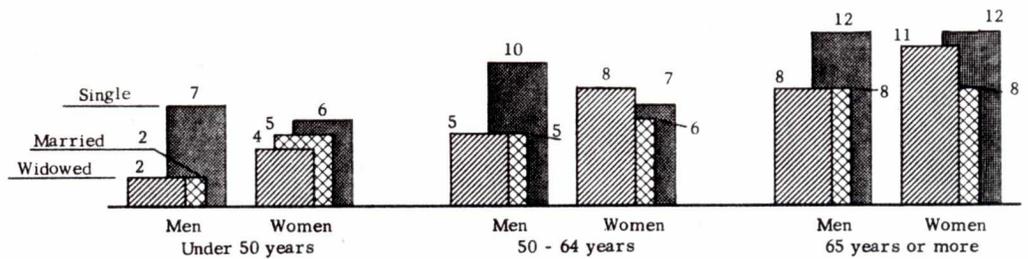
Younger men prefer real estate more than their elders. However, as wealth increases, age plays a less important role; in fact, millionaire men of all ages have about the same portion of their wealth, 8.6%, invested in real estate. Women 50 to 64 years of age generally prefer real estate more than their younger or older counterparts but this is not marked.

To summarize, real estate declines as a proportion of total assets as wealth and age increase, and is generally preferred more by men than by women. The preference is also related to marital status with single people having less of their wealth invested in real estate than do the married or widowed. The size of wealth, however, seems to be the most determining factor in an individual's preference for real estate.

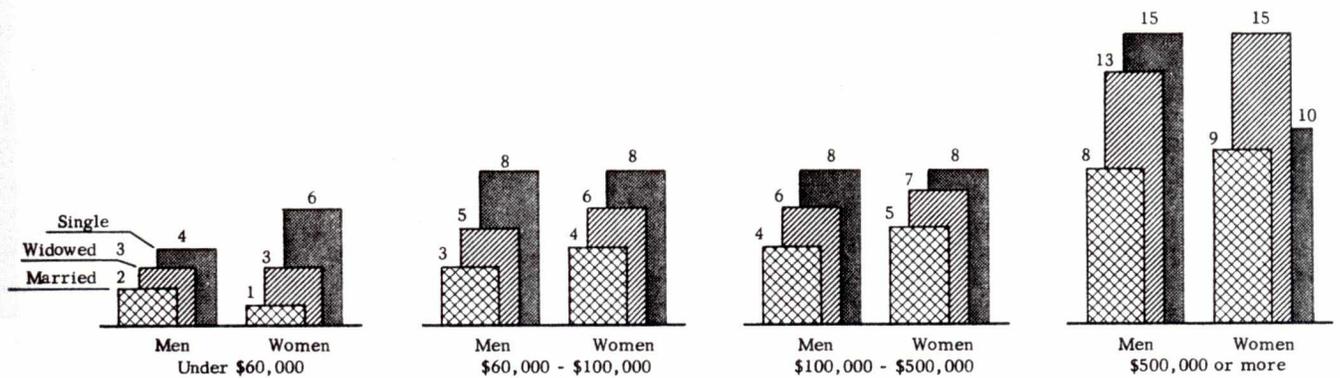
Chart 5 Bonds

Marital Status by Age

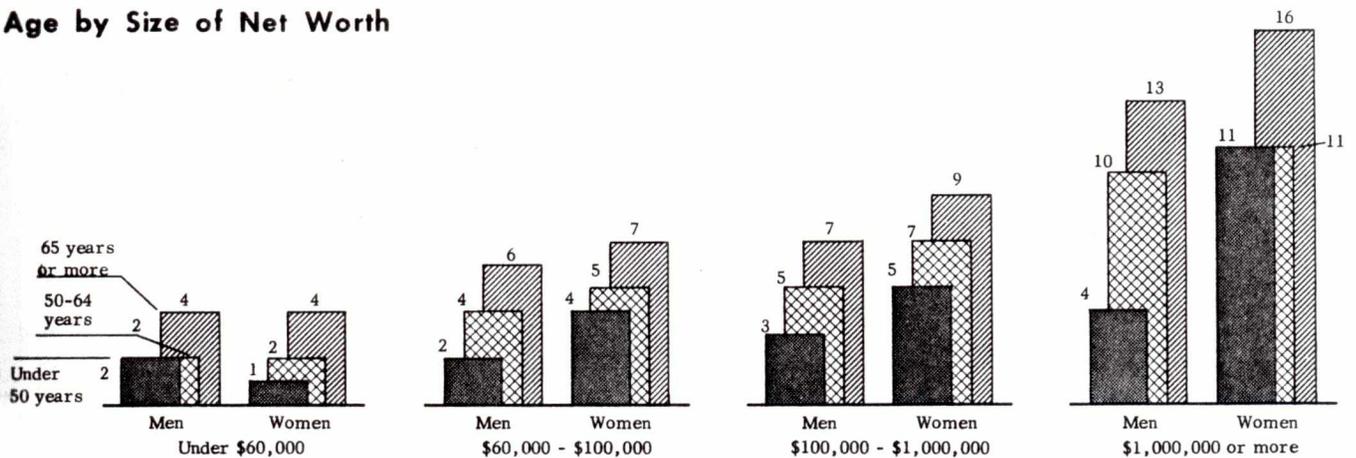
Holdings as a percent of total assets



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



Bonds increase as a proportion of total assets as wealth and age increase, with women tending to hold more of this asset than men.

Single people prefer bonds more than any other group. Single men for example, always lead men in preference; however, single women are surpassed by widowed women 50-64 years of age, widows with net worth of \$1,000,000 or

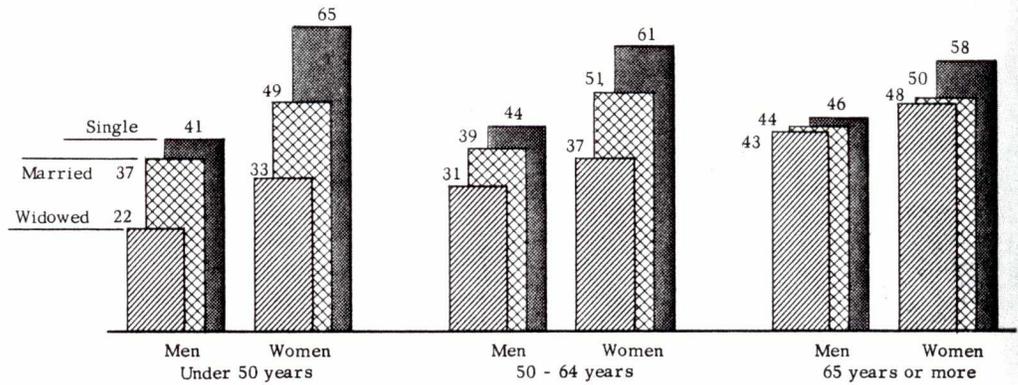
more, and even by married women 65 years or older. The holding of bonds is related about as much to age as to wealth: to wealth because of the tax benefits of holding State and local bonds; to age, independently of wealth, perhaps because of a tendency toward more conservative holdings as age increases.

Chart 6 Corporate Stock

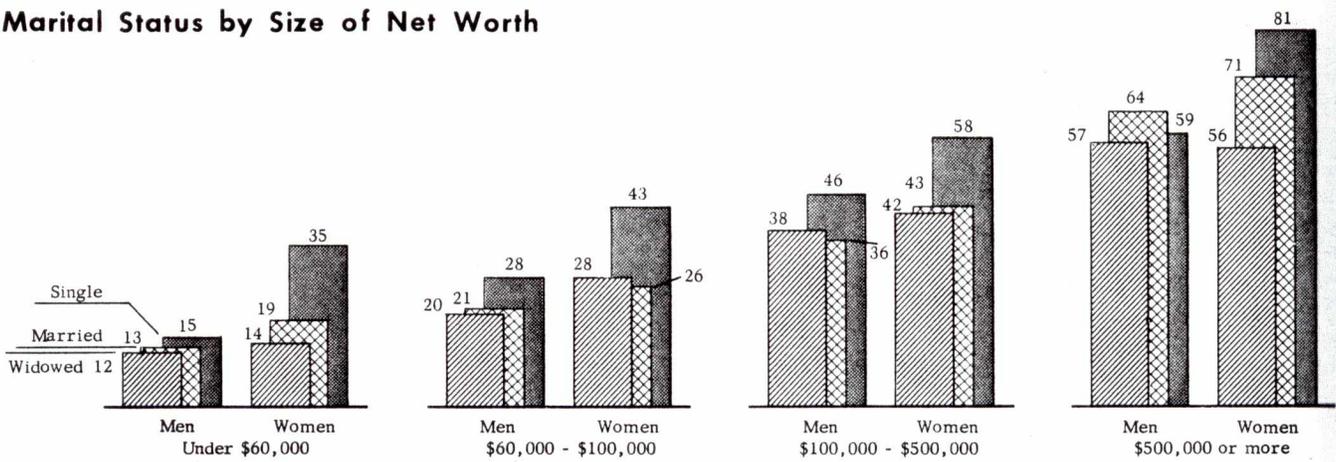
Holdings as a percent
of total assets



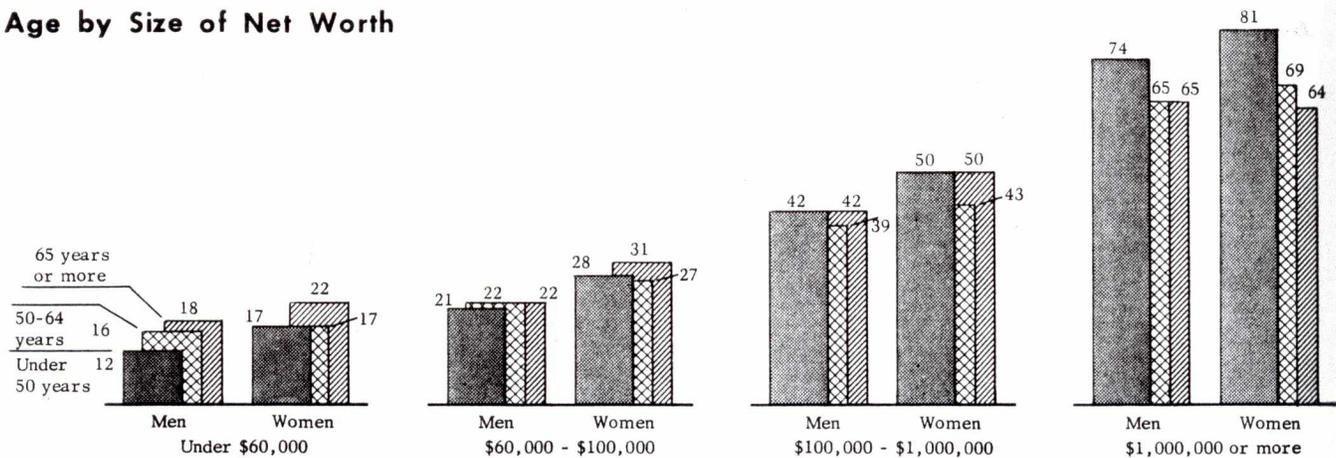
Marital Status by Age



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



The importance of corporate stock increases as age and wealth increase, with wealth being the far more crucial index. As age increases the holding of stock tends more nearly to follow the same pattern in all marital groups.

Women prefer stock more than men and single women more than any other sex-marital group, irrespective of

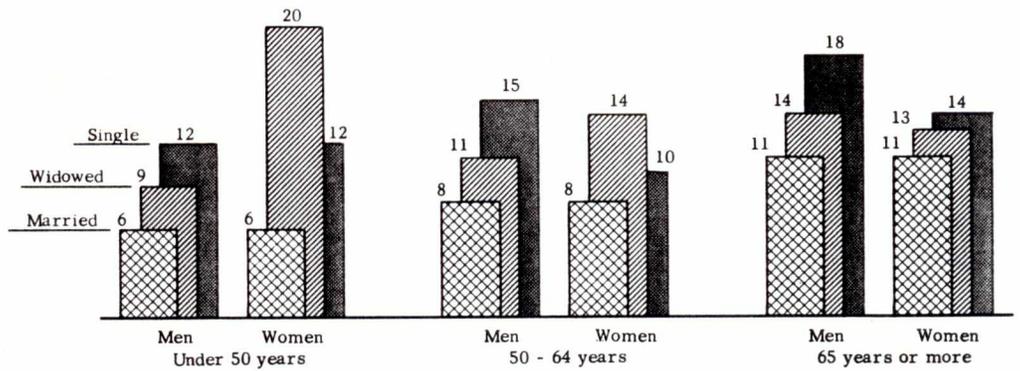
age or wealth. The long-term trend of appreciation in the value of stock may account for this asset being so heavily favored by the very wealthy. Regardless of age or marital status, corporate stock tends to be the predominate holding as wealth increases.

Chart 7 Cash

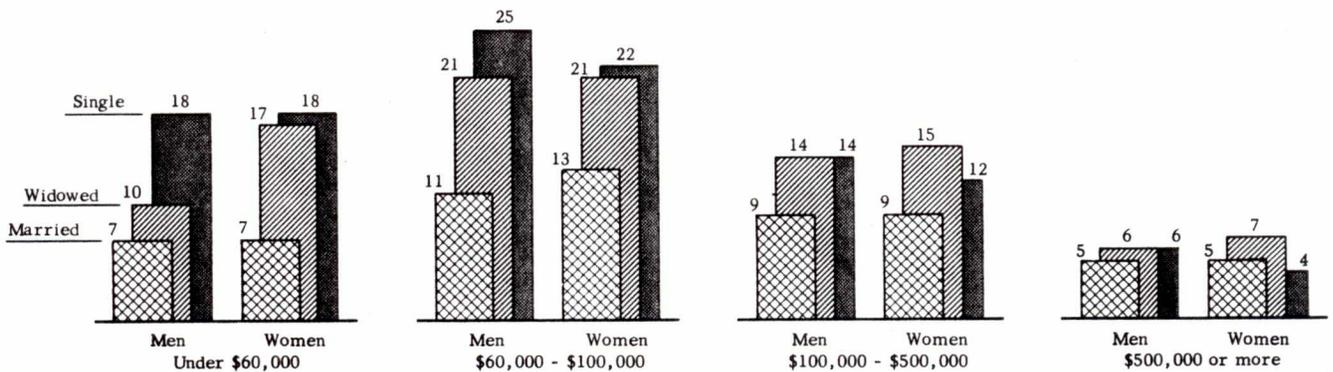
Holdings as a percent of total assets



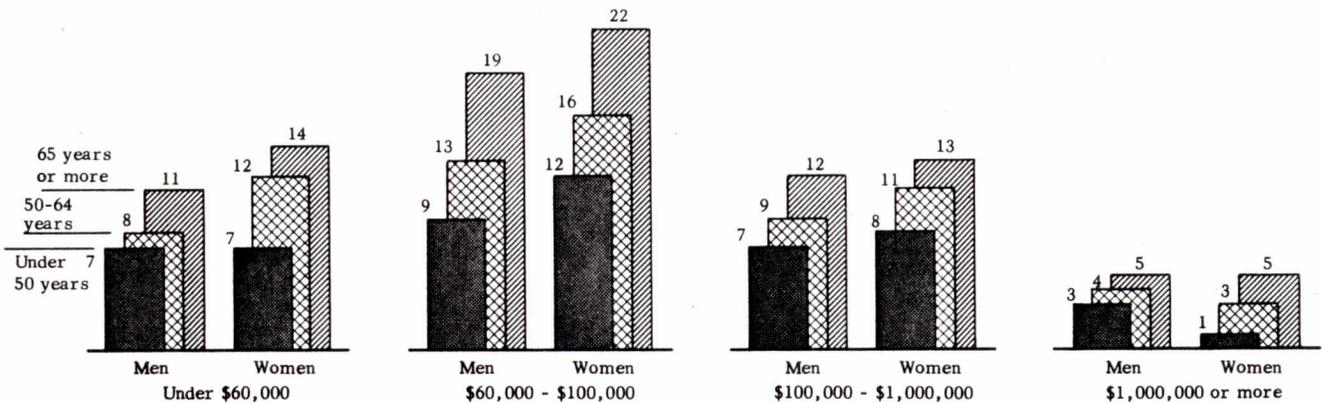
Marital Status by Age



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



Cash tends to increase as a proportion of total assets as age increases. This pattern of holding is similar to that of bonds. Unlike bonds, however, it does not continue to increase as wealth increases. Cash reaches a peak for those worth between \$60,000 and \$100,000; it declines in importance thereafter.

Single people in general and single men in particular lead

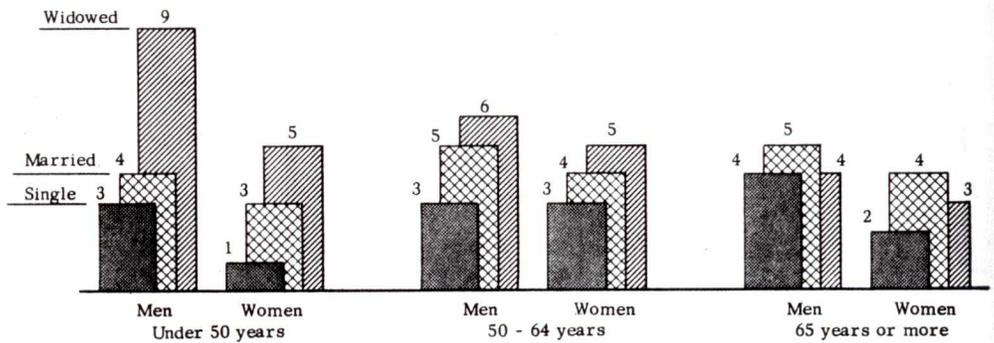
in the preference for cash. Overall, however, it is women who tend to prefer this asset. When wealth is held constant, female top wealthholders have proportionally more of their wealth in checking and savings accounts, etc., than do men. The one exception to this is women with net worth of one million dollars or more; they hold slightly less than their male counterparts.

Chart 8 Notes and Mortgages

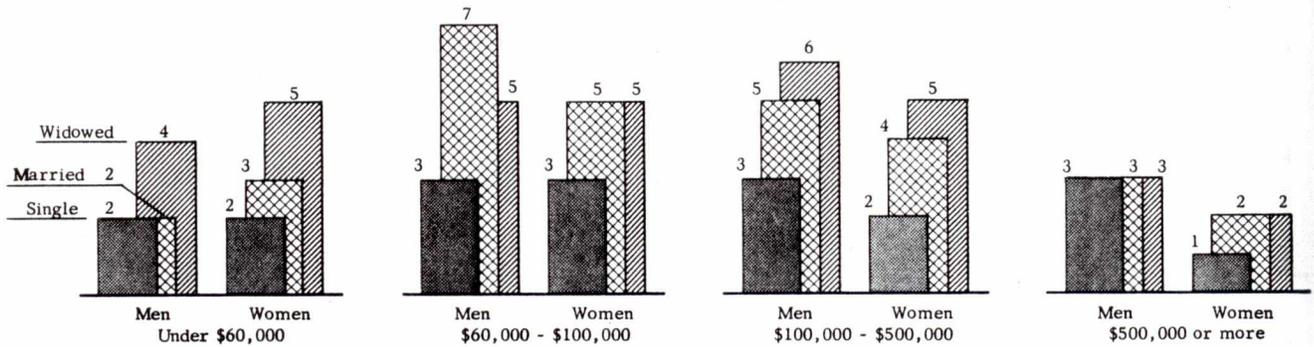
Holdings as a percent
of total assets



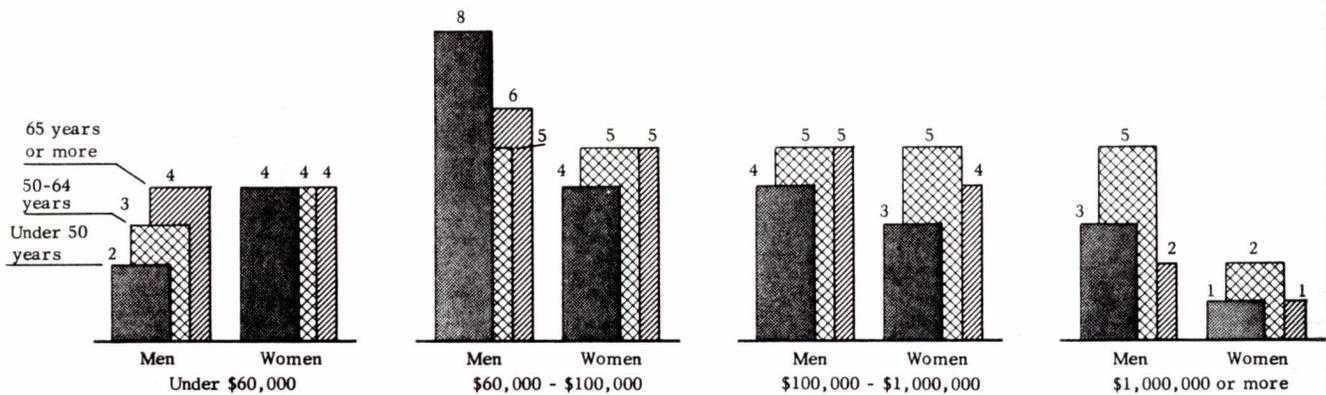
Marital Status by Age



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



Single people hold less of their wealth as notes and mortgages than any other age-marital group. Notes increase in importance with age but decline as wealth increases; a pattern very like that of cash except these tendencies are not as marked.

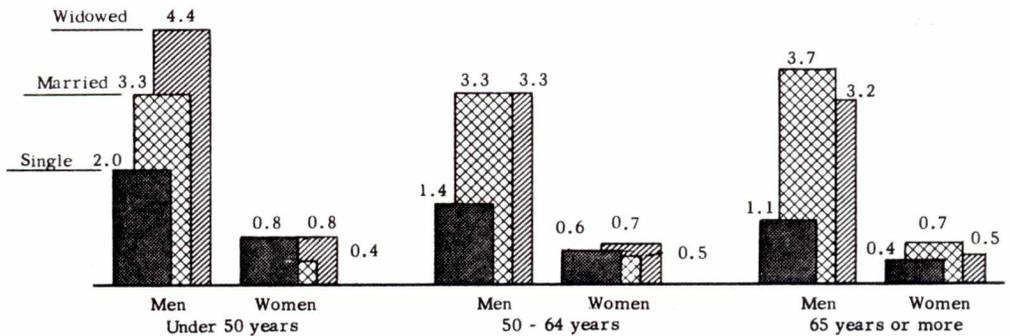
Overall, men prefer this asset more than women. However, women with net worth of less than \$60,000 hold relatively more than men. The decline in the importance of notes and mortgages as wealth increases is also sharper for women than for men.

Chart 9 Insurance Equity

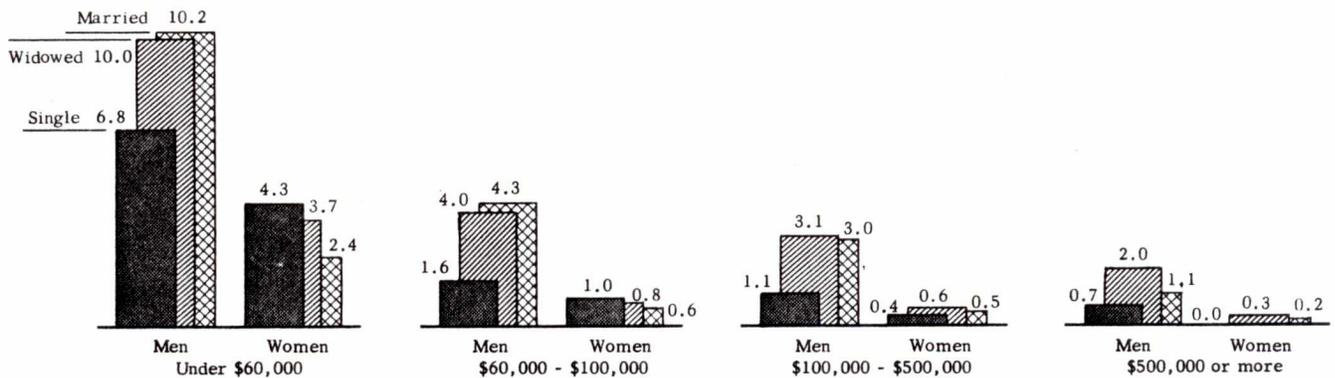
Holdings as a percent
of total assets



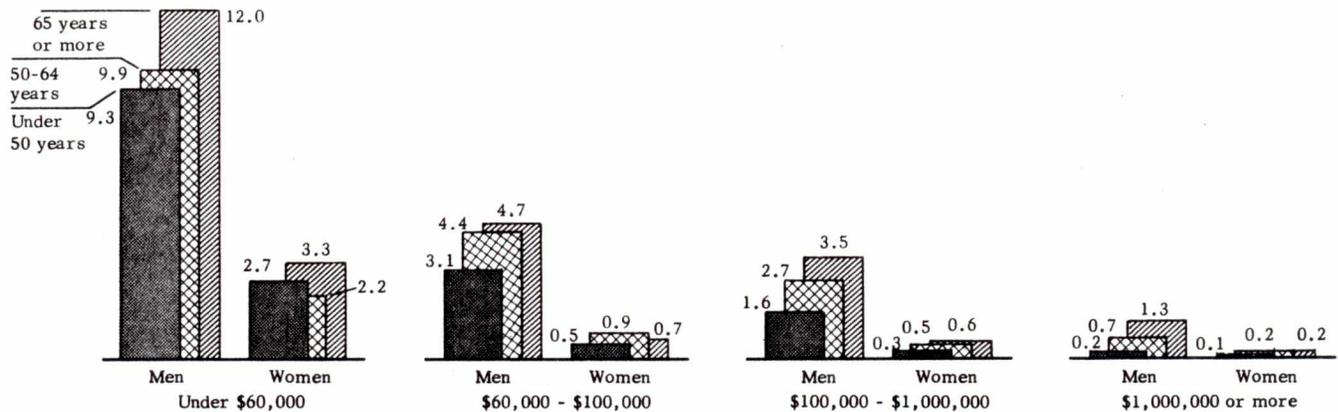
Marital Status by Age



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



Insurance is never a very large part of the wealth of top wealthholders except for those under 40 years of age or with net worth of less than \$60,000. Of all the various types of assets, however, it is the most related to sex, being several times more important for men than women. In fact, for every age, marital status and size of net worth, men hold proportionally more insurance than women.

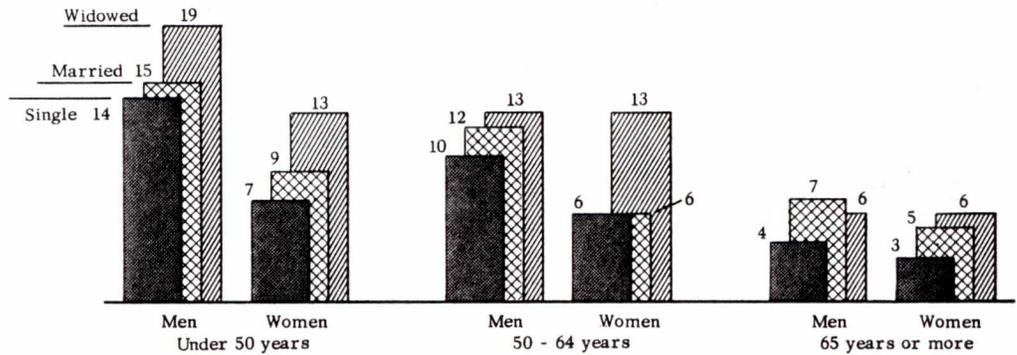
The chart shows that insurance equity increases as a proportion of total assets with age. The face value of insurance on the other hand declines with age. For example, for men with net worth of less than \$60,000 the face value of insurance declines from more than \$61,000 for those under 50 to less than \$18,000 for those 65 or more.

Chart 10 Other Assets

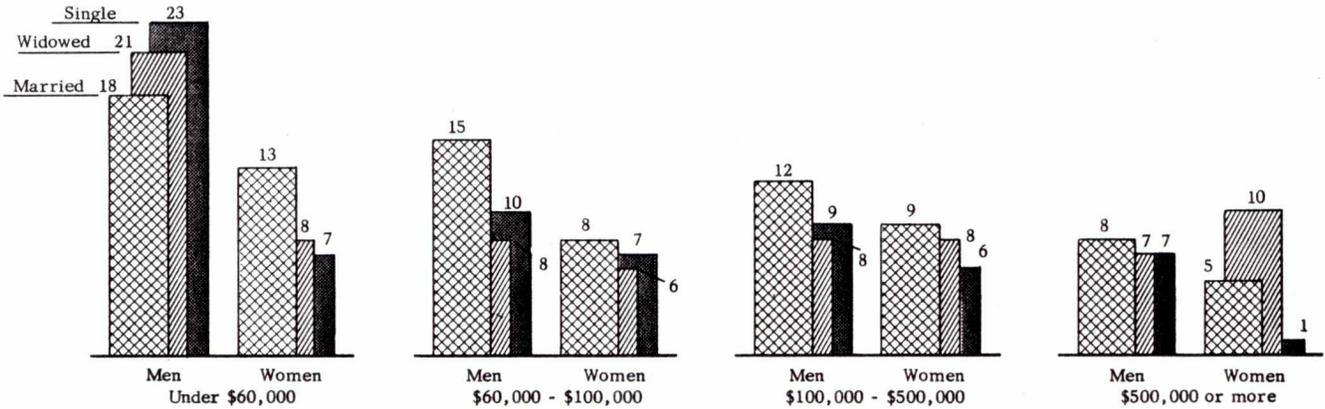
Holdings as a percent
of total assets



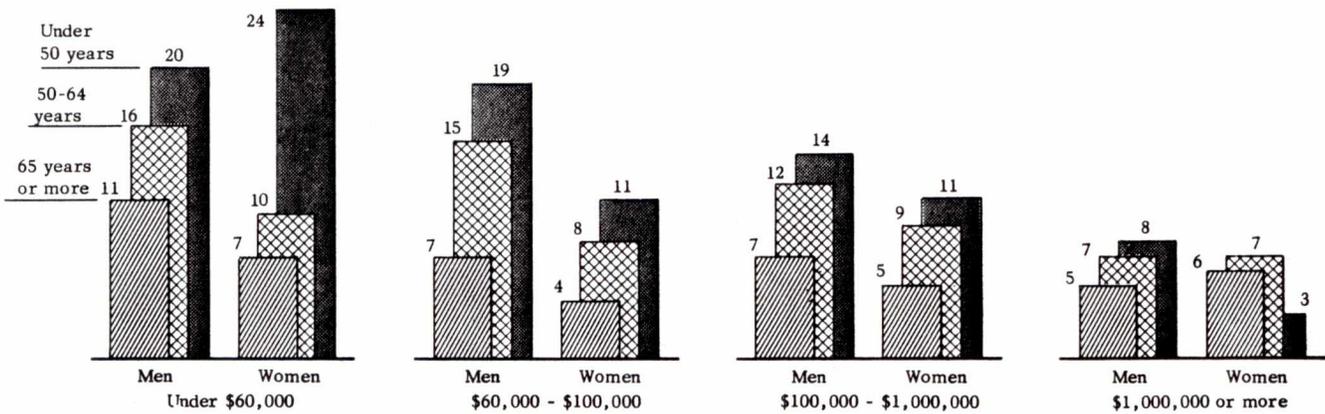
Marital Status by Age



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



“Other assets” is not a very homogeneous category since it includes household goods, certain unincorporated business assets, trust interests, and annuities, to name a few of the major subgroups. Nonetheless, “Other assets” follows a regular pattern of decline with size of wealth. Some possible

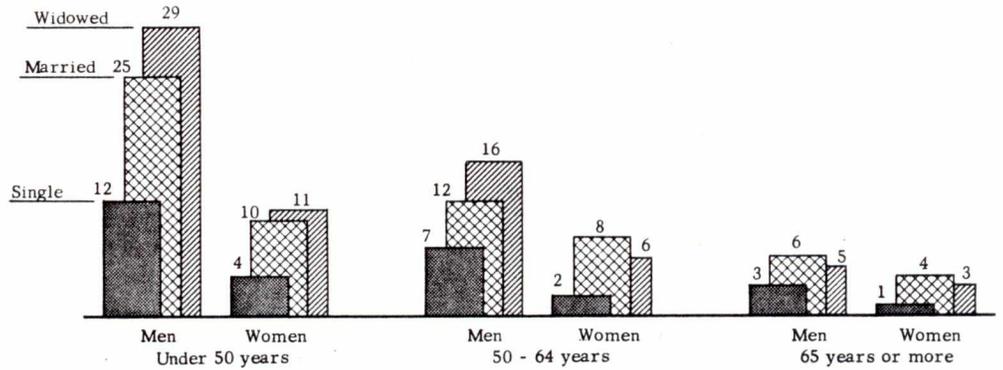
reasons for this are that, while goods held for personal use probably increase absolutely as wealth increases, they decline as a percentage of total assets; another possibility is that sole proprietorship and partnership interests tend to be converted to other forms as wealth, and age, increase.

Chart 11 Debts

Percent
of total assets



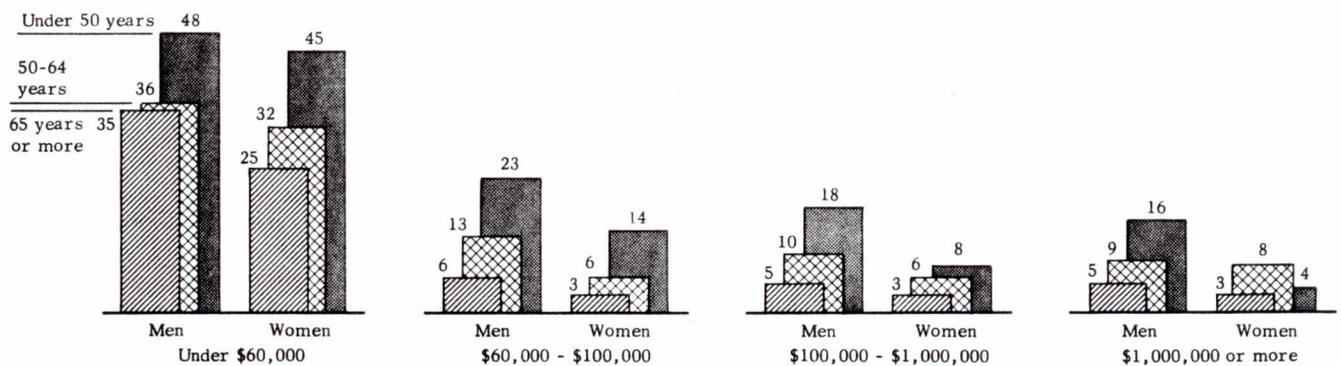
Marital Status by Age



Marital Status by Size of Net Worth



Age by Size of Net Worth



As age increases debts decline as a proportion of total assets. The burden is heaviest for the young perhaps because this is the period in life when expenses for home and family are at their peak. Married people, as expected, tend to carry the largest debt load; single people the smallest.

For every age, marital status, and size of net worth, the indebtedness of men is greater than that for women. When debts are looked at by size of total assets as in tables 17 and 18, men in every size class have about twice the debts of women. While debts decline sharply as a proportion of total assets as net worth increases, the pattern is considerably flatter when looked at by size of total assets itself.

Explanation of classifications and terms

CLASSIFICATIONS

Age, sex and marital status

Age was determined as year of death minus year of birth. This concept of age is closer to "insurance age" or age at *nearest* birthday than to actual age. Computing age as year of death less year of birth produces some inaccuracies in the weighting procedure but these are small and tend to be offsetting. For about 2% of the sample the age could not be determined by the procedures employed. This group is discussed on page 68.

Sex was determined from the name, information on next of kin and any other relevant data. For a very few returns for which the name and other information did not identify the decedent as male or female, sex was assigned as male.

Marital status was specified as married, single, or widowed. Divorced and legally separated individuals and those whose marital status could not be identified from the information shown on the return were coded as "other".

Size classifications

Four size classifiers are used for wealth in this report: gross estate, total assets, net worth and corporate stock. The first two are measures of total wealth and differ only in the way insurance is valued. Gross estate includes insurance at its full face value; total assets at its cash surrender value. Net worth, the major classifier in this report, is total assets less debts. In addition, the amount of corporate stock held is used as a size classifier in tables 20 and 21.

Since the adjustment of insurance is based on average ratios of cash surrender value to face value—appropriate only on an aggregate and not an individual return basis, the use of net worth and total assets as size classifiers introduces small inaccuracies probably not of particular importance due to the broadness of most classes.

State or place of residence

Table 31 shows the number and assets of top wealthholders residing in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. U. S. citizens domiciled abroad are shown in the category "Other areas".

This geographic distribution is based on the place in which the decedent was domiciled. It represents the place of residence of top wealthholders but is not necessarily indicative of the location of their wealth.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Top wealthholders

The estimated number of residents of the United States or U. S. citizens domiciled abroad with a gross estate of

\$60,000 or more. Technically, all those for whom a Federal estate tax return would have been required had they died.

Total assets

The gross value, not reduced by debts, of interests in real estate, bonds, stock, notes and mortgages, cash and other assets, except insurance. Although the full amount of insurance on the decedent's life is included for estate tax purposes, these wealth estimates take cognizance of the cash surrender value of the policies, that portion which was available during life. Except for the treatment of insurance, total assets represents total wealth, or "gross estate" as defined by law. "Total assets" suffers a small inconsistency in that it is net of loans against insurance but not of other indebtedness.

Debts

All debts, except policy loans on insurance, whether or not secured by mortgages. Included were mortgages on real estate; notes and other obligations whether or not secured by collateral; debts of an unincorporated business; property, income, and gift taxes accrued; amounts due to brokers; and unpaid charitable pledges (but not bequests). Two kinds of debts were included which are not appropriate to the estates of the living: debts incurred as a result of terminal illness and, in a very few cases, foreign death taxes and State death taxes paid on a charitable bequest.

Net worth

The total equity in all property, real, personal, tangible, and intangible, over which top wealthholders enjoyed beneficial ownership. Net worth differs from the net "personal wealth" enjoyed by top wealthholders principally because of the treatment accorded annuity and trust assets, and to a lesser extent because (1) foreign real estate was not generally included in estate tax wealth, and (2) the decedent's debts included certain death taxes and unpaid medical bills occasioned by terminal illness. See the discussion of property interests included, page 74.

Type of Asset

Real estate

The full value (not the equity) in real property owned or contracted to purchase, in general only if such property was situated in the United States. Included were the personal residence, commercial and business property from a sole proprietorship such as an apartment building or store; unused or improved property held for sale; farm lands including growing crops if not separately

valued. Accrued rent on real property was included with the value of the property.

The only foreign real estate included was shown on returns for decedents who died after October 16, 1962, and who had acquired foreign real estate, except generally by gift or inheritance, on or after February 1, 1962. The amount shown as real estate for U. S. citizens domiciled abroad (Table 31 "Other areas") is probably seriously understated by the exclusion of foreign real estate.

Bonds

Federal, State, municipal, corporate, and foreign bonds and notes. Included were Federal savings bonds; U. S. Treasury notes whether short or long-term; bonds issued by a State, U. S. possession, municipality or other government authority such as the Port of New York Authority, or the Federal Housing Administration; certificates of deposit issued for bonds; contracts to purchase bonds; convertible notes with coupons; debenture bonds; mortgage bonds (when one of a series); participating bonds; private bonds; scrip in connection with bonds; and units composed of stocks and bonds combined. Interest accrued on bonds was also included.

Corporate stock

Common, preferred, and debenture stock of domestic and foreign corporations. Included was stock traded on an exchange or over the counter, stock in a closely-held corporation, certificates of deposit issued for stock (street accounts), seat or membership in a stock exchange, contracts to purchase stock, scrip in connection with stock. Dividends accrued were included with the value of the stock.

Cash

Currency and coins on hand or in safety deposit boxes, checks, checking accounts, savings deposits including certificates, savings and loan accounts and postal savings accounts. Included were joint savings or checking accounts except, of course, the surviving tenant's contribution to the account, cash in a broker's account, Massachusetts cooperative bank shares, and defense and postal savings stamps.

Notes and mortgages

Promissory notes, loans, mortgages, trust deeds, and contracts to sell land. Included were certificates of deposit issued for mortgages, and items designated "bonds and mortgages" when the issue was not one of a series. Accrued interest on these obligations was included.

Life insurance equity

The cash surrender value of life insurance estimated as discussed in the text (See page 76.) by applying ratios to life insurance face computed from the Institute of Life Insurance's 1965 Study of Savings in Life Insurance. This adjustment from face to equity was made using ratios appropriate on an aggregate and not an individual basis. Thus, the number of top wealthholders shown in the tables

as having equity in life insurance considerably overstates the actual number with such amounts. The frequency shown is more meaningfully interpreted as the number of top wealthholders that would have had insurance includable in their estate.

Other assets

Household goods, automobiles, clothing, jewelry, and other personal effects; accumulated and post mortem dividends from life insurance; royalties; patents; lump sum death benefits from Social Security; mineral rights if valued separately from real estate; the net value of sole proprietorship or partnership interests in assets other than real estate, cash, etc., such as accounts receivable, inventories, livestock, and machinery; remainder interest in a trust or estate; and the cash surrender value of pensions or annuities which were receivable by a surviving beneficiary except those specified under Section 2039(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and then only the proportion of the cash value which the decedent's contribution bore to the cost was included. Also included were certain lifetime gifts: (1) gifts taking effect at death; (2) gifts of property in which the decedent retained income rights; and of property over which the decedent retained the right to alter, amend, revoke, or terminate the enjoyment or use; and (3) transfers made by the decedent within three years prior to death, presumed to be in contemplation of death. See the discussion of property interests included, page 74.

Information Items

Life insurance face

The proceeds from insurance on the life of the decedent payable to his estate or over which the decedent had the power to change the beneficiary, cancel or assign the policy, to pledge the policy for a loan, etc. Included were death benefits paid by fraternal beneficial societies operating under the lodge system and the cash surrender value of policies the decedent owned on the life of another. "Life insurance" did not include the value of post mortem dividends and dividends accumulated at interest; these were included in "Other assets".

Jointly owned property

Property held by the decedent with his spouse as a tenant by the entirety, or with his spouse or other person as a joint tenant with right of survivorship. Included was the entire value of the property except that portion attributable to the contributions of the surviving joint tenant. Jointly owned property was allocated to the appropriate asset type as well as being shown separately.

Powers of appointment

Property over which the decedent held a general power of appointment, that is property over which the decedent did not have title but did have the power to designate who should enjoy it. To be included in the estate, a power of appointment must be exercisable in favor of the individual himself or his estate or the creditors of either. For

example, if property has been transferred in trust for the life of an individual, with a power to consume the entire principal of the trust, he has a general power of appointment. If the decedent designated himself as the beneficiary, the property interests, while included, lost their "character". Thus property was usually shown as held under a power of appointment only when the power had not been exercised. Powers of appointment were allocated to the appropriate asset type as well as being shown separately in table A.

Estate Tax Return Statistics

Estate tax return data represent estimates of the holdings of deceased top wealthholders. They also, of course, constitute the sample from which the characteristics of living top wealthholders were estimated. Summary statistics from the sample are shown in all the basic tables

and have been tabulated in considerably more detail in *Statistics of Income-1962, Fiduciary, Gift, and Estate Tax Returns*.

Gross estate

Property to the extent of decedent's interest therein at date of death, not reduced by mortgages, debts (except policy loans against insurance), or administrative expenses. Included were real estate situated in the United States (see "Real estate"), tangible and intangible personal property, certain lifetime gifts, generally joint estates with right of survivorship and tenancies by the entirety, property over which decedent had a general power of appointment, dower and courtesy of surviving spouse, proceeds from life insurance, and the decedent's interest in annuities receivable by a surviving beneficiary. Community property was included to the extent of the decedent's interest in such property.

SIZE OF NET WORTH

Table 1.—ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS
 [Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts		Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total.....	4,132,207	751,974,453	3,654,689	82,711,864	669,262,592	3,443,739	188,034,656	2,021,035	47,940,293	3,282,693	325,813,740
Net deficit.....	25,080	4,519,388	25,080	5,983,498	-1,464,111	19,059	2,080,750	3,989	44,190	16,787	402,689
Under \$30,000.....	261,387	11,169,206	243,577	6,289,058	4,880,148	210,549	5,530,135	71,478	97,167	133,448	1,086,397
\$30,000 under \$40,000.....	147,430	8,619,906	138,418	3,440,098	5,179,808	133,525	4,352,625	50,250	127,905	108,199	1,132,913
\$40,000 under \$50,000.....	175,885	11,499,670	163,593	3,550,219	7,949,452	152,708	5,476,953	62,337	227,759	124,943	7,276,532
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	268,444	18,953,798	247,642	4,039,634	14,914,164	236,608	8,599,954	97,451	461,203	197,007	3,312,440
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	464,366	34,104,309	388,103	3,944,572	30,159,737	377,063	18,541,782	205,002	1,449,002	331,869	7,551,805
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	396,926	32,586,875	326,412	2,855,697	29,731,178	321,688	11,714,404	197,707	1,566,976	301,809	8,197,561
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	328,559	30,821,517	273,587	2,911,873	27,909,644	275,839	11,550,928	151,150	1,454,557	261,414	8,129,360
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	265,382	29,210,417	218,892	4,025,465	25,184,952	222,468	10,272,385	121,472	1,200,708	206,805	7,276,532
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	411,461	49,127,576	350,053	4,212,733	44,914,843	342,757	16,374,975	207,007	2,307,753	340,612	15,664,213
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	387,513	57,028,716	340,933	5,310,485	51,718,232	320,476	18,192,488	213,422	2,758,512	333,829	19,183,542
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	330,334	61,708,743	302,309	4,991,892	56,716,851	277,840	16,817,648	188,467	3,380,118	293,787	23,656,076
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	295,559	80,096,345	276,548	8,338,920	71,757,425	247,519	21,497,759	182,096	4,107,853	274,305	33,362,796
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	197,118	81,045,754	188,399	5,641,052	75,404,703	160,386	16,305,049	135,932	5,195,048	186,211	40,629,397
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	116,994	84,991,695	111,952	5,145,715	79,845,980	95,043	13,351,770	83,420	6,720,042	113,214	47,302,324
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	39,654	59,211,848	39,391	4,944,901	56,306,947	32,715	6,258,134	33,082	6,702,967	39,028	37,096,088
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	9,554	25,270,707	9,554	1,966,820	23,303,887	8,139	2,263,109	7,397	2,674,298	9,071	16,597,946
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	5,907	24,999,055	5,907	2,387,755	22,611,300	5,416	2,288,235	5,063	3,152,871	5,898	16,376,369
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,673	18,850,381	2,556	918,151	17,932,230	2,200	1,007,011	2,548	2,306,161	2,673	12,889,787
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,784	28,158,546	1,784	1,853,325	26,305,221	1,743	658,564	1,765	2,005,198	1,784	24,202,340

Net worth	Type of asset—Continued										Information items		Estate tax return statistics	
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)	
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)				
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)		
Total.....	3,954,846	70,669,443	1,278,918	30,413,041	2,950,289	15,568,396	73,534,876	95,552,607	2,545,110	109,726,570	78,393	17,007,239	15,548,462	
Net deficit.....	21,941	158,606	5,525	149,555	23,110	180,025	1,503,572	1,566,261	12,073	617,299	137	29,796	-14,209	
Under \$30,000.....	235,815	582,105	34,450	152,160	257,277	1,666,643	2,054,602	17,631,228	173,034	3,597,013	834	85,880	16,422	
\$30,000 under \$40,000.....	135,449	576,692	26,247	112,599	141,598	843,022	1,474,149	8,064,847	111,922	3,022,576	717	70,962	25,423	
\$40,000 under \$50,000.....	163,548	922,300	37,393	318,868	161,956	859,575	1,931,053	7,124,030	128,246	3,815,722	1,233	110,635	56,043	
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	256,160	1,948,142	59,715	714,137	229,735	921,362	2,996,559	6,292,165	168,161	5,174,728	2,923	234,301	164,119	
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	437,662	5,028,609	120,600	1,406,580	296,724	945,325	4,181,209	5,616,506	274,769	8,531,192	9,421	686,466	612,680	
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	380,119	5,417,268	109,579	1,332,331	262,394	863,228	3,495,107	5,048,209	236,792	8,289,545	8,357	690,359	625,282	
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	313,692	4,242,304	103,714	1,418,754	216,441	738,314	3,287,297	4,069,563	197,088	7,498,161	6,856	642,447	581,794	
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	255,515	3,837,879	84,893	2,826,648	174,057	713,255	3,083,010	4,067,763	168,087	7,246,472	5,773	607,632	547,428	
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	394,918	6,524,464	136,024	2,317,838	263,716	1,112,985	4,825,353	5,820,017	262,195	12,299,688	9,004	1,079,716	984,255	
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	374,626	7,085,747	136,804	2,821,169	264,668	1,231,695	5,755,559	6,255,709	243,806	12,825,067	8,662	1,266,505	1,156,919	
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	324,136	7,243,191	128,822	3,075,384	217,442	1,237,782	6,298,542	5,679,315	198,702	11,566,786	8,022	1,499,392	1,382,176	
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	290,852	7,810,341	131,646	3,955,269	200,725	1,479,189	7,883,134	7,186,036	170,583	10,707,752	7,022	1,841,577	1,699,817	
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	194,702	6,809,956	83,478	3,360,469	126,012	1,156,118	7,589,713	4,707,603	108,796	7,524,413	4,934	2,007,461	1,878,589	
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	116,495	6,297,903	52,234	2,889,009	77,224	859,439	7,571,207	3,610,176	64,359	4,517,075	2,870	2,071,055	1,954,044	
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	39,300	3,162,658	16,445	1,611,636	25,843	452,092	4,028,274	1,745,629	18,261	1,234,529	1,073	1,553,782	1,471,081	
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	9,554	1,303,263	5,333	690,989	5,898	155,539	1,585,563	651,574	4,633	769,662	263	671,759	636,140	
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	5,907	913,022	3,489	537,451	3,533	87,158	1,643,948	253,410	2,247	210,455	178	719,184	678,613	
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,673	561,370	1,312	293,090	1,404	38,608	1,754,354	102,243	927	240,835	84	587,891	558,763	
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,784	243,622	1,214	429,105	532	27,044	592,673	60,323	430	37,598	30	550,437	533,082	

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.

SIZE OF TOTAL ASSETS

Table 16.—ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Total assets	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Debts		Net worth (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total.....	4,132,207	751,974,453	3,654,689	82,711,864	669,262,592	3,443,739	188,034,656	2,021,035	47,940,293	3,282,693	325,813,740
Under \$60,000.....	495,364	20,891,067	435,449	5,112,319	15,778,752	397,060	8,372,568	182,908	538,234	321,776	3,033,403
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	467,372	30,348,797	391,108	3,422,702	26,926,095	379,281	11,419,089	204,918	1,383,189	334,081	6,671,289
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	437,217	32,725,256	366,703	3,414,100	29,311,157	358,160	12,189,947	204,904	1,571,519	314,288	7,737,134
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	357,855	30,363,439	302,884	2,963,434	27,400,005	301,592	11,520,913	161,008	1,443,671	277,538	7,595,002
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	293,532	27,895,010	246,842	2,843,566	25,051,444	244,977	10,447,562	135,770	1,256,621	226,973	7,095,535
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	469,171	51,318,498	407,763	5,447,877	45,870,621	399,145	18,106,712	213,645	2,243,539	378,125	15,034,920
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	446,708	59,655,669	400,128	6,586,452	53,069,217	379,061	19,729,864	222,382	2,715,344	373,701	19,386,539
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	395,021	68,068,060	366,996	7,897,092	60,170,968	337,246	20,736,510	204,607	3,343,155	338,381	24,142,006
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	331,008	80,254,620	311,996	8,962,141	71,292,479	280,590	21,938,005	194,081	4,222,187	300,059	32,891,177
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	237,793	90,643,019	229,075	8,873,279	81,769,741	199,617	20,797,110	153,536	5,272,857	223,596	42,261,288
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	133,727	92,134,213	128,685	9,594,521	82,539,692	109,722	16,910,562	90,010	6,856,022	127,976	48,392,533
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	43,690	59,660,110	43,427	5,223,919	54,436,191	36,084	7,066,554	34,377	6,126,170	43,157	37,144,011
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	10,417	25,226,441	10,417	2,792,302	22,434,139	8,919	3,360,277	7,871	3,188,257	9,717	14,383,332
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	7,211	26,710,502	7,211	4,275,520	22,434,982	6,682	2,750,983	5,368	2,887,722	7,202	16,598,139
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	4,277	27,047,526	4,159	3,164,129	23,883,397	3,797	1,914,938	3,823	2,832,560	4,277	18,693,010
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,847	29,032,226	1,847	2,138,514	26,893,711	1,806	773,066	1,829	2,059,245	1,847	24,754,421

Total assets	Type of asset—Continued						Information items				Estate tax return statistics		
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Life insurance face value (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Net worth (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (<i>Thousand dollars</i>)			
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	
Total.....	3,954,846	70,669,443	1,278,918	30,413,041	2,950,289	15,568,396	73,534,876	95,552,607	2,545,110	109,726,570	78,393	17,007,239	15,548,462
Under \$60,000.....	460,247	2,320,832	62,641	304,768	495,364	2,957,649	3,363,613	27,754,020	351,495	7,071,561	2,751	221,653	113,038
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	445,533	4,752,259	122,336	1,308,621	317,240	1,120,535	3,693,816	7,606,193	278,396	8,010,670	8,991	625,996	558,828
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	413,625	5,434,771	108,042	1,270,069	289,117	997,609	3,524,207	6,425,018	268,060	8,646,135	8,573	678,406	611,601
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	343,863	4,398,339	98,647	1,229,015	244,936	848,896	3,327,609	5,246,378	216,606	7,886,552	7,122	636,246	574,310
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	280,211	3,925,282	90,891	1,279,364	193,564	735,476	3,155,169	4,187,697	182,537	7,443,631	6,007	598,366	540,706
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	444,415	6,709,647	154,107	2,476,888	306,879	1,229,325	5,517,468	7,154,712	296,606	12,986,628	9,405	1,076,079	978,237
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	425,780	7,137,004	152,297	2,840,022	309,367	1,388,890	6,458,003	7,640,223	273,897	13,450,549	9,214	1,284,877	1,164,842
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	382,658	7,604,972	148,235	3,445,402	270,049	1,475,958	7,320,055	7,690,188	242,152	13,780,264	8,633	1,548,620	1,404,540
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	323,826	7,741,338	142,074	3,656,851	229,050	1,588,321	8,216,738	7,827,491	200,590	13,181,922	7,574	1,898,368	1,727,100
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	234,575	7,589,055	106,503	4,194,074	159,449	1,418,895	9,109,737	6,384,191	133,300	9,355,298	5,330	2,090,868	1,925,644
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	133,025	6,610,030	59,395	3,175,731	90,974	959,521	9,229,813	4,414,371	71,109	5,144,923	1,122	2,133,508	1,989,111
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	43,336	3,153,507	19,434	1,542,587	29,745	493,976	4,133,306	1,849,278	20,262	1,373,841	3,062	1,555,721	1,462,131
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	10,417	1,432,730	6,360	723,277	6,934	169,233	1,969,336	748,176	4,924	745,149	290	706,019	660,071
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	7,211	752,619	4,072	2,065,230	4,654	108,769	1,547,039	395,019	3,079	276,593	187	712,872	669,463
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	4,277	838,743	2,608	438,121	2,386	47,402	2,282,756	166,243	1,618	333,705	100	663,156	618,669
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,847	268,314	1,277	463,021	582	27,942	686,215	63,411	480	39,148	32	576,484	550,169

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.

SIZE OF TOTAL ASSETS

Table 17.—MALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Total assets	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts		Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total.....	2,538,643	439,112,075	2,280,050	61,730,100	377,381,976	2,193,743	118,317,986	1,174,904	23,510,517	1,982,588	175,731,484
Under \$60,000.....	444,329	18,704,667	394,385	4,860,440	13,844,227	362,533	7,670,501	162,508	448,224	287,712	2,539,647
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	262,550	17,027,530	223,332	2,636,208	14,391,322	225,762	6,713,750	110,137	710,986	184,813	3,096,035
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	234,704	17,577,572	201,034	2,335,950	15,241,622	200,494	6,712,561	107,865	728,763	169,697	3,529,838
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	200,554	17,021,197	173,961	2,121,216	14,899,982	176,042	6,473,675	87,935	679,956	152,187	3,696,345
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	173,487	16,486,130	149,534	2,078,777	14,407,354	150,501	6,378,597	78,817	678,369	136,325	3,683,183
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	274,179	30,039,514	241,175	4,044,476	25,995,039	243,721	11,276,977	112,103	1,092,822	214,911	7,321,907
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	256,874	34,210,295	235,650	4,465,700	29,744,595	229,696	12,058,592	121,682	1,452,313	210,193	9,705,360
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	237,334	40,992,011	223,050	6,022,671	34,969,340	209,879	13,287,176	116,484	1,719,543	203,605	13,044,567
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	206,344	49,852,792	195,013	6,756,719	43,096,072	181,316	14,398,985	113,851	2,241,681	186,946	19,055,796
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	137,254	52,340,023	133,227	6,408,130	45,931,893	119,565	12,214,107	87,401	2,631,804	128,875	23,556,806
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	74,280	50,439,308	73,181	6,417,200	44,022,108	62,491	10,534,675	48,239	3,275,983	71,360	25,876,950
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	23,406	32,697,223	23,212	4,203,304	28,493,918	20,125	5,069,082	17,678	2,468,462	23,158	18,924,313
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	6,139	14,978,969	6,139	2,294,940	12,684,029	5,070	2,226,812	4,598	1,914,826	5,606	7,869,279
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	3,894	14,821,648	3,894	3,611,414	11,210,234	3,567	1,764,743	2,478	893,033	3,885	8,841,876
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,079	13,615,771	2,027	1,517,053	12,098,719	1,767	938,053	1,891	1,013,648	2,079	10,072,459
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,237	18,307,425	1,237	1,955,903	16,351,522	1,213	599,701	1,218	1,560,104	1,237	14,917,121

Total assets	Type of asset—Continued						Information items			Estate tax return statistics			
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	
Total.....	2,431,873	38,689,790	803,060	19,784,096	2,214,938	13,943,166	49,135,035	86,513,268	1,780,268	81,874,760	49,604	10,799,320	9,572,454
Under \$60,000.....	414,978	1,887,103	58,838	267,219	444,329	2,745,480	3,146,494	25,790,029	334,625	6,837,180	2,553	207,883	103,390
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	250,204	2,409,000	67,287	596,636	222,435	993,526	2,507,598	6,919,731	173,595	5,376,682	5,227	378,195	320,180
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	224,103	2,644,730	57,595	636,644	195,625	883,668	2,441,368	5,761,361	162,226	5,434,818	5,122	418,027	361,201
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	192,868	2,230,350	56,497	761,694	171,080	744,403	2,434,777	4,655,557	137,144	5,230,060	4,306	395,060	343,155
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	166,447	2,066,961	54,428	710,713	144,040	654,144	2,314,164	3,745,309	120,987	5,226,387	3,661	374,292	325,667
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	261,973	3,619,113	94,704	1,498,109	228,767	1,123,644	4,106,940	6,692,964	196,867	9,309,978	5,936	694,316	610,688
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	246,188	3,790,036	93,387	1,643,926	217,668	1,237,398	4,322,671	6,790,503	184,368	9,662,505	5,945	845,028	743,916
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	229,203	4,305,473	99,143	2,125,028	201,047	1,338,079	5,172,143	6,976,362	165,819	10,385,640	5,573	1,018,438	895,579
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	201,348	4,557,272	92,742	2,346,744	176,780	1,418,507	5,833,803	6,935,416	146,361	10,812,566	4,896	1,243,157	1,098,040
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	134,500	4,236,581	70,341	2,808,505	118,149	1,252,473	5,639,744	5,664,580	92,127	7,181,983	3,414	1,355,412	1,216,171
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	73,655	3,260,142	37,118	1,963,037	63,763	852,652	4,675,869	3,888,339	46,500	4,107,673	1,914	1,340,123	1,221,248
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	23,058	1,766,597	11,910	1,204,059	20,308	393,247	2,871,462	1,475,314	13,341	1,140,797	692	968,462	891,823
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	6,139	965,395	3,794	515,786	5,284	154,730	1,332,141	698,366	3,375	690,904	174	426,407	390,384
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	3,894	366,097	2,744	1,871,706	3,430	96,757	987,436	353,264	1,784	190,877	118	450,738	416,199
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,079	404,553	1,567	382,715	1,791	34,776	769,569	114,938	920	256,658	53	354,998	327,384
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,237	180,385	965	451,574	(1)	(1)	578,857	(1)	(1)	(1)	20	328,787	307,429

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.
 1 Estimate is not shown separately because of high sampling variability.

SIZE OF TOTAL ASSETS

Table 18.—FEMALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Total assets	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts		Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total.....	1,593,564	312,862,378	1,374,639	20,981,764	291,880,616	1,249,996	69,716,670	846,131	24,429,776	1,300,105	150,082,256
Under \$60,000.....	51,035	2,186,400	41,064	251,875	1,934,525	34,527	702,067	20,400	90,010	34,064	493,756
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	204,822	13,321,267	167,776	786,494	12,534,773	153,519	4,705,339	94,761	672,203	149,268	3,575,254
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	202,513	15,147,684	165,669	1,078,149	14,069,535	157,666	5,477,386	97,040	842,756	144,591	4,207,295
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	157,301	13,342,242	128,922	842,218	12,500,023	125,549	5,047,237	73,073	763,715	125,351	3,898,697
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	120,045	11,408,880	97,308	764,789	10,644,091	94,476	4,068,965	56,953	578,252	90,648	3,412,352
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	194,991	21,278,984	166,588	1,403,401	19,875,583	155,423	6,829,735	101,542	1,150,717	163,214	7,713,013
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	189,834	25,445,375	164,477	2,120,752	23,324,623	149,364	7,671,272	100,701	1,263,031	163,509	9,681,179
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	157,686	27,076,049	143,946	1,874,421	25,201,628	127,366	7,449,334	88,123	1,623,612	134,776	11,097,439
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	124,664	30,401,828	116,984	2,205,422	28,196,406	99,274	7,539,020	80,230	1,980,506	113,113	13,835,380
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	100,539	38,302,996	95,848	2,465,148	35,837,848	80,052	8,583,003	66,135	2,641,053	94,721	18,704,481
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	59,447	41,694,905	55,504	3,177,321	38,517,584	47,232	6,375,887	41,771	3,580,039	56,616	22,515,583
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	20,284	26,962,887	20,214	1,020,614	25,942,273	15,959	1,997,471	16,699	3,657,708	19,999	18,219,697
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	4,278	10,247,473	4,278	497,363	9,750,110	3,849	1,133,465	3,273	1,273,431	4,111	6,514,053
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	3,316	11,888,854	3,316	664,106	11,224,748	3,115	986,240	2,890	1,994,688	3,316	7,756,263
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,198	13,431,754	2,133	1,647,076	11,784,678	2,031	976,885	1,932	1,818,913	2,198	8,620,571
\$10,000,000 or more.....	611	10,724,801	611	182,612	10,542,189	593	173,365	611	499,142	611	9,837,300

Total assets	Type of asset—Continued						Information items			Estate tax return statistics			
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	
Total.....	1,522,973	31,979,653	475,858	10,628,945	735,351	1,625,230	24,399,841	9,039,339	764,842	27,851,810	28,789	6,207,918	5,976,008
Under \$60,000.....	45,269	433,729	3,803	37,549	51,035	212,169	217,119	1,963,991	16,870	234,381	198	13,770	9,648
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	195,329	2,343,259	55,049	711,985	94,805	127,009	1,186,218	686,462	104,801	2,633,988	3,764	247,801	238,648
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	189,522	2,790,041	50,447	633,425	93,493	113,941	1,082,839	663,657	105,833	3,211,317	3,451	260,379	250,400
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	150,995	2,167,988	42,150	467,321	73,856	104,493	892,832	590,821	79,462	2,656,491	2,816	241,186	231,154
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	113,764	1,858,320	36,463	568,651	49,524	81,332	841,005	442,387	61,550	2,217,244	2,346	224,074	215,040
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	182,442	3,090,534	59,403	978,779	78,111	105,681	1,410,528	461,747	99,740	3,676,650	3,469	381,764	367,549
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	179,593	3,346,969	58,910	1,196,096	91,699	151,492	2,135,332	849,720	89,529	3,788,044	3,269	439,849	420,925
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	153,454	3,299,499	49,092	1,320,374	69,002	137,879	2,147,912	713,827	76,333	3,394,624	3,060	530,182	508,961
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	122,478	3,184,066	49,333	1,310,107	52,270	169,814	2,382,934	892,075	54,230	2,369,356	2,678	655,211	629,060
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	100,075	3,352,474	36,161	1,385,569	41,300	166,422	3,469,993	719,611	41,173	2,173,316	1,916	735,457	709,473
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	59,370	3,349,888	22,277	1,212,694	27,211	106,869	4,553,944	526,032	24,609	1,037,250	1,148	793,386	767,863
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	20,278	1,386,910	7,524	338,528	9,436	100,728	1,261,844	373,964	6,921	233,044	430	587,259	570,307
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	4,278	467,335	2,566	207,491	1,650	14,503	637,195	49,810	1,548	54,246	116	279,612	269,688
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	3,316	386,522	1,328	193,524	1,224	12,012	559,604	41,755	1,295	85,806	69	262,133	253,264
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,198	434,189	1,041	55,405	595	12,626	1,513,184	51,305	698	77,047	47	308,158	291,285
\$10,000,000 or more.....	611	87,928	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	107,359	(1)	(1)	(1)	12	247,698	242,740

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.
 1 Estimate is not shown separately because of high sampling variability.

SIZE OF NET WORTH

Table 19.—NUMBER OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS AND NUMBER OF RETURNS, BY SIZE OF TOTAL ASSETS

Net worth	Size of total assets																
	Under \$60,000		\$60,000 under \$70,000		\$70,000 under \$80,000		\$80,000 under \$90,000		\$90,000 under \$100,000		\$100,000 under \$120,000		\$120,000 under \$150,000		\$150,000 under \$200,000		
	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	
Total	78,393	4,132,207	2,751	495,364	8,991	467,372	4,272,217	7,122	357,855	6,007	293,532	9,405	469,171	9,214	446,708	8,633	395,021
Net deficit	137	25,080	36	8,679	16	2,971	(1)	12	1,219	5	(1)	13	1,977	9	(1)	13	1,924
Under \$30,000	834	261,387	604	218,065	71	13,863	11,283	20	2,786	24	3,563	18	3,821	25	3,821	14	2,327
\$30,000 under \$40,000	717	147,430	430	96,261	115	28,253	8,254	25	3,047	25	2,994	26	2,340	16	2,748	10	1,406
\$40,000 under \$50,000	1,233	175,885	637	84,558	128	43,101	20,487	62	9,202	46	6,372	45	7,386	16	2,148	13	1,925
\$50,000 under \$60,000	2,923	268,444	1,044	87,802	369	83,088	47,106	162	23,682	77	7,188	74	9,736	48	6,539	15	2,847
\$60,000 under \$70,000	9,421	464,366	7,380	296,095	1,368	87,996	31,440	327	31,440	143	17,312	108	16,544	66	11,379	17	2,159
\$70,000 under \$80,000	8,357	396,926	6,596	260,920	1,181	79,176	277	26,428	195	19,102	67	7,500	33	3,071	33	3,071	
\$80,000 under \$90,000	6,856	328,539	5,333	207,305	987	63,887	37,041	329	37,041	132	12,654	59	6,107	132	12,654	59	6,107
\$90,000 under \$100,000	5,773	265,382	4,423	165,788	4,423	165,788	1,058	69,127	1,058	69,127	210	22,430	62	6,355	62	6,355	
\$100,000 under \$120,000	9,004	411,461	7,539	300,468	7,539	300,468	1,131	85,672	1,131	85,672	209	20,083	209	20,083	209	20,083	
\$120,000 under \$150,000	8,662	387,513	7,454	290,638	7,454	290,638	7,454	290,638	7,454	290,638	7,454	290,638	7,454	290,638	7,454	290,638	
\$150,000 under \$200,000	8,022	330,334	7,022	295,599	7,022	295,599	7,022	295,599	7,022	295,599	7,022	295,599	7,022	295,599	7,022	295,599	
\$200,000 under \$300,000	4,934	197,118	2,870	116,994	2,870	116,994	2,870	116,994	2,870	116,994	2,870	116,994	2,870	116,994	2,870	116,994	
\$300,000 under \$500,000	1,073	39,654	263	9,554	263	9,554	263	9,554	263	9,554	263	9,554	263	9,554	263	9,554	
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	178	5,907	84	2,673	84	2,673	84	2,673	84	2,673	84	2,673	84	2,673	84	2,673	
\$1,000,000 or more	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	

Net worth	Size of total assets—Continued															
	\$200,000 under \$300,000		\$300,000 under \$500,000		\$500,000 under \$1,000,000		\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000		\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000		\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000		\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000		\$10,000,000 or more	
	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns	Number of top wealth-holders	Number of returns
Total	7,574	331,008	5,330	237,793	3,062	133,727	1,122	43,690	290	10,417	187	7,211	100	4,277	32	1,847
Net deficit	13	2,390	6	(1)	5	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Under \$30,000	9	(1)	5	(1)	5	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$30,000 under \$40,000	7	(1)	2	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$40,000 under \$50,000	3	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$50,000 under \$60,000	4	(1)	2	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$60,000 under \$70,000	11	1,408	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$70,000 under \$80,000	8	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)
\$80,000 under \$90,000	13	1,283	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)
\$90,000 under \$100,000	17	1,474	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)
\$100,000 under \$120,000	53	4,999	11	835	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$120,000 under \$150,000	152	16,386	21	2,447	6	(1)	6	(1)	6	(1)	6	(1)	6	(1)	6	(1)
\$150,000 under \$200,000	822	54,965	55	5,268	5	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
\$200,000 under \$300,000	6,462	244,628	538	47,342	19	2,683	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)	3	(1)
\$300,000 under \$500,000	116,994	180,200	4,684	16,412	245	16,412	90	5,718	48	2,219	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	2,779	111,263	1,023	36,574	1,023	36,574	1,023	36,574	1,023	36,574	1,023	36,574	1,023	36,574	1,023	36,574
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000	239	7,782	23	1,511	23	1,511	161	4,501	161	4,501	161	4,501	161	4,501	161	4,501
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000	82	2,610	82	2,610	82	2,610	82	2,610	82	2,610	82	2,610	82	2,610	82	2,610
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)	2	(1)
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784
\$10,000,000 or more	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784	30	1,784

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns labelled "number of returns" are unweighted. Estimate is not shown separately because of high sampling variability.

SIZE OF CORPORATE STOCK

Table 20.—MALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Corporate stock	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts		Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Total.....	2,538,643	439,112,075	2,280,050	61,730,100	377,381,976	2,193,743	118,317,986	1,174,904	23,510,517	1,982,588	175,731,484
No corporate stock.....	556,056	53,178,536	490,601	11,187,108	41,991,428	499,963	28,454,367	172,337	2,003,953	Not applicable	
Under \$500.....	164,209	16,271,632	150,192	4,055,391	12,216,242	152,621	9,345,931	66,407	583,130	164,209	31,732
\$500 under \$1,000.....	78,027	7,633,579	71,096	1,804,311	5,829,268	73,844	4,080,481	31,294	237,582	78,027	55,884
\$1,000 under \$1,500.....	55,135	5,429,107	49,043	1,064,342	4,364,765	51,384	2,935,825	23,530	205,853	55,135	67,021
\$1,500 under \$2,000.....	44,065	3,833,672	39,800	703,069	3,130,602	40,794	2,035,295	19,334	120,611	44,065	76,259
\$2,000 under \$3,000.....	71,359	6,623,143	64,084	1,185,834	5,437,309	66,035	3,078,431	31,756	239,895	71,359	174,594
\$3,000 under \$5,000.....	108,620	11,683,678	99,402	3,496,077	8,187,601	98,905	5,957,866	48,731	392,890	108,620	423,131
\$5,000 under \$10,000.....	162,447	16,901,693	142,617	2,547,685	14,354,008	150,311	7,520,345	86,623	830,316	162,447	1,190,576
\$10,000 under \$20,000.....	207,279	21,184,255	184,705	3,189,727	17,994,528	182,900	8,293,283	103,465	1,070,723	207,279	3,038,888
\$20,000 under \$30,000.....	166,150	18,309,674	148,704	2,548,454	15,761,220	143,091	6,278,435	86,843	958,019	166,150	4,130,302
\$30,000 under \$50,000.....	236,806	28,112,514	206,197	3,452,787	24,659,727	197,196	8,254,915	118,963	1,382,344	236,806	9,289,843
\$50,000 under \$100,000.....	328,231	49,537,859	290,563	5,401,253	44,136,607	255,937	11,083,405	164,428	2,237,137	328,231	22,220,238
\$100,000 under \$200,000.....	196,158	49,800,006	184,353	6,492,500	43,307,506	152,734	8,671,963	107,347	2,302,724	196,158	27,327,219
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	65,466	26,214,063	61,806	2,360,011	23,854,053	50,341	3,428,480	43,158	1,670,150	65,466	15,897,779
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	50,466	29,337,876	49,424	2,308,177	27,029,700	39,587	2,810,756	36,476	2,189,885	50,466	19,284,568
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	28,938	28,257,597	28,321	2,977,516	25,280,081	22,238	2,181,199	19,200	2,331,894	28,938	19,812,934
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	12,616	24,518,611	12,579	2,789,566	21,729,045	10,115	2,135,627	9,347	2,160,371	12,616	17,352,362
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	2,405	7,579,800	2,405	496,478	7,083,322	2,030	281,494	1,899	671,133	2,405	5,733,523
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	2,233	10,970,496	2,233	1,383,482	9,587,013	2,070	635,179	1,901	740,160	2,233	8,315,429
\$5,000,000 or more.....	1,979	23,734,284	1,927	2,286,333	21,447,950	1,649	854,710	1,864	1,181,749	1,979	20,309,199

Corporate stock	Type of asset—Continued										Estate tax return statistics		
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net Worth (Thousand dollars)
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			
	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	2,431,873	38,689,790	803,060	19,784,096	2,214,938	13,943,166	49,135,035	86,513,268	1,780,268	81,874,760	49,604	10,799,320	9,572,454
No corporate stock.....	514,637	6,816,940	147,346	3,300,783	456,123	2,152,306	10,450,190	17,043,505	366,163	16,111,120	9,842	1,193,971	1,012,681
Under \$500.....	157,297	1,858,657	46,677	820,750	139,403	642,302	2,989,131	5,111,810	115,321	4,169,166	2,912	353,543	300,763
\$500 under \$1,000.....	74,365	913,968	22,456	489,635	68,061	337,939	1,518,089	2,770,712	60,551	2,307,371	1,234	151,732	127,077
\$1,000 under \$1,500.....	53,980	593,761	17,319	305,582	48,856	272,710	1,048,354	2,201,612	39,836	1,671,364	889	114,874	95,319
\$1,500 under \$2,000.....	42,877	479,071	11,430	179,642	39,466	213,550	729,243	1,767,321	31,234	1,135,868	637	81,555	66,161
\$2,000 under \$3,000.....	68,795	804,817	20,820	406,341	64,648	372,656	1,546,409	2,839,568	50,751	1,929,652	1,037	132,925	108,436
\$3,000 under \$5,000.....	104,553	1,381,056	36,604	607,002	100,328	571,088	2,350,646	4,548,459	79,499	2,993,682	1,479	201,850	161,061
\$5,000 under \$10,000.....	157,554	2,373,253	56,432	1,059,889	147,708	893,062	3,034,256	6,061,329	124,088	4,973,019	2,607	344,121	283,053
\$10,000 under \$20,000.....	199,288	2,942,226	66,421	1,217,980	191,242	1,142,413	3,478,744	7,252,883	158,096	6,506,991	3,526	455,899	377,786
\$20,000 under \$30,000.....	160,653	2,500,466	58,132	1,020,558	151,698	885,004	2,536,858	5,288,920	120,971	5,263,024	3,029	388,806	327,803
\$30,000 under \$50,000.....	231,098	3,235,309	76,172	1,286,634	214,195	1,280,841	3,382,625	7,296,043	172,124	7,951,585	5,020	659,027	570,138
\$50,000 under \$100,000.....	313,588	4,513,495	104,812	2,129,593	285,665	1,844,792	4,509,196	9,601,430	229,593	11,737,722	7,765	1,230,565	1,088,918
\$100,000 under \$200,000.....	190,789	3,519,460	69,980	3,098,986	168,766	1,377,638	3,502,012	6,386,375	130,913	7,900,238	5,076	1,290,802	1,160,108
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	64,295	1,746,776	26,110	1,105,022	54,718	597,190	1,768,664	2,700,551	41,663	2,638,862	1,769	723,081	662,042
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	50,124	1,841,924	21,016	759,181	43,455	557,900	1,893,661	2,537,503	31,709	2,238,703	1,355	809,355	743,711
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	28,781	1,279,670	11,034	564,590	24,417	394,126	1,693,184	1,630,096	18,156	1,398,449	877	898,782	836,521
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	12,583	1,055,517	5,951	435,262	11,121	251,780	1,127,690	975,315	6,749	504,193	350	677,751	632,954
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	2,405	202,671	1,547	296,583	1,998	66,114	328,283	245,192	1,272	130,589	97	313,845	296,419
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	2,233	254,566	1,452	311,691	1,956	64,121	649,350	184,574			61	291,562	269,119
\$5,000,000 or more.....	1,979	376,189	1,349	388,391	1,114	25,597	598,449	70,069	1,580	313,162	42	485,275	452,383

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.

AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Table 24.—MALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS WITH NET WORTH OF \$60,000 OR MORE

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Age and marital status	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts		Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total.....	1,813,618	395,417,609	1,604,958	42,734,852	352,682,754	1,568,359	97,532,641	936,198	22,723,995	1,506,126	169,944,079
Married.....	1,479,659	330,599,204	1,306,886	38,322,232	292,276,972	1,324,472	84,180,344	743,052	17,354,079	1,241,716	141,524,636
Single.....	151,492	27,186,947	129,438	1,402,898	25,784,049	96,397	4,661,179	97,511	2,652,130	119,966	12,341,641
Widowed.....	137,407	25,706,959	126,044	1,411,317	24,295,642	114,585	6,275,863	75,737	1,952,345	107,738	10,191,592
Other.....	45,060	11,924,499	42,590	1,598,405	10,326,094	32,905	2,415,255	19,898	765,441	36,706	5,886,210
Under 40 years, total.....	183,827	46,669,391	167,877	8,672,346	38,106,796	148,129	11,179,097	82,804	1,045,693	158,761	25,191,741
Married.....	139,768	38,598,180	132,172	8,056,563	30,541,615	126,095	9,790,358	53,934	503,192	120,778	21,015,930
Single.....	36,461	6,384,761	28,107	334,014	6,050,747	16,715	879,597	25,070	481,679	30,385	3,372,139
Widowed.....	7,598	1,686,450	(1)	(1)	1,514,434	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other.....											
40 to 49 years, total.....	310,451	67,779,526	292,485	12,395,261	55,384,268	282,647	18,407,230	135,183	2,539,688	260,024	26,660,295
Married.....	270,635	58,985,574	255,853	11,174,966	47,810,610	251,080	16,705,531	114,206	1,960,709	228,145	22,389,390
Single.....	24,327	3,723,059	22,012	296,753	3,426,307	19,360	979,306	14,730	301,844	19,022	1,334,589
Widowed.....	6,054	831,833	5,619	153,683	678,151	5,282	278,930	2,194	9,691	4,847	201,386
Other.....	9,435	4,239,060	9,001	769,859	3,469,200	6,925	443,463	4,053	267,444	8,010	2,734,930
50 to 54 years, total.....	222,284	46,167,273	203,515	5,652,355	40,514,919	199,330	12,634,465	109,051	2,157,748	186,523	18,796,106
Married.....	198,316	41,660,593	181,325	5,227,725	36,432,870	181,958	11,664,427	96,115	1,804,721	167,249	16,759,886
Single.....	13,315	2,339,276	12,045	176,409	2,162,866	9,003	412,535	8,115	258,681	10,397	1,134,872
Widowed.....	4,692	707,838	4,438	59,179	648,658	3,930	221,760	2,791	33,498	3,931	260,585
Other.....	5,961	1,459,566	5,707	189,042	1,270,525	4,439	335,743	2,030	123,848	4,946	640,763
55 to 59 years, total.....	263,920	56,604,996	236,066	5,601,062	51,003,937	232,269	13,912,601	138,329	2,919,909	221,881	24,151,702
Married.....	232,775	50,809,376	208,045	5,123,463	45,685,911	209,733	12,663,467	120,776	2,409,572	197,494	21,950,108
Single.....	16,965	3,037,591	14,600	196,776	2,840,816	10,466	448,285	10,211	336,097	13,249	1,336,614
Widowed.....	8,525	1,826,752	8,103	191,392	1,635,361	7,765	520,035	4,727	145,111	6,920	611,230
Other.....	5,655	931,277	5,318	89,431	841,849	4,305	280,814	2,615	29,129	4,218	253,750
60 to 64 years, total.....	244,930	52,592,609	212,668	4,484,797	48,107,809	215,630	13,393,793	134,569	3,746,924	205,358	20,435,489
Married.....	211,731	46,114,083	182,088	3,986,161	42,127,922	189,004	11,867,175	116,587	3,274,651	179,768	17,990,259
Single.....	14,920	2,926,380	13,437	141,382	2,784,997	10,622	472,220	9,190	297,968	11,561	1,242,662
Widowed.....	12,993	2,351,368	12,103	181,971	2,169,397	11,805	660,056	6,619	103,762	9,732	789,182
Other.....	5,286	1,200,778	5,040	175,283	1,025,493	4,199	394,342	2,173	70,543	4,297	413,386
65 to 69 years, total.....	226,566	46,682,085	191,015	2,897,823	43,784,256	193,233	11,147,708	127,782	3,336,527	185,706	19,344,297
Married.....	186,413	39,547,431	154,727	2,449,489	37,097,924	162,457	9,579,350	103,792	2,785,158	154,156	16,461,461
Single.....	14,920	2,659,031	12,801	118,369	2,540,658	10,011	478,850	10,013	258,826	11,626	1,178,687
Widowed.....	20,361	3,464,899	18,983	215,501	3,249,400	17,404	910,376	11,626	211,081	16,296	1,231,485
Other.....	4,872	1,010,740	4,504	114,664	896,274	3,361	179,132	2,615	81,462	3,628	472,664
70 to 74 years, total.....	143,924	31,264,676	119,190	1,444,050	29,820,622	119,539	6,895,864	83,600	2,558,769	116,780	13,635,962
Married.....	110,427	24,730,265	89,024	1,095,250	23,635,013	94,334	5,616,434	63,649	2,000,399	90,631	10,769,095
Single.....	10,644	1,996,264	9,154	64,316	1,931,946	6,820	322,179	7,232	234,166	8,253	866,633
Widowed.....	20,049	3,800,439	18,542	238,342	3,562,095	16,268	816,355	11,406	274,241	15,877	1,670,593
Other.....	2,804	737,708	2,470	46,142	691,568	2,117	140,896	1,313	49,963	2,019	329,641
75 to 79 years, total.....	96,214	21,618,497	80,625	801,316	20,817,178	78,825	4,390,723	56,620	1,886,298	77,489	9,938,344
Married.....	65,290	15,487,174	53,074	605,733	14,881,440	55,300	3,094,566	38,410	1,257,183	53,289	7,405,531
Single.....	7,575	1,663,319	6,619	31,862	1,631,457	5,052	251,979	5,188	225,599	5,970	761,927
Widowed.....	21,415	4,016,335	19,241	132,852	3,883,483	17,121	917,341	11,992	377,235	16,865	1,616,364
Other.....	1,934	451,669	1,691	30,869	420,798	1,352	126,837	1,030	26,281	1,365	154,522
80 to 84 years, total.....	51,318	12,084,343	43,470	317,898	11,766,444	41,310	2,261,644	30,303	1,215,140	40,824	5,775,120
Married.....	28,854	7,235,198	23,274	210,005	7,025,195	23,958	1,350,765	17,235	765,892	23,364	3,545,893
Single.....	4,446	956,627	3,933	14,795	941,832	3,015	135,672	2,844	93,714	3,528	485,547
Widowed.....	17,262	3,628,929	15,606	83,084	3,545,846	13,806	743,192	9,864	308,350	13,401	1,634,706
Other.....	756	263,589	657	10,014	253,571	531	32,015	360	47,184	531	108,974
85 years or more, total.....	28,919	7,405,210	24,882	194,266	7,210,939	22,308	1,284,570	17,142	835,088	23,366	3,856,234
Married.....	11,160	3,185,583	9,036	82,239	3,103,344	9,067	535,400	6,619	363,082	9,246	1,727,338
Single.....	2,468	782,024	2,214	9,313	772,708	1,596	85,106	1,596	146,992	1,979	410,339
Widowed.....	14,882	3,357,927	13,274	100,451	3,257,476	11,327	642,978	8,722	320,490	11,808	1,682,761
Other.....	409	79,676	358	2,263	77,411	318	21,086	205	4,524	333	35,796
Age unknown, total.....	41,265	6,548,996	33,165	383,413	6,165,581	35,139	2,024,946	20,815	482,211	29,434	2,158,789
Married.....	24,290	4,245,763	18,268	310,638	3,935,125	21,486	1,312,871	11,729	229,520	17,596	1,509,745
Single.....	5,451	718,921	4,516	18,901	699,715	3,737	195,450	3,322	79,564	3,996	217,632
Widowed.....	9,654	1,349,915	8,615	31,006	1,318,913	8,357	428,682	5,036	168,230	6,542	374,579
Other.....	1,870	234,697	1,766	22,868	211,828	1,559	87,943	728	4,897	1,300	56,833

Footnote at end of table.

AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Table 24.—MALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS WITH NET WORTH OF \$60,000 OR MORE—Continued

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Age and marital status	Type of asset—Continued							Information items			Estate tax return statistics		
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)			
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	
Total.....	1,755,027	35,505,698	672,689	18,744,276	1,509,668	9,763,654	41,203,248	48,430,131	1,255,319	67,754,860	44,671	10,337,632	9,370,119
Married.....	1,426,874	26,972,313	563,640	16,120,833	1,288,351	8,579,521	35,867,471	43,664,135	1,159,459	65,449,597	31,730	7,602,520	6,786,600
Single.....	148,483	3,995,721	41,379	848,319	95,499	294,487	2,393,459	1,856,984	45,183	1,119,404	3,378	723,835	692,213
Widowed.....	135,140	3,403,633	49,883	1,241,605	95,155	721,324	1,920,597	1,791,109	39,584	895,614	8,664	1,790,880	1,695,761
Other.....	44,530	1,124,031	17,787	533,519	30,663	168,322	1,021,721	1,117,903	11,093	290,245	899	220,397	195,545
Under 40 years, total.....	171,676	2,063,676	58,495	1,197,539	164,080	752,966	5,275,846	8,227,657	110,147	4,357,687	242	70,918	50,169
Married.....	129,135	1,300,210	48,617	944,264	129,893	587,742	4,456,480	6,755,606	101,789	4,205,271	184	58,933	40,208
Single.....	34,943	717,806	8,358	131,473	27,348	80,325	721,747	923,279	8,358	152,416	48	9,513	7,965
Widowed.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	-	-	10	2,472	1,996
Other.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
40 to 49 years, total.....	300,659	5,125,622	118,515	3,873,216	280,518	1,091,603	10,081,869	12,547,111	221,409	11,076,090	1,212	305,734	215,629
Married.....	261,060	4,225,733	103,591	3,674,953	255,149	1,032,254	8,997,006	11,864,912	209,453	10,813,680	1,058	271,178	187,783
Single.....	24,327	475,327	7,665	88,258	16,468	24,939	519,239	281,550	8,556	219,596	91	14,499	12,847
Widowed.....	5,837	117,745	(1)	4,412	16,489	16,489	189,530	189,530	(1)	(1)	24	3,985	2,668
Other.....	9,435	306,817	5,163	74,548	6,489	18,367	393,491	211,119	(1)	(1)	39	16,072	12,691
50 to 54 years, total.....	214,551	3,715,491	83,056	1,995,035	201,360	863,142	6,005,290	7,253,265	166,490	9,274,318	1,753	414,489	319,509
Married.....	191,343	3,192,375	75,191	1,779,222	183,225	818,842	5,641,122	6,880,988	157,486	9,051,789	1,564	376,361	287,316
Single.....	12,935	323,923	3,678	77,112	9,258	17,418	177,732	146,371	5,199	101,449	105	19,466	17,057
Widowed.....	4,565	72,224	1,777	16,666	4,312	15,896	87,206	133,589	1,523	9,278	37	6,510	5,116
Other.....	5,708	126,969	2,410	122,035	4,565	10,986	99,230	92,317	2,282	111,802	47	12,152	10,020
55 to 59 years, total.....	256,070	4,771,771	97,987	2,800,055	234,127	1,547,865	6,501,096	7,233,015	194,286	11,016,687	3,127	738,030	604,315
Married.....	225,347	4,024,498	87,185	2,520,452	210,324	1,426,140	5,815,139	6,664,202	185,510	10,844,578	2,758	664,068	541,303
Single.....	16,627	435,345	4,725	94,624	12,324	39,263	347,364	183,476	4,472	95,966	201	37,697	33,661
Widowed.....	8,441	168,508	3,292	122,825	7,259	56,272	202,772	262,953	2,364	40,750	101	24,092	19,376
Other.....	5,655	143,420	2,785	62,154	4,220	26,190	135,821	122,384	1,940	35,393	67	12,173	9,975
60 to 64 years, total.....	237,913	5,019,962	94,400	3,076,408	209,653	1,590,593	5,329,433	5,465,938	180,307	10,550,245	4,958	1,143,074	973,841
Married.....	205,160	4,102,567	83,139	2,745,356	185,793	1,467,721	4,666,349	5,043,697	171,022	10,348,310	4,286	1,005,872	852,792
Single.....	14,672	483,314	4,198	111,567	10,077	44,762	273,883	153,824	4,792	120,883	302	61,446	56,377
Widowed.....	12,795	284,899	4,939	161,629	10,325	60,747	291,096	208,754	3,012	58,175	263	50,594	43,913
Other.....	5,286	149,182	2,124	97,856	3,458	17,363	98,105	59,663	1,481	22,877	107	25,162	20,759
65 to 69 years, total.....	221,123	5,222,723	87,058	2,282,690	179,155	1,590,680	3,757,462	3,769,379	160,977	9,638,871	6,743	1,454,192	1,303,098
Married.....	181,408	4,094,504	73,248	1,967,438	152,847	1,414,985	3,244,518	3,353,043	148,747	9,308,507	5,548	1,234,687	1,104,105
Single.....	14,750	471,212	4,098	114,806	7,525	30,438	126,208	126,208	4,704	159,555	444	80,379	75,614
Widowed.....	20,093	516,978	7,898	159,309	15,657	126,919	308,757	300,754	6,249	139,692	606	108,297	96,706
Other.....	4,872	140,029	1,814	41,137	3,126	18,338	77,979	43,455	1,377	31,117	145	30,829	26,673
70 to 74 years, total.....	140,518	3,645,050	54,937	1,518,734	107,232	1,034,020	1,976,280	1,876,607	97,200	5,517,310	7,343	1,638,131	1,521,456
Married.....	107,526	2,677,304	43,275	1,179,504	85,398	874,403	1,613,125	1,586,937	86,788	5,239,254	5,634	1,298,104	1,205,868
Single.....	10,547	375,187	2,221	80,506	5,391	24,718	92,876	44,845	3,607	103,565	543	102,878	98,566
Widowed.....	19,739	507,953	7,702	192,624	14,993	123,878	214,796	224,826	6,019	152,350	1,023	199,051	181,740
Other.....	2,706	84,606	1,039	66,100	1,450	11,021	55,483	19,999	786	22,141	143	38,098	35,282
75 to 79 years, total.....	94,448	2,710,336	35,357	909,590	65,406	697,649	1,085,553	1,066,743	59,766	3,214,968	7,126	1,628,713	1,542,015
Married.....	63,860	1,768,859	25,128	657,536	47,294	547,772	755,729	837,573	50,642	2,967,806	4,836	1,168,664	1,102,330
Single.....	7,483	279,713	2,177	54,132	3,067	16,043	73,927	24,528	2,271	72,442	561	123,838	120,846
Widowed.....	21,171	590,415	7,387	161,384	14,260	126,493	227,101	193,416	6,403	160,195	1,586	302,464	287,669
Other.....	1,934	71,349	665	36,538	785	7,341	28,796	11,226	450	14,525	143	33,747	31,170
80 to 84 years, total.....	50,274	1,446,229	18,830	512,130	30,897	351,558	522,521	448,420	28,413	1,382,162	5,702	1,353,467	1,307,378
Married.....	28,098	772,103	10,845	314,396	18,675	233,656	252,493	298,032	21,789	1,208,269	3,206	811,064	780,574
Single.....	4,410	182,294	1,368	26,487	1,557	8,402	24,510	10,717	1,287	50,272	494	106,550	104,647
Widowed.....	17,037	472,071	6,309	143,380	10,323	102,085	225,145	130,210	5,112	117,837	1,918	406,340	393,983
Other.....	729	19,761	308	27,867	342	7,415	20,373	9,461	225	5,784	84	29,513	28,174
85 years or more, total.....	28,396	834,135	9,673	223,594	14,609	148,655	222,927	189,613	13,276	582,941	5,670	1,460,031	1,413,910
Married.....	10,893	307,131	3,871	98,327	6,233	66,530	87,775	84,861	8,172	430,973	2,188	628,221	608,498
Single.....	2,442	104,356	683	17,276	719	4,897	13,054	6,247	586	16,709	484	153,602	151,512
Widowed.....	14,652	411,446	4,972	103,024	7,526	76,264	120,962	97,276	4,402	133,321	2,918	662,535	638,721
Other.....	409	11,202	147	4,967	131	964	1,136	1,229	116	1,938	80	15,673	15,179
Age unknown, total.....	39,499	950,703	14,381	355,285	22,631	131,089	445,881	352,383	23,048	1,143,581	795	130,446	118,799
Married.....	23,044	507,029	9,550	239,385	15,520	109,476	337,735	294,284	18,061	1,031,167	468	85,368	75,823
Single.....	5,347	147,244	1,508	52,078	1,765	3,728	22,919	10,020	1,351	26,547	105	13,967	13,481
Widowed.....	9,290	250,740	2,751	53,189	4,568	15,595	58,906	41,920	2,960	69,583	186	26,515	25,413
Other.....	1,818	45,690	572	10,633	778	2,290	26,411	6,159	676	16,284	36	4,596	4,082

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.

1 Estimate is not shown separately because of high sampling variability.

AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Table 25.—FEMALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS WITH NET WORTH OF \$60,000 OR MORE

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Age and marital status	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts		Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset					
			Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)		Real estate		Bonds		Corporate stock	
						Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total.....	1,440,381	301,794,877	1,231,418	16,674,501	285,120,380	1,122,999	64,461,625	799,428	24,258,067	1,196,220	148,172,057
Married.....	671,057	150,083,784	522,983	10,714,473	139,369,305	561,581	35,970,674	338,739	9,621,432	558,334	76,705,297
Single.....	171,002	30,052,593	151,469	565,220	29,487,381	102,288	3,448,508	117,208	2,580,099	154,004	18,475,720
Widowed.....	522,527	104,367,890	484,727	4,317,082	100,050,810	407,262	21,318,254	306,552	9,843,683	421,789	45,818,532
Other.....	75,795	17,290,610	72,239	1,077,726	16,212,884	51,868	3,724,189	36,929	2,212,853	62,093	7,172,508
Under 40 years, total.....	158,215	31,237,673	134,366	2,157,307	29,080,367	105,979	6,922,785	83,589	1,631,281	143,290	17,207,625
Married.....	104,479	24,914,665	89,556	1,984,648	22,930,018	82,093	6,100,789	50,749	1,304,656	95,524	13,713,488
Single.....	35,823	3,814,144	26,897	39,354	3,774,791	10,450	266,129	26,868	204,292	34,331	2,533,554
Widowed.....	17,913	2,508,864	17,913	133,305	2,375,558	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other.....	17,913	2,508,864	17,913	133,305	2,375,558	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
40 to 49 years, total.....	221,018	48,103,634	189,546	4,199,440	43,904,192	186,929	11,851,300	110,311	2,687,326	185,088	22,557,316
Married.....	161,496	36,276,047	131,435	3,019,757	33,216,288	141,750	9,268,882	78,807	2,073,442	135,071	17,632,983
Single.....	15,135	2,620,022	14,730	123,941	2,496,081	11,080	315,223	9,699	172,722	13,919	1,710,451
Widowed.....	30,286	5,699,742	29,685	580,716	5,119,025	23,618	1,335,733	14,146	260,265	24,220	1,985,771
Other.....	14,101	3,507,823	13,696	435,026	3,072,798	10,481	931,462	7,659	180,897	11,878	1,228,111
50 to 54 years, total.....	151,622	32,664,719	126,354	3,025,727	29,638,991	130,521	7,993,466	82,593	2,701,226	125,573	15,258,057
Married.....	90,396	19,961,360	68,513	2,293,996	17,667,364	79,194	5,264,221	46,894	1,068,965	76,069	10,193,770
Single.....	15,111	2,535,574	14,070	86,836	2,448,738	10,422	403,404	9,121	221,596	13,028	1,409,785
Widowed.....	39,552	7,112,063	33,868	435,259	6,676,804	32,045	1,654,265	21,265	490,240	28,658	2,821,883
Other.....	10,163	3,055,722	9,903	209,636	2,846,085	8,860	671,576	4,953	920,425	7,818	832,619
55 to 59 years, total.....	192,911	41,931,791	164,850	2,045,349	39,886,440	153,588	9,177,206	103,379	2,759,855	157,466	20,279,138
Married.....	103,930	22,549,238	80,303	1,207,922	21,341,315	86,393	5,491,579	51,319	1,618,386	82,147	11,229,252
Single.....	17,907	5,196,380	16,614	57,291	5,139,090	13,107	467,592	11,631	190,659	15,876	3,841,781
Widowed.....	56,489	10,977,970	53,903	603,149	10,374,820	45,967	2,424,736	33,598	705,826	47,444	3,803,172
Other.....	14,585	3,208,203	14,030	176,987	3,031,215	8,121	793,299	6,831	244,984	11,999	1,404,933
60 to 64 years, total.....	181,483	38,245,654	151,813	2,095,293	36,150,366	145,575	7,902,879	100,872	3,340,567	149,359	18,531,771
Married.....	83,682	19,613,542	61,585	1,203,646	18,409,896	69,564	3,916,723	42,353	1,392,986	67,211	10,783,557
Single.....	19,233	3,229,824	17,698	84,596	3,145,229	13,198	477,798	13,811	341,559	16,880	1,607,052
Widowed.....	69,975	13,372,057	64,756	758,661	12,613,398	57,084	3,224,397	39,387	1,281,054	57,391	5,062,793
Other.....	8,593	2,030,231	7,774	48,390	1,981,843	5,729	283,961	5,321	324,968	7,877	1,078,369
65 to 69 years, total.....	178,890	37,195,593	151,735	1,407,054	35,788,539	138,678	7,578,479	103,777	3,631,356	145,630	17,589,561
Married.....	64,288	14,206,561	46,775	647,877	13,558,684	52,219	3,301,481	33,849	1,018,333	52,612	7,106,660
Single.....	19,548	3,936,324	17,908	48,163	3,888,162	13,382	459,307	13,513	550,137	17,185	2,310,603
Widowed.....	87,707	17,323,510	80,296	624,189	16,699,321	67,961	3,557,494	52,413	1,833,924	69,667	7,381,677
Other.....	7,347	1,729,198	6,756	86,825	1,642,372	5,116	260,197	4,002	228,962	6,166	790,621
70 to 74 years, total.....	126,648	23,542,646	110,197	608,258	22,934,391	97,288	4,819,936	75,641	1,996,961	101,854	11,146,389
Married.....	32,996	6,189,127	23,872	166,565	6,022,564	26,749	1,381,464	18,346	472,442	25,956	2,908,429
Single.....	14,943	2,376,441	13,374	34,096	2,342,346	10,467	374,178	10,499	206,744	13,212	1,272,101
Widowed.....	75,111	14,164,871	69,682	385,863	13,779,009	57,520	2,900,229	44,833	1,254,224	59,873	6,537,933
Other.....	3,598	812,207	3,269	21,734	790,472	2,552	164,065	1,963	63,551	2,813	427,926
75 to 79 years, total.....	92,633	19,579,512	81,616	520,230	19,059,284	68,820	3,474,567	56,316	2,215,529	75,464	9,793,585
Married.....	16,133	3,596,180	11,271	81,570	3,514,608	12,780	639,454	9,274	411,533	13,075	1,776,459
Single.....	12,663	2,230,329	11,545	32,191	2,198,140	8,213	279,716	8,488	245,157	11,133	1,247,703
Widowed.....	61,741	13,196,787	56,860	385,184	12,811,605	46,258	2,413,927	37,496	1,508,095	49,608	6,492,172
Other.....	2,096	556,216	1,940	21,285	534,931	1,569	141,470	1,058	50,744	1,648	277,251
80 to 84 years, total.....	57,927	12,247,187	51,407	212,284	12,034,896	40,174	1,916,423	35,297	1,300,488	48,245	6,694,025
Married.....	5,995	1,419,499	4,051	16,600	1,402,896	4,627	220,060	3,143	158,123	4,926	795,160
Single.....	8,513	1,740,688	7,674	18,164	1,722,519	5,100	175,622	5,927	204,273	7,685	1,032,262
Widowed.....	42,312	8,814,345	38,666	173,088	8,641,257	29,731	1,481,935	25,695	917,678	34,734	4,700,703
Other.....	1,107	272,655	1,016	4,432	268,224	716	38,806	532	20,414	900	165,900
85 years or more, total.....	38,765	10,162,808	34,969	198,463	9,964,347	25,146	1,289,260	24,330	1,296,914	32,844	6,042,685
Married.....	1,348	467,552	970	4,893	4,622,657	1,005	51,347	793	55,139	1,091	275,631
Single.....	6,697	1,615,492	6,140	16,820	1,598,676	3,601	126,173	4,493	169,024	5,991	1,078,773
Widowed.....	30,172	7,910,652	27,305	173,575	7,737,077	20,168	1,092,731	18,639	1,039,959	25,220	4,595,196
Other.....	548	169,112	554	3,175	165,937	372	19,009	405	32,792	542	93,085
Age unknown, total.....	40,269	6,883,660	34,565	205,096	6,678,567	30,301	1,535,324	23,323	696,564	31,407	3,071,905
Married.....	6,314	890,013	4,652	46,999	843,015	5,207	334,674	3,212	47,427	4,652	289,908
Single.....	5,429	757,375	4,819	23,768	733,609	3,268	103,366	3,158	73,936	4,764	431,655
Widowed.....	26,811	4,979,676	23,765	130,593	4,849,083	20,939	1,052,587	15,734	546,562	20,496	2,215,507
Other.....	1,715	256,596	1,329	3,736	252,860	887	44,697	1,219	28,639	1,495	134,835

Footnote at end of table.

AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Table 25.—FEMALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS WITH NET WORTH OF \$60,000 OR MORE—Continued
 [Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

Age and marital status	Type of asset—Continued										Estate tax return statistics		
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets	Life insurance face value	Jointly owned property		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number of top wealthholders	Cash amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount			Number of top wealthholders	Amount			
	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	1,386,887	30,975,907	442,962	10,221,449	627,003	1,335,108	22,370,655	6,443,929	696,403	25,744,377	27,908	6,138,013	5,930,536
Married.....	628,458	11,692,770	208,135	4,978,464	321,601	626,145	10,489,006	3,675,924	429,984	20,100,869	5,823	1,308,794	1,237,988
Single.....	168,598	3,509,231	31,894	536,236	71,856	123,812	1,378,984	691,739	61,598	1,285,794	3,814	775,264	762,528
Widowed.....	514,758	14,233,434	179,412	4,128,068	201,766	532,700	8,493,211	1,739,895	183,931	3,943,482	17,439	3,858,422	3,742,756
Other.....	75,073	1,540,472	23,521	578,681	31,780	52,451	2,009,454	336,371	20,890	414,232	832	195,533	187,264
Under 40 years, total.....	149,260	2,612,434	41,797	869,687	80,605	93,960	1,899,901	1,080,027	70,156	2,328,991	105	21,588	19,484
Married.....	95,524	1,572,753	35,825	819,897	59,706	59,732	1,343,348	686,586	59,706	2,273,937	70	17,113	15,363
Single.....	35,823	521,100	(¹)	(¹)	14,928	22,210	261,162	255,301	(¹)	(¹)	24	2,711	2,530
Widowed.....	17,913	518,581	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	295,391	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	11	1,764	1,591
Other.....	17,913	518,581	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	295,391	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	11	1,764	1,591
40 to 49 years, total.....	209,321	3,602,631	62,090	1,405,265	111,942	139,208	5,860,591	1,600,053	112,768	4,704,309	471	105,021	93,300
Married.....	150,610	2,182,171	45,153	996,390	78,848	95,980	4,026,203	1,103,193	96,011	4,420,796	342	79,037	70,680
Single.....	14,729	198,920	(¹)	(¹)	7,672	9,918	174,841	113,999	(¹)	(¹)	33	5,938	5,467
Widowed.....	29,881	939,817	10,286	332,856	18,574	23,111	822,187	265,635	9,686	173,581	67	13,082	11,205
Other.....	14,101	281,723	4,233	38,073	6,848	10,199	837,360	117,226	(¹)	(¹)	29	6,964	5,948
50 to 54 years, total.....	144,590	2,876,479	53,934	1,218,963	84,416	121,595	2,494,934	1,021,775	85,712	3,485,287	582	128,842	113,777
Married.....	84,145	1,351,995	31,263	635,533	50,279	80,550	1,366,332	676,874	62,262	2,982,688	347	78,918	67,820
Single.....	14,330	268,064	3,650	59,223	8,339	11,562	161,541	97,150	5,732	153,959	58	10,064	9,400
Widowed.....	35,952	1,072,417	15,111	346,759	19,803	21,529	704,968	180,910	14,330	281,355	138	27,914	25,631
Other.....	10,163	184,003	3,910	177,048	5,995	7,954	262,093	66,841	3,388	67,285	39	11,946	10,926
55 to 59 years, total.....	186,080	4,016,858	63,318	1,533,195	97,653	192,126	3,973,396	897,783	104,669	3,949,995	1,045	230,972	216,071
Married.....	98,577	1,874,739	31,382	684,787	52,611	111,477	1,539,011	520,919	71,995	3,304,828	563	124,372	115,608
Single.....	17,722	363,619	5,353	115,249	8,676	12,223	205,256	57,114	7,938	126,396	97	28,393	27,839
Widowed.....	55,381	1,423,512	21,784	602,376	30,090	62,514	1,955,830	292,126	19,568	401,712	306	60,712	56,202
Other.....	14,400	354,988	4,799	130,783	6,276	5,912	273,299	27,624	5,168	117,059	79	17,495	16,422
60 to 64 years, total.....	174,833	4,074,271	62,405	1,584,772	87,981	227,489	2,583,902	781,728	95,845	3,816,268	1,774	379,274	353,377
Married.....	78,669	1,684,600	26,803	843,869	38,463	92,146	899,663	316,652	56,253	2,979,639	818	193,920	179,961
Single.....	18,824	429,751	4,809	105,508	11,050	24,075	82,727	10,333	293,413	188	32,145	30,745	
Widowed.....	69,054	1,804,849	28,133	570,767	34,988	101,445	1,326,748	348,599	26,395	511,448	684	133,130	123,298
Other.....	8,286	155,071	2,660	64,628	3,480	9,823	113,412	33,750	2,864	31,768	84	20,079	19,373
65 to 69 years, total.....	174,037	4,426,963	56,684	1,352,822	68,880	200,598	2,415,818	475,343	82,988	3,022,467	2,727	571,191	545,557
Married.....	61,140	1,413,762	18,892	494,465	24,009	82,621	789,236	195,785	42,181	2,101,239	980	218,289	206,685
Single.....	19,287	429,454	3,150	66,657	8,791	17,352	102,817	41,117	8,005	210,178	298	60,367	59,272
Widowed.....	86,394	2,416,785	32,278	735,278	33,325	92,534	1,305,820	219,272	31,029	683,862	1,337	266,008	254,564
Other.....	7,216	166,962	2,364	56,422	2,755	8,091	217,945	19,169	1,773	27,188	112	26,527	25,036
70 to 74 years, total.....	123,671	3,319,130	41,465	954,567	42,969	140,231	1,165,431	254,500	57,326	1,847,484	3,873	723,453	701,359
Married.....	31,294	812,630	10,367	287,492	10,432	54,170	272,500	98,313	22,563	1,054,228	1,009	190,620	184,178
Single.....	14,845	390,849	3,303	44,112	5,135	11,555	76,902	20,970	6,344	144,804	457	72,962	71,630
Widowed.....	73,966	2,030,576	26,618	580,046	26,487	71,656	790,207	130,044	27,273	623,121	2,297	434,961	421,377
Other.....	3,566	85,075	1,177	42,917	915	2,850	25,822	5,173	1,146	25,331	110	24,910	24,174
75 to 79 years, total.....	90,772	2,546,587	26,679	575,401	25,738	109,293	864,544	167,115	38,280	1,207,643	4,726	1,001,905	972,415
Married.....	15,426	451,146	4,901	129,887	4,332	30,618	157,085	46,815	10,584	550,135	823	184,305	179,316
Single.....	12,624	353,883	2,372	38,629	3,744	7,568	57,669	11,574	5,214	125,773	646	113,998	112,150
Widowed.....	60,704	1,677,936	18,661	394,785	17,093	69,779	640,091	106,696	21,579	512,874	3,150	675,190	653,654
Other.....	2,018	63,622	745	12,100	569	1,328	9,699	2,030	903	18,861	107	28,412	27,295
80 to 84 years, total.....	56,951	1,530,083	14,776	291,042	12,893	59,261	455,866	75,586	22,010	657,871	5,036	1,066,393	1,046,510
Married.....	5,719	175,661	1,336	33,689	1,095	5,515	31,293	7,036	3,729	180,757	521	123,569	121,990
Single.....	8,423	260,853	1,613	24,827	1,822	3,817	39,030	4,868	3,003	80,765	740	151,454	149,783
Widowed.....	41,749	1,055,300	11,606	228,587	9,756	49,234	380,909	62,794	14,826	384,214	3,679	767,644	751,414
Other.....	1,060	38,269	221	3,939	220	695	4,634	888	452	12,135	96	23,726	23,323
85 years or more, total.....	37,997	996,434	8,680	159,732	5,511	33,992	343,799	43,354	13,300	355,093	6,811	1,784,591	1,748,132
Married.....	1,326	60,357	384	8,442	165	8,071	10,922	878	878	48,198	236	82,439	81,169
Single.....	6,617	179,113	1,242	22,384	815	1,826	38,203	2,326	2,115	45,815	1,175	283,510	280,469
Widowed.....	29,448	741,311	6,903	126,183	4,508	23,573	291,703	30,069	10,107	255,753	5,293	1,388,973	1,357,381
Other.....	548	15,653	151	2,723	(¹)	(¹)	5,822	(¹)	200	5,327	107	29,669	29,113
Age unknown, total.....	39,375	974,037	11,134	276,003	8,415	17,355	312,473	46,660	13,349	368,969	727	124,783	120,554
Married.....	6,028	112,956	1,829	44,013	1,661	4,772	56,264	12,829	3,822	204,424	114	16,212	15,218
Single.....	5,374	113,625	998	15,603	884	1,706	17,484	4,588	1,607	44,003	98	13,722	13,243
Widowed.....	26,258	711,879	8,032	210,431	5,649	10,833	231,877	29,125	7,645	115,252	484	90,216	87,529
Other.....	1,715	35,577	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	6,848	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	31	4,633	4,564

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 22 - 24 are unweighted.
¹Estimate is not shown separately because of high sampling variability.

Table 31.—ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

State or residence	Men										Women			Type of asset			
	Debts			Net worth			Number of top wealthholders			Real estate			Bonds			Corporate stock	
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)			
Total.....	4,132,207	751,974,453	3,654,689	82,711,864	669,262,592	2,538,643	377,381,976	1,593,564	291,880,616	3,443,739	188,034,656	47,940,293	3,282,693	325,813,740			
Alabama.....	31,452	5,030,149	28,997	898,524	4,131,625	21,305	2,698,471	10,147	1,433,154	29,006	1,842,892	365,165	22,867	1,344,077			
Alaska.....	1,140	212,225	1,135	5,770	206,455	1,063	188,997	(1)	1,055	1,055	113,043	(1)	898	43,394			
Arizona.....	31,367	17,702,045	28,674	2,265,922	15,436,123	17,210	11,804,536	14,157	3,631,587	27,327	2,281,906	431,785	25,920	12,698,851			
Arkansas.....	23,794	3,865,220	21,953	480,555	3,384,666	18,316	2,244,115	5,478	1,140,551	21,932	1,364,446	199,512	18,453	1,067,109			
California.....	477,934	97,932,557	435,806	13,354,704	84,577,853	231,240	37,018,972	246,694	47,598,881	415,081	31,282,638	4,633,412	366,831	39,363,928			
Colorado.....	54,422	8,380,266	49,110	1,029,427	7,350,840	35,769	3,717,773	18,653	3,633,087	49,626	2,835,830	364,207	38,189	2,683,720			
Connecticut.....	79,826	15,426,274	74,345	1,118,925	14,307,722	48,000	7,562,015	31,826	6,745,707	63,921	3,034,061	1,303,535	70,613	8,166,861			
Delaware.....	14,016	3,284,274	13,891	412,559	2,871,715	9,006	1,315,309	5,010	1,556,406	12,462	856,915	7,965	13,120	1,705,814			
District of Columbia.....	21,166	4,422,889	18,940	340,823	4,081,634	9,520	2,395,504	11,246	1,686,130	14,114	794,739	248,002	18,403	2,039,933			
Florida.....	153,053	28,006,614	129,762	3,500,984	24,505,629	91,972	15,198,557	37,481	9,307,872	130,999	8,190,791	1,276,734	120,813	11,280,980			
Georgia.....	66,107	13,338,762	59,393	1,747,515	11,611,246	38,034	5,924,367	28,073	5,686,879	53,263	3,588,715	614,499	53,026	5,047,296			
Hawaii.....	11,323	1,907,758	9,909	230,640	1,677,117	7,694	1,029,688	3,629	647,429	10,104	801,943	65,770	9,164	657,478			
Idaho.....	11,595	1,809,268	11,248	225,119	1,584,251	5,426	799,249	6,169	785,002	10,540	599,462	44,780	9,955	675,389			
Illinois.....	247,782	41,205,242	212,888	3,427,155	37,778,086	146,296	23,039,919	99,486	14,738,167	195,158	11,299,533	131,252	198,518	16,724,065			
Indiana.....	84,737	12,936,681	76,025	993,918	11,942,762	49,630	7,750,555	23,833	4,192,207	76,879	3,480,570	843,544	63,744	5,451,733			
Iowa.....	97,426	10,625,795	86,573	1,225,302	9,400,493	72,232	6,849,024	25,194	4,551,469	88,007	4,591,838	884,393	60,057	1,802,553			
Kansas.....	62,531	8,753,320	45,889	813,319	7,940,201	43,417	5,433,162	19,116	2,507,039	57,997	3,395,871	555,300	49,814	2,156,396			
Kentucky.....	40,496	6,070,119	39,063	663,767	5,406,351	25,302	3,309,137	15,194	2,097,234	37,265	3,742,923	589,775	31,075	2,176,000			
Louisiana.....	42,758	7,031,993	39,695	833,516	6,198,477	24,344	3,062,384	18,404	3,136,093	39,668	2,598,158	663,509	36,630	1,762,125			
Maine.....	17,323	3,674,643	16,468	318,081	3,356,354	9,630	1,832,731	7,693	1,523,623	14,374	450,726	628,232	16,244	1,823,685			
Maryland.....	63,237	10,541,243	55,961	1,108,326	9,432,917	42,670	6,116,777	20,567	3,316,140	53,135	2,596,976	768,986	51,217	4,520,320			
Massachusetts.....	118,800	21,466,988	108,282	2,092,525	19,374,062	70,485	11,264,340	45,195	8,109,722	86,023	3,792,053	1,591,198	100,827	11,093,202			
Michigan.....	118,907	23,371,062	94,088	2,356,102	21,014,960	81,577	14,453,832	37,390	6,561,128	103,316	5,087,702	1,510,506	99,047	10,344,712			
Minnesota.....	89,713	13,548,984	83,399	1,101,405	12,447,379	65,370	4,663,879	23,343	2,781,700	82,048	3,827,536	711,464	68,047	3,600,461			
Mississippi.....	26,732	4,226,613	23,068	368,396	3,638,217	21,420	868,792	5,532	949,423	25,314	1,126,102	356,803	22,195	1,268,813			
Missouri.....	69,935	13,389,217	61,852	1,147,633	12,241,583	46,802	8,203,381	23,133	4,038,002	60,674	2,917,887	1,042,486	53,745	6,280,161			
Montana.....	20,952	2,509,555	18,310	2,103,672	1,308,302	14,135	1,317,472	6,817	860,544	19,117	860,544	151,046	15,883	499,859			
Nebraska.....	45,140	6,048,559	37,702	625,648	5,428,913	32,566	3,897,954	12,571	1,524,956	42,843	2,602,637	497,859	30,521	1,162,728			
Nevada.....	10,305	2,548,820	9,632	420,899	2,127,921	5,966	842,065	4,399	1,285,896	9,555	821,118	4,375	141,814	917,171			
New Hampshire.....	11,751	2,797,773	10,425	271,994	2,525,780	7,871	1,949,915	3,880	575,865	8,591	353,443	324,483	10,469	1,262,677			
New Jersey.....	183,998	28,937,971	160,610	2,633,564	26,304,408	115,494	16,242,122	68,504	10,052,286	141,266	6,020,209	1,935,094	149,761	13,294,274			
New Mexico.....	14,874	1,866,083	13,782	558,083	1,308,302	7,375	851,811	7,499	456,941	14,173	677,905	59,453	12,044	567,618			
New York.....	613,113	116,448,021	517,063	11,694,468	104,753,555	366,703	52,451,567	246,410	52,301,988	419,073	18,151,281	8,273,245	515,414	59,607,411			
North Carolina.....	65,493	12,134,826	62,999	1,268,827	10,865,999	48,656	6,258,036	16,857	4,607,963	60,422	3,583,341	1,383,955	50,916	4,860,995			
North Dakota.....	12,716	1,511,231	9,484	108,790	1,402,440	9,214	1,088,690	3,502	313,750	12,213	682,740	97,127	9,125	223,752			
Ohio.....	186,089	33,937,606	170,380	4,411,215	29,526,392	115,405	15,670,686	75,684	13,855,706	152,588	7,155,494	2,514,727	153,564	14,904,100			
Oklahoma.....	50,190	8,062,073	45,814	905,544	7,156,522	36,833	4,352,301	13,337	2,804,227	46,883	2,686,416	447,298	33,218	2,275,710			
Oregon.....	42,627	6,636,354	39,406	890,018	5,746,335	30,077	3,838,075	13,550	1,908,265	37,758	2,122,778	263,947	30,355	1,829,259			
Pennsylvania.....	220,402	45,329,360	200,763	3,748,253	41,581,108	144,896	23,985,285	75,506	17,559,823	181,673	7,447,815	3,731,258	186,895	24,801,226			
Rhode Island.....	18,309	3,457,629	17,037	296,774	3,160,855	11,187	1,572,281	7,122	1,588,574	16,330	631,632	358,206	15,875	1,725,234			
South Carolina.....	31,111	4,206,596	27,874	430,402	3,776,194	23,262	2,600,279	7,843	1,175,915	28,010	1,560,908	209,280	11,593	1,253,964			
South Dakota.....	16,113	2,014,953	13,986	222,464	1,792,489	13,252	4,383,303	7,861	409,186	15,192	1,337,424	7,338	11,556	440,851			
Tennessee.....	42,374	8,723,645	40,052	830,537	7,893,108	30,611	4,247,472	12,355	2,465,636	38,502	2,143,790	267,387	31,881	3,541,693			
Texas.....	194,068	40,794,949	182,348	5,244,247	35,590,701	95,611	14,270,785	98,457	21,279,916	185,043	13,137,542	1,578,932	146,630	16,108,301			
Utah.....	10,068	1,716,490	9,087	178,362	1,538,129	6,962	1,104,735	3,106	433,394	8,698	437,415	141,714	6,949	566,780			
Vermont.....	8,026	1,041,372	7,050	96,112	945,259	5,259	541,828	2,658	403,431	7,386	213,151	4,222	6,036	510,799			
Virginia.....	77,269	11,760,954	74,102	1,195,219	10,563,737	47,447	5,639,567	22,822	4,926,168	65,121	3,205,327	606,689	60,507	4,934,703			
Washington.....	63,145	8,923,939	55,517	1,136,329	7,786,327	28,954	3,849,718	34,191	4,236,811	56,378	3,010,015	29,227	48,137	2,959,410			
West Virginia.....	22,764	5,410,988	20,050	1,137,427	3,992,862	16,102	2,829,568	6,662	1,066,084	11,605	1,302,526	182,468	13,745	2,831,821			
Wisconsin.....	97,673	12,260,304	83,949	1,201,344	11,068,961	65,572	7,373,094	31,101	3,685,867	86,982	3,003,526	561,057	72,660	4,522,908			
Wyoming.....	9,027	2,220,169	8,604	329,120	1,891,049	6,942	1,482,688	2,085	408,361	8,787	690,964	52,957	6,606	858,874			
Other areas ²	10,172	2,695,367	8,178	108,922	2,586,446	6,038	1,196,015	4,134	1,390,431	3,021	119,494	4,345	8,681	1,587,546			

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 31. — ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS—Continued

[Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, information items, and estate tax return statistics]

State or residence	Type of asset—Continued					Information items					Estate tax return statistics		
	Cash		Notes and mortgages		Life insurance equity		Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Number of top wealthholders	Amount (Thousand dollars)	Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)
	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)								(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)
Total.....	3,954,846	70,669,443	1,278,918	30,413,041	2,950,289	15,568,396	73,534,376	95,552,607	2,545,110	109,726,570	78,393	17,007,239	15,548,462
Alabama.....	29,232	400,888	9,640	286,484	25,850	171,474	619,167	1,105,063	14,372	460,870	557	125,775	110,477
Alaska.....	1,140	11,095	1,055	15,949	1,055	1,949	25,501	12,093	(1)	(1)	15	15	1,960
Arizona.....	29,900	571,403	18,208	622,232	17,050	59,393	1,036,475	350,549	16,400	647,671	458	124,326	110,643
Arkansas.....	22,983	409,778	10,689	181,893	16,867	94,545	547,753	632,698	13,380	581,753	391	73,776	64,489
California.....	462,657	8,675,257	198,388	5,093,482	295,379	1,020,868	7,862,967	6,937,883	275,453	11,508,883	8,646	1,946,469	1,800,537
Colorado.....	51,050	788,540	22,868	631,808	38,847	181,373	894,787	1,231,403	41,393	1,210,660	898	187,377	171,090
Connecticut.....	1,299,002	1,299,002	15,399	264,429	52,803	369,373	989,385	2,221,521	52,786	1,644,364	1,597	462,045	429,640
Delaware.....	13,678	220,420	3,548	107,944	11,167	82,322	152,682	508,541	9,980	827,995	203	100,545	94,628
District of Columbia.....	21,017	2,460,313	7,074	223,028	11,395	62,602	534,031	218,032	12,447	687,497	526	132,889	124,242
Florida.....	146,713	2,460,313	56,684	1,696,224	103,594	545,133	2,556,467	2,913,996	110,452	6,912,004	3,070	662,140	602,212
Georgia.....	62,024	937,839	21,724	537,822	53,492	460,699	2,171,892	3,328,289	14,547	258,808	939	214,933	183,985
Hawaii.....	10,994	137,262	2,190	29,983	8,296	35,886	139,436	273,017	9,268	567,435	156	39,827	35,334
Idaho.....	11,384	139,837	4,099	88,004	6,903	20,256	242,031	100,291	1,013	35,088	205	31,106	26,864
Illinois.....	236,412	4,286,730	58,091	1,277,589	175,039	952,201	3,473,373	5,287,571	184,923	9,732,301	5,564	1,166,776	1,077,426
Indiana.....	81,502	1,371,823	21,774	348,136	65,189	358,329	1,082,545	2,387,992	64,627	3,051,797	1,854	326,561	300,374
Iowa.....	95,026	956,800	37,454	581,859	69,523	65,611	1,542,743	1,655,356	68,647	2,167,754	2,344	301,232	276,660
Kansas.....	58,811	738,500	16,723	325,437	42,775	206,276	1,450,821	1,450,821	47,177	1,821,921	1,438	231,876	214,939
Kentucky.....	39,429	513,208	10,424	220,464	27,990	135,073	750,642	750,642	23,596	984,508	847	172,860	159,844
Louisiana.....	40,777	623,667	19,232	480,534	34,294	110,360	793,621	661,364	3,605	86,728	610	142,566	128,397
Maine.....	16,929	239,744	4,180	161,144	11,827	69,696	301,208	375,361	11,558	218,231	445	107,005	99,365
Maryland.....	61,768	1,067,865	17,307	316,263	47,273	303,380	977,455	1,856,209	51,487	2,885,725	1,258	278,854	255,233
Massachusetts.....	105,627	2,132,250	42,182	1,097,027	89,985	592,626	3,457,657	3,293,657	79,858	3,568,543	2,454	554,689	506,616
Michigan.....	81,312	1,591,272	31,270	542,790	71,199	365,022	910,437	2,349,912	70,210	2,999,912	2,230	498,255	452,608
Minnesota.....	25,014	334,468	9,483	198,709	22,534	127,757	833,964	942,079	8,255	1,92,024	1,767	315,021	290,467
Mississippi.....	65,212	1,042,185	21,563	673,973	54,639	322,159	1,110,367	1,841,535	50,126	2,904,879	1,647	414,224	387,924
Montana.....	20,034	239,767	7,961	194,099	45,424	41,880	318,564	382,905	17,516	592,241	408	34,800	30,216
Nebraska.....	43,204	452,297	11,557	180,496	30,282	129,895	1,022,647	803,893	35,819	1,602,577	1,127	170,745	157,990
Nevada.....	9,885	215,269	5,099	134,261	7,271	11,840	247,345	91,944	4,334	381,421	1,128	37,759	34,403
New Hampshire.....	11,666	511,506	3,479	125,777	8,304	48,003	171,887	247,921	7,387	395,727	315	59,980	55,452
New Jersey.....	180,079	3,193,172	39,468	1,225,295	140,185	835,699	2,434,231	5,456,398	117,553	4,951,658	3,411	724,835	663,835
New Mexico.....	11,604	169,036	5,138	89,070	11,170	41,880	261,422	382,905	3,112	72,906	185	34,800	30,216
New York.....	586,433	12,421,472	133,257	2,982,778	427,070	2,472,840	12,538,994	14,273,859	390,989	14,640,395	10,395	2,636,769	2,394,782
North Carolina.....	62,908	806,085	20,635	358,821	52,473	280,160	861,470	1,857,338	39,866	1,668,338	1,138	244,502	219,908
North Dakota.....	12,411	205,946	4,067	48,851	9,101	31,328	221,487	191,951	10,177	371,387	280	34,931	32,247
Ohio.....	175,773	3,492,982	50,135	2,211,911	131,355	783,194	2,875,198	4,541,125	112,955	2,178,035	3,922	853,122	780,949
Oklahoma.....	48,072	1,008,132	15,124	274,026	36,572	231,253	1,139,219	1,491,582	31,011	1,197,794	3,922	175,214	155,826
Oregon.....	41,074	735,980	16,752	438,535	30,921	170,323	1,075,530	1,257,193	31,807	1,693,405	732	131,437	118,236
Pennsylvania.....	213,782	3,681,526	50,430	838,173	167,416	1,063,038	3,764,319	5,976,566	162,074	8,518,680	4,615	1,078,816	988,106
Rhode Island.....	17,194	333,326	4,380	60,035	12,434	76,421	272,777	463,798	12,112	522,501	381	96,316	89,346
South Carolina.....	29,221	420,450	11,953	176,341	25,726	117,623	468,028	722,119	11,799	146,966	525	98,328	88,546
South Dakota.....	14,216	153,435	5,318	99,682	11,112	45,584	418,061	306,594	12,016	466,427	357	50,811	46,772
Tennessee.....	41,978	778,562	16,715	587,509	33,941	240,382	804,322	1,343,273	23,461	830,043	786	187,661	187,661
Texas.....	189,025	3,447,298	85,737	1,845,779	142,473	373,692	4,239,804	3,004,120	10,737	169,618	2,927	617,412	559,530
Utah.....	7,549	290,298	2,755	94,667	8,056	37,803	147,614	234,781	8,738	671,449	202	39,555	36,254
Vermont.....	7,528	124,367	1,726	26,458	5,547	26,812	86,613	162,124	6,034	231,068	175	31,148	29,091
Virginia.....	73,791	953,526	27,877	477,223	60,369	305,840	1,277,647	1,867,278	45,560	1,506,387	1,272	257,518	232,393
Washington.....	60,539	884,295	28,645	441,115	48,972	139,398	1,040,243	904,867	20,248	296,681	1,052	184,718	169,686
West Virginia.....	21,741	226,020	7,347	238,121	19,282	97,920	411,277	687,528	14,394	411,277	392	86,577	79,061
Wisconsin.....	95,156	1,563,771	35,636	658,047	74,489	377,051	1,220,803	2,234,906	74,498	3,089,959	1,918	320,437	294,580
Wyoming.....	8,744	202,684	3,260	103,296	6,602	23,948	287,447	160,628	7,373	438,308	155	36,344	34,766
Other areas ²	9,735	169,656	1,600	26,789	6,922	35,443	624,750	253,469	4,739	151,519	153	50,531	47,663

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 26 - 28 are unweighted.
¹ Estimate is not shown separately because of high sampling variability.
² 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.

Historical statistics

Selected statistics on top wealthholders for 1953 and 1958 are included in this section for purposes of comparison with the estimates for 1962. Table D shows that from 1953 to 1962 the number and wealth of top wealthholders has more than doubled: from 2 million top wealthholders with net worth of \$324 billion; to 4 million top wealthholders with net worth of \$669 billion. However, despite these dramatic increases in the overall aggregates, changes in asset composition have been very gradual.

Table D.--HISTORICAL STATISTICS 1953-1962

Item	1953	1958	1962
	(Thousands)		
Number of top wealthholders, total.....	1,979	3,009	4,132
Men, total.....	1,330	1,936	2,539
Under 50 years.....	491	741	988
50 to 69 years.....	648	923	1,173
70 years or more.....	151	232	332
Age unknown.....	40	40	46
Women, total.....	648	1,073	1,594
Under 50 years.....	197	299	471
50 to 69 years.....	306	530	758
70 years or more.....	120	209	324
Age unknown.....	25	35	41
	(Billion dollars)		
Total assets.....	355.9	542.0	752.0
Real estate.....	81.8	132.6	188.0
Bonds.....	35.6	35.6	47.9
Corporate stock.....	140.9	231.1	325.8
Cash.....	33.8	45.9	70.7
Notes and mortgages.....	12.5	20.5	30.4
Insurance equity.....	7.1	10.8	15.6
Other assets.....	44.2	65.5	73.5
Debts.....	31.8	49.6	82.7
Net worth (less deficit).....	324.1	492.4	669.3

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Estimates of estate tax wealth for 1953 and 1958 were computed using white mortality rates in those years adjusted by the differentials shown in column 3 of table F. Except for differences in white mortality rates, the method was the same as that used in preparing the 1962 estimates.

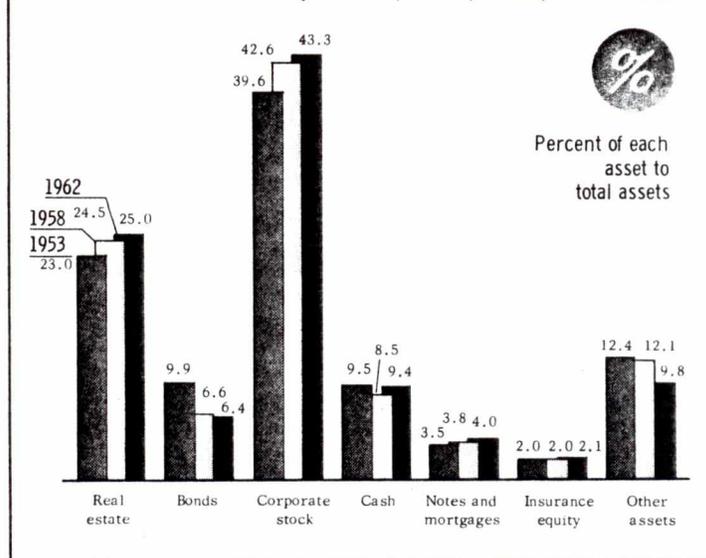
ASSET COMPOSITION

Chart 12 shows some shifting in the asset mix toward corporate stock and real estate and away from bonds. These changes may be due partly to changes in the relative prices of assets and not to real changes in preference. However, other explanations are possible. Top wealthholders have increased from about 2 percent of the adult population in 1953 to just less than 4 percent in 1962. The additional individuals included are relatively less rich and may have a somewhat different asset composition.

AGE, SEX, AND SIZE OF WEALTH

The distribution of top wealthholders by sex has shown a marked change. Women have become a larger proportion of top wealthholders. In 1953, just less than one-third of all top wealthholders were women, while in 1962 they were about 40 percent of the total. The age distribution

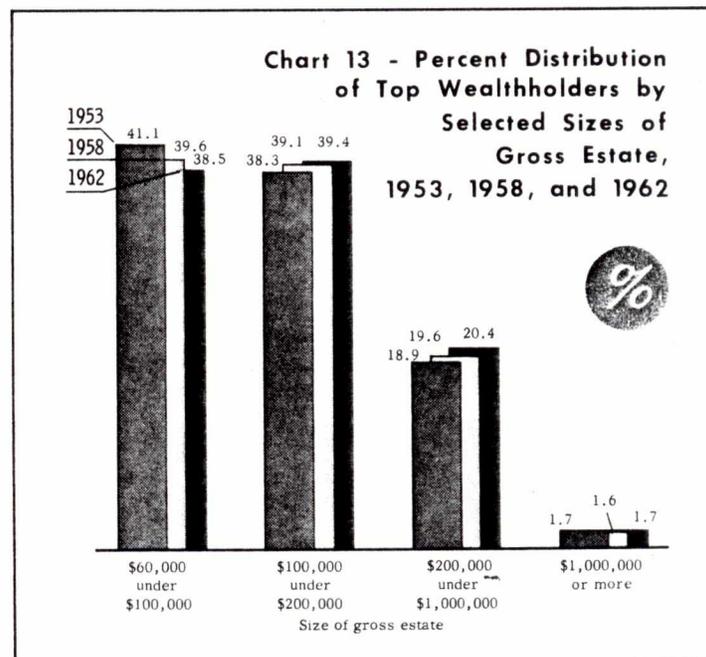
Chart 12 - Asset Composition, 1953, 1958, and 1962



has remained about the same with a slight increase in the older age groups, an increase more or less in line with the pattern for the adult population as a whole.

Similar to the distribution of top wealthholders by age, there has been little change in the distribution by size of gross estate. Chart 13 shows only a slight shift toward the middle ranges of wealth. In fact there was almost no change in the proportion of top wealthholders with a gross estate of \$1,000,000 or more. Table 32 which presents estimates for 1958 can be used with table 28 for 1962 to

Chart 13 - Percent Distribution of Top Wealthholders by Selected Sizes of Gross Estate, 1953, 1958, and 1962



get a more detailed view of shifts in the distribution of top wealthholders by size of gross estate.

LAW CHANGES 1953-1962

The estimates for 1953 top wealthholders are based on returns filed under the 1939 Internal Revenue Code as amended. The 1958 and 1962 estimates are based principally on returns filed under the 1954 Code. While many changes were made in the structure of the estate tax law by the 1954 Code, only a few of these affected the assets includable in "estate tax wealth".

In general, under the 1939 Code all proceeds from insurance on the life of the decedent were included if he owned the policy or paid the premiums on it. Under the 1954 Code, if the insurance had been assigned irrevocably to a beneficiary other than the estate it was not included even though the decedent may have paid the premium. Annuities included in estate tax wealth were also modified as is discussed on page 75. The estate tax law was further amended in 1962 to include foreign real estate but this provision has not had time to take much effect. None of these changes are believed to substantially alter the comparability of the statistics.

Table 32.—NUMBER AND WEALTH OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS BY SIZE OF GROSS ESTATE, 1958—TOTAL, MALE, AND FEMALE
 (Number of top wealthholders, type of asset, and estate tax return statistics)

Gross estate	Number of top wealth-holders	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset							Estate tax return statistics		
					Real estate (Thousand dollars)	Bonds (Thousand dollars)	Common stock (Thousand dollars)	Cash (Thousand dollars)	Notes and mortgages (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance equity (Thousand dollars)	Other assets (Thousand dollars)	Life insurance face value (Thousand dollars)	Number of returns	Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
GRAND TOTAL														
Total.....	3,008,659	541,998,282	49,590,622	492,407,636	132,626,270	231,080,130	45,913,255	20,478,367	10,768,635	65,469,839	60,452,934	55,673	11,647,390	10,638,361
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	317,137	18,890,180	1,416,643	17,473,538	7,247,092	4,135,635	2,924,637	697,971	404,486	2,364,220	2,193,946	6,158	401,604	371,628
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	351,401	23,368,647	1,922,157	21,446,490	8,990,990	5,321,984	3,204,926	926,384	583,850	3,073,500	3,540,888	6,301	471,780	431,772
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	274,894	20,733,711	1,772,818	18,960,893	8,156,165	4,701,289	2,743,243	852,110	595,534	2,743,243	3,686,227	2,269	447,518	407,266
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	244,834	20,170,253	1,864,658	18,305,595	7,552,465	4,089,518	2,386,852	731,175	599,604	2,636,502	3,686,890	4,343	431,367	389,538
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	413,195	39,577,783	3,734,356	35,843,427	14,892,665	10,078,094	4,810,230	1,671,654	1,117,592	5,112,778	6,740,153	7,176	785,567	706,710
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	406,353	47,103,205	5,175,523	41,927,682	15,863,087	13,760,573	5,315,275	2,041,107	1,411,611	7,364,071	8,680,136	7,117	952,480	850,092
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	359,019	53,682,362	5,727,259	47,955,102	16,487,207	17,128,572	6,055,634	2,740,730	1,611,587	7,460,804	9,761,262	6,403	1,103,494	985,277
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	311,822	67,433,339	7,003,191	60,430,147	17,935,141	25,309,080	6,055,634	3,075,524	1,627,254	9,627,970	9,143,445	5,675	1,373,202	1,235,028
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	175,899	61,877,906	5,793,478	56,084,428	13,781,897	27,870,001	4,621,454	2,442,718	1,246,965	8,031,060	6,077,605	3,646	1,388,794	1,264,256
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	101,804	65,839,097	6,048,077	59,790,997	11,364,647	34,576,452	4,274,818	2,463,239	977,710	6,934,105	4,269,146	2,242	1,530,213	1,410,632
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	32,615	43,409,893	3,971,359	39,438,534	4,908,494	24,634,988	1,951,970	1,676,018	367,018	5,461,795	4,635,541	771	1,052,864	981,438
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	7,243	15,355,144	1,414,551	13,940,593	1,908,651	10,425,801	638,853	451,352	90,145	2,421,906	349,490	184	450,020	420,433
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	2,892	11,225,414	678,928	10,546,487	1,453,518	6,159,874	535,806	268,929	35,661	681,744	93,034	101	387,954	365,244
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	1,973	12,647,076	1,011,499	11,635,577	812,578	7,278,009	812,865	228,387	30,064	1,902,840	97,776	57	383,480	360,879
\$10,000,000 or more.....	2,481	38,693,271	2,056,124	36,637,147	1,488,406	34,610,450	401,804	255,485	69,597	613,302	530,395	28	487,033	458,118
MALE														
Total.....	1,936,031	315,189,838	37,028,608	278,161,229	86,254,622	115,200,788	27,351,690	13,869,745	9,897,140	44,416,720	55,733,596	36,458	7,733,397	6,866,122
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	174,458	9,754,346	962,402	8,791,944	3,972,480	1,659,913	1,297,562	374,033	354,637	1,587,444	1,999,843	3,555	232,057	207,834
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	208,920	12,936,272	1,458,398	11,477,876	5,193,195	2,423,046	1,645,875	483,418	522,270	2,034,404	3,244,355	3,812	285,607	252,277
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	173,614	11,937,821	1,290,902	10,646,918	4,917,459	2,191,132	1,433,030	514,344	541,399	1,780,279	3,370,892	3,369	286,254	252,307
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	158,019	12,170,683	1,380,352	10,790,332	4,741,759	2,504,370	1,390,419	443,724	492,532	1,911,225	3,381,586	2,972	282,177	252,307
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	272,741	24,656,449	2,893,285	21,763,164	9,808,724	12,844,755	2,743,135	965,588	1,027,254	3,748,432	6,197,218	4,769	282,177	252,307
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	281,732	30,902,938	4,258,687	26,644,251	11,039,592	17,732,977	3,235,352	1,251,851	1,317,066	4,886,339	8,119,497	4,810	644,206	554,077
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	251,568	35,355,830	4,478,703	30,877,126	11,331,952	17,766,347	3,523,499	1,886,702	1,582,199	5,365,189	9,382,872	4,431	763,434	658,128
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	209,592	43,364,598	5,405,410	37,959,188	12,139,032	15,118,972	3,919,412	1,598,312	1,521,610	6,407,344	8,605,362	3,957	957,171	834,563
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	115,786	39,485,360	4,370,769	35,114,591	8,999,281	17,083,353	2,940,132	1,838,132	1,146,016	5,373,303	5,471,054	2,537	966,277	856,424
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	63,426	40,157,638	4,270,350	35,887,287	8,140,363	19,544,123	2,635,495	1,820,505	1,889,836	4,434,703	3,935,256	1,515	1,031,240	926,519
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	19,395	25,354,010	3,017,911	22,336,099	3,173,926	14,220,819	1,281,733	1,275,546	336,233	2,807,422	1,503,264	495	674,909	615,042
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	3,769	8,879,999	1,299,968	7,580,031	1,380,256	4,082,264	277,692	385,745	48,814	1,948,551	316,236	124	301,459	274,595
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	1,318	5,257,888	258,182	4,999,706	675,546	2,953,705	308,958	229,079	28,427	305,471	62,104	54	210,033	198,764
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	1,315	8,531,449	907,415	7,624,033	684,949	6,623,064	667,667	223,687	26,703	1,623,448	79,884	38	256,674	237,120
\$10,000,000 or more.....	378	6,474,555	325,873	6,148,681	256,109	5,623,822	110,550	17,077	28,739	183,127	64,148	20	319,952	298,393
FEMALE														
Total.....	1,072,628	226,808,444	12,562,014	214,246,407	46,371,648	115,879,342	18,561,565	6,608,622	871,495	21,053,119	4,719,338	19,215	3,914,033	3,772,239
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	142,679	9,135,834	454,241	8,681,593	3,274,612	5,777,862	1,627,076	323,938	49,849	776,775	194,103	2,603	169,547	163,794
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	142,481	10,432,373	463,759	9,968,614	3,797,794	2,898,948	1,599,052	442,966	61,580	1,039,096	296,533	2,489	186,173	179,496
\$80,000 under \$90,000.....	102,377	8,795,890	481,916	8,313,973	3,238,706	5,098,849	1,182,330	337,766	54,135	962,964	287,335	1,900	161,264	154,959
\$90,000 under \$100,000.....	86,815	7,999,570	484,306	7,515,263	2,810,706	2,584,943	996,433	287,452	51,351	725,249	305,503	1,573	149,210	143,558
\$100,000 under \$120,000.....	140,454	14,951,334	841,070	14,110,264	5,083,941	4,833,339	2,067,115	705,866	89,948	1,364,346	542,935	2,407	263,300	252,610
\$120,000 under \$150,000.....	124,621	16,200,267	916,836	15,283,431	4,823,495	6,007,596	2,079,922	789,256	94,544	1,497,733	560,635	2,307	308,274	296,015
\$150,000 under \$200,000.....	107,451	18,326,532	1,248,526	17,077,976	5,355,256	6,933,119	1,898,070	852,020	88,088	2,075,606	378,394	1,972	340,060	327,149
\$200,000 under \$300,000.....	102,230	24,068,741	1,597,781	22,470,959	5,796,108	10,190,108	1,381,222	917,212	105,643	3,220,626	538,063	1,718	416,031	400,466
\$300,000 under \$500,000.....	60,113	22,392,546	1,422,709	20,969,837	4,778,617	10,786,646	1,686,322	604,586	100,955	2,657,757	606,551	1,109	422,517	407,831
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	38,378	25,681,459	1,327,727	24,353,710	3,224,285	15,035,329	1,639,323	640,734	87,874	2,519,402	333,886	727	498,973	484,113
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000.....	13,220	18,055,883	953,448	17,102,435	1,734,568	10,414,169	670,237	401,254	30,784	2,654,373	132,276	276	377,955	366,396
\$2,000,000 under \$3,000,000.....	3,474	8,466,145	114,583	8,351,562	634,762	6,343,537	361,160	28,606	5,330	1,942,273	33,255	60	148,561	145,888
\$3,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	1,574	5,967,526	420,746	5,546,780	778,238	3,206,169	226,848	33,851	7,233	376,273	30,929	47	177,921	166,480
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,761	36,334,344	1,834,335	34,500,009	1,359,927	31,629,573	436,452	243,107	44,180	709,564	479,139	27	294,247	283,484

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data in columns 13 - 15 are unweighted.

A Estate multiplier technique

The use of the estate multiplier method of estimation assumes that "death draws a random sample of the living population". This assumption allows one to apply statistical theory to the result obtained by weighting estate tax return data by the inverse of the mortality rate characteristic of the demographic category to which the decedent belonged.

Death however is not a random event nor even one necessarily representative of the living population as a whole. The probability of "death's selection" of an individual depends on the particulars of his life state - his age and sex are usually taken as gross indicators of these conditions; however, other characteristics such as marital status, place of residence, and social class also play a role.¹

The estate multipliers used in making the present estimates have been adjusted to take account of only three characteristics - age, sex, and social class. The basic assumption made to prepare these estimates was that the probability of death for those with gross estates of \$60,000 or more (the estate tax filing floor) is approximately constant for each age and sex. Determining these "constants" and their inverses, the estate multipliers, is the subject of the rest of this section and the next one as well. However, before proceeding to a discussion of how these multipliers were devised something needs to be said about the validity of this assumption.

The method assumes that a top wealthholder with a net worth, for example, of \$100,000 has the same probability of being selected as a top wealthholder worth \$10,000,000 provided only that they are the same age and sex. If this is true, average holdings (or the percent distribution of holdings) computed from estate tax return data for each age and sex are unbiased estimates of the "true" averages in the living population of top wealthholders, *no matter what multipliers were chosen*. Two issues bear on this assumption.

The relationship between mortality and wealth is complex. Being wealthy, one presumably can obtain the best of care and therefore live longer than those who are not. While it is likely that a person worth \$10,000,000 would have resources available to provide a better way of life than an individual worth only \$100,000, such a gain in terms of mortality would probably be marginal. On the other hand in *becoming* wealthy the relationship between wealth and mortality may be reversed. Most of the male top wealthholders probably accumulated a great deal more of their wealth than they acquired through gift or inheritance. The relationship might be illustrated by the following example: A man inherits \$100,000 at age 21 and is able

through investments and additions to this wealth to double it every ten years. Even so to become a millionaire he would have to live to be more than 50 years old.

It seems reasonable that mortality and wealth may be related in such a way that mortality rates for each age and sex group are not constant, but vary somewhat depending on the wealth of the individual, with the result that the average asset holding for each age-sex group may understate the "true", underlying averages in the living population of top wealthholders.

SOCIAL CLASS AND MORTALITY

The chief problem that to date confronts all applications of the estate multiplier technique in the U. S. is the lack of exact mortality rates appropriate to the wealthy. As has been said before, there is much evidence to support the view that the rich do live longer. Whatever index of wealth is used - income, occupation, educational attainment, the holding of insurance assets, housing - all suggest a more favorable mortality structure for the wealthy. Only an approximation to this structure could be used to prepare the present estimates.

For the general population of the United States, annual mortality rates for age, color, and sex classifications are computed by the National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, from its tabulations of registered deaths in conjunction with estimates of the population prepared by the Bureau of the Census. Mortality rates based on the more favorable experience of the wealthier segment of the population are not so readily available.

Occupation

Mortality rates by occupation for the United States have been published for 1890, 1900, 1930, and 1950. For 1950, the ratio of the mortality rates to the average rates, standardized for age, was tabulated for six occupational groups of men 20 to 64 years of age.² The ratios for white males in 1950 were as follows: Professional workers, 82%; technical, administrative and managerial workers, 84%; proprietors, clerical, sales and skilled workers, 96%; semiskilled workers, 97%; laborers, except farm and mine 120%; and agricultural workers, 83%.³ The favorable mortality of professional workers, 18% better than average, is accounted for in large measure by factors other than occupation and its hazards.

¹Division of Health Records Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, *Life Tables for the Geographic Divisions of the United States: 1959-61* (Public Health Service Publication No. 1252, I-3.) For death rates by marital status in 1962 and 1963, see the *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, July 31, 1964, p. 24. See also Louis I. Dublin, Alfred J. Lotka, and Mortimer Spiegelman, *Length of Life: A Study of the Life Table* (New York: The Ronald Press, 1949).

²I. M. Moriyama and L. Guralnick, "Occupational and Social Class Differences in Mortality," *Trends and Differentials in Mortality*, 1955 Annual Conference, Milbank Memorial Fund, pp. 61-73. More extensive tabulations were also published in "Mortality by Occupation and Industry among men 20 to 64 years of age: United States, 1950," National Vital Statistics Division, *Vital Statistics - Special Reports*, 53, No. 2, September 1962.

³Computed from unpublished data underlying the Moriyama and Guralnick Study, cited by Arthur Pedoe, "Occupation, Social Class and Mortality," *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries*, May, 1960, p. 235.

While obviously male top wealthholders are not all members of a profession, their mortality may be typified by that of professional workers. However, classification problems discussed below limit occupational data particularly for the older age groups.

Classifications of mortality by occupation suffer three inconsistencies: (1) Differences between the reporting of occupation in the Census and on death certificates, (2) the treatment of retired persons and (3) mobility between occupational groups. The first affects the overall accuracy of the match of Census records and death certificates; the second becomes a serious problem in the older age groups, particularly after 54 years; and the third may cause much of the overlap in mortality rates after age 44 between professional, technical, administrative, skilled, and semiskilled workers, etc.⁴

The age-specific differences in the mortality of professional workers, hereafter called differentials, are probably affected by these problems of classification. The differentials for all professional workers - white and nonwhite, using the average for all occupations as a standard, were: ages 20 to 24 years, 49%; 25 to 34 years, 53%; 35 to 44 years, 66%; 45 to 54 years, 87%; 55 to 59 years, 94%; and 60 to 64 years, 97%. The extremely favorable mortality exhibited in age groups 20 to 44 is probably a rather direct reflection of the socio-economic advantage typical of those who enter the professions.⁵ While mortality differentials tend to narrow as age increases, the jump that occurs between the 35-44 year age group and the 45-54 year age group is probably due in part to an accelerator effect introduced by problems of classification.⁶

Housing, Income and Education

Studies of mortality rates have also been conducted, using the cost of housing as an index, which confirm the direction, if not the magnitude, of the relationship between "social class" and mortality.⁷ For Chicago in 1940, the mortality of white males whose housing was within the top fifth of Chicago's rental units (actual or imputed) was compared with that of the general white male population. The differentials were as follows: ages 20 to 29 years, 76%; 30 to 39 years, 66%; 40 to 54 years, 77%; 55 to 64 years, 87%; 65 to 74 years, 88%; 75 years or more, 99%.⁸ In the younger ages the mortality experience exhibited was not as favorable as that for professional workers, perhaps because a much larger portion of the population had been included, 20% versus about 4% for professional

workers. As with the occupational mortality data, with increasing age the position of the top group tended to approach the average; however, this was much more gradual than for professional workers. Again this difference may be due to classification problems inherent in occupational studies of mortality.

The most recent and most inclusive study of mortality differentials by social class are those for 1960, using both income and education as indices. Only preliminary estimates are currently available. While not yet reliable enough to deal with in detail, they also confirm a very strong relationship between mortality and social class.⁹

Insurance

Another indication of the relationship between social class and mortality may be inferred from data provided by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which has available the age-specific mortality of its predominantly male "Whole Life" policyholders insured for amounts of \$5,000 or more, omitting the first five years of experience after application to minimize the effect of medical selection. All recent estate multiplier estimates for the United States, including the present one, have also used this series, albeit in somewhat different ways, to measure the magnitude of the favorable mortality experience of the wealthy.

For his 1944 wealth estimates based on Federal estate tax returns, Horst Mendershausen used the series provided by Metropolitan Life for that year in much the same way as in the present report. However, since the 1944 tabulations made available to him by the Internal Revenue Service did not include separate data by sex, he was obliged to make an assumption which was probably incorrect, namely that top wealthholders had "the same relation of male to female mortality and the same sex ratio as in the white population of the United States."¹⁰ In 1953, 1958, and 1962 for each estate tax return for a woman there were two for men; in the U. S. white population the sex ratio of deaths was more nearly 1 to 1.¹¹ For this reason, Mendershausen may have overestimated the wealth of top wealthholders in 1944.

For 1953, Robert J. Lampman based his estimates on a composite of several series, including that provided by Metropolitan Life. In essence his technique involved the averaging of (1) the mortality experience of professional, technical, administrative and managerial workers for 1950, (2) 1953 white male mortality and (3) a synthetic series made by averaging the 1953 Metropolitan Life experience with that for male Ordinary life insurance policyholders (1950-1954).¹² For age groups up to 64 years he averaged the occupational and insurance data. For age groups 65 or older he averaged the white

⁴Moriyama and Guralnick, pp. 61-73. See also "The Comparability of Reports on Occupation from Vital Records and the 1950 Census," National Vital Statistics Division, *Vital Statistics - Special Reports*, 53, No. 1, June 1961.

⁵*Ibid.*, p. 69.

⁶Another explanation is also possible. The more favorable mortality at the younger ages may be due to better medical care which brings more impaired lives to the older ages. See *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries*, 17, part 1, p. 432 (1965).

⁷See for example Constantine A. Yeracanis, "Differential Mortality, General and Cause-Specific in Buffalo, 1939-1941," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, December, 1955.

⁸Albert J. Mayer, "Differentials in Lengths of Life, City of Chicago: 1880-1940" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation; University of Chicago) as cited by Horst Mendershausen, "The Pattern of Estate Tax Wealth," *A Study of Saving in the United States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1956), III, p. 303.

⁹Evelyn M. Kitagawa and Philip M. Hauser, "Social and Economic Differentials in Mortality, United States, 1960," a paper presented at the Annual Meeting, Population Association of America, New York, April 29-30, 1966.

¹⁰Mendershausen, p. 301.

¹¹National Vital Statistics Division, Public Health Service, *Vital Statistics of the United States: 1962* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964), II-A, p. 1-38.

¹²The ultimate (unloaded) mortality experience underlying the 1958 CSO mortality table based on the experience of 15 large insurance companies between 1950 and 1954 policy anniversaries. (See footnote 17 of this section.)

mortality and insurance experiences. For women, the differences by age between the adjusted male mortality rates and all white males - the male mortality differentials - were applied to mortality rates for all white females.¹³

Lampman writes that he wanted to "bracket the possible range"; not so much to choose mortality rates appropriate to top wealthholders as mortality rates which excluded the poorer elements of the population.¹⁴ The effect of his multiple averaging was to achieve just this; however, it seems probable that the method leads to an understatement of the number and wealth of top wealthholders, for mortality appears to continue to improve as wealth increases - a large part of the gains, of course, occurring at the lower levels.

Table E shows the estimates obtained using the 1962 white mortality rates without adjustment and after applying the differentials computed by Lampman. While the absolute differences in the overall aggregates are great there are no appreciable differences in either the composition of wealth, nor, does it appear on other evidence, in the age-sex make-up of top wealthholders.

Table E.—ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES FOR 1962

Item	Type of mortality assumed for top wealthholders		
	Mortality of Metropolitan Life insurance policyholders	Composite of mortality from insurance and occupation series	Unadjusted white mortality
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	<i>(Thousands)</i>		
Number of top wealthholders.....	4,132	3,482	2,976
	<i>(Billion dollars)</i>		
Total assets.....	752.0	630.1	544.9
Real estate.....	188.0	156.9	134.3
Bonds.....	47.9	40.7	36.1
Corporate stock.....	325.8	273.2	236.6
Cash.....	70.7	60.0	52.6
Notes and mortgages.....	30.4	25.3	22.1
Insurance equity.....	15.6	13.0	11.3
Other assets.....	73.5	61.0	51.9
Debts.....	82.7	69.0	56.9
Net worth (less deficit).....	669.3	561.1	488.0

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data were estimated as explained in the text.

MORTALITY OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS IN 1962

The mortality rates assumed to approximate the experience of male top wealthholders were those provided by Metropolitan Life. For female top wealthholders the differences by age between male insurance holders and all white males were applied to mortality rates for all white females. The adjusted rates, inverted, were used as the estate multipliers in producing the present estimates.

Adopting this approximation for devising the estate multipliers is equivalent to assuming that Metropolitan policyholders constitute a random sample of top wealthholders, or at least a sample taken from a population which has the same relative advantage with respect to mortality that is expected of top wealthholders. In examining this assumption the following questions may be

raised: (1) Does the choice of insurance as an index of wealth create a "health" bias? (2) Is the requirement that the size of the policy be at least \$5,000 too high a cut-off or too low? (3) Are there sex differences with respect to the more favorable mortality exhibited; or, put another way, does the fact that the Metropolitan experience is based on men bias the estimates for women? (4) Are Metropolitan policyholders somewhat unique - geographically for example?

From the limited information available that sheds light on these questions, it does seem that there probably is some upward bias introduced by using insurance as an index; a downward bias introduced by choosing \$5,000 as a cut-off and by assuming that the mortality rates of males and females respond to the same extent to economic class differences. These biases however are probably small, off-setting or both. The geographical concentration of Metropolitan Life's policyholders in the northeastern part of the U. S. creates no real problem, in fact it more or less duplicates the concentration of top wealthholders.

Health

The mortality rates provided by Metropolitan Life were based only on policyholders who had been insured for at least 5 years. (The mortality experience for the first 5 years was considerably more favorable than these rates for the same attained ages.) However, since selection into the \$5,000 "Whole Life" category was somewhat stricter than that for other categories of policyholders, 5 year's time could not be expected to eliminate entirely the initial health advantage. In attained age groups over 40 the policyholders had generally been insured for considerably longer than 5 years. Because this was not likely the case for those under 40, where the policyholders had been insured for an average closer to 5 years,¹⁵ the Metropolitan data for that group were not used. (See page 67.)

The effect of the initial medical selection still exists for those 40 years of age or older, but it is probably not serious. About 87% of the male top wealthholders owned life insurance. While no doubt some of this insurance was issued without a medical examination, the health differences between Metropolitan Life's policyholders and male top wealthholders cannot be very great.

Size of Insurance

The holding of whole life insurance in amounts of \$5,000 or more may not be a sufficiently discriminating indicator of wealth; it is certainly no longer a very exclusive category. About 56 percent of the Ordinary life insurance policies purchased in 1963 were for \$5,000 or more.¹⁶

Data from the Institute of Life Insurance's 1965 *Study of Savings in Life Insurance* indicate that, particularly for those under 60 years of age, the typical policy held by male top wealthholders is for \$5,000 or more. In this report the mean face amount of insurance shown in the estate tax returns of men ranges from a high of more

¹³Robert J. Lampman, *The Share of Top Wealth-Holders in National Wealth: 1922-56* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962), pp. 44-53.

¹⁴Id., p. 46.

¹⁵The help of Mortimer Spiegelman, Statistician, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is greatly appreciated both here and elsewhere in the discussion of Metropolitan Life's series.

¹⁶Institute of Life Insurance, *Life Insurance Fact Book*, (1964), p. 20.

than \$60,000 for those under 40 years to about \$13,000 for those 85 years or more. Still another indication that perhaps a higher cut-off would have been better is the close correspondence between the basic data underlying the 1958 Commissioner's Standard Ordinary Mortality table and Metropolitan Life's series after age 40.¹⁷ While the Metropolitan Life series reflects a somewhat more favorable mortality experience, the difference is not appreciable.

Female Mortality

The assumption has been made that, except for large initial differences which favor women, male and female mortality respond to the same extent to social class differences of the kind that exist between top wealthholders and the general population.

Women do respond more favorably than men with respect to socio-economic differences measured by differences in mortality between whites and nonwhites. The 1962 white female age-adjusted rate is 62% of the corresponding nonwhite rate; the white male rate 75% of the rate for nonwhite males.¹⁸

Historically, in response to general improvements in American life, female mortality has decreased faster than that for males. For example, from 1933 to 1962 the white female mortality rate, adjusted for age, dropped from 81% to 60% of the comparable white male rate.¹⁹ However, even at moderate levels of educational attainment or income, the effect of social class on mortality is considerably more ambiguous. Male and female mortality may decrease in a very similar way.²⁰ In any case the treat-

ment of female top wealthholders suffers from more uncertainty than that for males.

Regional Mortality

Although Metropolitan Life's policyholders are located throughout the United States and Canada, there is a large concentration in the northeastern part of the U. S. This concentration more or less corresponds to that for top wealthholders and probably creates no problem of bias. However, the question of regional differences in mortality rates is important for another reason. For the basic estimates in this report only national mortality rates were used. In table 31 where wealth estimates are made by State, under or overstatements may exist, especially for States with mortality rates quite different from the national average.

Overall Mortality

Top wealthholders constitute a very small proportion of the adult population, about 4% in 1962. To be a member of this select group is almost by definition to possess the best the economy has to offer in the way of material advantages. More important perhaps in estimating the mortality experience of this group is the fact that, for many members, their good health was essential to the accumulation of their wealth.

The overall mortality differentials assumed for top wealthholders in making the present estimates are quite favorable, perhaps more favorable than can be justified. For male top wealthholders the age-adjusted mortality differential was 71%, for females, 73%.

For men, the differential is lower than that obtained by comparing white male mortality with that for nonwhite males (75%). This seems unreasonable and may be taken as an indication that the estimates for male top wealthholders are too high. However since good health is much more important for male top wealthholders, many more of whom accumulate rather than inherit their wealth, the magnitude of the overstatement in the present estimates may not even be as great as this comparison implies.

On the other hand the overall differential for women, using the same test, does not seem unreasonable, in fact preliminary estimates of 1960 female mortality using education as an index suggest that the overall differential may be about right.²¹

¹⁷The 1958 CSO basic mortality table was increased by 5% to obtain male mortality experience and compared with the 1953 mortality experience of Metropolitan Life's "\$5,000 Whole Life" policyholders. See the *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries, October, 1958 Annual Meeting* (published in 1959), pp. 692, 695. For same statistics on the mortality experience on insurance policies for large amounts (cross-classified according to income "for a limited volume of data") see pp. 59, 68-69, "Mortality on Policies for Large Amounts," *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries: 1964 Reports of Mortality and Morbidity Experience*, June, 1965.

¹⁸National Vital Statistics Division, *Vital Statistics of the United States: 1962*, II-A. Computed from p. 1-4.

¹⁹*ibid.*

²⁰Kitagawa and Hauser, table 4. For the effect of social class differences between males and females in England, see Arthur Pedoe, "Occupation, Social Class and Mortality," *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries*, May, 1960, pp. 227-257.

²¹*ibid.*

B

Estate multipliers for 1962

The estate multipliers shown in table F, were devised by taking the inverse of the white mortality rates adjusted by differentials assumed to correct for the more favorable mortality experience of the wealthy. These differentials were based on the difference between white male mortality and the mortality of Metropolitan Life's predominantly male "Whole Life" policyholders.

The mortality rates obtained from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company were computed by relating dollar amounts of policies due as death claims to insurance in force. Differences between mortality rates based on amounts of insurance, number of policies or number of lives are probably not significant. The only important effect of using amounts of insurance rather than lives is to increase the variability of the mortality rates.

Table F.—1962 WHITE MORTALITY RATES, WEALTH DIFFERENTIAL, AND ESTATE MULTIPLIERS

Attained age at death in years	White mortality rates (Deaths per thousand estimated midyear population)		Wealth differentials (Percent)	Estate multipliers	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
	(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)
20-39.....	1.9	1.0	69.29	759.6	1,492.5
40-44.....	4.1	2.3	72.35	337.1	600.9
45-49.....	6.9	3.7	66.69	217.3	405.3
50-54.....	11.5	5.6	68.55	126.8	260.5
55-59.....	17.7	8.1	66.93	84.4	184.8
60-64.....	26.7	12.9	75.77	49.4	102.3
65-69.....	41.2	21.1	72.27	33.6	65.6
70-74.....	57.5	34.4	88.78	19.6	32.7
75-79.....	85.0	58.2	87.46	13.5	19.6
80-84.....	130.5	101.8	85.23	9.0	11.5
85 or more.....	224.5	200.4	88.18	5.1	5.7
Age unknown.....	-	-	-	51.9	55.4

Source: 1962 white mortality rates, table 1-4, p. 1-6, *Vital Statistics of the United States 1962*, Vol. II (Mortality), Part A. Wealth differentials and weights derived from data provided by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as explained in the text.

To dampen this variability, age-specific differentials were constructed for both 1958 and 1962 using Metropolitan Life's mortality rates and white male rates for those years. The average of these differentials, shown as column 3 of table F, was then used to adjust the 1962 white mortality rates.¹ This procedure provided more reliable estimates of the estate multipliers for each age group than would have been obtained by using only the 1962 Metropolitan experience. However, had the 1962 experience been used alone, little difference would have resulted in the overall aggregates. An indication of this can be seen by looking at the 1962 estimates that resulted when the age-specific differentials for 1953, 1958 and 1962 were used.²

¹The differentials were weighted by white male population estimates for 1958 and 1962. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports: Population Estimates*, Series P-25, No. 265, May 21, 1963.

²The age-specific differentials were constructed by comparing Metropolitan Life's mortality rates and white male rates for these years. These three sets of differentials were then applied to the 1962 white mortality rates to produce the estate multipliers. The method of treating top wealthholders under 40 years of age or of unknown age was the same as that used in making the basic estimates.

1962 Estimate based on	Number of Top Wealthholders (Thousands)	Total Assets (Billions)	Net Worth (Billions)
1953 differentials	4,115	\$ 747	\$ 663
1958 differentials	4,133	750	667
1962 differentials	4,127	753	672

Metropolitan Life's mortality rates are classified by "insurance age" or age at *nearest* birthday and not, as is the case with the white mortality rates, age at *last* birthday. For example, a man is ordinarily considered to be 40 years old during the whole of his 41st year; however under the insurance definition in effect for these data a man is considered to be 40 years old from 39.5 years to 40.5 years. Thus mortality rates from Metropolitan Life are based on a slightly younger group than the white mortality rates (no more than 1/2 a year however). Since the assignment of the decedent's age on the estate tax return was closer to nearest birthday, this difference tends to correct a discrepancy that would otherwise have existed in the estate multipliers. It does however somewhat overstate the differentials.

The fact that there were a few women among Metropolitan Life's policyholders - they were only predominantly male-will, in and of itself, produce a favorable differential when Metropolitan Life's mortality rates are compared with white male rates. However the overstatement in the present estimates due to this bias is believed to be 3 percent or less.³

In addition to the fact that Metropolitan Life's series is subject to sampling variability and that several minor inconsistencies exist when it is compared with white male mortality, the present estimates also suffer a loss of precision because of the treatment of top wealthholders under 40 years of age or unknown age. Overall, while it is difficult to quantify the bias of the estimation technique, it seems likely that the multipliers used tend to overstate the number and wealth of top wealthholders, perhaps by as much as 5%.

TOP WEALTHHOLDERS UNDER 40 YEARS OF AGE

Estimates for top wealthholders under 40 are not only subject to a large sampling variability because death draws a thin sample from the young, but also the estimating technique for this group is very approximate. The estate multipliers, one for each sex, were devised by applying to the average 1962 white mortality rate for the 20-39 year age group the average wealth or insurance differential in the 40-54 year age group.⁴ Differentials

³This estimate of the bias was derived by assuming that the proportion of females (by age) with insurance in amounts of \$5,000 or more was the same as that reported in the Institute of Life Insurance's *1965 Study of Savings in Life Insurance*. These data were not, however, felt to be reliable enough to use in adjusting the basic estimates downward.

⁴The differentials were weighted by 1962 white population estimates. (See footnote 1 of this section.)

for 5 year age groups under 40, while available from Metropolitan Life, were not felt to be reliable both because of a possible health bias and also because of the thinness of the samples upon which they were based. Table G shows the effect of three other estimating techniques on the number of wealthholders under 40, their total assets, and their net worth. It also provides some indication of the estimating error for this group.

Table G.—TOP WEALTHHOLDERS UNDER 40 YEARS OF AGE: ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES, 1962

Type of estimate	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Net worth
	(Thousands)	(Billion dollars)	(Billion dollars)
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Basic estimate.....	653	94.9	76.3
Alternatives:			
Insurance differential, 5 year age groups.....	600	84.2	68.0
Occupational differential.....	649	89.7	72.8
Insurance regression.....	731	98.1	81.5

The "basic estimate" is that described above and used elsewhere in this report. For the first alternative, separate multipliers were computed for each five-year age group 20 to 39 by applying the overall insurance differential assumed for top wealthholders under 40, 69.29%, to the 1962 white mortality rates for each group and then inverting the result. For the few top wealthholders under 20 years of age the mortality rate for whites 15-19 years was adjusted and used. For the estimates based on occupation, again separate estate multipliers for each five-year age group were used, but in this case they were adjusted by 1950 occupational differentials based on men identified in the 1950 Census as white professional workers. These differentials were: 20-24 years, 53% - used for the "under 20" year age group as well; 25-34 years, 58%; 35-44 years, 74%.⁵ For the insurance regression, age was regressed against the log of the male multipliers, males 40 years of age or more. ($R^2 = .99+$) The linear fit was then extrapolated to age groups under 40 and the male multipliers derived directly. For females, the mortality differentials for males were applied to the 1962 white female mortality rates.

TOP WEALTHHOLDERS OF UNKNOWN AGE

The 78,393 estate tax returns supplying the basic data for the present estimates included 1,626 returns (2 percent) from which the ages of decedents at death were not obtainable by the procedures employed. Except for processing errors, the absence of age information was due to the absence from the return of a date of birth. The obvious fact that some decedents were born before adequate birth records were instituted in their birthplace raised the hypothesis that decedents of unknown age were typically somewhat older than other decedents. A small sample of returns without age information, filed in 1966,

⁵The overall differential for white professional workers 20-44 years of age was 70 percent. Computed from unpublished data provided by the National Vital Statistics Division, Public Health Service.

was drawn to test this hypothesis. The assumption was made that such returns would be only insignificantly different in this regard from those filed during 1963. Basically, indirect evidence available on the returns was used - such as the year in which the decedent's domicile was established, date of marriage, date of issuance of insurance policies, age of surviving children, grandchildren. The Social Security Administration provided a tabulation of the group for which indirect evidence was not conclusive. The sample did not indicate that age-unknown decedents were typically older than decedents of known age.

Two possibilities for weighting decedents of unknown age were then considered: (1) to assign them the overall average estate multipliers of the age-known decedents according to their sex--the adopted procedure--or (2) the more elaborate procedure of assigning the average multipliers of the age-known decedents according to their sex and gross estate size. The first procedure was that employed by Robert J. Lampman in making estimates for 1953. The second is a variation on the procedure employed by James D. Smith for his 1958 estimates.⁶

Weighting age-unknown decedents according to their sex and gross estate size would have yielded approximately 93,000 top wealthholders rather than the 87,000 shown in the basic tables of this report. Although age and estate size are correlated, especially for men, the average multipliers for each size of gross estate did not show a marked pattern. Because of this and because of the procedure's high cost, the simpler and perhaps sounder technique of assigning only one multiplier for each sex was adopted.

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

As mentioned the sample drawn by death may depart somewhat from a random sample of the living and some bias probably exists in the weighting procedure; however, the computation of the relative sampling variability of the present estimates, as if there had been no bias, may be of limited usefulness. Relative sampling variability is the sampling variability expressed as a percent of the estimate. The sampling variability at the one - standard deviation level, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, provides the upper and lower limits within which 2 out of 3 estimates based on similarly selected samples should fall. Table H presents the relative sampling variabilities of frequency estimates in general. In this report, estimates of amounts are usually more variable than the corresponding frequency estimates.

To allow the reader to assess the precision of the estimates in another way, a column, labeled "Number of returns", appears in every table giving the sample

⁶Robert J. Lampman, *The Share of Top Wealth-Holders in National Wealth: 1922-56* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1962), pp. 53-54.

James D. Smith, "The Income and Wealth of Top Wealth-Holders in the United States: 1958." (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma at Norman, 1966), pp. 86-87. Smith's original procedure was to assign the estate multiplier for the age group in which the average age fell - here the more precise procedure of directly computing the average multiplier has been used.

Table H.—RELATIVE SAMPLING VARIABILITY AT THE ONE-STANDARD DEVIATION LEVEL OF THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS

Number of top wealthholders	Top wealthholders by age in years		
	Under 50	50 to 64	65 or more
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	(Percent)		
1,000.....	(1)	(1)	26
2,000.....	(1)	(1)	19
3,000.....	(1)	37	15
5,000.....	(1)	29	12
7,000.....	(1)	25	10
10,000.....	(1)	21	9
15,000.....	32	17	7
20,000.....	28	15	6
30,000.....	23	12	5
50,000.....	18	9	4
75,000.....	15	8	3
100,000.....	13	7	3
200,000.....	9	5	2
500,000.....	6	3	2
1,000,000.....	4	3	1

¹Sample too small to yield reliable "upper limit" estimates of sampling variability. NOTE: The "upper limit" formula used to compute the approximate relative sampling variability estimates in this table provides somewhat higher estimates than those which would have been obtained by the use of the standard formula.

size supporting the statistics in each line. All estimates not supported by 10 or more returns have been footnoted or combined. Estimates based on less than 100 returns should be used with special caution.

Numbers of top wealthholders in the basic tables in this report are unrounded. Amount estimates are shown in the thousands of dollars. This convention has been followed to make it easier to use the tables and to preserve the accuracy of any combinations the reader may wish to make. However, this should not be construed as a presumption of the precision of the estimation technique.

Top Wealthholders Worth \$10 Million or More

Mention has already been made of the fact that the mortality rates for the wealthy may not be entirely independent of the size of their wealth. For the very rich, in addition to this source of possible understatement, the ordinary limitations of sampling variability are particularly great. The universe of wealthholders worth \$10 million or more is very sparsely populated, with asset holdings ranging up to and perhaps beyond \$1 billion.⁷

To look at this problem with a longer perspective, consider the number and gross estate of those with *gross estates* of \$10 million or more for three recent years.

	Number of Top Wealthholders (Thousands)	Gross Estate (Billions)	Number of Returns
1953	0.7	\$17.9	17
1958	2.5	38.7	28
1962	1.8	29.0	32

Because of the small sample that naturally arises from this small universe, the sampling variability was high in all these years. At the one-standard deviation level, the relative sampling variability of the number of top wealthholders with gross estate of \$10 million or more ranged from one quarter to more than one-half of the estimate.

⁷See for example Richard A. Smith "50-million-dollar men" *Fortune*, November, 1957, pp. 176 ff.

C Characteristics of the sample

The estimates for top wealthholders in this report are based on the 78,393 estate tax returns filed during 1963 for citizens and resident aliens with a gross estate of \$60,000 or more at death. In addition, there were 4,837 returns filed during 1963 which were excluded either because the gross estate at death was less than \$60,000 or because they were filed for nonresident aliens.

Of the returns excluded, 3,487 were filed for decedents whose gross estate was reported as less than the filing floor.¹ Such returns, while not required, can occur for many reasons. Often questions of return includability or valuation are involved which the executor, in seeking to discharge his liability for the payment of an estate tax, may wish reviewed by the Internal Revenue Service

¹For citizens and resident aliens, the filing floor was \$60,000; for nonresident aliens - \$2,000.

before he distributes the assets to the heirs. Jointly-held property and to some extent gifts in contemplation of death are the usual subject of such inquiries.

In making the present estimates, 1,350 returns for nonresident alien decedents were also excluded. Persons who acquired U. S. citizenship solely by virtue of being a citizen of Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands are treated as nonresident aliens for estate tax purposes. Thus, to summarize, the estate tax returns used were all those for residents or citizens of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, filed during 1963, with gross estate at death of \$60,000 or more. In estimating the number and wealth of top wealthholders, these 78,393 returns have been treated as a sample drawn by death in 1962. However, they actually differ somewhat from this; the extent and importance of this difference is discussed below.

Chart 14 - Number of Estate Tax Returns Filed by Quarter, 1955-1966

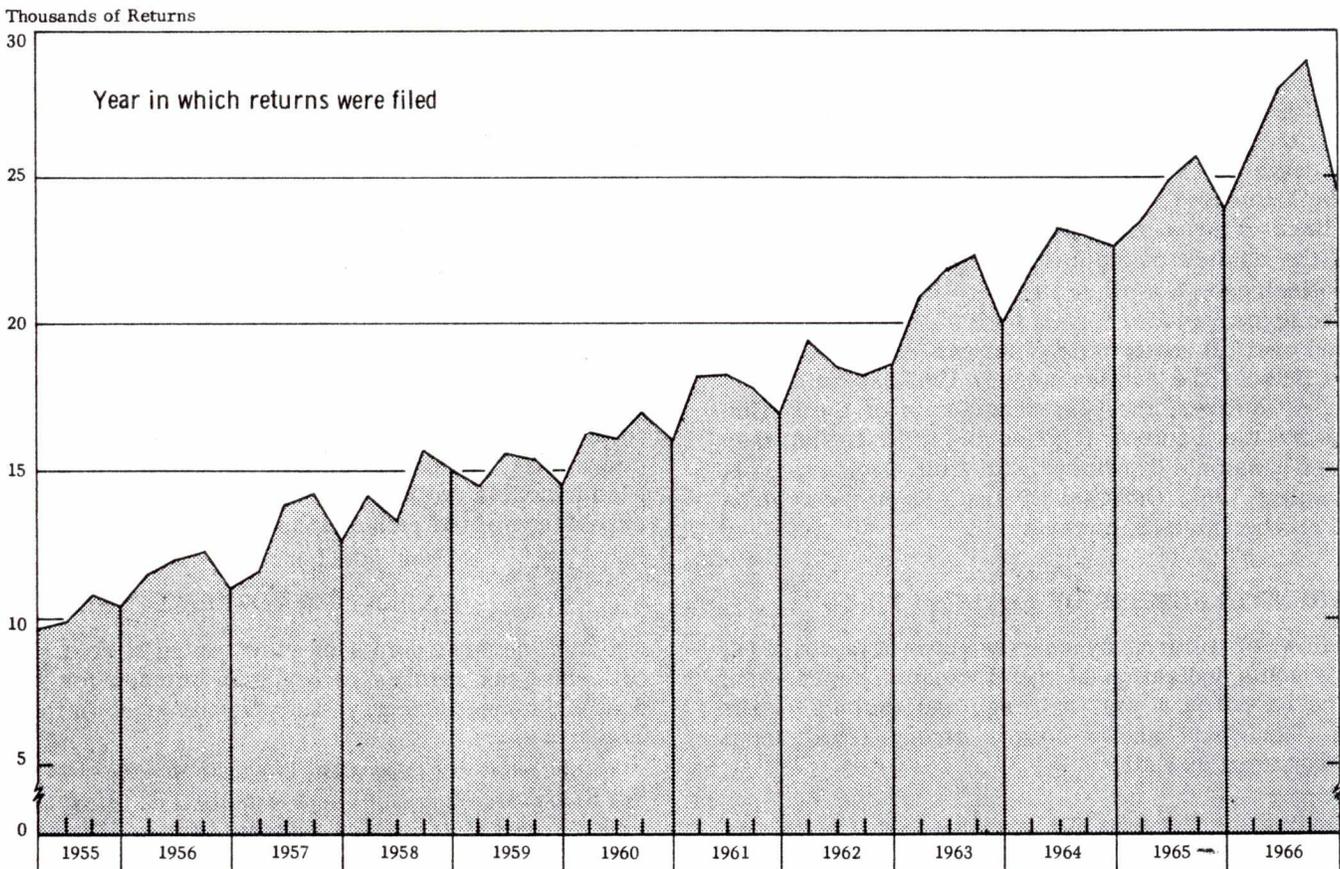
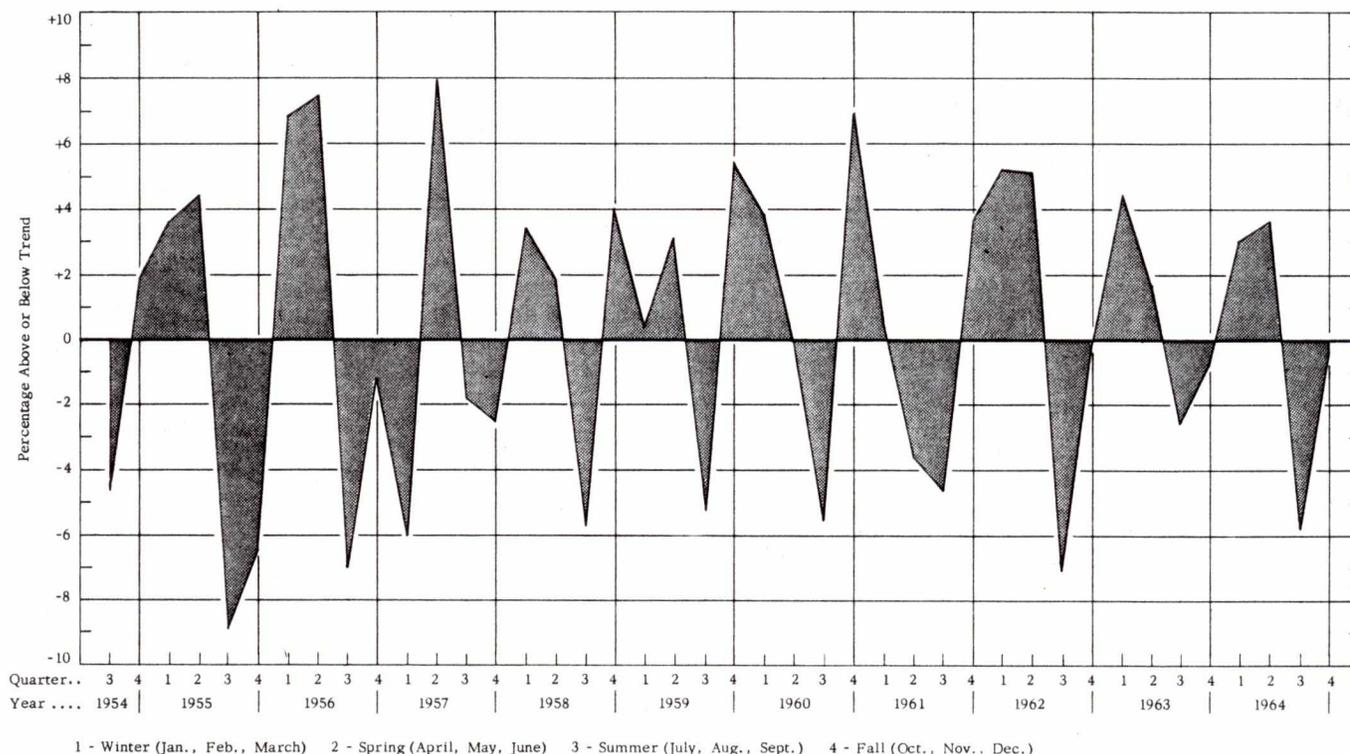


Chart 15 - Seasonal Pattern of Estate Tax Returns Filed by Year of Death

(Year of death assumed to be 15 months before filing)



FILING REQUIREMENTS

The executor or administrator of an estate is liable for filing the return usually within 15 months after the date of death, although an extension of up to 6 months can be granted. If 15 months elapsed before filing, the earliest date of death on the returns filed in calendar-year 1963 would be October 1, 1961, and the latest September 30, 1962. Since returns are filed throughout the 15 month period, the estates of some decedents who died in 1963 are also included. Not all returns are filed when due and there are some included for persons whose deaths ranged up to and over 10 years ago.² Past experience indicates that the bulk of the estates are for 1962 decedents. By and large, however, the best description of the period covered by the returns filed during 1963 is that they represent a sample drawn by death from October, 1961, to September 1962. Dating the valuations on the returns is often another matter, however.

TREND IN NUMBER OF RETURNS FILED

The flow of returns by quarter, shown in chart 14, provides some indication of the fluctuation inherent in statistics based on a year's filings and not on a year's deaths. The chart shows both a strong trend and a seasonal pattern as well.

²Information for returns filed during 1959 showed that about 11 percent were not filed within 15 months of the decedent's death.

The underlying causes are complex. Economic factors no doubt largely account for the series increasing trend. Death is a seasonal phenomenon and its effect on the statistics can be seen quite clearly when the trend is removed and the series is plotted by the quarter in which death occurred and not the quarter in which the return was filed.³

The seasonal pattern observed in chart 15 departs somewhat from that observed for all U. S. deaths.⁴ As expected, the summer months of July, August and September, generate the fewest filings. However, the mortality of top wealthholders shows no clear pattern between the fall, winter and spring, unlike deaths in the general population which occur with greatest frequency in the winter months. This difference may reflect in part at least, the imprecision of assigning the period in which death occurred, i.e., 15 months before filing. However, it probably also indicates some real difference between the mortality experience of the rich and the general population.

EXTENT OF COVERAGE

From several points of view, using a year's filings of estate tax returns rather than returns for a year's deaths is unsatisfactory. Limitations arise in the use of

³The trend values were obtained by a four-quarter moving average.

⁴Ira Rosenwaike, "Seasonal Variation of Deaths in the United States, 1951-1960," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, September, 1966, pp. 706-719.

resulting estimates because they are arrived at by adding values reported for estate components that were determined at different points of time. Indeed, the component parts of the same estate may be valued at different points of time as discussed under "Time of valuation."

Unlike the usual sampling situation, no controls could be instituted to assure that the returns filed were actually taken at the prescribed rate, that is the mortality rate appropriate to the top wealthholders' age and sex. (See "Estate Multipliers.") Changes in economic conditions or even Internal Revenue collection and audit procedures, can induce artificial increases or decreases in the number of returns filed. For example, about one-third of the returns filed in 1959 were for persons who had died less than a year before the return was filed. Had economic conditions been less favorable in 1958, many more executors might have waited the full 15 months to determine whether it was advantageous to value the assets at death, as 97 percent did, or at a time later than death, as did the remaining 3 percent.⁵ Had executors waited the full 15 months before filing, between 10 and 15 percent of the returns filed in 1959 could have been filed in 1960.

⁵The provision of the law allowing alternate valuations is discussed in more detail under "Time of valuation" on page 76 of this report.

SAMPLE DATA FOR 1953, 1958, AND 1962

Table I summarizes the distribution of estate tax returns filed during 1954, 1959, and 1963 by the age and sex of the decedent. The age and sex groups shown formed the sample strata used to estimate the number and wealth of top wealthholders in 1953, 1958 and 1962.⁶

The "sample" in all these years was very large in the older age groups reflecting the advanced age at which top wealthholders die. In 1962, for example, the average age at death was 70 years for men and 76 years for women. Summary statistics from the sample are also shown in the basic and historical tables and have been published previously in considerably more detail.⁷

⁶For 1962 the 40 to 49 year age group was separated into two subgroups. The number of returns in each of these was:

40 to 44 years of age - 748 for men and 190 for women;

45 to 49 years of age - 1,332 for men and 372 for women

⁷*Statistics of Income--1953, Part I*, pp. 63-84.

Statistics of Income--1958, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns, pp. 50-83.

Statistics of Income--1962, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns, pp. 51-82.

Table I.—ESTATE TAX RETURN DATA BY AGE AND SEX, 1953, 1958, AND 1962 BASED ON RETURNS FILED DURING 1954, 1959, and 1963

Age and sex	Number of returns	Total assets (Thousand dollars)	Debts (Thousand dollars)	Net worth (Thousand dollars)	Type of asset							Gross estate (Thousand dollars)	Insurance face (Thousand dollars)
					Real estate	Bonds	Corporate stock	Cash	Notes and mortgages	Insurance equity	Other assets		
					(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)		
MEN													
1953, total.....	24,919	4,793,510	329,475	4,464,035	1,094,846	485,013	1,927,690	495,221	186,277	170,161	434,302	5,075,022	451,677
Under 40 years.....	285	33,802	5,726	28,076	9,104	1,831	10,893	2,567	1,051	892	7,464	43,185	10,274
40 to 49 years.....	1,213	169,167	27,810	141,357	49,680	9,327	52,977	13,142	5,661	3,585	35,195	206,886	41,303
50 to 54 years.....	1,477	222,029	29,773	192,256	59,237	13,796	75,582	22,244	9,617	4,726	36,827	256,880	39,580
55 to 59 years.....	2,370	383,331	45,788	337,543	99,320	30,833	132,562	36,983	16,505	12,693	54,335	430,059	59,423
60 to 64 years.....	3,200	566,990	57,158	509,832	142,223	48,628	204,565	57,763	21,735	22,601	69,475	621,952	77,561
65 to 69 years.....	3,683	716,917	48,072	668,845	162,333	60,396	287,845	75,551	31,867	31,591	67,334	760,222	74,896
70 to 74 years.....	3,563	735,259	37,086	698,173	154,627	77,155	311,167	75,753	28,386	32,385	55,786	761,703	58,829
75 to 79 years.....	3,369	706,513	26,494	680,021	144,382	73,760	314,517	75,595	28,166	27,643	42,652	721,165	42,294
80 to 84 years.....	2,630	579,301	18,151	561,150	126,898	74,534	242,717	62,674	20,388	19,903	31,187	584,797	25,399
85 years or more.....	2,378	569,781	23,129	546,652	109,280	85,940	264,999	58,012	16,789	11,259	22,962	572,890	14,368
Age unknown.....	751	110,418	10,288	100,130	37,222	8,813	30,466	13,937	6,112	2,883	10,985	115,283	7,750
1958, total.....	36,458	7,297,883	481,132	6,816,751	1,739,903	564,058	3,105,971	735,887	310,210	182,902	658,952	7,733,360	618,380
Under 40 years.....	410	45,529	8,666	36,863	13,862	1,685	15,487	2,534	2,249	1,574	8,138	62,082	18,128
40 to 49 years.....	1,651	216,794	39,769	177,025	67,186	9,108	66,035	15,690	8,408	5,564	44,803	275,333	64,103
50 to 59 years.....	5,054	864,662	113,582	751,080	244,960	45,770	299,079	71,569	38,304	25,610	139,370	980,700	141,647
60 to 69 years.....	10,113	1,993,826	148,863	1,844,963	505,805	128,489	789,668	198,121	91,065	65,156	215,522	2,121,154	192,485
70 to 79 years.....	10,487	2,098,859	100,692	1,998,167	483,614	174,558	911,080	235,872	97,802	44,426	151,507	2,185,677	131,244
80 years or more.....	7,982	1,967,740	62,300	1,905,440	385,343	196,988	992,481	198,470	66,865	37,504	90,089	1,992,763	62,527
Age unknown.....	761	110,473	7,260	103,213	39,133	7,460	32,141	13,631	5,517	3,068	9,523	115,651	8,246
1962, total.....	49,604	10,254,110	681,782	9,572,328	2,317,088	823,575	4,483,391	1,123,219	456,816	318,199	731,820	10,799,321	863,411
Under 40 years.....	588	78,885	18,883	60,004	23,156	1,658	35,060	3,875	1,938	3,049	10,149	110,958	35,121
40 to 49 years.....	2,080	318,538	74,446	244,092	99,911	9,955	110,656	23,488	15,000	8,006	51,521	402,767	92,235
50 to 54 years.....	2,467	409,498	62,001	347,497	121,056	18,027	155,540	32,656	16,837	10,303	55,079	485,486	86,292
55 to 59 years.....	3,932	722,931	84,405	638,526	187,400	35,606	294,417	60,967	34,406	24,286	85,849	812,343	113,698
60 to 64 years.....	5,744	1,117,701	107,880	1,009,821	293,104	77,247	422,814	106,644	64,061	38,647	115,185	1,211,679	132,625
65 to 69 years.....	7,266	1,426,944	98,953	1,327,991	346,739	100,872	582,475	159,264	69,361	51,832	116,401	1,497,995	122,883
70 to 74 years.....	7,694	1,619,753	84,710	1,535,043	361,734	131,336	700,122	188,462	78,730	55,840	103,530	1,665,348	101,435
75 to 79 years.....	7,387	1,619,163	63,472	1,555,691	332,826	140,205	739,424	202,943	68,125	53,667	81,973	1,647,606	82,110
80 to 84 years.....	5,808	1,349,846	37,450	1,312,396	254,354	135,232	643,160	161,501	57,206	39,749	58,643	1,360,823	50,726
85 years or more.....	5,758	1,458,646	39,967	1,418,679	254,986	163,945	757,519	164,522	43,983	29,702	43,989	1,466,848	37,904
Age unknown.....	880	132,203	9,415	122,788	41,822	9,492	42,204	18,897	7,169	3,118	9,501	137,468	8,382
WOMEN													
1953, total.....	11,777	2,323,740	71,409	2,252,331	456,850	336,344	1,054,933	249,815	7,024	11,476	147,298	2,336,714	24,473
Under 40 years.....	67	25,725	1,926	23,799	2,827	2,342	15,881	2,248	280	41	2,106	26,159	475
40 to 49 years.....	251	72,985	3,671	69,314	12,128	15,611	29,242	4,947	2,695	95	8,267	73,987	1,095
50 to 54 years.....	342	52,886	3,859	49,027	14,768	4,813	18,015	4,759	1,853	254	8,424	53,958	1,329
55 to 59 years.....	537	85,701	4,307	81,394	23,085	8,769	33,328	8,965	3,211	465	7,878	87,412	2,176
60 to 64 years.....	820	140,336	5,698	134,638	35,363	15,219	53,927	16,960	4,925	993	12,949	142,730	3,407
65 to 69 years.....	1,264	226,072	8,272	217,800	45,906	27,837	96,418	26,236	9,382	1,144	19,149	227,640	2,712
70 to 74 years.....	1,686	342,583	11,224	331,359	66,805	34,370	151,637	36,525	8,935	2,200	22,111	344,381	3,997
75 to 79 years.....	2,068	396,564	10,367	386,197	77,738	50,888	183,965	47,020	11,648	2,393	22,912	397,832	3,662
80 to 84 years.....	2,060	456,673	8,717	447,956	74,574	68,013	233,566	46,240	10,631	2,196	21,453	457,820	2,803
85 years or more.....	2,223	458,126	10,374	447,752	85,659	80,644	215,644	46,791	10,251	1,669	17,468	458,587	2,130
Age unknown.....	459	66,089	2,994	63,095	17,997	7,838	23,310	9,124	3,213	26	4,581	66,748	687
1958, total.....	19,216	3,895,372	123,559	3,771,813	768,598	451,285	1,892,380	416,063	104,648	15,084	247,314	3,914,023	33,732
Under 40 years.....	80	26,270	1,014	25,256	2,067	1,231	19,686	831	210	95	2,150	27,271	1,096
40 to 49 years.....	374	100,623	9,015	91,608	21,895	6,292	52,468	4,845	2,765	167	12,191	102,384	1,927
50 to 59 years.....	1,343	225,148	16,313	208,835	57,823	15,365	92,827	23,067	9,439	1,009	25,618	229,723	5,583
60 to 69 years.....	3,267	584,640	26,817	557,823	143,789	52,335	249,440	63,472	21,944	2,987	50,673	590,480	8,824
70 to 79 years.....	5,963	1,150,909	32,979	1,117,930	237,128	111,134	585,565	129,974	33,625	5,147	75,336	1,154,342	8,582
80 years or more.....	7,567	1,714,538	34,804	1,679,734	277,523	254,493	885,486	182,429	32,705	5,343	76,559	1,716,013	6,818
Age unknown.....	622	93,244	2,617	90,627	28,373	10,435	33,908	11,445	3,960	336	4,787	93,810	902
1962, total.....	28,789	6,172,352	196,358	5,975,994	1,078,903	649,954	3,229,092	715,050	172,341	29,970	297,042	6,207,918	65,537
Under 40 years.....	138	23,447	2,839	20,608	5,627	1,098	11,794	1,912	689	132	2,195	24,839	1,525
40 to 49 years.....	562	108,121	10,590	97,531	28,204	6,013	49,701	8,329	3,189	446	12,237	112,810	5,136
50 to 54 years.....	661	131,042	13,702	117,340	33,494	10,487	59,653	11,692	4,897	572	10,247	135,263	4,792
55 to 59 years.....	1,134	233,660	13,016	220,644	53,218	15,119	110,805	22,602	8,549	1,186	22,181	238,026	5,552
60 to 64 years.....	1,868	380,412	22,235	358,177	80,813	32,851	182,200	40,583	15,760	2,430	25,776	386,321	8,339
65 to 69 years.....	2,829	573,754	22,761	550,993	118,544	55,580	269,635	68,377	20,904	3,348	37,367	578,344	7,938
70 to 74 years.....	3,984	728,000	20,763	707,237	151,171	61,424	342,528	102,615	29,482	4,515	36,264	731,687	8,202
75 to 79 years.....	4,817	1,005,718	29,100	976,618	180,486	113,413	501,226	130,711	29,725	5,731	44,426	1,008,755	8,768
80 to 84 years.....	5,129	1,071,197	19,603	1,051,594	169,206	113,500	583,603	134,260	25,566	5,242	39,820	1,072,643	6,689
85 years or more.....	6,921	1,791,438	37,774	1,753,664	229,708	227,846	1,062,361	176,184	28,560	6,035	60,745	1,793,106	7,702
Age unknown.....	746	125,563	3,975	121,588	28,432	12,623	55,586	17,785	5,020	333	5,784	126,124	894

NOTE: For 1953, 22 returns are included with gross estate of less than \$60,000. Also for 1958 data for the "Under 40" group were revised to correct a processing error. Insurance equity was computed using slightly more accurate ratios than those shown in table J. Detail may not add to previously published totals because of rounding.

D Characteristics of estate tax wealth

The estate tax return's use as a data source for the asset holdings of the wealthy is limited because the wealth reported on the return is not identical with what is ordinarily considered a man's personal wealth. The major differences between estate tax wealth and a more usual notion of personal wealth are summarized in chart 16.

PROPERTY INTERESTS INCLUDED

The Federal estate tax is a tax on the transfer of property interests at death. Property transferred before death without retained "strings" or property which ceases to have a value when death occurs is, of course, not subject to the tax. Thus to be shown on the estate tax return the property must have been owned by the decedent at death and have a value after his death. The one exception to this was gifts made during the three years before death, presumed to be in contemplation of death.

Usually the way in which ownership existed determined the portion of the property included. Property ownership could take several forms: (1) property owned jointly with right of survivorship; (2) property held under a *general* power of appointment; (3) property held solely by the decedent or as a tenant in common, in a partnership for example; (4) community property under the laws of the States of Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Washington; and (5) certain property transferred during life by gift. The entire value of jointly owned property was included except that portion attributable to the contributions of the surviving joint tenant(s). Property held under a general power of appointment and property owned outright were included at their full fair market value.¹

Chart 16 - Estate Tax Wealth and Personal Wealth

Estate Tax Wealth

add	{	Foreign Real Estate
		Pension and Annuity Wealth Represented Only By An Income Right
		Trust Interests Represented Only By An Income Right
		Certain Community Property Interests
		Costs of Terminal Illness
subtract	{	Lifetime Gifts Presumed to Be In Contemplation of Death
		Remainder Interests In Certain Other Estates
		Difference Between Insurance Proceeds and its Cash Surrender Value
= Total Personal Wealth of Top Wealthholders		

Some kinds of wealth enjoyed by living individuals, such as pensions, income rights in annuities and trusts, or foreign real estate holdings, were not generally required to be reported on the return. Other interests are included for estate tax purposes which are not part of a man's personal wealth, for example, certain lifetime gifts.

The fact that the assets are valued at or shortly after death may also change the size and composition of wealth. This is particularly important in the case of insurance for the full face value of the insurance is reported in the estate tax return and not the cash surrender value the asset had before death. There is also, of course, the effect of terminal illness reflected in either a smaller estate or a larger debt burden. Finally, there are important questions of ownership tied closely to property laws and there may be some inherent understatement of wealth because the returns used were unaudited.

Community Property

Under community property laws, generally whatever is acquired by the efforts of either husband or wife during marriage belongs to the marital community, not to the husband or wife separately. Property acquired either before marriage, or after marriage by gift or inheritance, usually remained the separate property of the spouse who acquired it and was taxed as such. For estate tax purposes half the community property is considered to be owned by each spouse. An exception to this occurs in New Mexico. If the husband predeceases the wife, one-half of the community property is includable in his estate. But following a court decision in 1931, if the wife dies first *no part* of the community property is includable in her estate.² This peculiarity of the law slightly understates the number and wealth of married female top wealthholders.

Lifetime Gifts

Two kinds of transfers are included by law: (1) Incomplete transfers - property interests given in such a way

¹If the decedent held a power of appointment under which he had authority only to confer the property upon some other person, then the value of the property was not includable. (For example, if the decedent possessed a power to appoint the property only to his own children.)

²*Hernandez V. Becker* (10th Cir., 1931).

that ownership was not actually relinquished during life. (2) Outright gifts made within three years of death presumed to be in contemplation of death. (See "Other assets".)

Wealth represented by a transfer which was not completed during life obviously should be included as belonging to the decedent. However the inclusion of outright gifts may cause an overstatement of the assets of top wealthholders. In fact, the wealth is not only assigned to the wrong person but the possibility of double-counting exists. This can occur when not only the donor but also the donee are top wealthholders.

It is likely that this source of overstatement is not a serious one for if the executor contended that outright transfers made within three years of death were not subject to the estate tax, they were not included in the present estimates. The inclusion of gifts actually made in contemplation of death may in part correct one of the biases introduced by using death as a method of sampling. Their inclusion can be viewed as an adjustment for the "non-random" point at which the sample has been drawn, for example, as a corrective for the effect of terminal illness.

Pensions and Annuities

In general, only a portion of the cash surrender value of a pension or annuity was included in the wealth estimates. The bulk of such interests enjoyed by top wealthholders are not required to be reported. Specifically excluded were Social Security benefits and interests payable only during life, or annuities purchased on or before March 3, 1931.³

Also excluded was the proportion of the cash value which the employer's contribution bore to the cost of pensions under qualified plans. This provision became effective in 1954. For 1960, about 10% of the returns having annuities showed an annuity under a qualified plan.⁴ If the annuity had been entirely paid for by the employer it was not reported at all. Qualified plans have probably become increasingly important.

Annuities received under nonqualified pension plans and contracts purchased directly from life insurance companies were included at their cash surrender value in the hands of the surviving beneficiaries. This value was measured in general by the age of the survivor(s). Since even in these cases the fair market value was altered by the occurrence of death, the amount shown as "Annuities" in table A is considerably smaller than the actual wealth enjoyed by top wealthholders from this source.

Trusts and Remainder Interests

If the decedent possessed a remainder interest in a trust or in another decedent's estate this wealth was included in his estate tax return. Further, if the decedent

himself had set up a trust *inter vivos* and had not relinquished ownership, its assets were also included.⁵

Although probably not serious, the inclusion of remainder interests in another decedent's estate creates some double counting of wealth. This occurs when returns for a top wealthholder and his heir(s) are both filed during the same year. For example, decedent A bequeathed his estate to his spouse B who died several months later. If the estate tax returns for both are filed in the same year, the wealth is obviously counted twice - but not necessarily all taxed twice.⁶

The only trust wealth enjoyed by top wealthholders and not included was that represented solely by an income right. It is quite problematical as to what portion of the total trust wealth is removed from the estate tax in this way. It seems likely, however, that the bulk of trust wealth is included either in the estate of the creator of the trust because he retained some "string" of ownership over it or as a remainder interest in the estate of a beneficiary.⁷

VALUATION

As has been said, the estate tax return as a source of economic information draws notable strength from having been reported from records, generally by highly skilled people and under exacting requirements of law. The person filing the return must answer many questions about the estate, present the value of each type of property in the estate, and attach copies of relevant documents. Examples are the will and trust instruments, income and balance sheet statements of sole proprietorships, partnerships, and closely-held corporations in which the decedent held an interest and any real estate appraisals made. A schedule, Form 712, was also required from insurance companies for each insurance policy on the life of the decedent. In short, the executor is required to prepare a complete catalogue of the decedent's assets, to state their fair market value and to describe how they were held: jointly owned, community property, etc.

For particularly hard-to-value assets, such as an interest in a partnership or closely-held corporation or real estate assets for which there is no ready market, the valuation may be subject to wide differences of opinion. Usually there is a financial stimulus for the executor to use the lowest value he thinks can be sustained. It is not uncommon therefore that valuations are increased when returns are subjected to audit. On the other hand, there are sometimes good financial reasons to select the higher rather than lower value of an asset. Because the

⁵Remainder interests in a trust or another estate were included in "Other assets". For trusts set up by the decedent the property in trust was allocated to real estate, stocks, bonds, etc. For the number of *inter vivos* and testamentary trusts see *Statistics of Income - 1962, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns*, pp. 24 and 26.

⁶Some measure of this bias is available (i.e., the prior transfer credit allowed in such cases). See *Statistics of Income - 1962, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns*, p. 55 (Definition) and p. 65.

⁷For the number of trusts over which the grantor retained some string to the income, see *Statistics of Income - 1962, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns*, p. 29. See also Gerald R. Jantscher, *Trusts and Estate Tax*

³Lump sum benefits from Social Security for the decedent's funeral expenses - the maximum was \$255 - were included in other assets when reported.

⁴*Statistics of Income - 1960, Fiduciary, Gift, and Estate Tax Returns*, p.

estate valuation establishes the basis for future taxation of the asset in the hands of the heirs, a higher basis may minimize income taxes so that while a higher estate tax is paid the net effect is a tax saving. For example, a higher basis for business property subject to depreciation will increase the allowable deductions for depreciation; a higher basis for property which the heirs intend to sell will minimize the capital gains tax paid on the difference between the estate tax return valuation and the selling price. Overall, however, asset valuations on the estate tax returns used in this study, which were unaudited, are probably somewhat understated.⁸

Time of Valuation

In general, asset prices change over time and for some assets, such as traded corporate stock, this change can be quite dramatic. Ideally, to prevent problems of aggregation, valuations should be made as of one date or in as narrow a time span as possible. However, using the estate tax returns filed during calendar-year 1963 instead of the returns for 1962 deaths, the time span is over 10 years with most of the returns having valuations made in the three-year period, 1961 to 1963.⁹

Even if the sample had been of a year's deaths, not all of the assets would have been valued during that year. In filing an estate tax return the executor could elect either of two methods for valuing the assets in the estate: (1) valuing all assets at date of death, or (2) valuing assets disposed of in less than one year at the date of disposition and all other property one year after death. The alternative provision, of course, does not apply to changes in valuation due solely to the passage of time which for example can occur in assets such as patent, copyright, and annuity interests.

Generally, but not always, if the estate is valued other than at date of death, the choice was made by the executor because assets in the estate decreased in value.¹⁰ However, even though a specific asset may decline in value, if other assets in the estate increased in value, the alternative open to the executor may not be advantageous.

Corporate Stock

It is likely that the availability of the alternative tends to minimize the value of assets with widely fluctuating market prices. Because of the overall importance of

corporate stock, changes in its value may be the single most important factor in the executor's choosing to value assets other than at date-of-death.¹¹

The history of the alternative seems to bear this out. Chart 17 compares the method of valuation on returns filed in three recent years with Standard and Poor's monthly common stock price index for the period 1957 to 1963. For the sake of simplicity, the returns are assumed to represent deaths occurring exactly 15 months before filing. The filing period is divided into two parts in the chart: the period in which death occurred and the period in which the assets in the estate might have been valued if the executor elected the alternative method.

From the comparison in the chart, it is highly probable that the choice of the alternative valuation bears a direct relationship to corporate stock prices. For 1959 filings, there was a continually rising stock price index, and only a small percentage of returns had alternative valuations. In contrast, for 1961 and 1963 filings, there were periods in which stock prices were lower than at death, making the alternative valuation advantageous.

In addition to the effect the alternative method may have on traded corporate stock, there is another valuation technique available to the executor which may also tend to minimize the stock's value--the so-called "blockage adjustment". If the decedent owned a sizable percentage of a corporation's traded stock, a downward adjustment of the stock's selling price was allowed if the executor could prove that in disposing of the stock the market price would be depressed.

Life Insurance

Life insurance in the estates of decedents is radically different in amount from the corresponding asset in the hands of the living. Through the cooperation of the Institute of Life Insurance, ratios of the following form were developed to reduce life insurance to a level appropriate to the living:¹²

Cash value of policy including cash value of dividend additions less indebtedness.

Face value of policy less indebtedness including dividend additions but excluding accumulations and post mortem dividends.

In previous wealth estimates based on estate tax returns, the only available measure of this ratio by age was that obtained for 1948 of policy reserves to total insurance in force based on the Ordinary life insurance policyholders of one large insurance company.¹³ Such ratios probably lead to an overstatement of life insurance equity.¹⁴ First,

⁸It is difficult, if not impossible to quantify the downward bias in valuations shown on the unaudited returns used. C. Lowell Harriss estimated for 1941 that the bias was about 10%. (C. Lowell Harriss, "Wealth Estimates as Affected by Audit of Estate Tax Returns," *National Tax Journal*, December, 1949, pp. 316-333. His technique, when applied in a somewhat modified form to data for fiscal 1962, yielded about 10% as well.) The method he used is very approximate. It is based on the assumption that changes in valuation are the cause of additional taxes and assessments. However, it is likely that this is not always the case. Many audit adjustments in tax liability are due to the partial disallowance of marital and charitable deductions.

⁹For returns filed during 1966, a complete frequency distribution by year of death and year of valuation will be available.

¹⁰Of the 78,393 returns filed in 1963, there were 12,229 (16%) valued under the alternative method. The overall decline in gross estate was \$373 million, about 7% of the total date-of-death value on these returns. See *Statistics of Income - 1962, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns*, p. 66.

¹¹For returns filed during 1966 the actual importance of the alternative on the values of both real estate and traded corporate stock will be available.

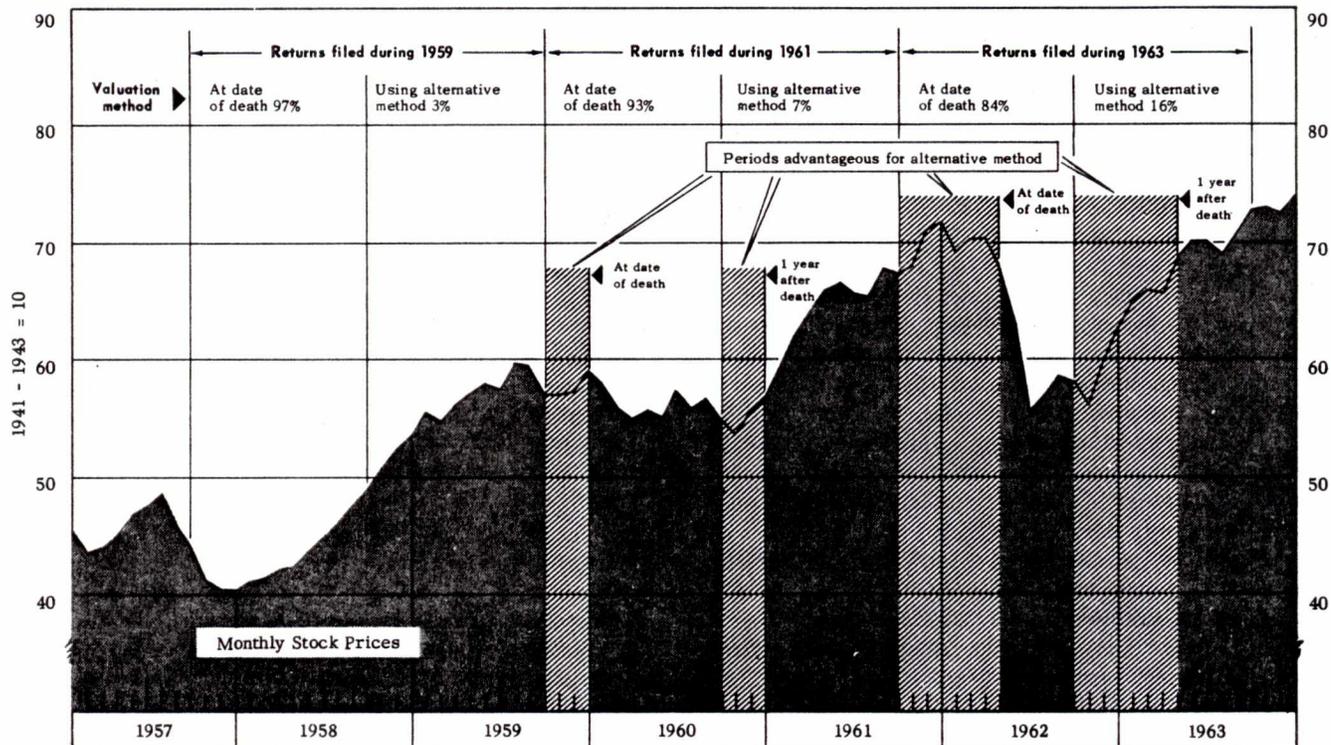
¹²The study was carried out by Mrs. Virginia Holran and Mr. Robert Chiappetta whose help is greatly appreciated.

¹³Horst Mendershausen, "The Pattern of Estate Tax Wealth" in *A Study of Saving in the United States* by Raymond W. Goldsmith, Dorothy S. Brady and Horst Mendershausen (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1956), III, pp. 304-306.

¹⁴The use of the overall average "reserve" ratio for all insurance holders, on the other hand, would lead to an understatement of top wealthholders equity even were this ratio the "true" ratio of equity to face because the general insurance population is younger than top wealthholders.

Chart 17 - Comparisons of Methods of Valuation of Corporate Stock with Monthly Stock Price Index*

Common Stock Price Index



*Standard and Poor's stock price index, 500 common stocks.

because they were based only on Ordinary insurance, but perhaps more importantly because they were based on all insurance holders and not just top wealthholders.

Two things seem to happen to the holding of insurance assets by the wealthy. First, insurance becomes a progressively less important asset as wealth increases. Second, borrowing against insurance is much more prevalent among top wealthholders than in the general insurance population.¹⁵ This is not surprising for the chief value of insurance is that it provides (1) an asset readily liquidated at death for the payment of funeral and other expenses occasioned by death and (2) funds for use by the decedent's family to supplement a generally smaller income - obviously considerations of less pressing importance for those with large property incomes and readily convertible assets.¹⁶

The ratios developed by the Institute for mid-1965 (covering the two-week period from July 19 through July 30, 1965) were used without adjustment on the returns filed during 1963; these ratios may have been different

¹⁵The ratio of policy loans to total insurance in force in the Institute of Life Insurance's 1965 Study of Savings in Life Insurance was 2.9%; the ratio in 1965 for all insurance holders was only 0.9% (computed from the 1966 Life Insurance Fact Book, pp. 19 and 88.)

¹⁶Liquidity, even among the very wealthy, can be a serious problem if assets are held in a family business not readily salable, particularly when a large estate tax must be paid.

in "1962" but no measure of this difference is available. Eleven life insurance companies participated in the study; these companies had 44 percent of the total Ordinary and Industrial life insurance and 43 percent of the total Group insurance in force in the United States as of December 31, 1964. The data collected related to insurance information on death claims for which a Form 712 was prepared. The form is required for each insurance policy on the life of the decedent when filing the estate tax return. A copy of it is shown on page 92.

The Institute's study was based primarily on policies for men; only fragmentary information was available for women - 2,802 or 93 percent of the 3,009 policies were for men. Only one set of ratios was used; however, if the data were available, one each for men and women might have been better.¹⁷ Also precluded by a lack of data were separate ratios for 5 year age groups under 50.¹⁸ The

¹⁷The overall ratio for women was 59.2% (considerably higher than that for men and women combined, due largely to the fact that the women were older at death). Although ratios for females were somewhat higher than for males in nearly all age groups, the difference due to sex was not statistically significant.

¹⁸The ratios in age groups under 50 years demonstrate the same tendency to increase with age as those 50 years or more. These ratios were: under 35, 2.0%; 35 to 39, 4.1%; 40 to 44, 7.7%; and 45 to 49, 12.7%. Because of the thinness of the samples upon which these estimates were based the relative sampling variability (at the 95% level) was excessive, ranging from 74% to well over 100%.

number of policies in the sample, the ratios used, and their standard errors are shown by age in table J.¹⁹

The reliability of the estimation of insurance equity can be judged for each age group using table J. Overall with-

Table J.—LIFE INSURANCE RATIOS

Attained age at death in years	Number of policies	Estimated ratio of equity to face	Absolute standard error of estimate	Relative sampling variability (95 percent level)
		(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total ¹	3,009	37.2	0.7	5.3
Under 50.....	224	8.7	1.6	52.5
50 to 54.....	201	11.9	2.0	46.1
55 to 59.....	356	21.4	2.8	26.2
60 to 64.....	466	29.1	2.8	26.2
65 to 69.....	399	42.2	2.9	19.0
70 to 74.....	457	55.1	2.0	10.0
75 to 79.....	471	65.4	1.3	5.6
80 or more.....	435	78.4	1.6	5.7

¹The overall ratio estimate, 37.2%, was used for decedents of unknown age. Source: Institute of Life Insurance 1965 Study of Saving in Life Insurance.

¹⁹The standard errors of the ratio estimates were calculated by first partitioning the total sample into five random groups and then constructing five sets of estimates, one for each group. The range, highest minus lowest estimate, was then divided by five to obtain an estimate of the standard error. To construct the relative sampling variability at the 95% level, the standard error was multiplied by the value of Student's "t" (2.78) for 4 degrees of freedom and divided by the ratio estimate.

out taking account of the variance in the estimate of total insurance face, total insurance equity would lie between \$12.9 and \$18.2 billion, in 19 out of 20 estimates prepared in the same way. If other sources of variation are considered, the interval would be somewhat wider.

While all insurance on the life of the decedent is reportable on the estate tax return, not all of it is included in the present estimates. Excluded were insurance policies in which the decedent did not have incidents of ownership. "Ownership" of insurance for estate tax purposes differs somewhat from what one would ordinarily expect. For example, the decedent was not necessarily considered to have owned the policy even though he may have paid the premiums. Conversely, if the decedent owned a policy on the life of another, the cash surrender value of that policy was included as life insurance face and inappropriately adjusted by the insurance ratios.²⁰ The result of this inconsistency is that life insurance, face or equity, is slightly understated.

²⁰There were only 85 returns filed in 1961 reporting nonincludable insurance. It is likely however that such insurance has become increasingly important. See *Statistics of Income - 1960, Fiduciary, Gift and Estate Tax Returns*, p. 54. Based on an advance study of the 1966 filings it appears that the cash surrender value of insurance on the lives of others constituted about 1% of total insurance face. It was probably even less than this for returns filed during 1963.

Personal Wealth Estimated From Estate Tax Returns, 1969

by Keith Gilmour and Charles Crossed

Introduction

This report provides estimates of the personal wealth of one segment of the country's population living in 1969. The estate tax returns filed during 1970 provided the sample from which these wealth estimates for the living were made. Estimates are provided for the portion of the living population in 1969¹ with gross estates of more than \$60,000, since the sample data were limited to decedents with that wealth level. The underlying assumption is that death draws a random sample from the living population. A technically more precise way of looking at the estimates is that they represent all those for whom a Federal estate tax return would have been required had they died in 1969. The technique used to make these estimates, called the "estate multiplier technique", relies on the fact that for the general population the mortality rate is known for each age and sex group. Therefore, if the number that died in each age/sex group were known, and the mortality rate were known, the population is simply the inverse of the mortality rate for each group.

The estate data which formed the basis for this report were published in *Statistics of Income—1969, Estate Tax Returns*, to which this volume is a supplement. This is the second personal wealth report to be published. The first, *Supplemental Report, Statistics of Income—1962, Personal Wealth*,² was based on Federal estate tax returns filed in 1963, and was published in 1967.

This report contains two sets of estimates of personal wealth. One set was computed using the mortality rates of those with \$25,000 or more in life insurance with one company. The other set of estimates was computed for the mortality experience of those with \$5,000 or more in life insurance with one company and is comparable to data published in the 1962 report.

At the time the 1962 report was published mortality rates for those with \$25,000 or more in life insurance were not available. Publishing both sets of estimates now was considered desirable for two reasons: (1) the difficult decision of determining which estimates approximate the true values can be deferred since convincing arguments can still be made for using either set; and (2) researchers interested in trends over

time can use the lower estimates which are comparable to previously published data. The tables which are directly comparable with the 1962 data are in the "Trends in Wealth-holding" section of this report.

The estate multiplier technique is discussed further in the Appendix, but some problems associated with the technique are discussed here to provide an indication of some of the limitations inherent in the wealth estimates for the "top wealthholder" population provided in this report. The term "top wealthholder" is used throughout this report to refer to those in the living population with a gross estate of more than \$60,000 in 1969.

Perhaps the chief problem that confronts all applications of the estate multiplier technique is the lack of exact mortality rates appropriate to the top wealthholder population. This deficiency is very important for there is much evidence to support the view that the mortality rates of those with economic well-being are more favorable than for the general population. On the basis of this evidence, which is discussed in detail in the Appendix, it is reasonable to assume that the mortality rates of top wealthholders are more favorable than the average mortality rates. The estimates based on the two different sets of mortality rates used in this report may represent a likely range of mortality for the top wealthholder group.

Other limitations associated with the estate multiplier technique that deserve early consideration relate to estate tax return reporting requirements and the wealth concepts or which measures are available.

Though the estate tax return is a rich source of economic information, generally prepared from records by highly skilled people and under exacting requirements of law, the wealth reported on the return is not identical with what is ordinarily considered a man's personal wealth. The financial value of life insurance to a living person, for example, is its cash surrender value; the estate of a deceased person includes the insurance at its full face value. In the estimates presented in this report, insurance proceeds were adjusted so both equity and face values of insurance could be included in different concepts of wealth.

Gifts and other transfers of wealth which were made by the decedent within three years of his death are included as part of his wealth in this report. Such wealth must be reported on the estate tax return on the theory that the transfer was made in contemplation of death.

Some duplication in wealth is included in these estimates to the extent that the estate returns of both benefactors and beneficiaries were filed in 1969. This is also true with respect to jointly held property which is included as wealth of one person.

¹The time period for these estimates would center around the end of 1969 to the beginning of 1970 because 66 percent of the estate returns were for individuals who died in 1969; 19 percent for 1968 decedents, and 13 percent for 1970 decedents. In addition, the estimate period is pushed forward in time owing to the alternative valuation which permitted valuation of estates as of one year after death. About 30 percent of 1969 decedents' returns used alternative valuation.

²Internal Revenue Service Publication No. 482 (7-67), available from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, price 65 cents.

Some types of wealth such as pensions, annuities, and trust interests, represented only by an income right of the decedent, and certain community property interests, are excluded from the estimates. Wealth is also affected by expenditures related to long-term illnesses.

The valuation of estate tax return assets may be understated for other reasons. The estimates are based on returns as filed for decedents, before audit, and assets for which no ready market exists could be undervalued by the executor in the interest of minimizing the estate tax. In addition, the option to use the alternative valuation had the effect of reducing reported wealth. For returns used in this report, those filed in 1970, the alternative method permitted valuation one year after death, or on date of disposal.

The estimates in this report should be relatively accurate with regard to showing the patterns of asset holdings among different age, sex, and marital status groups of top wealthholders. The estimates are less precise in terms of the absolute value of these asset holdings.

In summary, the estate multiplier technique is a potentially powerful tool, but further research in mortality rates appropriate to the subject population is needed. Future uses of the technique should also provide better measures of the personal wealth of the living which would include a more accurate determination of life insurance equity value, and allocate the lifetime transfers if they are included at all, to the appropriate asset item.

Summary of Findings

There were an estimated 9.0 million individuals in the living population in 1969 with gross assets of more than \$60,000. These 9.0 million top wealthholders represented about 7.4 percent of the mid-year U.S. adult population. More than 5.6 million of this group were men, while 3.4 million were women, representing 10 percent and 5 percent respectively, of the adult populations. Based on the "\$5,000 or more" mortality rates (life insurance policies of \$5,000 or more with one company), there were 8.2 million individuals in the top wealthholder group, which accounted for 6.7 percent of the adult U.S. population. The proportions of men

and women are about the same regardless of which mortality rates are used. A brief summary of the estimates, and the basic tables derived from the "\$5,000 or more" mortality rates are provided in the "Trends in Wealthholding" section of this report. Unless otherwise indicated, estimates in the text, tables, and charts are based on the more favorable "\$25,000 or more" mortality rates.

The top wealthholders had total assets valued at \$1.6 trillion and debts of \$0.2 trillion for a net worth of \$1.4 trillion. As indicated in table A, nearly three-fifths of the top wealthholders had a net worth of less than \$100,000. About 8 percent had a net worth in excess of \$300,000. Overall, corporate stock at \$551 billion was the largest single asset item in the top wealthholders' balance sheet. This was followed by real estate valued at \$428 billion. Two-fifths of the total value of real estate was held by those with net worth of less than \$100,000, three-fifths of the corporate stock was held by

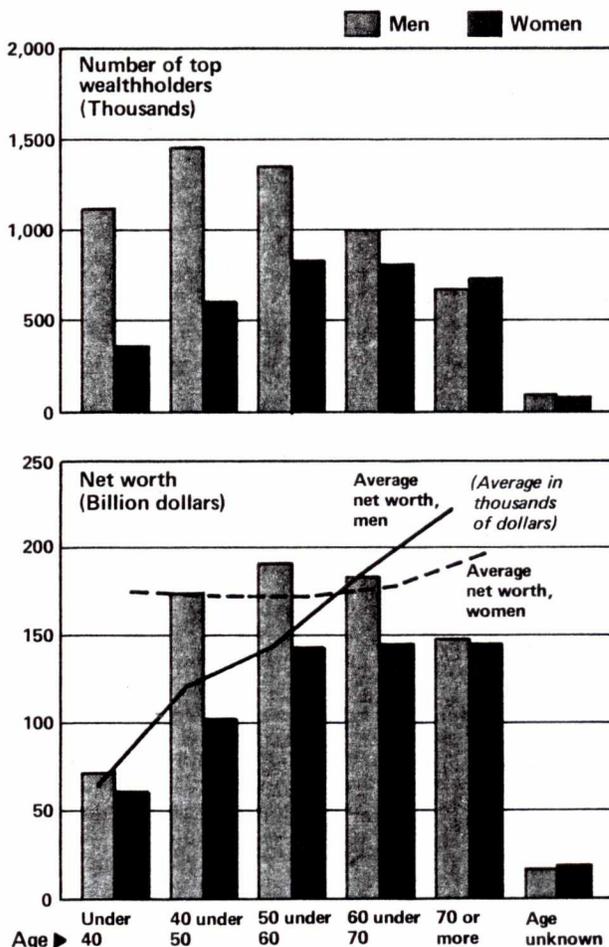
Table A.—NUMBER OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS AND ASSET COMPOSITION, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1969

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples]

Item	Total	Size of net worth				
		Under \$50,000	\$50,000 under \$100,000	\$100,000 under \$300,000	\$300,000 under \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number of top wealthholders...thousands..	9,013	1,815	3,497	2,937	642	121
		(Billion dollars)				
Total assets.....	1,580.6	94.5	301.8	516.0	345.3	323.0
Real estate.....	428.3	51.1	118.9	160.1	70.0	27.9
Corporate stock.....	551.4	9.7	55.7	153.8	151.4	180.8
Bonds.....	85.3	0.8	10.9	21.7	22.1	29.9
Cash.....	189.7	8.4	55.4	79.3	33.7	12.9
Notes and mortgages..	59.4	2.2	11.8	24.2	15.1	6.0
Insurance equity.....	31.0	7.8	8.7	9.4	3.6	1.3
Other assets.....	235.8	14.4	40.3	67.4	49.5	64.2
Debts.....	203.7	49.9	42.7	52.4	31.6	26.9
Net worth.....	1,377.0	44.6	259.1	463.6	313.7	296.1

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

Chart 1
Number of top wealthholders, net worth, average net worth for men and women, 1969



those with net worth of \$300,000 or more. Together these two asset items accounted for 60 percent of the total assets held by all top wealthholders.

Men comprised 63 percent of the top wealthholders and controlled 56 percent of the net worth. Women made up only 37 percent of the number but controlled about 44 percent of the net worth. As indicated by these figures, the net worth of women was higher than that for men, averaging \$179,000 compared to \$137,000 for men.

The pattern of wealth among men was closely correlated with age. As age increased the average net worth steadily increased, from \$63,000 for men under 40 to \$218,000 for men age 70 or more. The pattern for women is not as closely correlated to age, probably owing to the way wealth is obtained.

For the first three age groups shown in chart 1, the average net worth for women was virtually the same, \$171,000; with a gradual increase to \$195,000 for those over age 70.

On the average the women were older than the men. About one-fifth of the men and one-tenth of the women were under 40 years old. In the "70 or more" age group were only about 12 percent of the men compared to 22 percent of the women.

The vast majority of the male top wealthholders were married, over 83 percent, while less than 6 percent were widowed. This compares with 47 percent of the females who were married and 34 percent who were widowed. Single individuals accounted for about 8 percent and 11 percent of the male and female top wealthholders, respectively.

Top Wealthholders in Perspective

Concepts of Wealth

As indicated in the Introduction, this report provides estimates of the number and wealth of individuals with a "gross estate" of more than \$60,000 during 1969. The gross estate criterion is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth that does not conform to more usual definitions of wealth mainly because life insurance at face value is included as wealth of the decedent. Therefore, three measures of wealth are used throughout this report; gross estate, total assets, and net worth. Since net worth is the more usual concept of wealth, it is used as the major classifier.

Gross estate is the gross value of all assets including the full face value of life insurance reduced by policy loans and before the reduction by the amount of debts. This measure defines those included in the top wealthholder group.

Total assets, a lower wealth value, is still essentially a gross measure. This is obtained by using the cash value of the life insurance asset; that is, the value the insurance had immediately prior to death.

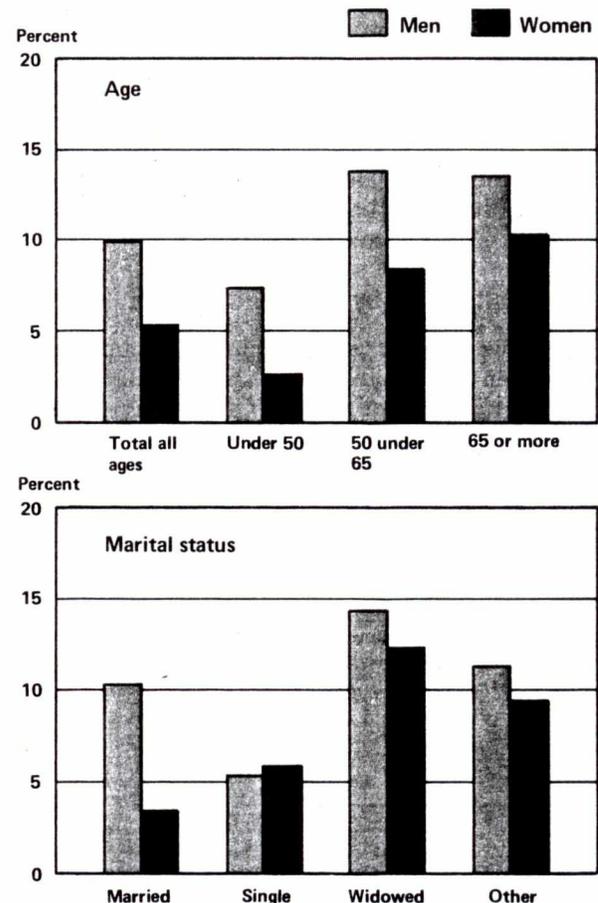
Net worth, of course, is the level after all debts have been removed, and includes the cash value of life insurance. Table B indicates the number of top wealthholders at four wealth levels, using the three definitions of wealth. Whereas nearly 148,000 individuals were millionaires in 1969 according to the value of their gross estate, only about 121,000 were in the millionaire category in terms of net worth.

The relationships between the three levels of wealth are shown in more detail in the basic tables. Table 19 provides a profile of the relationship between total assets and net worth; table 32 provides a profile of the relationship between gross estate and net worth.

Tables 30 and 31 provide a comparison of all top wealthholders to those with net worth of less than \$60,000. Of the 9.0 million top wealthholders, 2.4 million had a net worth of less than \$60,000. They accounted for only 8 percent of the total assets. Many of the individuals with net worth of less than \$60,000 are top wealthholders by virtue of the fact that they had large life insurance policies; others in the group, nearly one million of them, had total assets averaging more

than \$60,000, but debts brought net worth below the \$60,000 level. About 94 percent of those with net worth of less than \$60,000 had life insurance compared to 66 percent of the wealthholders with net worth of \$60,000 or more. Those in the under \$60,000 net worth category also had a significantly higher level of debts than other top wealthholders. The ratio of their debts to total assets was 44 percent compared to 10 percent for other top wealthholders.

Chart 2
Top wealthholders as a percent of adult population for men and women, by age and marital status, 1969



Note: "Other" marital status category includes legally separated, divorced, and marital status not stated.

Table B.—NUMBER OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS UNDER THREE MEASURES OF WEALTH, BY SIZE OF WEALTH, 1969

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples--numbers are in thousands]

Size class	Number as measured by--		
	Net worth	Total assets	Gross estate
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Total.....	9,013	9,013	9,013
Under \$100,000.....	5,312	4,620	3,341
\$100,000 under \$300,000.....	2,937	3,504	4,624
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	643	749	900
\$1,000,000 or more.....	121	140	148

Top Wealthholders in the Total Population

The number of top wealthholders in the United States in 1969 was estimated to be 9,013,000, or 7.4 percent of the total adult population. More than 3,370,000 top wealthholders were women, accounting for about 5 percent of the adult female population, while the remainder were men accounting for 10 percent of the adult male population.

As expected, the proportion of the population in the top wealthholder group increased with age, from about 5 percent of those "under age 50"; 11 percent of those "age 50 under 65"; and nearly 12 percent of those age 65 or older.

Chart 2 provides the proportion of men and women that were top wealthholders by age and marital status.

Wealth Profile

The composition of wealth is related to age, sex, marital status, and the total amount of wealth held. For a number of reasons the present report can only provide partial answers to the question of the direction and magnitude in which these influences interact. One limitation is that the asset categories are quite broad and not always very homogeneous.

Individual movements within an asset category may be obscured or confounded by other, perhaps opposite, tendencies. Even within such a relatively homogeneous category as publicly traded stock, important but unobserved changes in portfolio composition may occur. Because of the graduated income taxes, there may be a shift toward growth stocks with lower yields as wealth increases.

Types of wealth held by men and women

More men were in the top wealthholder group, but, on the average women held more wealth and of different composition. Men averaged about \$163,000 in total assets, compared to about \$195,000 for women. Women held an average of \$102,000 in corporate stock and \$27,000 in cash, compared to \$72,000 and \$19,000 respectively for men. Men had noncor-

porate business assets averaging \$39,000 and life insurance equity averaging less than \$6,000 compared to \$27,000 and \$2,000 respectively for the same items for women.

As a percent of total assets, the debts and mortgages of men were twice those of women, 16 percent compared to 8 percent. The reason for the large difference in the debt relates to the fact that proportionally more men hold the assets which are typically mortgaged, such as real estate and business assets.

Table C indicates some of the differences between the holdings of men and women. Proportionally more men than women own real estate, noncorporate business assets and life insurance; more women owned corporate stock, bonds of all types, and notes and mortgages. The overall differences are large for only a few items. About 34 percent of the men had noncorporate business assets, and 89 percent had life insurance, compared to 15 percent and 46 percent respectively, for women who held these assets. On the other hand, 6 percent of the women held State and local bonds, and 10 percent held other Federal bonds, compared to 3 percent and 5 percent of the men respectively.

Age and marital status

Men between the ages of 40 and 50 years controlled about one-quarter of the total assets, while men between the ages of 40 and 60 controlled about one-half the total assets held by men. As indicated in chart 3 men under age 40 accounted for nearly 12 percent of the male-held assets, and the remaining 40 percent was distributed among men 60 years or older in decreasing proportions as age increased.

For women the pattern was different. About 18 percent of female-held assets were controlled by women between the ages of 40 and 50, while more than 40 percent were con-

Table C.—ASSETS, DEBTS, AND NET WORTH FOR MALE AND FEMALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, 1969

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers are in thousands, money amounts are in billions of dollars]

Item	Total		Men		Women	
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total assets.....	9,013	1,580.6	5,643	921.9	3,370	658.7
Corporate stock.....	6,600	551.4	4,051	291.4	2,549	260.1
Bonds, total.....	(1)	85.4	(1)	42.0	(1)	43.2
Corporate and foreign	1,312	15.5	754	8.6	558	6.8
State and local.....	399	23.2	177	10.8	222	12.4
Federal savings.....	2,422	20.0	1,474	10.7	948	9.3
Other federal.....	647	26.6	308	11.9	338	14.7
Real estate.....	7,400	428.3	4,810	274.9	2,590	153.0
Cash.....	8,591	189.8	5,398	102.4	3,193	87.2
Noncorporate business assets.....	2,429	88.8	1,909	74.7	519	14.1
Notes and mortgages.....	2,597	59.4	1,588	36.6	1,009	22.8
Life insurance equity.....	6,559	31.0	5,006	28.1	1,552	2.8
Other assets.....	8,161	147.0	5,215	71.6	2,945	75.4
Debts.....	7,996	203.7	5,063	147.1	2,932	56.6
Net worth.....	9,013	1,377.0	5,643	774.8	3,370	602.2

¹Not available.

NOTE: Detail may not add totals because of rounding.

Chart 3
Percent distribution of assets by age group, 1969

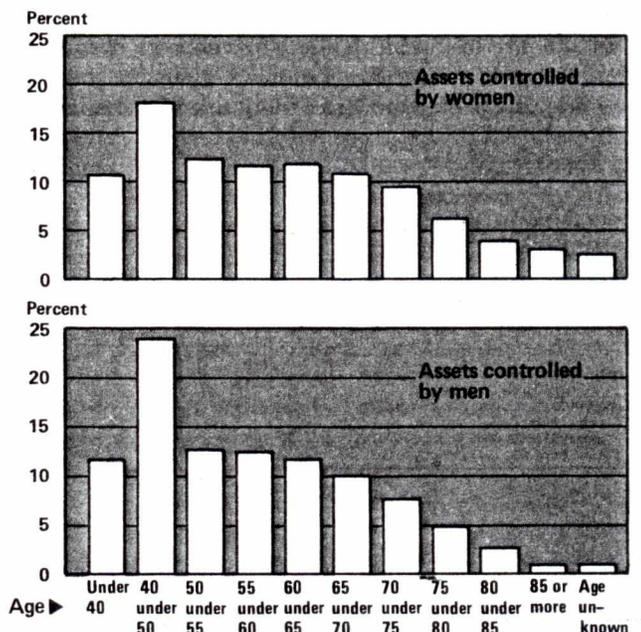
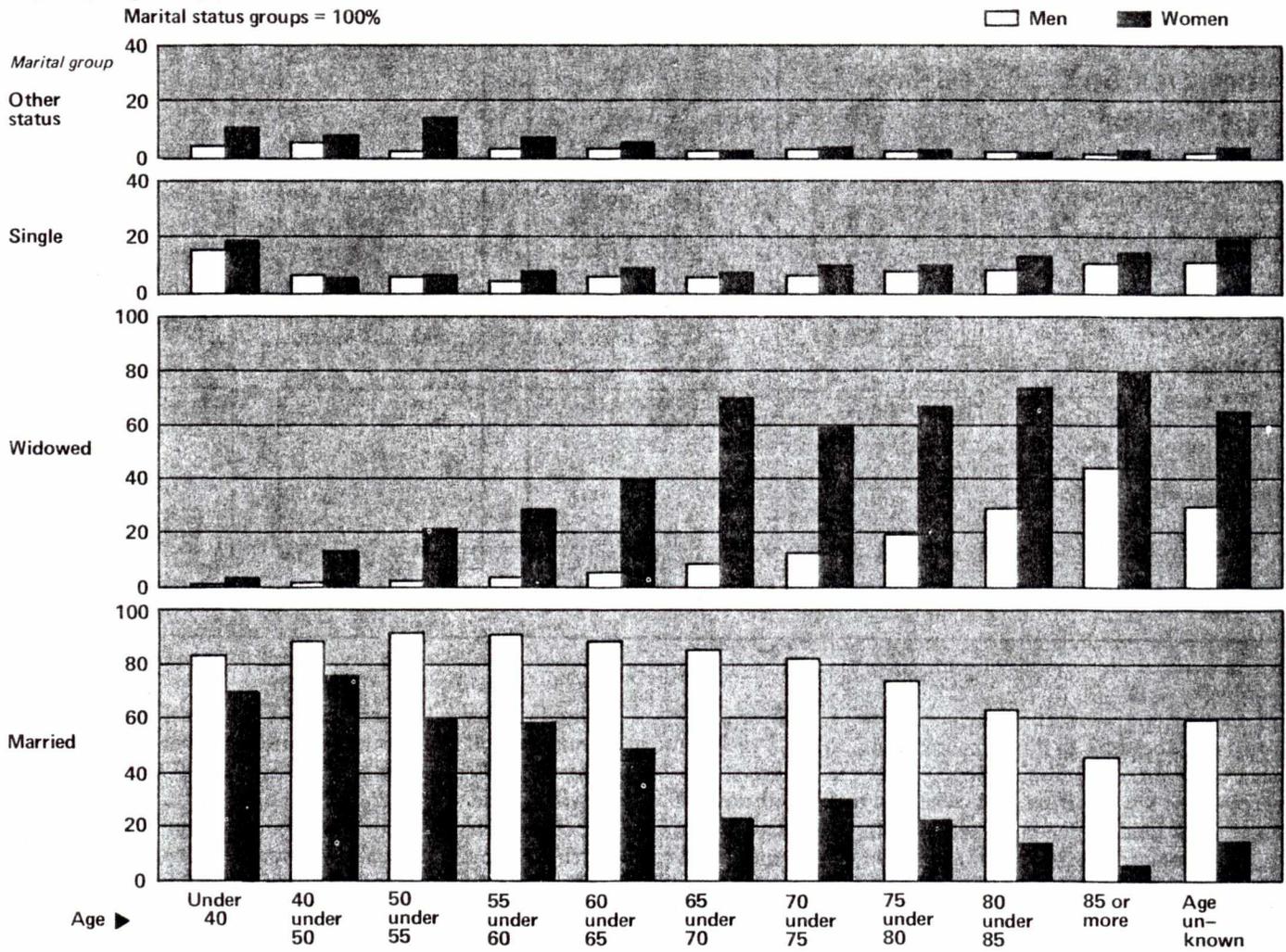


Chart 4
Percent of total assets controlled by each marital group of men and women, by age group, 1969



trolled by those of ages 40 to 60 years. Chart 3 shows that about one-fifth of the assets were held by women between 65 and 75 years old.

The vast majority of the males were married, while less than one-half of the female top wealthholders were married. Only 5 percent of the men were widowers, while more than one-third of the women were widows. When the top wealthholders' age is taken into account the marital status pattern in wealthholding is that shown in chart 4, in terms of the proportion of total assets controlled by each age group for men and women.

For married top wealthholders corporate stock and real estate accounted for 34 percent and 30 percent of total assets, respectively. For those not married, corporate stock was a significantly greater proportion of total assets than real estate, as indicated in chart 5. Cash, which includes bank deposits and savings accounts, was the third most important asset item, and ranged from about 18 percent for "singles" to about 10 percent for "marrieds" and "others".

Although it is not shown in chart 5, a comparison with data for 1962 (see "Trends in Wealthholding" Section) indicates that cash in 1969 made up a significantly higher proportion of total assets for all groups of top wealthholders.

The charts on the following pages give some idea of the direction and importance of the interaction of age, sex, and marital status and size of wealth. Data for a more extensive analysis of asset composition will be found in tables 24-29.

Size of Wealth

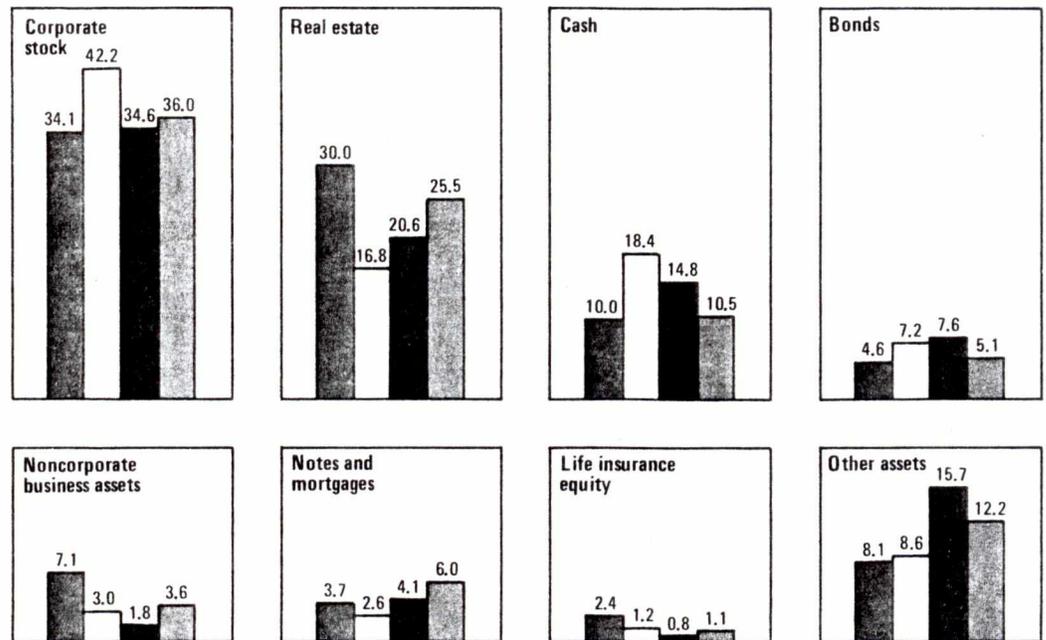
Chart 6 shows the variation in the composition of assets as related to amount of wealth. Those top wealthholders with a net worth of less than \$50,000 had an average of 55 percent of their assets in real estate, and every other asset item averaged 10 percent or less of the total. There were significant differences between men and women in the extent to which certain assets were held. The two dominant asset items, real estate and corporate stock, ranged from about 58 to 72 per-

Chart 5
Asset composition by marital status

Percent of each asset to total assets

Marital Class

- Married
- Single
- Widowed
- Other



cent of the assets of women. For men, these two asset items accounted for about 57 to 63 percent of total assets. For both men and women the relative importance of real estate steadily decreased as wealth increased, whereas the proportion of corporate stock held increased as wealth increased. Corporate stock, about one-tenth of total assets for both men and women with net worth of \$50,000 or less, accounted for over one-half of the assets of men who were millionaires, and three-fifths of the assets of women with net worth of \$1 million or more. Certain types of bonds were favored by the wealthy. Of the categories shown in chart 6, women with net worth of \$50,000 under \$100,000 had the highest holdings of Federal savings bonds at 2.7 percent, and no correlation to amount of wealth is apparent. The bonds favored by millionaires were State and local bonds and other Federal bonds, which included Treasury notes and bills as well as special issues that could be used to pay estate taxes at death. Holdings of both these types of bonds increased steadily as wealth increased, from a fractional percentage of total assets for the lowest wealth category to a total of 6.7 percent for millionaire women. For millionaires, while the proportion of total assets was small, on the average they held \$256,000 in these two types of bonds.

Three asset items, corporate stock, real estate, and cash accounted for 72 percent of the assets of all top wealthholders. As indicated in chart 7, the average holdings of these items vary with size of wealth. As would be expected, for those in the lower net worth categories, real estate holdings dominated total assets. Those top wealthholders with real estate and net worth between zero and \$30,000, had real estate that averaged between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in value, probably a personal residence in most cases. The average value of real estate increased gradually as net worth increased, and re-

mained the most important asset item to a level in wealth of about \$150,000, when corporate stock became more important. Chart 7 provides a clear indication of the relationship between these asset items. Although they are not included in the chart, over 71,000 top wealthholders had negative net worth and over one-half of them had corporate stock and real estate which averaged \$20,000 and \$60,000 respectively; cash was held by 86 percent of them, and averaged \$56,000. Obviously many of these top wealthholders had both high assets and high debts.

For the wealthiest group, corporate stock is the most important asset item, and is held to some extent by virtually all of them. Top wealthholders worth \$1 million or more have, on the average, \$1.5 million in corporate stock and those worth \$10 million or more hold, on the average, more than \$10 million in corporate stock.

In general, the size of a top wealthholder's net worth bears the most persistent and dominant relation to asset composition, particularly in the holding of insurance, stock, and real estate. Sex and age play less important roles but are useful classifiers of such assets as insurance which is considerably more common among men and the holding of bonds which is closely related to age and wealth. Single people also seem to differ in asset preference from the married and widowed. However, sometimes differences between groups are so small that it is impossible to determine whether the differences are due to anything more than sampling variability. A summary of these relationships and description of major shifts is presented with the charts which follow.

The charts on the following pages present three profiles of the holdings of assets and debts. The proportion of the asset type to total assets is shown for each wealth group by age, sex, and marital status. For example, single men under 50 years

Chart 6

Asset composition by size of net worth

Percent of each asset to total assets by sex

Size of Net Worth

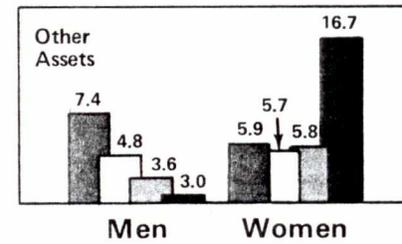
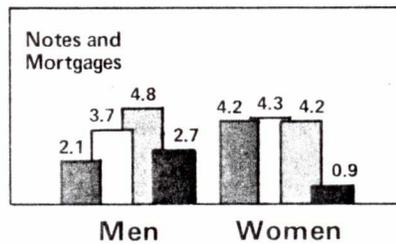
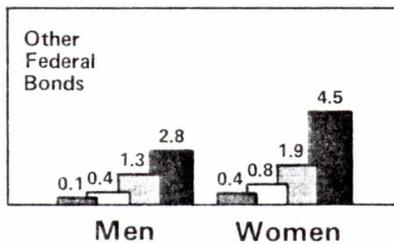
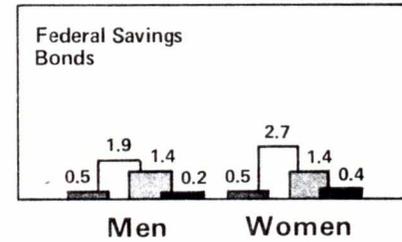
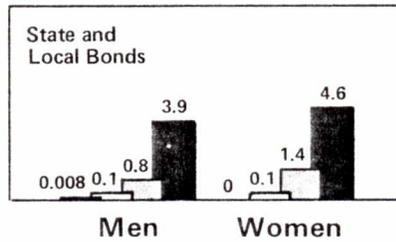
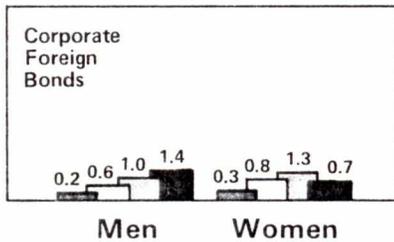
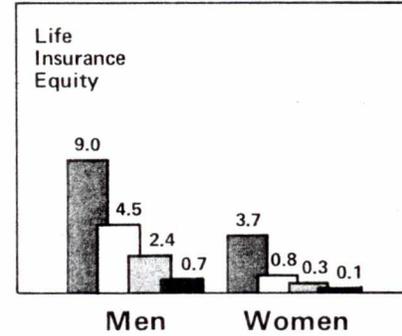
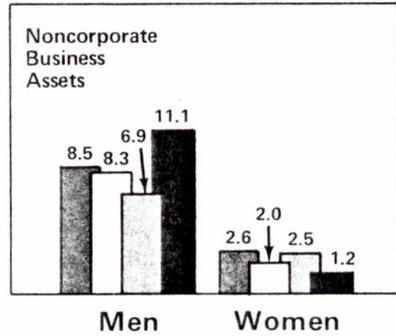
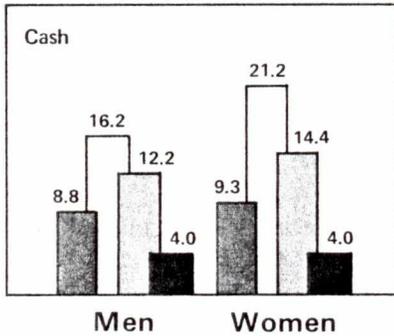
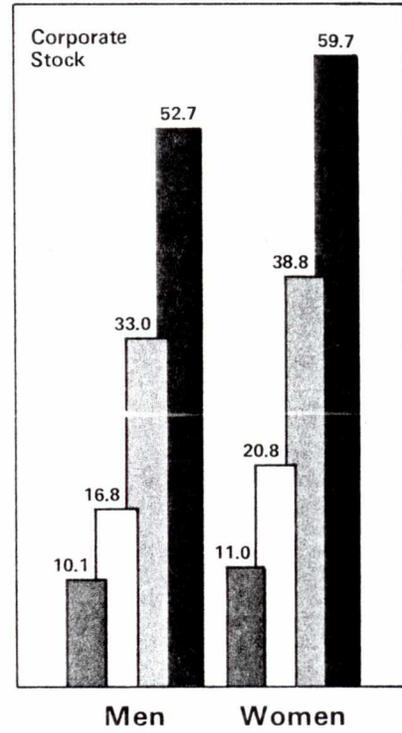
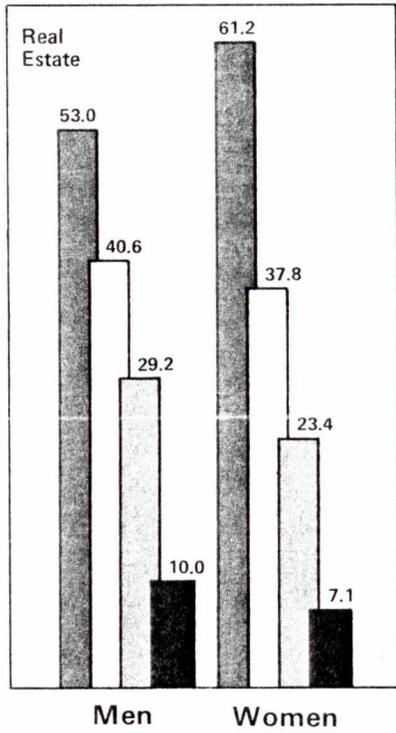
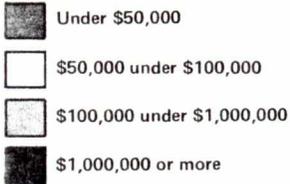


Chart 7

Average value of corporate stock, real estate, and cash, by size of net worth, 1969

Value of specific asset (Thousands of dollars)

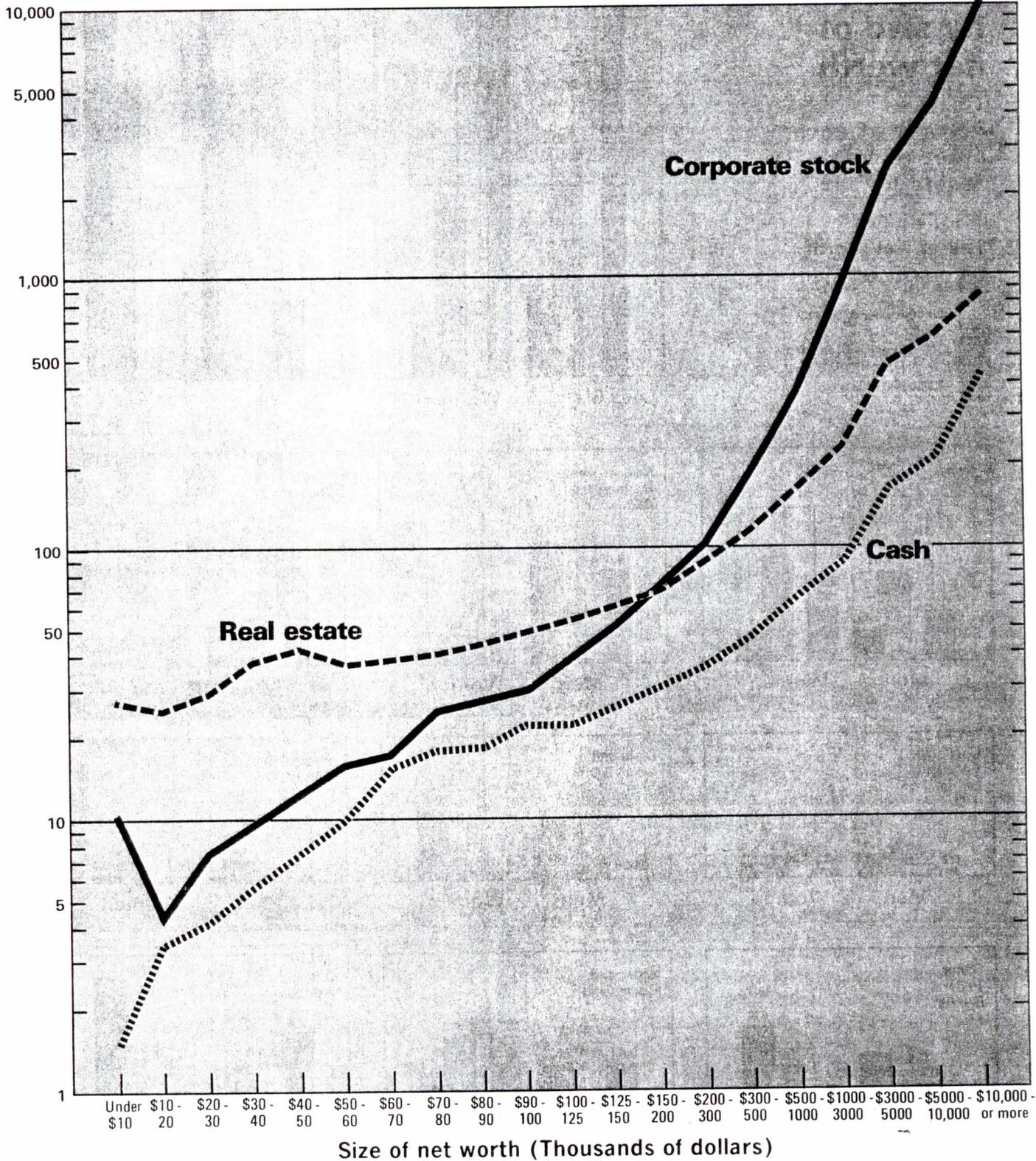


Chart 8

Marital status and age

Composition of Assets and Debts as a Percent of Total Assets for Men and Women, 1969

Total Assets = 100%

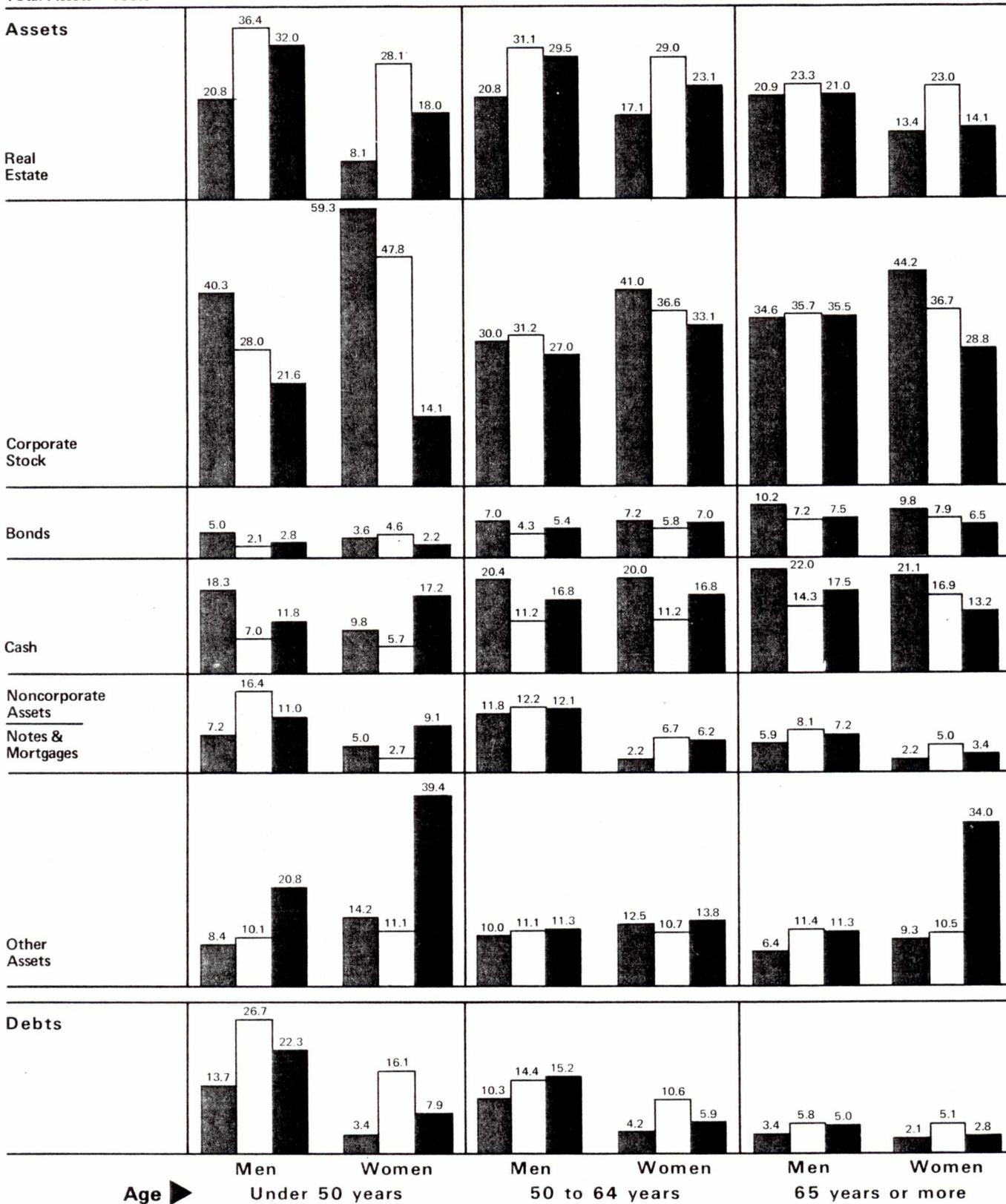


Chart 9

Net worth and marital status

Composition of Assets and Debts as a Percent of Total Assets for Men and Women, 1969

Total Assets = 100%

Net Worth Code

- Under \$60,000
- \$60,000 under \$100,000
- \$100,000 under \$500,000
- \$500,000 or more

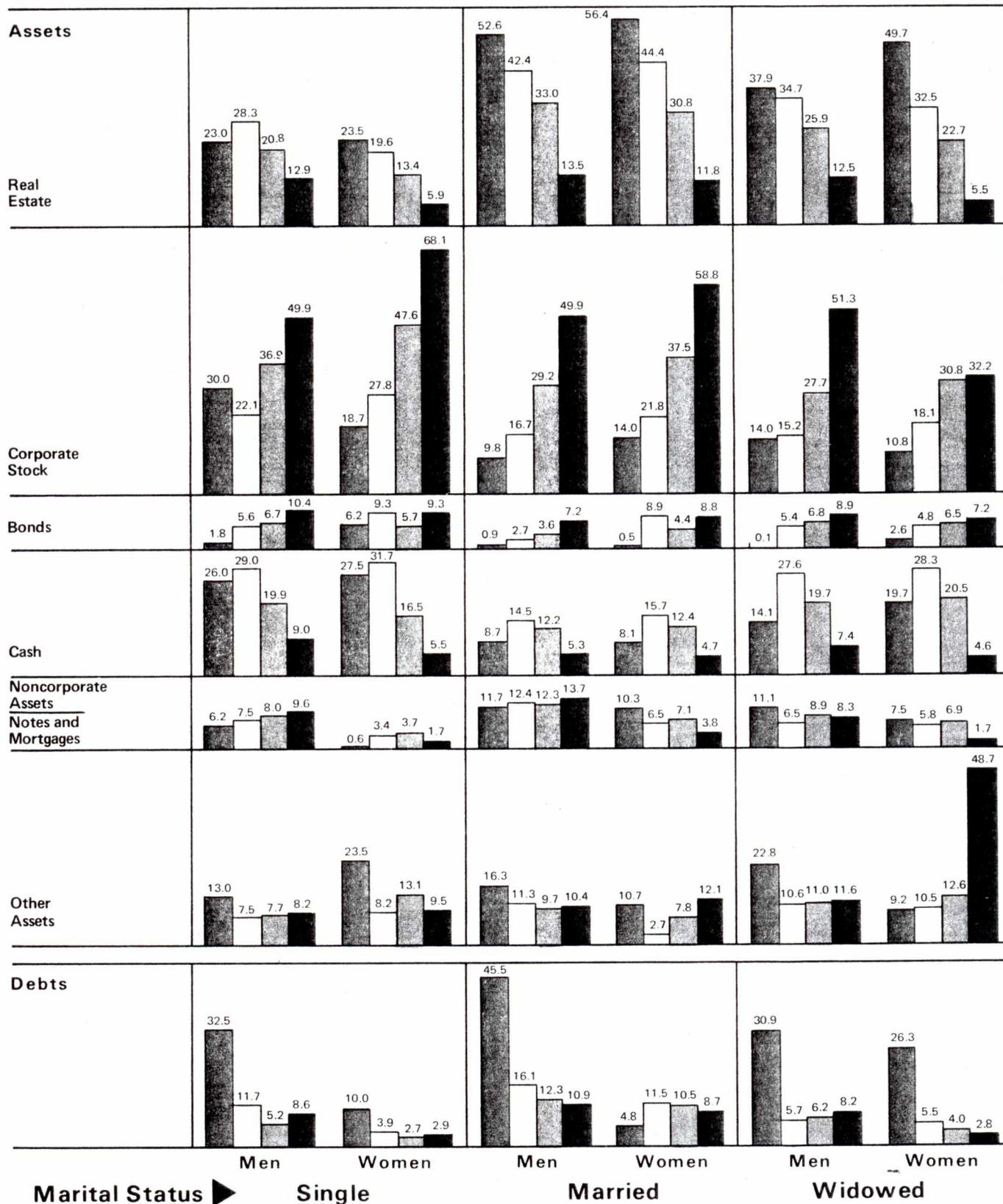


Chart 10

Net worth and age

Composition of Assets and Debts as a Percent of Total Assets for Men and Women, 1969

Total Assets = 100%

Size of Net Worth

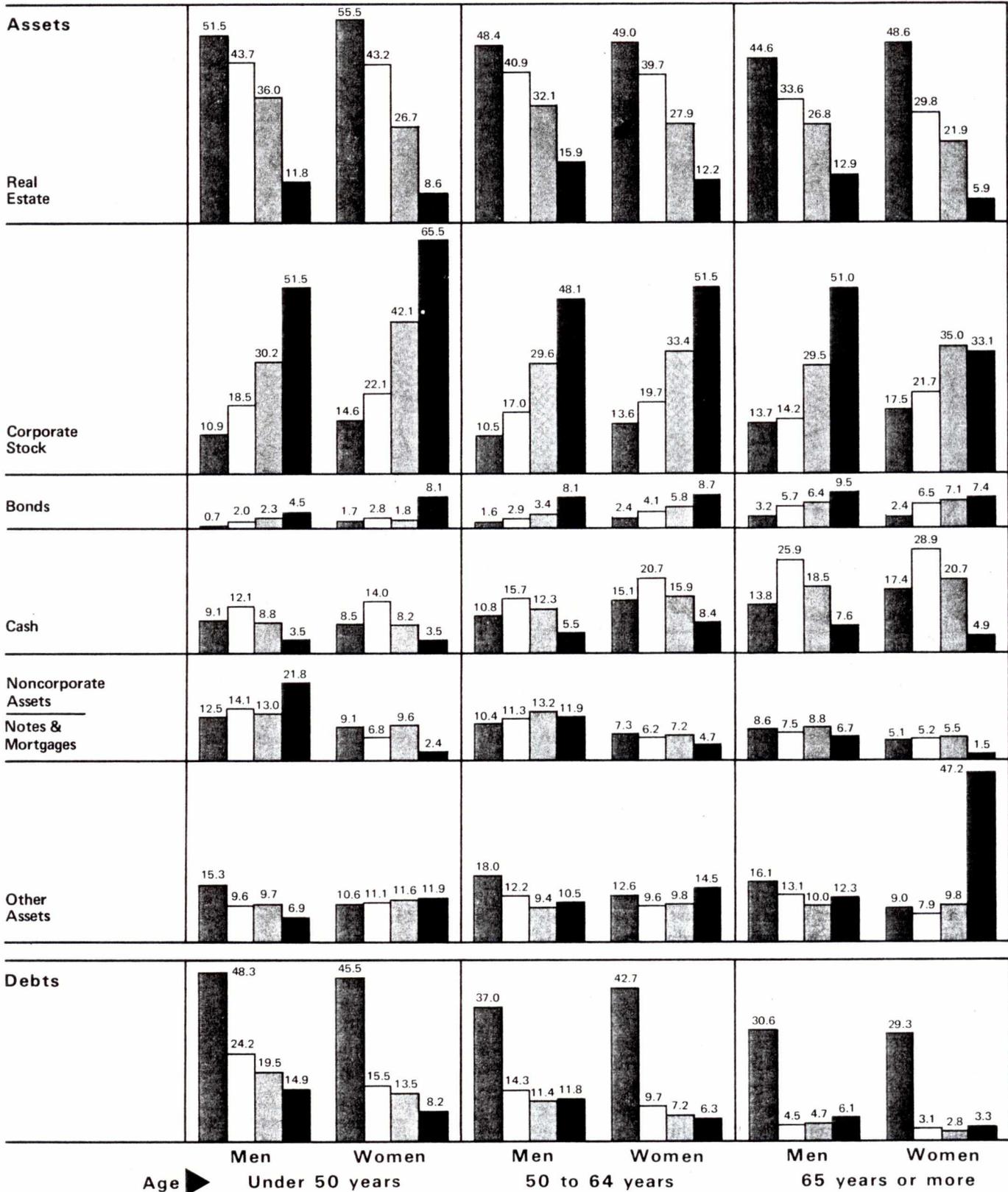
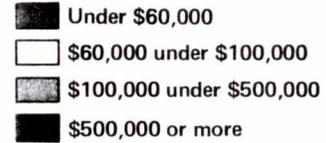
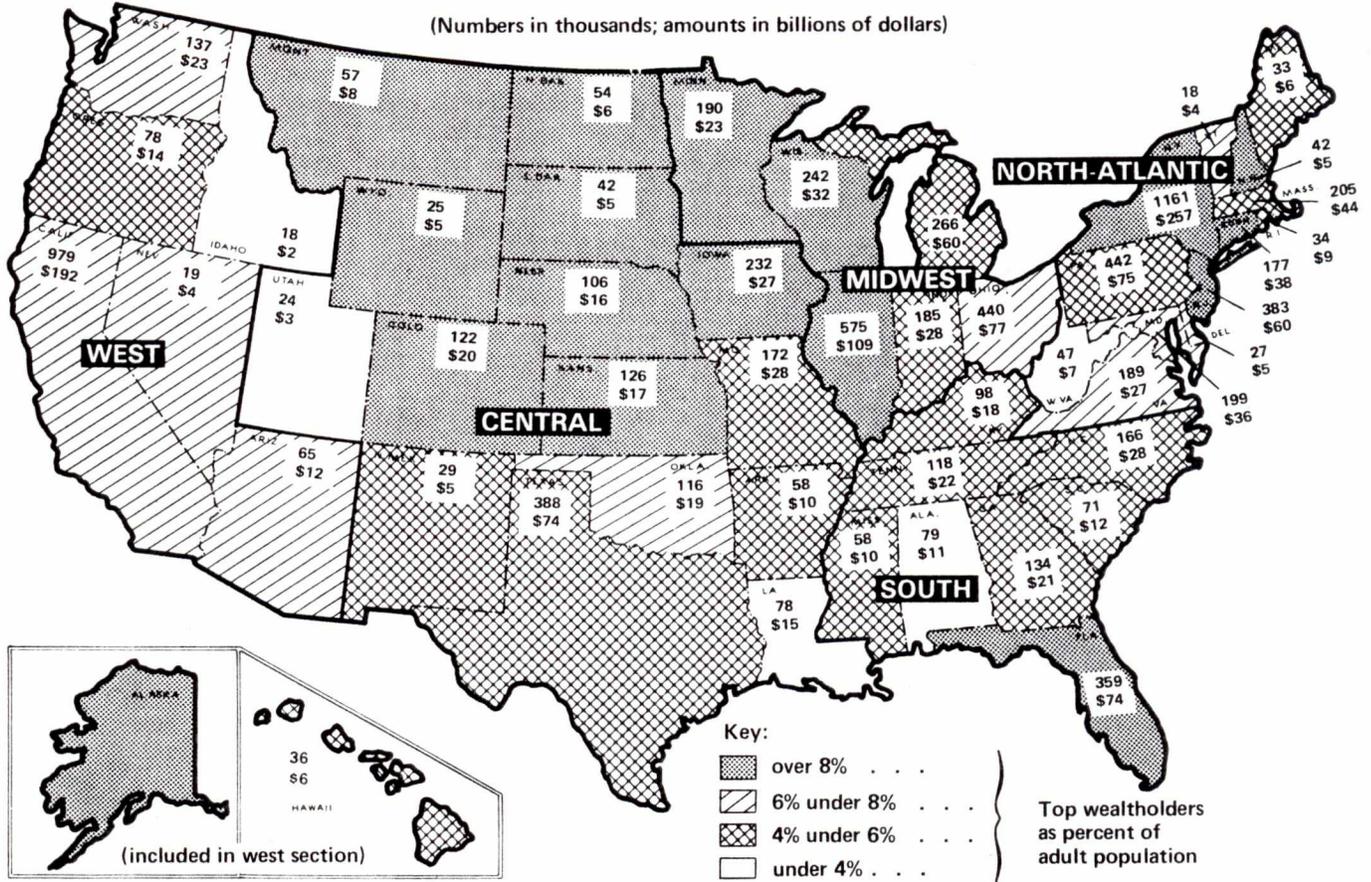


Chart 11

Number of top wealthholders, total assets, and proportion of adult population in top wealthholder group in each state, 1969



Figures for Alaska not shown because of high sampling variability.

old have two-fifths of their assets in corporate stock, one-fifth in real estate, and debts of only 13 percent of total assets; single men with net worth under \$60,000 had 30 percent of their assets in corporate stock, 23 percent in real estate and their debts were nearly one-third of their assets. The charts can also be used to compare the variation in the holdings of a particular asset for groups of different characteristics. For example, the holdings of corporate stock as a percent of total assets show a very consistent pattern of growth as wealth increases for both men and women and regarding less of marital status.

Geographic Area

Though the distribution of top wealthholders generally reflected the population density in 1969, the proportion of top wealthholders for each State differed significantly by region of the country. Chart 11 indicates that the region with the highest relative concentration of top wealthholders was the block of States in the north-central part of the country, where predominantly large farms require high investments in

land and equipment. This is substantiated by the composition of assets in those States compared to others that had above-average concentrations of top wealthholders. Real estate and noncorporate business assets accounted for 40 to 60 percent of the total assets of top wealthholders in most of those States (Table 33). By contrast, in Florida and in the New England States that had over 8 percent of the adult population in the top wealthholder group, these two asset items accounted for between 20 and 30 percent of total assets.

The North-Atlantic section¹ of the country had one-third of the total number of top wealthholders, with New York having more than any other State, 1.2 million. The Midwest had 21 percent and the South had 12 percent (one-third of whom were in Florida). The Central States had 18 percent and the remaining 15 percent were in the West, most of whom were in California.

¹ Geographic areas are Office of Management and Budget Statistical Areas or combinations thereof. North-Atlantic section includes OMB Regions I, II, and III; South is Region IV; Midwest is Region V; Central is Regions VI, VII, and VIII; and West is Regions IX and X.

Basic Tables

Numbers of top wealthholders in the tables which follow are unrounded, primarily so frequencies could be presented in many data cells containing less than 1,000 top wealthholders. This convention has been followed to make it easier for the reader to use the tables and preserve the accuracy of any appropriate data combinations. In terms of any economic analysis based on these data, it is recommended that the

number of top wealthholders be rounded to the nearest thousand, because this is more consistent with the accuracy of the estimation technique.

Amounts have been provided in millions of dollars in keeping with the presumed accuracy of this technique. An asterisk (*) appears in every data cell where the amount is less than \$500,000.

Table 1.—ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets			
			Number	Amount		Cash		Corporate stock	
						Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Total.....	9,012,808	1,580,603	7,995,503	203,639	1,376,964	8,591,028	189,670	6,600,439	551,421
Negative net worth.....	71,414	5,843	71,414	9,682	-3,840	61,521	354	38,443	805
\$0 under \$50,000.....	1,743,741	88,678	1,574,454	40,247	48,431	1,611,756	8,016	982,901	8,875
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	1,475,144	110,950	1,277,758	20,513	90,437	1,407,629	18,814	1,004,705	16,683
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	2,022,102	190,804	1,714,828	22,214	168,589	1,923,323	36,560	1,454,814	39,031
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	1,639,385	222,091	1,442,661	23,577	198,514	1,582,412	38,054	1,280,896	55,995
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	1,297,638	293,871	1,181,406	28,911	264,960	1,249,373	41,244	1,129,679	97,846
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	642,732	345,283	613,840	31,586	313,697	635,495	33,709	592,502	151,452
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	111,322	211,984	109,818	19,347	192,637	110,189	10,385	107,328	119,801
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	5,917	44,392	5,911	3,665	40,727	5,917	1,227	5,782	25,640
\$10,000,000 or more.....	3,413	66,706	3,413	3,896	62,810	3,413	1,306	3,389	35,293

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued									
	Corporate and foreign bonds		Government bonds						Life insurance equity	
	Number	Amount	State and local bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds		Number	Amount
Number			Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	
Total.....	1,311,870	15,500	399,173	23,249	2,422,559	20,035	646,570	26,619	6,558,764	30,974
Negative net worth.....	2,965	10	-	-	5,009	1	113	(*)	67,193	476
\$0 under \$50,000.....	89,697	185	1,514	6	375,297	441	34,080	120	1,687,789	7,353
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	116,489	532	10,900	81	419,034	2,064	56,957	468	1,101,469	4,130
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	264,031	1,626	31,442	230	570,919	4,682	114,522	1,243	1,344,363	4,605
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	266,646	2,175	49,751	514	484,665	4,403	114,278	1,522	1,071,201	4,596
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	299,253	3,207	119,641	2,054	359,956	4,523	145,008	3,277	814,471	4,863
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	220,467	4,283	128,062	6,637	180,221	2,907	140,358	8,320	404,705	3,633
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	46,571	2,787	50,856	8,268	25,367	593	36,840	5,528	62,107	1,114
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	3,112	363	4,470	3,053	510	10	2,659	2,561	3,147	121
\$10,000,000 or more.....	2,639	330	2,537	2,405	1,581	409	1,755	3,579	2,319	84

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued								Estate tax return statistics		
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	
Total.....	2,597,026	59,440	7,400,060	427,955	2,428,804	88,776	8,160,566	146,965	133,941	29,666	26,911
Negative net worth.....	21,821	409	40,059	2,454	26,608	931	70,454	402	222	50	-15
\$0 under \$50,000.....	240,024	1,843	1,437,596	48,668	393,294	6,361	1,609,059	6,809	6,003	596	196
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	341,844	3,953	1,245,964	47,364	408,771	7,850	1,316,479	9,010	19,721	1,510	1,244
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	564,704	7,886	1,645,457	71,522	485,316	9,077	1,765,044	14,341	36,039	3,338	3,012
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	526,935	9,711	1,355,321	76,638	475,421	13,143	1,466,196	15,340	30,531	4,053	3,706
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	527,635	14,480	1,059,111	83,478	370,236	13,585	1,198,699	25,313	25,500	5,632	5,208
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	308,515	15,109	520,735	69,925	219,903	16,713	615,447	32,595	13,366	7,001	6,562
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	59,664	5,066	87,817	22,550	43,814	8,112	109,875	27,779	2,352	4,600	4,263
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	3,114	534	4,698	2,334	3,174	1,369	5,902	6,680	145	1,063	985
\$10,000,000 or more.....	2,770	448	3,302	2,521	2,267	11,636	3,413	8,696	63	1,822	1,750

Table 2.—MALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealth-holders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets			
			Number	Amount		Cash		Corporate stock	
						Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Total.....	5,642,619	921,863	5,063,373	147,070	774,793	5,398,428	102,429	4,051,195	291,423
Negative net worth.....	63,647	4,626	63,647	7,445	-2,820	53,754	263	31,440	561
\$0 under \$50,000.....	1,558,092	77,255	1,411,311	34,758	42,497	1,437,028	6,933	873,005	7,726
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	893,962	68,553	781,885	14,431	54,122	855,992	10,313	610,235	9,667
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	1,069,198	104,313	911,296	15,178	89,135	1,032,549	17,721	782,818	19,291
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	918,830	126,483	824,245	14,982	111,501	898,450	19,523	735,421	29,604
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	708,130	165,789	654,705	20,549	145,239	694,634	21,823	615,188	49,729
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	369,590	201,590	355,775	22,166	179,424	365,840	18,885	343,814	83,581
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	56,721	110,428	56,067	12,454	97,974	55,732	5,829	56,884	58,982
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,814	22,425	2,807	2,401	20,023	2,814	612	2,755	13,831
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,635	40,401	1,635	2,705	37,696	1,635	526	1,635	18,451

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued									
	Corporate and foreign bonds		Government bonds						Life insurance equity	
	Number	Amount	State and local bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds		Number	Amount
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	
Total.....	753,773	8,650	177,282	10,813	1,474,450	10,726	308,179	11,930	5,006,529	28,141
Negative net worth.....	1,607	2	-	-	3,652	1	113	(*)	61,546	454
\$0 under \$50,000.....	77,103	153	1,514	6	341,739	377	30,118	66	1,543,857	6,908
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	77,195	314	5,397	61	230,327	1,041	24,615	186	796,348	3,696
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	130,493	790	9,839	68	319,857	2,273	45,883	474	892,744	4,040
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	148,081	1,023	25,809	282	266,530	2,275	53,289	700	772,874	4,129
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	168,594	1,705	48,811	704	197,196	2,574	65,199	1,462	577,681	4,404
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	119,780	2,223	61,053	2,909	99,822	1,837	71,744	4,121	309,402	3,346
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	27,967	1,987	21,926	3,958	14,463	336	15,735	2,432	48,466	995
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	1,664	301	2,005	1,723	260	6	895	592	2,132	87
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,289	151	928	1,100	604	5	588	1,897	1,479	81

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued								Estate tax return statistics		
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
									(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total.....	1,588,379	36,588	4,810,496	274,912	1,909,445	74,685	5,215,355	71,566	83,558	18,679	16,394
Negative net worth.....	17,955	243	32,822	1,899	22,212	838	62,688	363	200	46	-13
\$0 under \$50,000.....	193,346	1,475	1,302,440	41,491	361,536	6,121	1,442,276	5,999	5,492	552	178
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	204,910	2,252	774,093	29,364	312,233	6,425	818,944	5,233	12,019	979	750
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	316,888	4,099	922,663	40,839	374,457	7,903	968,850	6,814	21,062	2,040	1,767
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	308,316	5,464	796,309	44,618	358,074	10,413	846,076	8,451	18,854	2,577	2,287
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	313,292	8,414	616,560	53,374	282,623	10,411	658,786	11,190	15,828	3,594	3,235
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	196,249	10,022	314,547	46,061	166,171	13,257	357,204	15,347	8,535	4,545	4,194
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	33,924	3,928	47,237	14,006	28,899	6,746	56,097	11,229	1,443	2,879	2,620
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	2,161	328	2,230	1,800	1,867	1,177	2,799	1,967	91	669	620
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,338	364	1,595	1,460	1,373	11,394	1,635	4,972	36	796	756

Table 3.—FEMALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealth-holders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets			
			Number	Amount		Cash		Corporate stock	
						Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Total.....	3,370,189	658,740	2,932,129	56,569	602,171	3,192,599	87,240	2,549,242	259,998
Negative net worth.....	7,767	1,217	7,767	2,237	-1,020	7,767	91	7,003	243
\$0 under \$50,000.....	185,649	11,423	163,143	5,489	5,934	174,728	1,083	109,896	1,150
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	581,182	42,397	495,873	6,082	36,315	551,637	8,502	394,469	7,016
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	952,905	86,491	803,532	7,037	79,454	890,774	18,839	671,996	19,740
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	720,555	95,608	618,416	8,596	87,013	683,962	18,530	545,475	26,391
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	589,508	128,082	526,702	8,362	119,720	554,739	19,420	514,491	48,118
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	273,142	143,693	258,065	9,419	134,274	269,655	14,824	248,688	67,871
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	54,601	101,556	53,751	6,893	94,663	54,457	4,556	52,444	60,820
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	3,103	21,968	3,103	1,263	20,704	3,103	615	3,027	11,809
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,777	26,305	1,777	1,191	25,114	1,777	781	1,753	16,842

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued									
	Corporate and foreign bonds		Government bonds						Life insurance equity	
	Number	Amount	State and local bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds		Number	Amount
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	
Total.....	558,092	6,850	221,893	12,436	948,109	9,309	338,394	14,689	1,552,236	2,833
Negative net worth.....	1,357	8	-	-	1,357	(*)	-	-	5,646	22
\$0 under \$50,000.....	12,594	32	-	-	33,558	64	3,963	54	143,932	446
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	39,294	218	5,503	20	188,706	1,023	32,342	283	305,121	433
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	133,537	836	21,603	162	251,062	2,409	68,640	769	451,619	565
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	118,565	1,152	23,942	231	218,135	2,128	60,988	822	298,327	467
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	130,659	1,502	70,830	1,350	162,760	1,950	79,810	1,815	236,791	459
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	100,687	2,060	67,010	3,727	80,400	1,070	68,614	4,199	95,303	287
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	18,603	800	28,930	4,310	10,904	258	21,105	3,096	13,642	119
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	1,447	62	2,465	1,300	250	4	1,764	1,969	1,015	34
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,349	178	1,610	1,305	977	404	1,168	1,682	840	3

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued								Estate tax return statistics		
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
									(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total.....	1,008,647	22,852	2,589,565	153,043	519,358	14,092	2,945,212	75,399	50,383	10,988	10,518
Negative net worth.....	3,867	166	7,238	555	4,396	93	7,767	39	22	4	-3
\$0 under \$50,000.....	46,678	368	135,157	7,177	31,757	240	166,783	810	511	44	18
\$50,000 under \$70,000.....	136,934	1,701	471,871	18,000	96,538	1,425	497,535	3,777	7,702	532	494
\$70,000 under \$100,000.....	247,817	3,787	722,794	30,683	110,859	1,174	796,194	7,527	14,978	1,298	1,245
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	218,618	4,247	559,012	32,021	117,347	2,730	620,120	6,889	11,678	1,476	1,420
\$150,000 under \$300,000.....	214,343	6,066	442,551	30,104	87,613	3,174	539,913	14,123	9,672	2,038	1,973
\$300,000 under \$1,000,000.....	112,266	5,087	206,188	23,864	53,732	3,456	258,242	17,248	4,831	2,455	2,369
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	25,739	1,138	40,580	8,544	14,915	1,365	53,778	16,550	909	1,721	1,643
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	953	206	2,467	1,034	1,307	192	3,103	4,713	54	394	365
\$10,000,000 or more.....	1,432	84	1,707	1,061	894	241	1,777	3,724	27	1,026	994

Personal Wealth Estimated From Estate Tax Returns, 1972

by Keith Gilmour and Charles Crossed

Introduction

This report provides estimates of the personal wealth of individuals with more than \$60,000 gross assets in 1972. The estimates are based on a sample of Federal estate tax returns filed during 1973 (such returns having been required for all individuals with more than \$60,000 gross estate at date of death).¹

The estate data which formed the basis for this report were published in *Statistics of Income—1972, Estate Tax Returns*, to which this volume is a supplement. This volume is the third personal wealth report to be published; the first two being for 1962 and 1969, respectively.

The underlying assumption in making these estimates is that death draws a random sample of the living population. The technique used to derive the estimates, called the "estate multiplier", relies on the fact that for the general population the mortality rate is known for each age and sex group. Therefore, if the number that died in each age/sex group is known, and the mortality rate for each group is known, then the population is simply the inverse of the mortality rate times the number of deaths in each group.

The estate multiplier technique is discussed further in Appendix A, but some problems associated with the technique are discussed here to provide an indication of some of the limitations inherent in the wealth estimates for the "top wealthholder" population provided in this report. The term "top wealthholder" is used throughout this report to refer to those in the living population with a gross estate of more than \$60,000 in 1972.

Perhaps the chief problem that confronts all applications of the estate multiplier technique is the lack of exact mortality rates appropriate to the top wealthholder population. This deficiency is very important, for there is much evidence to support the view that the mortality rates of those with economic well-being are more favorable than for the general population. On the basis of this evidence, which is discussed in detail in Appendix A, it is reasonable to assume that the mortality rates of top wealthholders are more favorable than the average mortality rates.

Other limitations associated with the estate multiplier technique that deserve early consideration relate to estate tax return reporting requirements and the wealth concepts for which measures are available.

Though the estate tax return is a rich source of economic information, generally prepared from records by highly skilled people and under exacting requirements of law, the

wealth reported on the return is not identical with what is ordinarily considered an individual's personal wealth. The financial value of life insurance to a living person, for example, is its cash surrender value; the estate of a deceased person includes the insurance at its full face value. In the estimates presented in this report, insurance proceeds were adjusted so both equity and face values of insurance could be included in different concepts of wealth.

Gifts and other transfers of wealth which were made by the decedent within 3 years of death are included as part of the wealth in this report. Such wealth must be reported on the estate tax return on the theory that the transfer was made in contemplation of death.

Some duplication in wealth is included in these estimates to the extent that the estate returns of both benefactors and beneficiaries were filed in 1973. This is also true with respect to jointly-held property which is included as wealth of one person.

Some types of wealth such as pensions, annuities, and trust interests, represented only by an income right of the decedent; and, certain community property interests; are excluded from the estimates.

The valuation of estate tax return assets may be understated for other reasons. The estimates are based on returns as filed before audit, and assets for which no ready market exists could be undervalued by the executor in the interest of minimizing the estate tax. In addition, the option to use an alternate valuation had the effect of reducing reported wealth. For returns used in this report, those filed in 1973, the alternate method permitted valuation 6 months after death, or on the date of disposal if within that period.

The estimates in this report should be relatively accurate with regard to showing the patterns of asset holdings among different age, sex, and marital status groups of top wealthholders. The estimates are less precise in terms of the absolute value of these asset holdings.

Summary of Findings

There were an estimated 12.8 million individuals in the living population in 1972 with gross estate of more than \$60,000. These 12.8 million top wealthholders represented about 6.1 percent of the total population in October (the point in time about which these estimates center). Slightly more than 7.8 million of this group were men, while 5.0 million were women, representing 7.7 percent and 4.7 percent of their respective population totals.

The top wealthholders had total assets valued at \$2.2 trillion and debts of \$0.3 trillion, resulting in net worth of \$1.9 trillion. As indicated in table A, over three-fifths of the

¹ The time period for these estimates would center around October 1972, since 66 percent of the estate tax returns were for individuals who died in 1972; 28 percent for 1973 decedents; and only 6 percent for individuals who died in 1971 or earlier years.

Table A.—NUMBER OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS AND ASSET COMPOSITION BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1972

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number of top wealthholders are in thousands, dollar amounts are in billions]

Item	Total	Size of net worth				
		Under \$50,000	\$50,000 under \$100,000	\$100,000 under \$500,000	\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number of top wealthholders	12,815	2,906	5,141	4,283	305	180
Total assets.....	2,152	151	444	881	226	449
Debts.....	300	99	67	85	19	31
Net worth.....	1,852	53	377	797	208	417
Types of assets:						
Cash.....	278	11	85	143	19	19
Corporate stock.....	629	12	65	239	98	215
Bonds.....	124	1	14	44	16	49
Real estate.....	645	83	190	273	44	55
All other.....	475	44	89	183	49	109

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

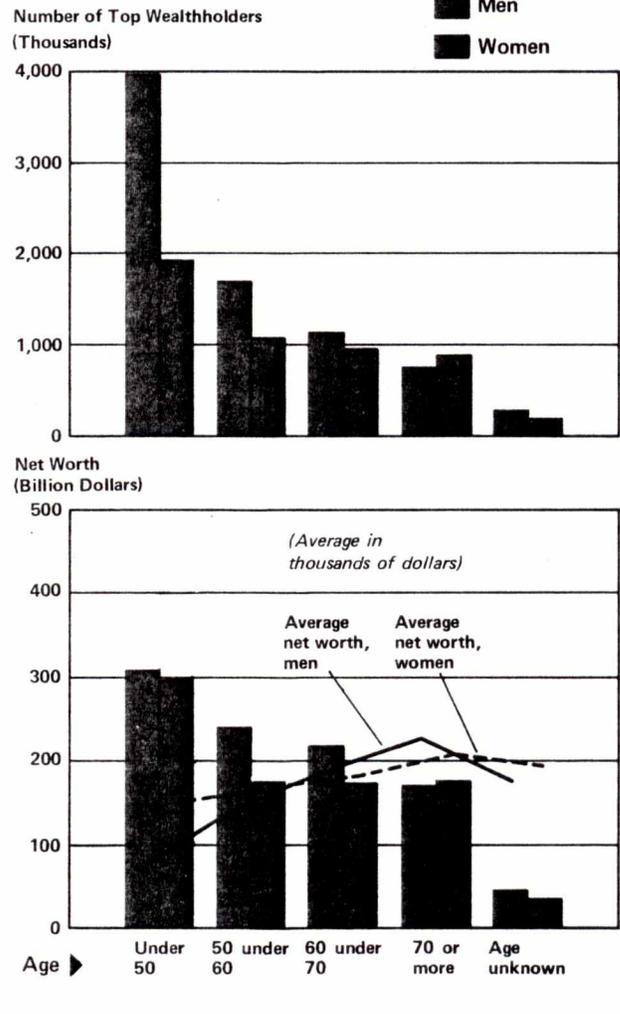
top wealthholders had a net worth of less than \$100,000. About 4 percent of the top wealthholders had a net worth of \$500,000 or more. Overall, real estate, at \$645 billion, was the largest single asset item in the top wealthholders' balance sheet. Corporate stock, the leading component in the 1962 and 1969 wealth estimates, amounted to \$629 billion in 1972. Over two-fifths of the total value of real estate was held by those with net worth of less than \$100,000, while, in contrast, almost one-half of the corporate stock was held by those with net worth of \$500,000 or more.

Chart 1 shows that the pattern of wealth among men was closely related with age. As age increased, the average net worth steadily increased, from \$78 thousand for those under age 50 to more than \$226 thousand for those age 70 or more. The pattern for women was not as closely related to age, probably due to the way much of their wealth was obtained (i.e., through inheritance).

In terms of age, women top wealthholders were generally older than men. Over half of the men and about two-fifths of the women were under age 50. In contrast, over one-quarter of the women were age 65 and over compared to about one-fifth of the men.

The vast majority of male top wealthholders were married, over 80 percent, while less than 7 percent were widowers. In comparison, 45 percent of the female top wealthholders were married and 36 percent were widows. Single individuals ac-

Chart 1
Number of top wealthholders, net worth, average net worth for men and women, 1972



counted for about 8 percent and 11 percent of the male and female top wealthholders, respectively.

Top Wealthholders in Perspective

Concepts of Wealth

As indicated in the Introduction, this report provides estimates of the number and wealth of individuals with a "gross estate" of more than \$60,000 in 1972. The gross estate criterion is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth that does not conform to more usual definitions of wealth mainly because life insurance at face value is included as wealth of the decedent. Therefore, three measures of wealth are used throughout this report; gross estate, total assets, and net worth. Since net worth is the more usual concept of wealth, it is used as the major classifier.

Gross estate is the gross value of all assets including the full face value of life insurance reduced by policy loans and before the reduction by the amount of debts. This measure defines those included in the top wealthholder group.

Total assets, a lower wealth value, is still essentially a gross measure. This is obtained by using the cash value of the life

insurance asset; that is, the value the insurance had immediately prior to death.

Net worth, of course, is the level after all debts have been removed, and includes the cash value of life insurance. Table B indicates the number of top wealthholders at four wealth levels, using the three definitions of wealth. Whereas an estimated 218 thousand individuals were millionaires according to the value of their gross estate, only 180 thousand were in the millionaire category in terms of net worth.

Wealth Profile

The composition of wealth is related to age, sex, marital status, and the total amount of wealth held. For a number of reasons the present report can only provide partial answers to the question of the direction and magnitude in which these influences interact. One limitation is that the asset categories are quite broad and not always very homogeneous.

Individual movements within an asset category may be obscured or confounded by other, perhaps opposite, tendencies. Even within such a relatively homogeneous category as publicly traded stock, important but unobserved changes in portfolio composition may occur. Because of the graduated income taxes, there may be a shift toward growth stocks with lower yields as wealth increases.

Types of wealth held by men and women

Although more men were in the top wealthholder group, on the average women held more wealth (\$188 thousand of total assets to \$155 thousand for men). Table C indicates the differences in the composition of asset holdings of men

Table B.—NUMBER OF TOP WEALTHHOLDERS BY MEASURES OF GROSS AND NET WEALTH, 1972

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers are in thousands]

Size class for particular measure	Number as measured by—		
	Net worth	Total assets	Gross estate
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Total.....	12,815	12,815	12,815
Under \$100,000.....	8,047	7,021	4,938
\$100,000 under \$500,000.....	4,283	5,217	7,233
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	305	375	425
\$1,000,000 or more.....	180	203	218

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

Table C.—COMPOSITION OF WEALTH FOR MALE AND FEMALE TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, 1972

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers are in thousands, dollars amounts are in billions]

Item	Male top wealthholders				Female top wealthholders			
	Number	Percent of total males	Amount	Percent of total assets	Number	Percent of total females	Amount	Percent of total assets
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total assets.....	7,810	100.0	1,209	100.0	5,006	100.0	943	100.0
Debts.....	6,724	86.1	219	18.1	4,159	83.1	81	8.6
Net worth.....	7,810	100.0	990	81.9	5,006	100.0	862	91.4
Types of assets:								
Cash.....	7,423	95.0	142	11.7	4,730	94.5	137	14.5
Corporate stock.....	5,177	66.3	334	27.6	3,410	68.1	296	31.4
Bonds, total.....	2,798	35.8	59	4.9	2,038	40.7	65	6.9
Corporate and foreign.....	967	12.4	15	1.2	872	17.4	13	1.4
Government, total.....	2,247	28.8	44	3.7	1,570	31.4	52	5.5
Federal savings.....	1,896	24.3	12	1.0	1,175	23.5	11	1.2
Other Federal.....	297	3.8	14	1.1	359	7.2	25	2.7
State and local.....	243	3.1	19	1.6	246	4.9	17	1.8
Life insurance equity.....	6,815	87.3	37	3.1	2,532	50.6	5	0.5
Notes and mortgages.....	1,831	23.4	50	4.2	1,258	25.1	36	3.8
Real estate.....	6,693	85.7	393	32.5	3,988	79.7	252	26.7
Noncorporate business.....	2,106	27.0	75	6.2	556	11.1	18	1.9
Other assets.....	7,216	92.4	119	9.8	4,386	87.6	135	14.3

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

and women. Proportionally, more men than women owned real estate, notes and mortgages, and noncorporate business assets. In contrast, more women owned corporate stock and bonds. As a percent of total assets, the debts of men were twice those of women, 18 percent compared to 9 percent. The reason for the large difference in debts relates to the fact that proportionally more men owned the assets which are typically mortgaged or debt-financed, such as real estate and business assets.

Age and marital status

Chart 2 shows the distribution of assets for men and women in various age brackets. About 36 percent of the assets controlled by women, and 37 percent of the assets controlled by men, represented individuals under age 50. Men in age groups 50 under 65 had almost 35 percent of the total male-held assets, compared to a figure of 32 percent for women.

Chart 3 presents a comparison of the asset composition of top wealthholders within marital status classifications. Married top wealthholders held proportionately more real estate and life insurance; single wealthholders had relatively more corporate stock and cash; widows and widowers had relatively more bonds; and "other" marital groups (divorced and separated) had relatively more business assets and notes and mortgages.

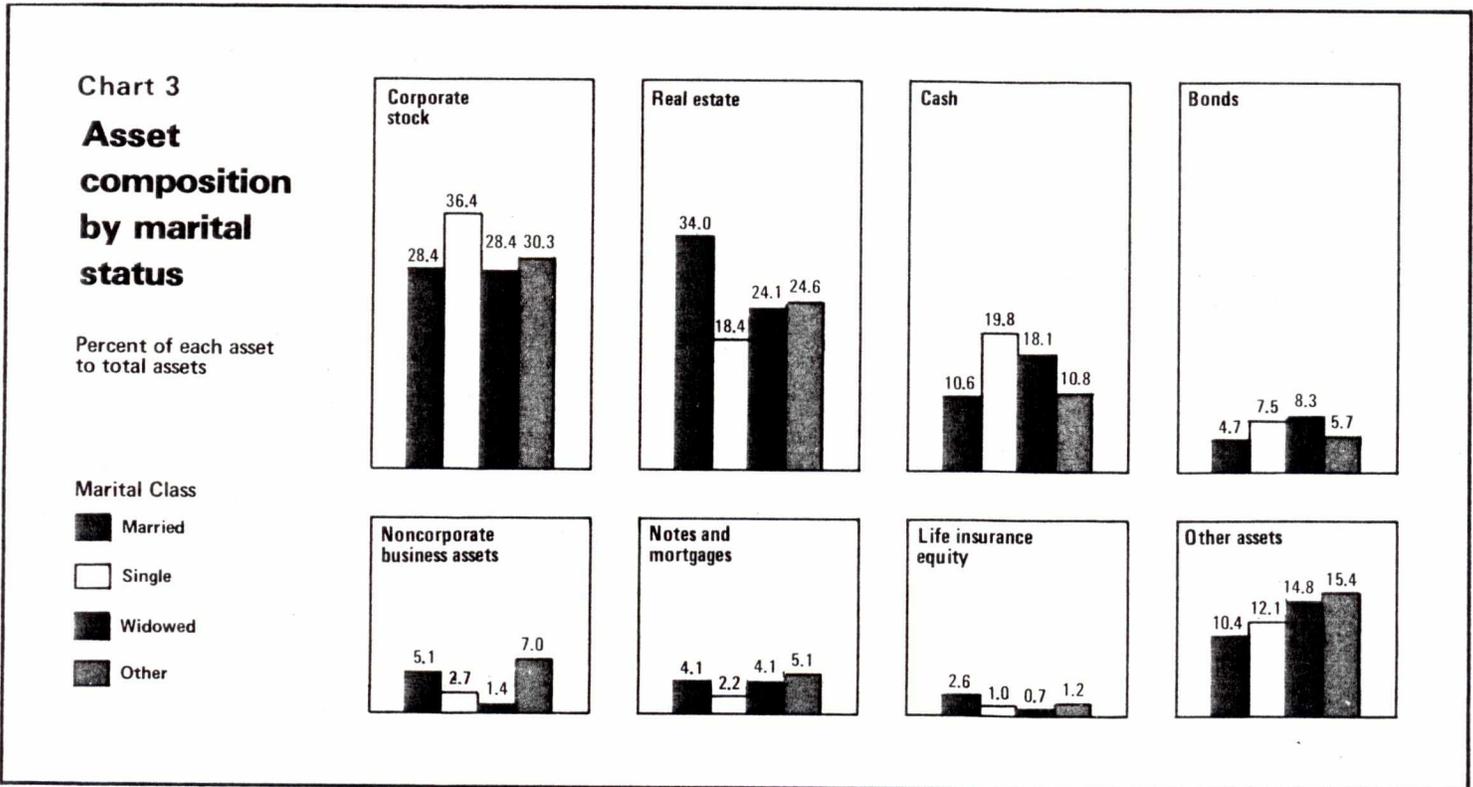
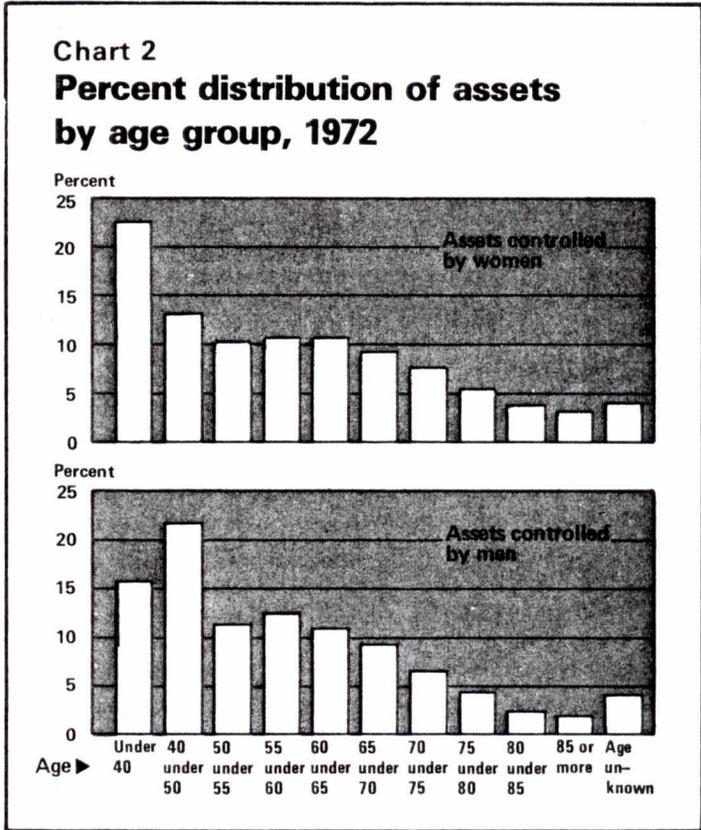


Chart 4
Percent of total assets controlled by each marital group of men and women, by age group, 1972

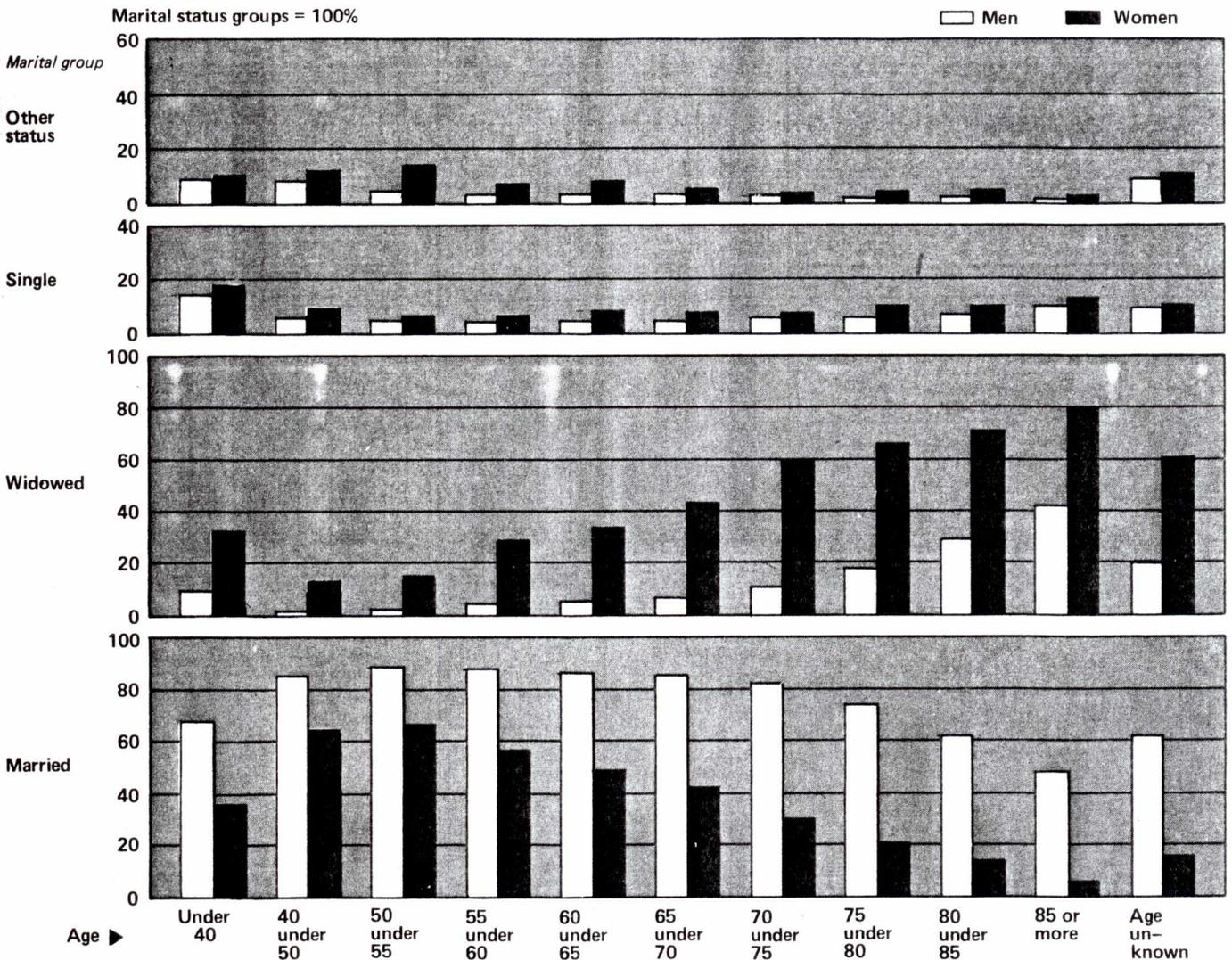


Chart 4 shows the pattern of wealth concentration for age/sex groups within marital status classifications. Married males controlled the vast majority of wealth in every age group for men; while for women, the married controlled the bulk of the wealth in age groups under 65, and, as expected, the widowed controlled the wealth for age groups 65 and over.

Size of wealth

Chart 5 shows the variation in the composition of assets related to the size of net worth. For both male and female

top wealthholders, the relative importance of real estate declined sharply as wealth increased. This was also true of life insurance, especially for men. Asset types which increased significantly as net worth rose were corporate stock and certain types of bonds.

In general, the asset composition of top wealthholders is predominantly related to size of wealth, particularly in the holding of corporate stock, real estate, and insurance. Age, sex, and marital status seem to play less important roles in the choice of holdings of various types of assets.

Chart 5

Asset composition by size of net worth

Percent of each asset to total assets by sex

Size of Net Worth

- Under \$50,000
- \$50,000 under \$100,000
- \$100,000 under \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,000 or more

* Less than 0.05 percent

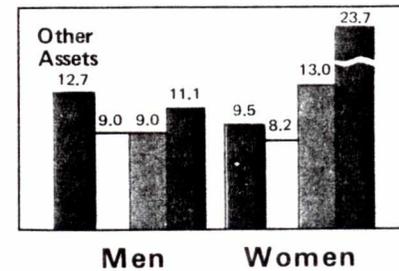
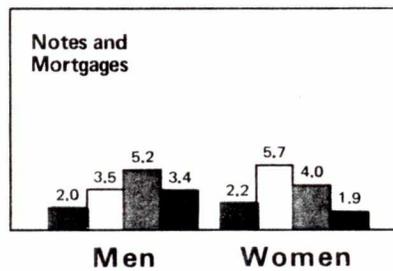
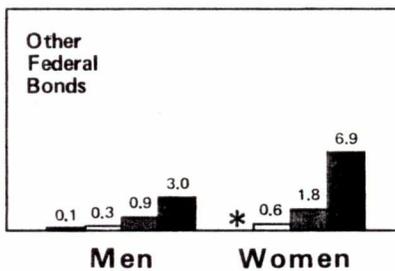
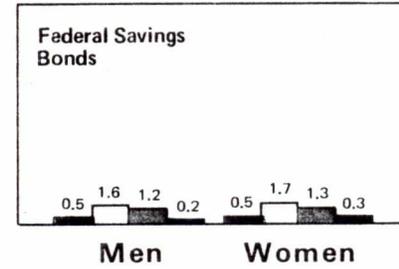
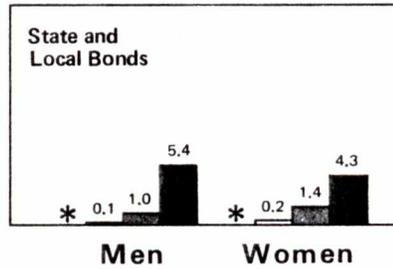
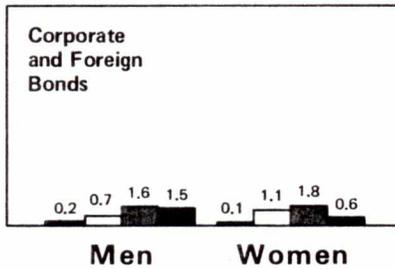
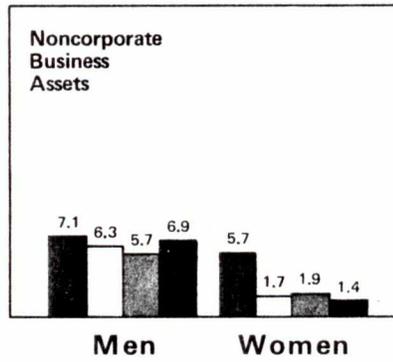
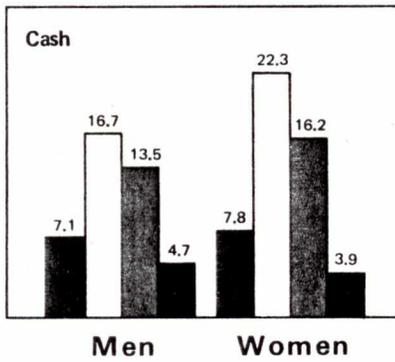
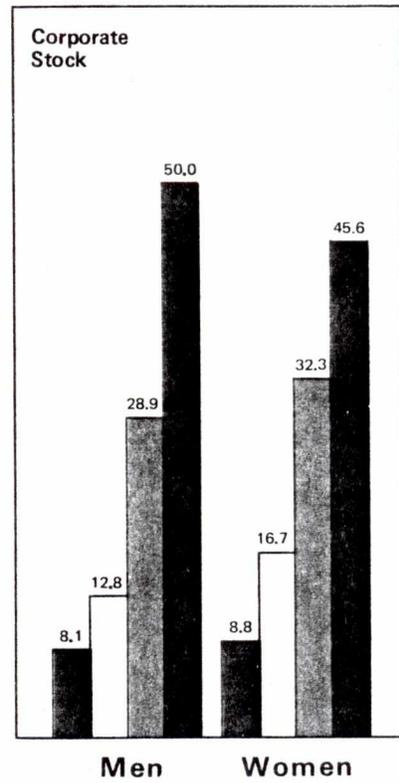
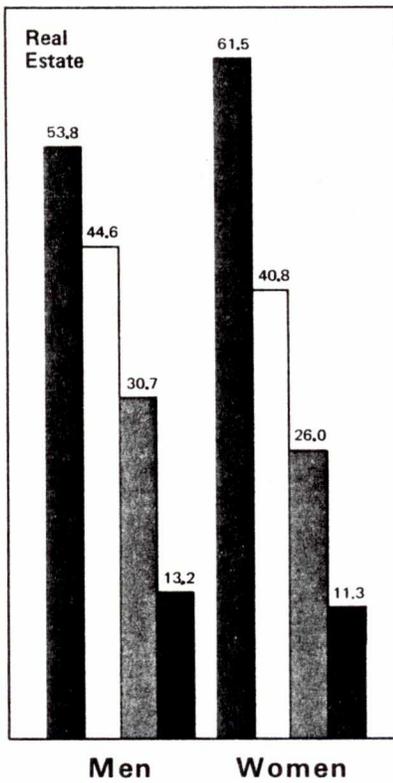


Table 1.—ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets			
			Number	Amount		Cash		Corporate stock	
						Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Total.....	12,815.2	2,151,946	10,883.4	300,064	1,851,884	12,153.7	278,390	8,586.4	629,402
Negative net worth.....	116.3	12,936	116.3	38,097	-25,160	93.0	471	61.9	2,066
\$0 under \$20,000.....	913.3	29,946	813.6	19,429	10,517	831.6	1,637	397.2	1,778
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	1,876.8	108,502	1,703.4	41,034	67,468	1,732.2	8,823	1,111.9	8,614
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	881.2	63,282	777.9	14,611	48,671	839.1	8,415	552.1	7,503
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	1,479.6	113,468	1,150.7	17,098	96,370	1,370.7	21,621	875.0	16,885
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	1,111.5	98,533	873.4	15,446	83,087	1,052.1	20,839	685.9	13,838
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	1,668.5	168,690	1,291.0	19,398	149,293	1,599.9	34,437	1,100.0	26,562
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	2,071.3	279,939	1,732.1	29,851	250,088	2,006.3	52,885	1,544.0	59,318
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	1,364.4	285,351	1,174.2	26,932	258,419	1,318.0	47,944	1,081.6	71,227
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	847.5	316,048	787.5	28,028	288,020	834.2	42,483	730.6	108,218
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	304.8	226,332	287.9	18,660	207,672	297.5	19,417	281.0	98,343
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	168.7	329,492	164.2	22,852	306,640	167.9	15,591	154.5	155,621
\$5,000,000 or more.....	11.3	119,427	11.2	8,628	110,799	11.2	3,827	10.7	59,429

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds							
	Total		Corporate and foreign		Government			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Federal savings	
Number					Amount	Number	Amount	
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	
Total.....	4,836.0	124,206	1,838.4	27,682	3,816.5	96,526	3,070.7	22,703
Negative net worth.....	11.5	45	4.5	30	7.1	15	7.0	11
\$0 under \$20,000.....	178.7	205	25.6	34	164.4	171	164.3	120
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	546.1	930	84.4	221	483.7	709	455.6	605
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	293.7	1,178	77.8	424	249.9	754	233.2	683
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	464.8	2,976	147.7	946	366.2	2,030	321.4	1,672
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	376.8	3,234	106.1	791	308.5	2,443	276.5	1,765
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	613.6	6,470	206.6	1,777	489.8	4,694	424.7	3,207
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	884.8	10,635	371.0	3,775	642.9	6,859	535.0	4,775
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	663.1	14,069	337.0	5,089	477.3	8,981	349.6	4,319
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	481.6	19,136	294.5	6,614	354.6	12,523	202.0	3,401
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	190.6	15,957	111.3	3,236	157.4	12,721	68.4	1,173
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	121.1	36,173	66.5	3,599	105.8	32,575	31.5	882
\$5,000,000 or more.....	9.6	13,198	5.4	1,146	8.9	12,051	1.5	90

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government—Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)
(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	
Total.....	656.1	38,343	488.8	35,481	9,346.4	41,939	3,089.1	86,416
Negative net worth.....	(*)	1	0.3	3	112.0	763	22.4	607
\$0 under \$20,000.....	0.1	50	1.8	1	902.2	3,415	98.3	438
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	26.3	65	15.1	39	1,781.4	7,410	202.0	1,983
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	15.1	53	5.8	18	775.8	2,912	160.7	2,258
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	43.9	255	11.6	102	934.2	3,095	301.2	6,353
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	34.4	573	13.0	105	742.2	2,383	239.8	3,917
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	62.3	1,131	28.2	356	1,144.4	3,847	395.3	7,502
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	94.9	1,317	62.2	768	1,353.6	5,761	568.1	12,131
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	122.0	3,072	79.2	1,590	848.3	4,845	497.5	14,524
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	130.5	5,105	108.4	4,017	498.6	3,839	376.3	15,151
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	66.6	4,995	84.3	6,553	167.0	1,969	138.7	9,478
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	55.3	15,287	71.7	16,406	80.9	1,475	81.3	9,300
\$5,000,000 or more.....	4.7	6,439	7.2	5,523	5.8	235	7.5	2,774

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
							(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)
Total.....	10,681.1	645,341	2,657.5	92,607	11,601.5	253,647	174,891	38,862	35,120
Negative net worth.....	81.3	6,094	49.4	1,854	100.8	1,036	364	96	-100
\$0 under \$20,000.....	681.7	17,062	99.1	1,349	851.9	4,062	1,358	156	16
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	1,691.8	60,115	340.9	7,217	1,780.5	13,409	6,440	621	245
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	779.2	31,982	149.3	2,901	783.1	6,133	6,135	516	343
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	1,196.3	47,382	252.4	4,661	1,262.8	10,497	19,374	1,464	1,260
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	893.5	41,823	238.7	4,666	947.6	7,833	17,810	1,498	1,333
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	1,424.3	69,135	332.9	6,791	1,472.7	13,945	28,000	2,783	2,504
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	1,744.8	101,973	476.6	12,610	1,848.6	24,625	40,193	5,343	4,874
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	1,105.1	90,565	338.0	11,445	1,268.4	30,733	28,179	5,782	5,362
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	695.4	80,072	234.7	12,162	813.3	34,987	17,022	6,230	5,801
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	242.1	43,831	90.7	7,727	296.3	29,610	6,398	4,646	4,357
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	136.0	45,965	49.5	10,877	164.3	54,489	3,341	6,488	6,068
\$5,000,000 or more.....	9.6	9,342	5.3	8,347	11.2	22,288	277	3,239	3,057

Table 2.—ALL MEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets			
			Number	Amount		Cash		Corporate stock	
						Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Total.....	7,809.6	1,208,971	6,724.1	218,846	990,126	7,423.4	141,704	5,177.0	333,637
Negative net worth.....	115.2	12,477	115.2	36,852	-24,374	91.9	419	60.8	1,845
\$0 under \$20,000.....	838.2	27,939	750.8	18,353	9,586	761.4	1,478	366.2	1,736
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	1,543.4	86,955	1,377.0	32,519	54,436	1,434.5	7,154	881.3	6,760
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	599.7	43,243	510.4	10,295	32,948	581.9	5,460	395.1	4,764
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	691.8	55,564	564.9	10,594	44,971	664.7	9,290	444.3	6,794
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	620.7	55,695	496.0	9,360	46,334	599.1	9,854	384.2	7,011
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	834.1	86,666	653.1	12,064	74,602	795.6	15,553	577.8	12,263
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	1,134.5	156,930	958.7	20,053	136,877	1,085.8	26,442	841.6	30,663
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	728.0	156,229	635.5	17,455	138,774	714.0	23,730	595.8	36,481
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	464.4	178,929	430.7	20,342	158,587	457.4	21,594	404.4	58,506
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	150.4	112,598	144.1	11,325	101,273	148.5	9,702	140.6	49,016
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	82.5	159,359	81.1	14,294	145,065	82.0	8,223	78.3	77,237
\$5,000,000 or more.....	6.7	76,387	6.6	5,340	71,047	6.6	2,805	6.6	40,561

Size of net worth	Types of assets--Continued							
	Bonds							
	Total		Corporate and foreign		Government			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Federal savings	
Number					Amount	Number	Amount	
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	
Total.....	2,798.1	59,399	966.9	14,939	2,246.8	44,460	1,895.9	12,085
Negative net worth.....	10.8	35	4.5	30	6.4	5	6.3	3
\$0 under \$20,000.....	162.6	199	25.6	34	148.3	165	148.2	114
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	479.1	792	70.4	186	426.5	606	399.8	508
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	207.7	701	63.8	196	175.2	505	160.6	440
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	220.4	1,292	53.9	318	183.7	974	168.3	847
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	218.6	1,806	58.9	361	180.1	1,445	158.8	926
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	306.6	2,891	94.2	839	248.1	2,052	230.1	1,731
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	450.2	5,219	179.1	1,741	334.6	3,478	279.1	2,466
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	330.0	6,655	169.7	2,459	229.3	4,196	178.7	2,337
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	255.8	9,099	152.8	3,461	190.5	5,638	113.2	1,722
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	94.2	7,010	56.0	1,773	73.3	5,236	37.6	621
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	56.5	16,603	34.6	2,626	45.6	13,978	14.5	325
\$5,000,000 or more.....	5.6	7,097	3.4	915	5.2	6,182	0.7	45

Size of net worth	Types of assets--Continued							
	Bonds--Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government--Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)
(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	
Total.....	297.0	13,505	243.2	18,874	6,814.7	37,393	1,830.6	50,372
Negative net worth.....	(*)	1	0.2	1	111.0	742	21.7	562
\$0 under \$20,000.....	0.1	50	1.8	1	831.0	3,175	97.7	436
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	25.9	65	14.1	34	1,517.7	6,763	159.9	1,506
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	14.9	50	3.8	16	570.5	2,615	107.4	1,137
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	15.4	94	5.3	34	557.6	2,517	128.1	1,797
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	20.8	441	10.0	78	474.6	2,017	129.1	2,289
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	16.8	223	12.1	98	689.3	3,334	202.4	3,252
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	48.0	558	35.6	454	919.0	5,073	349.0	7,627
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	46.9	1,147	32.8	712	587.4	4,384	286.5	8,491
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	60.6	2,042	54.8	1,875	366.7	3,474	220.5	9,420
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	25.1	1,807	36.9	2,808	119.7	1,769	77.3	5,752
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	20.3	4,703	31.5	8,950	65.2	1,327	46.5	6,144
\$5,000,000 or more.....	2.2	2,324	4.3	3,813	5.0	203	4.5	1,959

Size of net worth	Types of assets--Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
							(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)
Total.....	6,693.1	393,104	2,101.6	74,742	7,215.9	118,623	108,985	24,761	21,645
Negative net worth.....	80.6	6,048	48.8	1,828	99.7	998	343	90	-93
\$0 under \$20,000.....	622.1	15,910	97.8	1,285	789.2	3,721	1,296	149	16
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	1,381.8	46,554	303.2	5,928	1,474.7	11,498	5,725	565	216
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	541.3	21,853	128.8	2,453	552.2	4,260	4,700	413	261
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	589.4	25,353	188.2	3,342	618.6	5,179	10,921	875	711
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	513.7	24,129	181.9	3,663	548.3	4,925	10,450	916	782
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	736.3	36,242	254.6	5,813	754.2	7,319	16,547	1,716	1,481
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	983.3	57,591	379.5	10,484	1,028.4	13,832	25,016	3,426	3,034
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	641.5	54,016	252.1	8,675	676.3	13,797	17,335	3,667	3,313
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	397.9	49,978	166.9	9,695	440.8	17,164	10,393	3,904	3,550
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	127.3	24,257	61.1	5,334	145.2	9,758	3,966	2,939	2,709
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	71.7	24,674	35.3	8,300	81.7	16,851	2,121	4,115	3,807
\$5,000,000 or more.....	6.2	6,499	3.4	7,942	6.6	9,321	172	1,986	1,858

Table 3.—ALL WOMEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets			
			Number	Amount		Cash		Corporate stock	
						Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Total.....	5,005.7	942,973	4,159.4	81,217	861,761	4,730.3	136,688	3,409.6	295,767
Negative net worth.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
\$0 under \$20,000.....	75.1	2,006	62.8	1,075	931	70.1	159	31.0	43
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	333.5	21,547	326.4	8,515	13,032	297.7	1,669	230.6	1,853
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	281.5	20,039	267.6	4,316	15,723	257.2	2,956	157.0	2,739
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	787.8	57,904	585.8	6,504	51,400	706.0	12,331	430.7	10,091
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	490.8	42,838	377.4	6,085	36,753	453.0	10,985	301.7	6,827
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	834.4	82,024	637.9	7,334	74,691	804.3	18,884	522.3	14,300
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	936.8	123,009	773.4	9,798	113,211	920.6	26,443	702.5	28,656
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	636.4	129,122	538.7	9,477	119,646	604.0	24,214	485.8	34,746
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	383.1	137,119	356.9	7,687	129,433	376.8	20,889	326.2	49,712
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	154.4	113,734	143.8	7,335	106,399	149.0	9,715	140.3	49,327
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	86.2	170,132	83.1	8,598	161,575	85.9	7,368	76.2	78,384
\$5,000,000 or more.....	4.6	43,037	4.5	3,288	39,752	4.6	1,022	4.2	18,868

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds							
	Total		Corporate and foreign		Government			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Federal savings	
Number					Amount	Number	Amount	
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	
Total.....	2,038.1	64,808	871.6	12,742	1,570.0	52,067	1,174.6	10,617
Negative net worth.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
\$0 under \$20,000.....	16.1	6	-	-	16.1	6	16.1	6
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	67.0	138	14.0	35	57.2	103	55.8	97
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	86.0	477	14.0	228	74.7	249	72.6	243
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	244.4	1,683	93.8	628	182.5	1,055	153.0	825
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	158.3	1,427	47.2	429	128.4	998	117.6	839
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	307.0	3,580	112.4	938	241.8	2,642	194.6	1,476
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	434.7	5,416	192.0	2,034	308.3	3,382	255.9	2,309
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	333.1	7,414	167.3	2,630	248.1	4,785	170.9	1,982
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	225.8	10,038	141.7	3,153	164.1	6,885	88.8	1,679
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	96.3	8,947	55.3	1,462	84.0	7,485	30.8	551
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	64.6	19,570	31.9	973	60.2	18,597	17.0	557
\$5,000,000 or more.....	4.0	6,101	2.0	232	3.8	5,869	0.8	45

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government—Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	
(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	
Total.....	359.4	24,842	245.5	16,608	2,531.7	4,545	1,258.3	36,044
Negative net worth.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
\$0 under \$20,000.....	-	-	-	-	71.2	240	0.6	2
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	0.4	1	1.0	5	263.7	647	42.1	478
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	0.2	3	2.0	2	205.3	297	53.2	1,121
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	28.5	162	6.3	69	376.6	578	173.1	4,555
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	13.7	132	3.0	27	267.6	366	110.7	1,628
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	45.6	908	16.1	258	455.2	513	192.8	4,250
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	46.9	759	26.6	313	434.6	688	219.1	4,504
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	75.1	1,925	46.4	878	260.9	461	211.0	6,033
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	70.0	3,063	53.6	2,142	131.9	364	155.8	5,731
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	41.5	3,189	47.3	3,745	47.3	200	61.4	3,726
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	35.0	10,585	40.2	7,456	15.7	148	34.8	3,156
\$5,000,000 or more.....	2.5	4,115	2.9	1,710	0.7	22	3.0	81.5

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
							(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)
Total.....	3,988.0	252,238	555.6	17,864	4,385.6	135,020	65,905	14,100	13,479
Negative net worth.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
\$0 under \$20,000.....	59.6	1,152	1.2	63	62.8	341	21	6	-7
\$20,000 under \$50,000.....	310.0	13,561	37.7	1,289	305.8	1,911	714	56	29
\$50,000 under \$60,000.....	237.9	10,129	20.4	448	230.9	1,872	1,435	103	82
\$60,000 under \$70,000.....	606.9	22,029	64.1	1,319	644.2	5,317	8,453	589	549
\$70,000 under \$80,000.....	379.8	17,695	56.8	1,003	399.3	2,908	7,360	582	551
\$80,000 under \$100,000.....	688.0	32,893	78.3	979	718.5	6,625	11,453	1,068	1,024
\$100,000 under \$150,000.....	761.6	44,382	97.1	2,126	820.2	10,793	15,177	1,917	1,841
\$150,000 under \$250,000.....	463.6	36,549	86.0	2,770	592.1	16,935	10,844	2,114	2,049
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	297.5	30,094	67.8	2,467	372.4	17,823	6,629	2,325	2,252
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	114.8	19,574	29.6	2,393	151.1	19,852	2,432	1,707	1,648
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	64.3	21,291	14.2	2,577	82.6	37,638	1,220	2,373	2,261
\$5,000,000 or more.....	3.3	2,843	1.8	404	4.6	12,967	105	1,253	1,199

Trends in Personal Wealth, 1976-1981

by Marvin Schwartz

Preliminary estimates of the personal wealth of individuals in 1981 show that there were approximately 4.5 million people with gross assets of \$300,000 or more. These "wealthy individuals", who comprised only 2.0 percent of the nation's population, had net worth (total assets less liabilities) of nearly \$2.4 trillion. In contrast, during 1976, fewer than 2 million people had a similar level of gross assets. The net worth of these 1976 top wealthholders was in excess of \$1.0 trillion, which was nearly 23 percent of the net worth of all individuals in the country [1].

Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$300,000 or More

Year	Wealthholders (thousands)	Total Assets (billions)	Net Worth (billions)
1976	1,938	1,238	1,043
1981	4,522	2,804	2,389

The number of top wealthholders with net worth of \$1 million or more showed a substantial increase from 1976 to 1981, in contrast to the lack of growth in the number of millionaires between 1972 and 1976. While there were approximately 180,000 individuals with net worth of \$1,000,000 or more in both 1972 and 1976, estimates show between 350,000 and 500,000 individuals with this same level of net worth in 1981. The leveling off of the number of millionaires between 1972 and 1976 is likely a result of the decline in the value of corporate stock over that period [2]. As shown below, corporate stock declined both in value and as a relative share of the total assets of individuals with net worth \$1,000,000 or more between 1972 and 1976.

Corporate Stock Held by Top Wealthholders With Net Worth \$1,000,000 or More, 1972 and 1976

	Corporate Stock (billions)	Total Assets (billions)	Corporate Stock As Percentage of Total Assets
1972	215.1	448.9	47.9
1976	181.5	432.1	42.0

The sharp increase in the number of millionaires between 1976 and 1981 may in part be attributed to inflation. Using the Personal Consumption Expenditures Implicit Price Deflator [3], \$1,000,000 in 1981 had the equivalent value of \$677,121 in 1976. Additionally, the rapid increase in the value of real estate may also, in part, be responsible for the growth in the number of millionaires.

ESTIMATING PERSONAL WEALTH FROM ESTATE TAX RETURNS

While there is great interest in measuring the personal wealth of individuals in the United States, the opportunities for such are limited since this

information is not required to be reported regularly on any tax return or other public document. Though the ideal alternative for measuring wealth would be a comprehensive survey of a representative sample of the population, the reluctance of individuals to willingly reveal personal financial information diminishes the reliability of the estimates that could be generated. The "estate multiplier technique" [4] (see "Data Sources and Limitations" for a discussion of this technique), however, enables one to utilize administrative records, e.g., estate tax returns, for the purpose of estimating the personal wealth of that segment of the population which holds a substantial portion of the total wealth of all individuals. The estimates of the wealth for 1976 and 1981 of these individuals are derived from the application of this estimating technique to data extracted from samples of Federal estate tax returns filed during 1977 and 1982, respectively. The estimates of wealth included herein, therefore, are limited to those living individuals for whom an estate tax return would have been required had they died during a one year period extending from early 1976 to early 1977 or from early 1981 to early 1982. These individuals are hereafter referred to as "top wealthholders".

As the level of gross estate or gross assets required for the filing of an estate tax return has increased, the concept of top wealthholders has likewise changed. The levels of wealth to which the estimates are limited have risen from the \$60,000 which defined top wealthholders in 1972, to \$120,000 for returns filed in 1977, and subsequently to the \$300,000 level for returns filed in 1982. Additionally, as a result of a change in the reporting requirements for estates of decedents who died in 1982, asset detail for 1981 is presented only for those individuals with gross assets in excess of \$500,000.

The wealth included on the returns selected during each of the sample years is centered around mid-year of 1976 and 1981 and therefore reflects the wealth of the living population at that point in time. (A further discussion of the estimating technique is included under "Data Sources and Limitations".)

The gross estate criterion is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth that does not conform to the usual definitions of wealth primarily because the face value of life insurance is included in the wealth of the decedent. Therefore, three measures of wealth have been used in this article: gross estate (or gross assets), total assets, and net worth.

Gross estate or gross assets reflects the gross value of all assets, including the full face value of life insurance reduced by policy loans, but before any reduction for indebtedness. This measure defines those included in the top wealthholder group. Total assets, a lower wealth value, is still essentially a

gross measure. This is obtained by using the cash value of the life insurance asset; that is, the value the insurance had immediately prior to death. Net worth is the level of wealth after all debts have been removed and includes the cash value of life insurance.

PERSONAL WEALTH IN 1976

If the typical top wealthholder was encountered in 1976, we would have found a married male under 50 years of age whose net worth was less than \$250,000. A significant share of his assets would have been in real estate, likely the family home. The typical female top wealthholder would also have been married, but would likely have been older and wealthier. Likewise, the primary asset in her portfolio, would have been real estate. However, it would not have constituted as significant a share of her assets as for her male counterpart.

Male wealthholders represented approximately 66.5 percent, or 5.8 million of the 8.7 million top wealthholders (defined as individuals with gross assets greater than \$120,000) in 1976. The average net worth of these men was \$192,000. Though far fewer in number, the 2.9 million female top wealthholders were generally wealthier with average net worth of \$261,000.

Over 83 percent of the male top wealthholders were married, while less than 5 percent were widowed. This compares with 47 percent of the females who were married and 33 percent who were widowed. These percentages are probably reflective of the age composition of the top wealthholders with nearly 33 percent of the female top wealthholders and only 17 percent of the male top wealthholders 65 years of age or older.

As shown in Figure A, real estate valued at \$771 billion was the largest single asset item held by the top wealthholders. However, corporate stock valued for all wealthholders at \$531 billion, still comprised the greatest share of the assets of those wealthholders with net worth of \$500,000 or more. These rankings reflect the relative importance of real property to that of stock in the asset portfolio of many individuals. In addition, they also reflect the effect of inflated housing values which were enough to cause many individuals to be classified as top wealthholders in 1976.

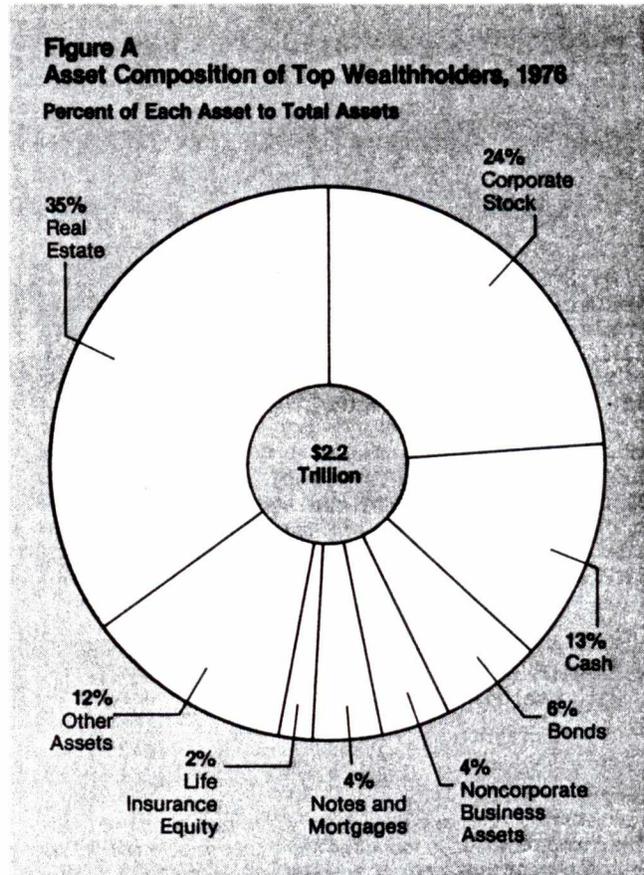
The concentration of wealth among the very top wealthholders was almost as skewed as that for the general population. As shown in Figure B, nearly 23 percent of the total assets of all top wealthholders was held by individuals with total assets of \$1 million or more. These 227,000 individuals represented less than 3 percent of the top wealthholders.

Wealth and Asset Composition

As wealth increased (see Figure C), the relative importance of real estate for both male and female top wealthholders declined sharply. Conversely, corporate stock and certain types of bonds became increasingly significant as the amount of wealth increased. In light of the special tax treatment afforded the income from State and local bonds, these assets were especially attractive to those "well off" individuals seeking to lessen their income tax burden.

Types of Wealth Held by Men and Women

The summary of the composition of wealth shown in Figure D indicates the differences between the holdings of men and women. Proportionally more men than women



owned real estate, noncorporate business assets, and life insurance; however, more women owned bonds and corporate stock. The overall differences in holdings were large for only a few items. In their traditional role as the head of the household, about 89 percent of the men had life insurance to protect their families, whereas only about 53 percent of the women held life insurance. Noncorporate business assets were held by 27 percent of the men, but only 14 percent of the women. This may be reflective of a female spouse's tendency to dispose of the family business upon the death of her husband, combined with the shorter life expectancy of males.

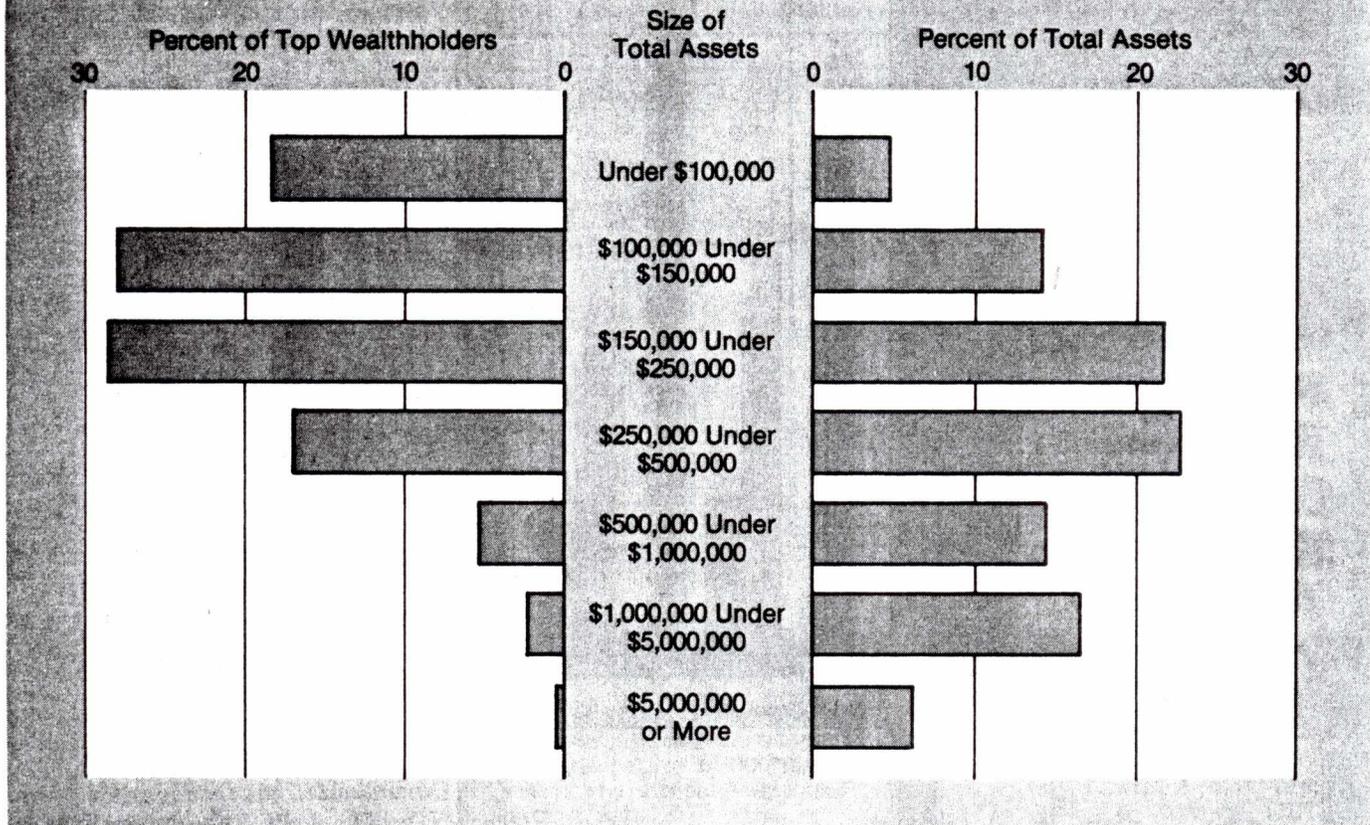
Men had a relatively heavier debt burden than women with 19 percent of their total assets owed as debts and mortgages compared with nearly 10 percent for women. The large difference in debts was related to the fact that proportionally more men owned assets which are typically mortgaged or debt-financed, such as real estate and business assets.

Age and Wealth

The average net worth of male top wealthholders appeared to be closely correlated with age. As age increased (see Figure E), the average net worth increased from \$119,000 for men under 50 years of age to \$395,000 for men 85 years or older. On the other hand, women under age 50 were 43 percent wealthier in terms of total assets than their male counterparts, but showed a less rapid increase than males in their average net worth until their early 60's.

Nearly 48 percent of the male top wealthholders were under 50 years of age, while only 29 percent of the

Figure B
Percent of Top Wealthholders and Total Assets of Top Wealthholders,
By Size of Total Assets, 1976



relatively low proportion of female top wealthholders under 50 years of age is an indication of the fact that many wealthy women may acquire their wealth upon the death of their spouse.

Predictably, younger top wealthholders had a debt burden considerably heavier than that of their elders, declining as age increased. The amount of indebtedness of males under 50 years of age was equal to 33 percent of their total assets. However, for females in this same age group, the debt burden was only 21 percent. As with the younger individuals, the debts of females of each age group was significantly lower than that of males in the same age group. This may be a reflection of the insurance protection provided more often by males that is used to pay off debts.

PERSONAL WEALTH IN 1981

Of the 4.5 million top wealthholders in 1981, redefined to include only those individuals with gross assets of \$300,000 or more, 65 percent were men. However, as in 1976, the average net worth of female top wealthholders was considerably higher than that of their male counterparts, \$637,000 compared to \$471,000.

Figure F shows that, again, a relatively high portion of the female top wealthholders, 28 percent, were widowed. This compared to the mere 4 percent of the males who were widowers. Likewise, 83 percent of the men and 52 percent of the women were married. As in 1976, this probably mainly reflected the age composition of the male and female top wealthholders

and the difference in their life expectancies. In 1981, 48 percent of all male wealthholders were under 50 years of age as opposed to just 29 percent of female top wealthholders.

With the continued increase in its value, real estate, as shown in Figure G, valued at \$593 billion, was the largest single asset item held by top wealthholders in 1981 with gross assets in excess of \$500,000 [5]. Corporate stock valued at \$484 billion was the next most commonly held asset. Together these two asset items accounted for 55 percent of the total assets held by those top wealthholders.

DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

The estimates of personal wealth contained herein are based on information reported on Federal estate tax returns filed during 1977 and 1982. The sampled returns primarily reflect deaths that occurred during a one year period extending from early 1976 to early 1977 or from early 1981 to early 1982. However, because an extension of time for filing the estate tax return can be obtained, the estimates of personal wealth for 1976 and 1981 are also based on a limited number of returns for decedents who died before 1976 or before 1981, respectively.

As indicated previously, the wealth included on the sampled returns is centered around mid-year of 1976 and 1981 and represents the wealth of the living population at that time. While the Federal estate tax return is an exceptional source of economic infor-

Figure C
Asset Composition by
Size of Net Worth, 1976
Percent of Each Asset to
Total Assets by Sex

Size of Net Worth

- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 under \$250,000
- ▒ \$250,000 under \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,000 or more
- * Less than 0.05 percent

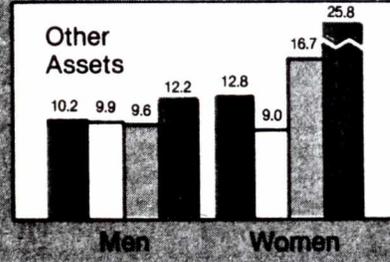
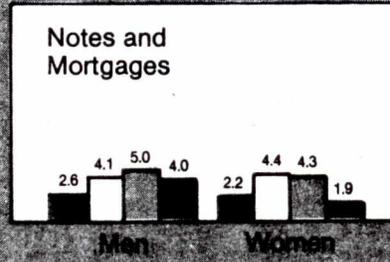
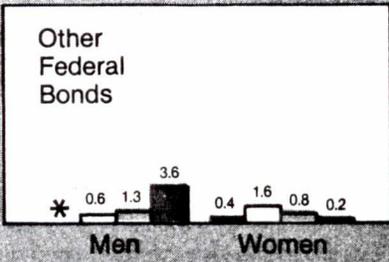
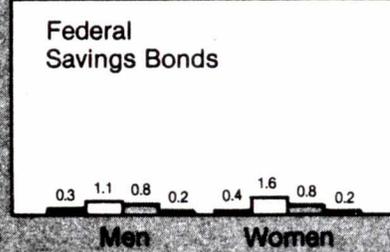
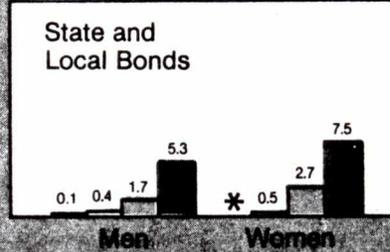
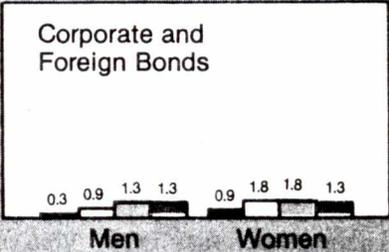
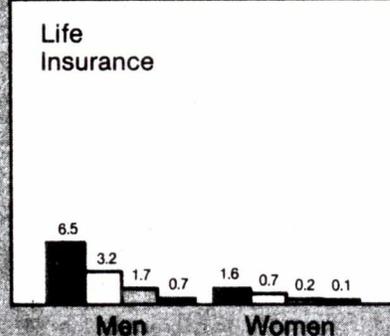
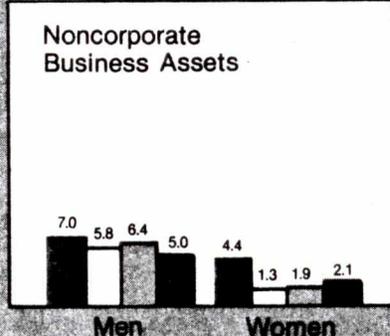
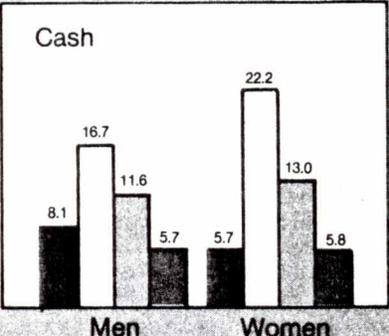
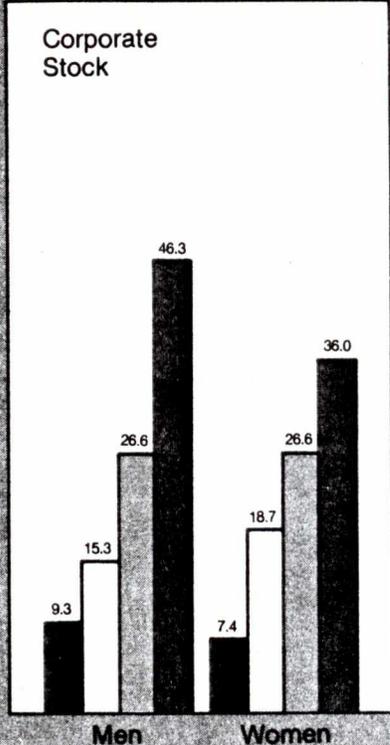
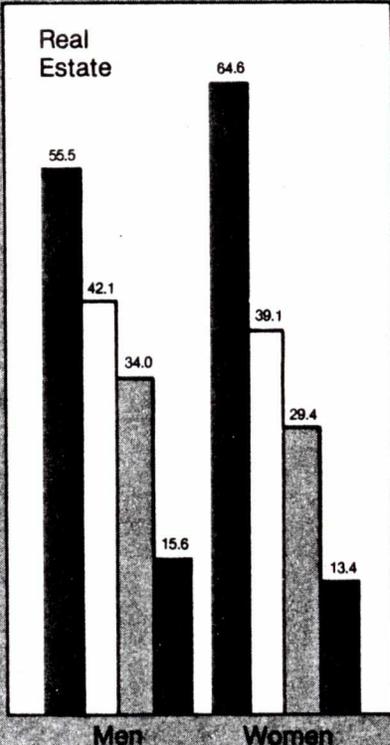


Figure D.--Composition of Wealth for Male and Female Top Wealthholders, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples--numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in billions of dollars]

Item	Male top wealthholders				Female top wealthholders			
	Number	Percent of total males	Amount	Percent of total assets	Number	Percent of total females	Amount	Percent of total assets
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total assets.....	5,782	100.0	1,368	100.0	2,913	100.0	845	100.0
Debts.....	5,324	92.1	260	19.0	2,569	88.2	84	9.9
Net worth.....	5,782	100.0	1,108	81.0	2,913	100.0	761	90.1
Types of assets:								
Cash.....	5,537	95.8	159	11.6	2,746	94.3	122	14.4
Corporate stock.....	3,883	67.2	324	23.7	2,014	69.2	207	24.5
Bonds, total.....	2,012	34.8	64	4.7	1,314	45.1	66	7.8
Corporate and foreign.....	817	14.1	14	1.0	643	22.1	14	1.6
Federal savings.....	1,227	21.2	9	0.7	651	22.3	8	1.0
Other Federal.....	279	4.8	17	1.3	286	9.8	21	2.5
State and local.....	294	5.1	23	1.7	254	8.7	23	2.8
Life insurance equity.....	5,150	89.1	38	2.8	1,558	53.5	4	0.5
Notes and mortgages.....	1,511	26.1	56	4.1	894	30.7	31	3.7
Real estate.....	5,137	88.9	503	36.8	2,394	82.2	268	31.7
Noncorporate business.....	1,569	27.1	83	6.1	400	13.7	16	1.9
Other assets.....	5,539	95.8	141	10.3	2,676	91.9	131	15.5

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

mation, the accuracy of the estimates of personal wealth for a particular point in time is limited somewhat by the time span during which the sampled estates are valued. For assets such as corporate stock, the timing of the valuation can be quite significant. However, nearly 78 percent of the estate returns sampled during 1982 were for decedents who died in 1981 and 81 percent of the estate returns sampled during 1977 were for decedents who died during 1976.

The "estate multiplier technique," which has been used since the beginning of the twentieth century (financial records were used as early as 1864 to estimate total personal wealth by a related technique) [6,7,8] enables conclusions to be drawn about the wealth of the living population through the knowledge of the wealth of the deceased. The underlying assumption in making these estimates from estate tax returns is that death draws a random sample of the living population. However, in actuality, death is not a random event and therefore not necessarily representative of the living population under consideration.

The probability of "death's selection" of an individual depends on the particulars of one's life. Age and sex are usually taken as gross indicators of these conditions. By knowing the mortality rate and the number of deaths for each age and sex group, the population of wealthholders can be derived, by multiplying the inverse of the mortality rate by the number of deaths in each group.

However, vital to the estimates of personal wealth is the use of a mortality rate appropriate to the top wealthholder population. This is essential to the estimates in that there is much evidence that the mortality rate of the wealthy is more favorable than that of the population as a whole [9], that is, social class also is a determinant in the "selection of the sample". Therefore, an adjustment to the general mortality rate is necessary. The basic assumption made to prepare the estimates was that the probability

of death for those at or above the minimum level of gross assets or gross estate included in the estimates for 1976 and 1981 is approximately constant for each age and sex.

The mortality rates assumed to approximate that of the wealthy are generated utilizing data prepared by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company [10]. Three sets of age-specific multipliers for male and female decedents for 1976 were produced utilizing the insurance experience between 1973 and 1976. The same multipliers were used to generate the estimates for 1981.

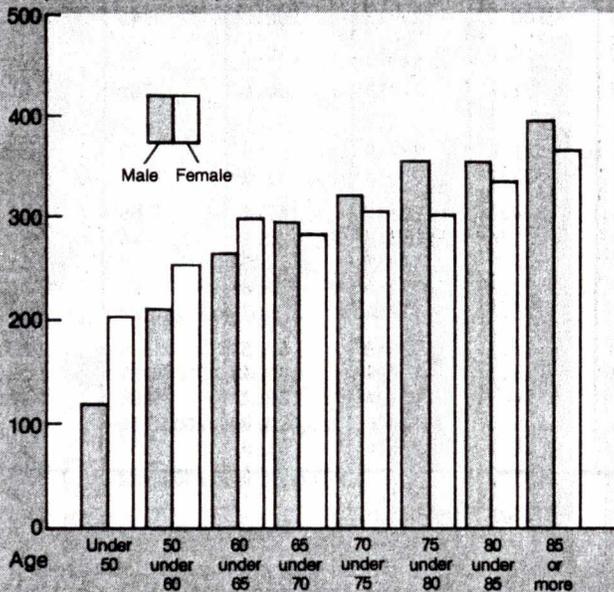
While the estimates of wealth for 1976 and 1981 are based on estate tax returns sampled during a specific filing year, the returns selected during 1982 were selected as the first part of a new sample design. Returns selected during 1977 primarily reflected deaths that occurred during 1976, but also deaths from 1977 and 1975 and several preceding years. Therefore, the estimates were arrived at utilizing values determined over an extended period of time. In order to more accurately reflect the wealth at a particular point in time, a "year of death" basis for the selection of the sample was utilized in 1982. Returns selected for the sample are based on decedents dying in 1982. These are augmented by a sample of all other returns, as well as the selection of all returns, regardless of the year of death of the decedent, for wealthy and young decedents. This sample will be selected for a three year period through December 1984 to estimate personal wealth in 1982. Since the estate tax return is not due until nine months after the death of the decedent, a limited number of returns for decedents dying in 1982 were filed. Therefore, the preliminary nature of the estimates which primarily reflect the wealth of decedents dying in 1981.

Because the data presented in this article are estimates based on a sample of Estate tax returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service, they are

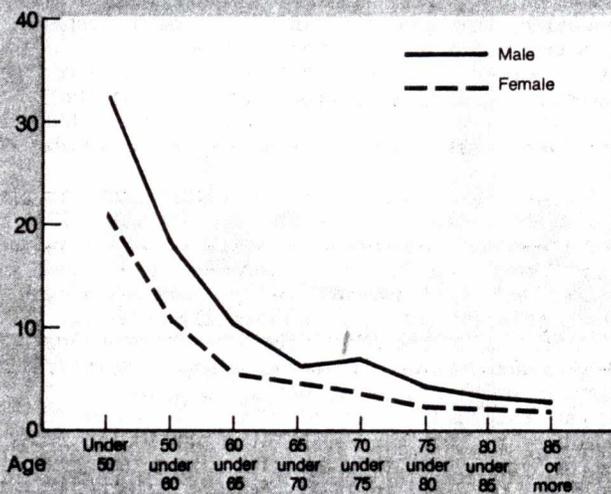
Figure E
Average Net Worth and Debt Burden,
By Age and Sex, 1976

Average Net Worth

(in 100 thousands)



Debts as Percentage of Total Assets



subject to sampling, as well as nonsampling, error. To properly use the statistical data provided, the magnitude of the potential sampling error must be known.

The table below presents rough preliminary estimates of the coefficients of variation (CV's) for frequency estimates. The approximate CV's shown here are intended only as a general indication of the reliability of the data. For a number other than those shown below, the corresponding CV's can be estimated by interpolation.

Number of Wealthholders	Approximated Coefficient of Variation	
	1976	1981
6,600,000	.01	N/A*
4,500,000	.012	.02
3,000,000	.015	.025
1,500,000	.02	.035
800,000	.03	.05
300,000	.05	.08
200,000	.06	.10
65,000	.10	.17
45,000	.12	.20
21,000	.18	.30
9,000	.27	.45

*N/A = Not Applicable

The reliability of estimates based on samples, and the use of coefficients of variation for evaluating the precision of sample estimates, are discussed in the Appendix.

Nonsampling error of the estate tax return data was controlled during statistical processing by a variety of methods. Among them was a systematic verification at the field processing locations of the manual data editing. As a further check on the quality of the editing small subsamples selected after field verification were reprocessed in the National Office. Key entry of the data at the processing locations was also subjected to 100 percent verification.

Prior to tabulation, numerous computer tests were applied to each return record to check for inconsistencies. Lastly, prior to publication, all statistics and tables were reviewed for accuracy and reasonableness.

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- [2] Ibid., p. 53
- [3] Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Survey of Current Business, July 1982, Vol. 62, No. 7. For discussions of the deflator, see the Survey of Current Business, March 1978, Vol. 57, No. 3, and March 1979, Vol. 58, No. 11.
- [4] For a detailed explanation of the Estate Multiplier Technique, see Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income--1972 Personal Wealth, Washington, DC 1976.
- [5] As previously stated, asset detail for 1981 is unavailable for those individuals with gross assets of \$500,000 or less because of a change in the reporting requirements for the estates of decedents who died in 1982.
- [6] Atkinson, A.B., "The Distribution of Wealth in Britain in the 1960's--the Estate Duty Method Reexamined," Studies in Income and Wealth, National Bureau of Economic Research, no. 39, 1975, pp. 277-319.
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Figure F.--All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets \$300,000 or More, by Marital Status, Age, and Sex, 1981

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples--numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Item	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Estate tax return statistics		
			Number	Amount		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
All top wealthholders, total.....	4,521.7	2,803,800	4,058.9	415,022	2,388,778	60,342	45,894	41,889
Married.....	3,278.7	1,955,121	2,961.5	324,695	1,630,426	35,623	27,349	24,183
Single.....	408.1	245,481	323.2	25,276	220,205	4,180	3,127	2,965
Widowed.....	555.4	384,909	498.8	24,623	360,286	18,897	13,892	13,410
Other.....	279.5	218,288	275.3	40,427	177,861	1,643	1,527	1,331
Under 50.....	1,869.7	953,053	1,740.8	281,030	672,023	3,163	2,059	1,169
50 under 65.....	1,608.9	1,065,351	1,453.9	102,300	963,051	11,830	8,647	7,128
65 and over.....	955.9	740,575	796.9	31,027	709,549	44,273	34,623	33,045
Male.....	2,950.5	1,707,993	2,709.7	319,310	1,388,683	39,105	30,623	27,175
Married.....	2,462.4	1,375,840	2,246.8	255,923	1,119,917	30,050	23,515	20,580
Single.....	190.4	115,239	182.7	19,762	95,477	2,564	2,072	1,945
Widowed.....	121.5	73,053	106.4	10,616	62,437	5,418	3,931	3,724
Other.....	176.3	143,862	173.9	33,010	110,851	1,074	1,106	925
Under 50.....	1,417.8	679,001	1,386.9	224,415	454,585	2,773	1,836	997
50 under 65.....	968.2	604,199	856.8	74,382	529,817	9,023	6,596	5,212
65 and over.....	517.2	403,644	437.3	20,233	383,410	26,733	21,924	20,713
Female.....	1,571.2	1,095,806	1,349.2	95,711	1,000,095	21,237	15,271	14,714
Married.....	816.3	579,281	714.7	68,772	510,509	5,573	3,834	3,603
Single.....	217.7	130,243	140.5	5,515	124,728	1,616	1,055	1,019
Widowed.....	433.9	311,856	392.5	14,007	297,849	13,479	9,961	9,686
Other.....	103.3	74,426	101.5	7,417	67,010	569	421	406
Under 50.....	451.9	274,053	353.9	56,614	217,438	390	223	172
50 under 65.....	640.7	461,153	597.1	27,917	433,236	2,807	2,051	1,917
65 and over.....	438.7	336,932	359.7	10,792	326,139	17,540	12,700	12,333

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Age unknown are not shown separately above. However, they are included in the appropriate total.

Figure G.--All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, Assets by Sex, 1981

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples--numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in billions of dollars]

Item	Total		Men		Women	
	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount	Number of top wealthholders	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total assets.....	1,838.6	1,954.5	1,237.7	1,216.9	600.9	737.6
Debts.....	1,770.2	293.9	1,211.6	235.2	558.7	58.7
Net worth.....	1,838.6	1,660.6	1,237.7	981.7	600.9	678.9
Types of assets:						
Cash.....	1,776.6	167.4	1,217.4	89.7	559.2	77.7
Corporate stock.....	1,477.2	483.7	1,022.0	309.4	455.2	174.3
Bonds, total.....	736.5	117.7	444.3	60.1	292.3	57.6
Corporate and foreign.....	294.3	9.0	180.6	4.6	113.7	4.5
Federal savings.....	218.7	2.2	136.0	1.6	82.6	0.6
Other Federal.....	278.0	33.6	183.6	22.6	94.4	11.0
State and local.....	461.6	72.9	244.8	31.3	216.7	41.6
Life insurance equity.....	1,412.6	23.4	1,131.5	21.6	281.1	1.8
Notes and mortgages.....	876.9	74.5	638.7	55.1	238.2	19.4
Real estate.....	1,643.1	592.7	1,166.6	397.4	476.5	195.3
Noncorporate business.....	827.6	122.1	611.4	85.6	216.2	36.5
Other assets.....	1,780.7	372.9	1,205.7	198.0	575.0	174.9

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

- [8] Smith, James and Calvert, Staunton, "Estimating the Wealth of Top Wealthholders from Estate Tax Returns," 1965 American Statistical Association Proceedings, Business and Economics Statistics Section.
- [9] Caldwell, Steven and Diamond, Theodore, "Income Differentials in Mortality: Preliminary Results Based on IRS-SSA Linked Data," Statistical Uses of Administrative Records with Emphasis on Mortality and Disability Research, Office of Research and Statistics. U.S. Social Security Administration, 1979.
- [10] We are extremely grateful for the continued support we have received from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, beginning with the late Mortimer Spiegelman and continuing most recently with Mrs. Frances Baffa, who provided the mortality data used in the present computation of the estate multipliers.

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Table 1.— ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples— numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	8,695.0	2,212,731	7,893.4	343,798	1,668,933	8,283.3	280,784
Negative net worth	118.8	22,415	118.8	31,085	-8,670	107.9	739
\$0 under \$50,000	1,051.5	87,057	1,032.5	55,520	31,537	938.8	4,740
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,429.0	185,706	1,370.8	55,945	109,761	1,340.0	15,638
\$100,000 under \$150,000	2,237.8	321,622	1,931.1	41,759	280,083	2,115.6	61,436
\$150,000 under \$250,000	2,068.9	442,268	1,814.1	47,286	394,982	2,053.9	83,277
\$250,000 under \$500,000	1,205.2	453,712	1,064.9	47,657	406,054	1,170.7	61,899
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	384.9	287,657	366.8	26,011	261,646	380.8	28,566
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	169.3	330,824	165.2	32,104	298,721	167.1	21,431
\$5,000,000 or more	9.6	101,271	9.4	6,431	94,839	9.6	3,256

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	5,897.6	530,974	3,326.1	129,650	1,480.8	27,625	1,877.7	17,418
Negative net worth	39.9	2,934	26.8	297	*1.1	*209	*25.7	*33
\$0 under \$50,000	408.6	6,094	207.3	558	49.8	371	173.6	129
\$50,000 under \$100,000	877.7	15,549	393.9	1,541	110.3	615	275.1	731
\$100,000 under \$150,000	1,521.2	46,001	843.8	10,200	340.2	3,382	548.3	4,152
\$150,000 under \$250,000	1,560.8	81,584	884.9	17,796	435.1	6,074	482.9	5,625
\$250,000 under \$500,000	964.8	105,521	600.8	22,854	310.9	6,248	262.3	4,170
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	345.4	91,768	239.8	23,171	137.7	4,964	76.4	1,617
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	149.9	130,211	120.9	40,520	70.8	4,436	32.3	923
\$5,000,000 or more	9.2	51,315	7.9	12,712	4.8	1,305	1.2	38

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	584.7	38,315	547.7	46,293	6,708.2	42,287	2,404.4	87,727
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	117.2	958	39.1	1,182
\$0 under \$50,000	**1.7	**25	**4.5	**87	1,018.5	5,775	133.6	1,778
\$50,000 under \$100,000	22.4	117	18.1	78	1,345.2	8,695	301.0	4,003
\$100,000 under \$150,000	92.8	1,664	62.4	1,002	1,700.3	8,320	528.7	12,056
\$150,000 under \$250,000	150.6	3,692	122.4	2,405	1,419.0	8,021	645.9	20,380
\$250,000 under \$500,000	161.6	7,032	142.4	5,405	761.3	5,811	479.8	21,475
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	79.5	6,282	112.1	10,289	241.2	2,619	183.7	13,318
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	52.2	14,737	80.3	20,425	100.4	1,870	86.3	10,597
\$5,000,000 or more	4.0	4,768	5.7	6,602	5.1	219	6.4	2,937

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	7,531.0	770,787	1,969.3	98,728	8,214.8	271,782	119,167	40,997	37,104
Negative net worth	103.5	10,265	69.9	4,673	115.9	1,365	267	116	-111
\$0 under \$50,000	890.7	54,989	118.4	4,518	1,024.3	8,604	2,065	393	67
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,311.6	92,012	341.3	8,770	1,389.6	19,496	6,389	1,046	508
\$100,000 under \$150,000	1,949.7	142,300	365.5	10,584	2,048.2	30,921	32,630	4,788	4,220
\$150,000 under \$250,000	1,774.1	189,710	506.9	19,684	1,946.1	41,814	40,765	8,382	7,765
\$250,000 under \$500,000	1,023.0	180,580	371.9	20,060	1,142.3	55,710	24,717	8,973	8,400
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	325.6	77,561	127.0	14,058	375.1	36,596	8,298	5,975	5,624
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	145.4	53,910	63.4	12,877	163.6	59,408	3,742	7,065	6,618
\$5,000,000 or more	7.4	9,460	5.1	3,503	9.6	17,868	274	4,258	4,014

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 2. — ALL MEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	5,782.0	1,367,538	5,323.9	259,986	1,107,552	5,537.2	158,779
Negative net worth	92.2	19,865	92.2	27,606	-7,741	81.2	482
\$0 under \$50,000	989.5	76,082	970.6	46,946	29,137	881.6	4,528
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,172.3	128,500	1,117.7	40,075	88,425	1,118.6	13,215
\$100,000 under \$150,000	1,274.2	187,320	1,113.7	28,752	158,568	1,234.3	31,584
\$150,000 under \$250,000	1,212.2	262,728	1,081.8	33,632	229,097	1,194.1	43,560
\$250,000 under \$500,000	721.6	275,196	657.4	33,741	241,455	710.4	34,965
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	218.8	166,882	210.5	19,176	147,706	216.7	16,247
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	95.5	192,209	94.5	24,872	167,338	94.5	12,325
\$5,000,000 or more	5.7	58,755	5.6	5,186	53,569	5.7	1,872

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	3,883.3	323,628	2,012.4	63,656	817.5	13,984	1,226.7	9,384
Negative net worth	33.5	2,589	6.7	280	*1.0	*207	*5.7	*18
\$0 under \$50,000	381.8	5,654	201.9	209	45.1	59	169.0	119
\$50,000 under \$100,000	757.6	12,599	347.0	1,184	91.8	489	249.4	568
\$100,000 under \$150,000	879.8	24,796	467.4	4,714	179.6	1,397	317.6	1,912
\$150,000 under \$250,000	909.7	44,134	456.3	8,296	210.3	2,523	259.4	2,855
\$250,000 under \$500,000	624.6	63,748	334.0	11,563	174.6	3,301	164.3	2,457
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	201.0	53,839	127.8	11,129	72.8	2,640	42.6	918
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	89.9	82,762	66.5	19,145	39.2	2,403	17.9	506
\$5,000,000 or more	5.5	33,507	4.8	7,136	3.1	966	0.7	32

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)					
Total	278.9	17,394	293.6	22,894	5,150.2	38,408	1,510.6	56,437
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	90.6	894	17.3	1,040
\$0 under \$50,000	**1.5	**19	**3.8	**67	978.8	5,598	132.5	1,602
\$50,000 under \$100,000	19.5	49	18.1	78	1,153.5	8,110	210.0	3,214
\$100,000 under \$150,000	57.8	954	33.0	451	1,088.3	7,210	321.5	7,035
\$150,000 under \$250,000	67.0	1,659	68.5	1,259	993.9	7,017	359.1	11,496
\$250,000 under \$500,000	67.3	2,906	73.3	2,899	582.4	5,372	302.7	13,601
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	38.1	2,855	54.0	4,716	179.8	2,357	110.3	8,283
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	25.2	6,365	39.7	9,871	78.2	1,641	53.0	7,578
\$5,000,000 or more	2.5	2,586	3.3	3,552	4.6	207	4.1	2,586

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	5,137.5	503,189	1,569.0	82,922	5,539.1	140,511	76,953	27,014	23,702
Negative net worth	76.9	9,383	49.8	4,177	89.3	1,040	236	106	-110
\$0 under \$50,000	833.5	46,811	75.5	3,500	962.4	8,176	1,990	366	64
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,083.6	66,334	309.5	8,077	1,141.1	13,766	5,713	938	451
\$100,000 under \$150,000	1,138.6	84,068	293.2	9,294	1,193.2	18,616	20,748	3,141	2,863
\$150,000 under \$250,000	1,070.2	105,247	405.7	17,021	1,152.3	25,954	25,028	5,283	4,770
\$250,000 under \$500,000	650.7	102,225	293.3	17,303	688.6	26,417	15,472	5,730	5,255
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	194.7	48,072	94.0	10,989	212.7	15,966	5,224	3,827	3,536
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	84.9	34,420	44.6	10,244	93.9	24,093	2,368	4,544	4,188
\$5,000,000 or more	4.4	4,650	3.5	2,316	5.7	6,482	173	3,080	2,881

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 3. — ALL WOMEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	2,912.9	845,193	2,569.5	83,812	761,381	2,746.1	122,005
Negative net worth	*26.6	*2,550	*26.6	*3,479	*- 929	*26.6	*257
\$0 under \$50,000	61.9	10,874	61.9	8,574	2,400	57.2	212
\$50,000 under \$100,000	256.8	37,206	252.9	15,869	21,336	221.4	2,423
\$100,000 under \$150,000	963.6	134,502	817.4	13,007	121,495	881.3	29,852
\$150,000 under \$250,000	876.7	179,540	752.2	13,655	165,885	858.8	39,717
\$250,000 under \$500,000	483.6	178,516	427.5	13,916	164,600	460.3	26,734
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	166.0	120,775	156.2	6,835	113,940	164.1	12,319
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	73.7	138,615	70.7	7,232	131,383	72.5	9,106
\$5,000,000 or more	3.9	42,515	3.8	1,245	41,270	3.9	1,384

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	2,014.3	207,346	1,313.6	65,995	643.4	13,641	651.0	8,033
Negative net worth	*6.4	*345	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	*26.8	*440	**25.5	**366	**4.7	**315	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	120.1	2,950	46.9	357	18.5	126	**50.3	**188
\$100,000 under \$150,000	641.4	21,205	376.4	5,486	160.6	1,986	230.4	2,240
\$150,000 under \$250,000	651.1	37,450	428.6	9,500	224.8	3,552	223.6	2,770
\$250,000 under \$500,000	360.3	41,772	266.8	11,292	136.3	2,947	98.0	1,713
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	144.4	37,928	112.0	12,043	65.0	2,343	33.8	699
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	60.0	47,449	54.4	21,375	31.6	2,033	14.4	417
\$5,000,000 or more	3.8	17,808	3.1	5,577	1.7	340	0.5	5

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)					
Total	285.8	20,922	254.1	23,398	1,558.1	3,879	893.8	31,290
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	*26.6	*64	*21.8	*142
\$0 under \$50,000	**	**	**	**	39.6	177	*1.1	*176
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**	**	**	**	191.7	584	90.9	790
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**38.0	**783	**30.0	**571	612.0	1,110	207.2	5,021
\$150,000 under \$250,000	83.6	2,032	53.9	1,146	425.1	1,004	286.8	8,882
\$250,000 under \$500,000	94.3	4,126	69.1	2,506	178.9	439	177.1	7,874
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	41.4	3,427	58.1	5,573	61.4	262	73.4	5,035
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	26.9	8,371	40.6	10,554	22.2	229	33.3	3,019
\$5,000,000 or more	1.5	2,182	2.4	3,049	0.5	12	2.3	351

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	2,393.5	267,598	400.4	15,806	2,675.7	131,271	42,214	13,983	13,402
Negative net worth	*26.6	*903	**	**	*26.6	*325	*31	*11	*- 1
\$0 under \$50,000	57.1	8,178	**63.0	**1,514	61.9	426	95	28	3
\$50,000 under \$100,000	228.0	23,678	31.8	893	248.5	5,731	676	108	57
\$100,000 under \$150,000	811.2	58,232	72.3	1,291	855.0	12,305	11,882	1,647	1,557
\$150,000 under \$250,000	703.9	64,463	101.2	2,663	793.8	15,860	15,737	3,100	2,995
\$250,000 under \$500,000	372.3	58,355	78.6	2,757	453.7	29,292	9,245	3,242	3,145
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	130.9	29,489	33.1	3,069	162.4	20,630	3,074	2,148	2,084
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	60.5	19,490	18.8	2,632	69.7	35,315	1,374	2,521	2,430
\$5,000,000 or more	3.0	4,810	1.6	1,187	3.9	11,387	101	1,179	1,132

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 4. — MARRIED MEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	4,812.7	1,118,423	4,418.0	218,228	900,195	4,583.9	120,141
Negative net worth	81.3	15,590	81.3	21,571	- 5,981	70.4	357
\$0 under \$50,000	844.7	86,262	828.3	40,727	25,535	736.8	3,445
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,061.1	112,721	999.3	33,967	78,754	1,005.8	11,447
\$100,000 under \$150,000	1,056.4	155,730	917.2	24,614	131,116	1,019.1	23,353
\$150,000 under \$250,000	942.0	204,956	815.9	27,127	177,829	927.9	31,853
\$250,000 under \$500,000	574.8	220,868	521.2	28,384	192,484	564.4	25,873
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	179.3	137,921	172.6	17,013	120,908	177.3	12,280
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	78.5	180,075	77.6	22,047	138,028	77.5	9,974
\$5,000,000 or more	4.6	44,300	4.6	2,777	41,523	4.6	1,580

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Total				Government	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	3,218.9	257,679	1,607.3	47,651	652.8	10,881	952.2	6,889
Negative net worth	32.9	2,526	6.7	273	*1.0	*201	*5.7	*18
\$0 under \$50,000	315.2	4,657	154.9	174	44.6	57	122.5	86
\$50,000 under \$100,000	687.1	10,168	306.8	986	75.5	317	224.3	547
\$100,000 under \$150,000	727.1	19,588	377.9	3,594	145.7	1,029	248.5	1,413
\$150,000 under \$250,000	711.7	33,313	349.9	6,079	162.7	2,015	187.2	1,797
\$250,000 under \$500,000	500.7	48,140	252.4	8,504	129.9	2,285	117.4	1,775
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	166.1	45,434	101.8	8,461	59.2	2,077	32.1	645
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	73.7	68,977	53.0	14,395	31.6	1,758	14.0	383
\$5,000,000 or more	4.4	24,877	3.8	5,184	2.6	941	0.5	24

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)					
Total	223.7	12,145	235.2	17,936	4,417.5	34,280	1,214.8	45,702
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	81.3	826	14.2	849
\$0 under \$50,000	**1.5	**19	**3.8	**66	835.5	4,810	87.4	1,208
\$50,000 under \$100,000	18.7	48	16.6	74	1,037.0	7,496	156.9	2,743
\$100,000 under \$150,000	49.5	826	27.0	327	928.4	6,525	267.8	5,819
\$150,000 under \$250,000	53.1	1,291	48.3	776	812.7	6,178	294.8	9,434
\$250,000 under \$500,000	53.8	2,195	62.7	2,249	496.7	4,756	252.7	10,683
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	27.3	1,924	44.1	3,814	154.4	2,080	94.2	7,382
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	17.9	4,582	29.8	7,672	67.6	1,442	44.1	6,366
\$5,000,000 or more	1.9	1,261	2.8	2,958	4.1	167	3.3	1,219

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	4,418.0	427,490	1,376.8	71,445	4,637.1	114,028	57,756	19,366	16,620
Negative net worth	69.6	8,043	44.0	1,810	78.4	908	206	81	- 100
\$0 under \$50,000	752.0	41,470	70.4	3,397	817.8	7,096	1,736	319	57
\$50,000 under \$100,000	976.6	60,516	285.7	7,213	1,025.0	12,150	5,158	843	406
\$100,000 under \$150,000	965.8	73,008	283.4	8,482	1,009.8	15,382	15,451	2,396	1,971
\$150,000 under \$250,000	860.7	84,488	340.0	14,400	896.8	19,230	18,218	3,904	3,473
\$250,000 under \$500,000	526.0	86,375	250.8	15,590	553.4	20,956	11,350	4,246	3,841
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	163.0	40,327	81.6	9,925	174.4	12,033	3,779	2,806	2,583
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	71.5	29,077	38.2	9,072	77.1	20,773	1,733	3,361	3,076
\$5,000,000 or more	3.8	4,209	2.9	1,563	4.6	5,520	122	1,420	1,335

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

** Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 5. — MARRIED WOMEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	1,363.0	380,666	1,156.5	58,383	322,282	1,230.3	43,804
Negative net worth	*22.0	*1,994	*22.0	*2,871	- 877	*22.0	*240
\$0 under \$50,000	60.7	10,858	60.7	8,292	2,366	55.9	198
\$50,000 under \$100,000	165.9	26,176	162.1	12,537	13,639	130.6	1,029
\$100,000 under \$150,000	469.0	66,991	366.6	8,045	58,946	396.8	12,425
\$150,000 under \$250,000	372.1	78,559	302.1	8,368	70,191	361.9	14,169
\$250,000 under \$500,000	171.5	66,103	149.2	10,046	58,057	183.0	7,506
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	68.1	50,940	61.8	4,075	46,865	66.9	3,484
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	32.4	59,867	30.7	3,696	56,171	31.9	4,127
\$5,000,000 or more	1.3	17,377	1.3	452	16,925	1.3	626

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	919.4	95,539	542.9	25,472	241.3	5,257	272.6	2,179
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	**28.0	**551	**25.4	**366	**	**	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	78.3	2,322	32.6	180	**16.8	**414	**43.0	**37
\$100,000 under \$150,000	306.8	9,045	162.9	2,106	57.6	812	112.3	732
\$150,000 under \$250,000	280.4	14,430	162.0	3,290	86.1	1,255	74.6	722
\$250,000 under \$500,000	135.1	17,905	88.3	3,128	39.6	717	24.9	436
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	62.1	18,155	44.0	4,140	24.8	680	10.6	170
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	25.3	22,761	26.6	10,526	15.4	1,114	6.7	76
\$5,000,000 or more	1.3	10,369	1.2	1,786	0.8	265	0.4	4

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)					
Total	96.9	7,519	107.9	10,518	779.1	1,925	449.1	15,292
Negative net worth	—	—	**	**	*21.9	*56	*21.8	*142
\$0 under \$50,000	**	**	**	**	*39.4	*176	*1.1	*175
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**	**	—	—	111.4	326	66.3	609
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**17.6	**421	**11.1	**218	301.8	529	106.5	2,896
\$150,000 under \$250,000	29.7	755	20.0	529	203.3	457	138.4	4,568
\$250,000 under \$500,000	23.9	876	31.2	1,097	63.1	142	67.8	4,110
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	13.8	907	23.0	2,384	26.7	111	32.3	1,484
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	11.3	4,258	21.5	5,076	9.3	124	14.4	1,145
\$5,000,000 or more	0.7	302	1.1	1,215	0.3	3	0.5	161

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estates	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	1,239.2	147,300	255.6	10,212	1,232.5	41,119	9,726	3,015	2,796
Negative net worth	*22.0	*625	**	**	*22.0	*304	*18	*8	*-1
\$0 under \$50,000	56.0	7,968	**62.9	**1,510	60.7	320	74	23	2
\$50,000 under \$100,000	165.9	19,151	24.2	441	159.9	2,138	365	62	32
\$100,000 under \$150,000	425.1	33,904	45.4	889	392.3	5,194	3,254	460	421
\$150,000 under \$250,000	337.7	33,419	59.8	2,122	343.6	6,132	3,524	708	672
\$250,000 under \$500,000	146.4	27,197	35.0	1,871	156.9	6,245	1,602	571	537
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	58.7	14,837	19.3	1,919	66.7	6,810	579	415	393
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	26.3	7,806	8.2	1,330	29.1	12,047	273	514	489
\$5,000,000 or more	1.1	2,371	0.8	132	1.3	1,926	18	254	250

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 6. — SINGLE MEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	435.9	98,236	406.1	15,195	83,041	428.0	16,760
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	**85.4	**6,973	**82.9	**5,497	**1,476	**85.4	**390
\$50,000 under \$100,000	37.2	5,007	35.7	2,059	2,949	32.2	416
\$100,000 under \$150,000	100.3	13,902	92.5	1,274	12,628	99.6	3,847
\$150,000 under \$250,000	125.5	27,024	113.4	3,136	23,888	123.8	5,669
\$250,000 under \$500,000	66.1	23,516	61.3	2,021	21,495	65.8	3,977
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	15.2	10,956	14.3	620	10,336	15.1	1,650
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	5.9	9,060	5.9	434	8,627	5.9	726
\$5,000,000 or more	0.2	1,798	0.2	156	1,643	0.2	85

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	310.3	26,480	205.5	5,448	73.5	1,205	164.4	1,328
Negative net worth	**	**	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$0 under \$50,000	**37.1	**517	*34.5	*28	—	—	*34.5	*28
\$50,000 under \$100,000	25.9	1,039	*14.2	*10	—	—	*14.2	*10
\$100,000 under \$150,000	73.6	2,946	47.9	510	19.9	132	39.8	218
\$150,000 under \$250,000	100.2	5,901	51.6	1,146	23.7	213	40.3	502
\$250,000 under \$500,000	53.8	7,092	41.9	1,316	21.0	466	28.6	396
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	13.7	3,523	10.1	1,135	6.1	293	4.9	132
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	5.8	4,444	5.0	1,226	2.6	87	1.8	41
\$5,000,000 or more	0.2	1,019	0.2	76	0.2	0.1	0.1	2

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	20.6	1,003	24.6	1,912	307.7	1,136	109.7	2,481
Negative net worth	—	—	—	—	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	—	—	—	—	**85.4	**325	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	—	—	—	—	37.1	162	**43.2	**247
\$100,000 under \$150,000	*2.3	*50	*4.8	*110	70.0	154	21.9	479
\$150,000 under \$250,000	6.6	150	9.6	282	75.3	295	20.0	436
\$250,000 under \$500,000	4.5	189	3.0	263	27.4	120	17.0	693
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	4.8	327	3.1	384	9.3	50	4.9	250
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	2.4	256	4.0	843	3.1	20	2.6	291
\$5,000,000 or more	0.1	32	0.1	30	0.1	11	0.2	85

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued								
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Estate tax return statistics		
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
Total	296.3	29,416	74.9	5,520	393.1	10,995	4,538	1,515	1,390
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	**50.9	**2,961	—	—	**85.4	**449	**103	**28	**(')
\$50,000 under \$100,000	35.7	2,705	**7.1	**2,297	32.2	436	120	20	10
\$100,000 under \$150,000	56.4	3,902	13.1	327	76.9	1,736	1,116	160	144
\$150,000 under \$250,000	90.1	9,538	25.8	936	120.4	3,102	1,669	340	316
\$250,000 under \$500,000	46.8	6,202	23.4	1,149	57.8	2,967	1,019	367	353
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	11.9	2,672	3.8	340	14.5	1,336	363	259	250
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	4.3	1,381	1.6	412	5.7	560	136	233	222
\$5,000,000 or more	0.2	55	0.1	59	0.2	409	13	108	93

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.
 ** Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.
 (') Less than \$500,000.
 NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 7.—SINGLE WOMEN: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	307.0	75,554	276.5	4,363	71,191	291.8	13,180
Negative net worth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$0 under \$50,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$50,000 under \$100,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**24.3	**3,078	**24.3	**1,538	**1,540	**24.3	**275
\$150,000 under \$250,000	105.1	14,000	96.8	839	13,162	103.7	3,992
\$250,000 under \$500,000	97.4	19,093	90.4	789	18,303	97.0	4,774
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	57.9	18,729	43.6	259	18,468	44.9	2,484
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	17.4	12,435	16.9	753	11,682	17.2	1,118
\$5,000,000 or more	4.8	7,813	4.4	180	7,653	4.5	590
	(¹)	407	(¹)	25	361	(¹)	7

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds					
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Government	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Federal savings	
	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Total	222.3	22,453	169.3	5,023	96.1	1,138	96.1	1,474
Negative net worth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$0 under \$50,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$50,000 under \$100,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**14.3	**436	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$150,000 under \$250,000	92.7	4,537	**75.6	**817	**44.4	**208	**94.5	**633
\$250,000 under \$500,000	72.8	6,952	56.8	1,285	31.2	433	43.5	591
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	25.8	3,802	21.6	839	12.0	258	12.6	236
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	12.4	3,172	11.4	1,348	6.0	147	4.1	77
\$5,000,000 or more	**4.2	**3,555	3.6	692	**2.5	**93	1.4	39
	..	..	(¹)	41	..	..	..	..

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government—Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	24.8	963	20.8	1,448	167.4	516	38.1	1,010
Negative net worth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$0 under \$50,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$50,000 under \$100,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$100,000 under \$150,000	..	..	..	..	**23.6	**104	..	..
\$150,000 under \$250,000	*2.4	*39	*3.1	*38	67.6	146	**7.2	**83
\$250,000 under \$500,000	10.8	196	3.7	65	43.6	175	16.5	361
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	7.3	230	5.0	116	24.4	37	8.4	144
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	3.1	232	6.9	893	6.9	40	4.1	339
\$5,000,000 or more	1.1	229	**2.1	**336	1.3	13	**1.9	**82
	(¹)	37	..	..	..	..	..	..

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	171.5	15,363	15.9	327	274.6	17,662	4,548	1,364	1,318
Negative net worth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$0 under \$50,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$50,000 under \$100,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**15.0	**1,253	..	..	**24.3	**795	**81	**15	**6
\$150,000 under \$250,000	65.0	3,420	*3.5	*9	99.1	1,209	1,236	169	161
\$250,000 under \$500,000	54.2	4,324	4.7	38	74.0	1,185	1,762	345	336
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	23.5	3,030	..	..	86	55.1	1,036	354	349
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	10.2	2,377	1.9	75	17.2	3,965	285	194	190
\$5,000,000 or more	**3.7	**959	1.0	119	4.8	1,963	143	253	245
	..	..	..	..	(¹)	239	4	34	31

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.
 **Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.
¹Less than 50 top wealthholders.
 NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 8.— WIDOWERS: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples— numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	269.7	78,977	243.8	7,657	71,320	267.9	15,028
Negative net worth	*1.7	*583	*1.7	*1,367	*-784	*1.7	*97
\$0 under \$50,000	*5.9	*626	*5.9	*410	*216	*5.9	*72
\$50,000 under \$100,000	20.6	3,315	20.1	1,874	1,841	20.5	478
\$100,000 under \$150,000	80.8	11,647	89.0	1,294	10,354	79.6	3,260
\$150,000 under \$250,000	86.5	17,129	78.0	833	16,296	86.2	4,473
\$250,000 under \$500,000	50.9	17,917	48.6	795	17,123	50.7	3,930
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	16.6	11,626	15.9	565	11,061	16.5	1,665
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	8.4	11,329	8.3	581	10,749	8.3	915
\$5,000,000 or more	0.4	4,804	0.4	139	4,665	0.4	138

Size of net worth	Types of assets— Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	191.7	18,977	127.2	6,517	60.0	1,250	72.2	1,004
Negative net worth	*0.2	*31	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	*2.5	*15	*4.0	**10	**	**	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	8.6	146	3.4	*17	**	**	**7.0	**8
\$100,000 under \$150,000	52.2	1,442	30.8	453	**11.8	**164	21.6	228
\$150,000 under \$250,000	64.4	2,775	40.3	827	20.3	259	21.9	334
\$250,000 under \$500,000	43.5	4,066	31.8	1,422	18.7	415	14.9	240
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	14.0	3,048	11.4	1,130	8.1	215	4.9	116
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	6.0	4,488	5.2	1,860	3.0	188	1.8	73
\$5,000,000 or more	0.4	2,966	0.3	798	0.2	10	0.1	5

Size of net worth	Types of assets— Continued							
	Bonds— Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government— Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	26.7	2,121	18.0	2,142	196.2	1,547	79.4	2,876
Negative net worth	—	—	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	—	—	—	—	**6.1	**47	**1.3	**10
\$50,000 under \$100,000	—	—	**	**	19.9	158	1.7	*3
\$100,000 under \$150,000	4.7	72	**0.8	**10	61.6	339	19.2	469
\$150,000 under \$250,000	6.0	188	4.3	86	56.6	374	28.3	893
\$250,000 under \$500,000	7.9	482	4.9	285	35.7	320	18.1	682
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	5.1	479	4.1	320	11.2	182	7.5	443
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	2.9	653	3.5	946	4.7	122	3.1	345
\$5,000,000 or more	0.1	267	0.3	515	0.3	24	0.2	31

Size of net worth	Types of assets— Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	226.5	24,029	57.5	1,794	252.5	8,209	12,640	4,425	4,193
Negative net worth	*1.7	*355	**	**	*1.7	*68	*11	*7	*-5
\$0 under \$50,000	*5.9	*390	**1.1	**19	*5.9	*95	*35	*6	*1
\$50,000 under \$100,000	19.9	1,712	*8.3	*431	20.6	370	183	31	15
\$100,000 under \$150,000	87.0	4,448	11.2	172	72.7	1,064	3,731	526	491
\$150,000 under \$250,000	70.6	5,630	19.4	429	80.7	1,727	4,488	894	854
\$250,000 under \$500,000	42.2	5,736	10.5	323	48.3	1,439	2,773	986	949
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	14.0	3,710	5.1	225	16.0	1,243	956	667	643
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	5.0	1,886	1.8	155	6.3	1,758	432	800	757
\$5,000,000 or more	0.3	362	0.1	40	0.4	446	32	507	488

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.
 ** Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.
 NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 9. — WIDOWS: TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	950.1	312,755	856.6	13,279	299,476	933.6	56,600
Negative net worth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$0 under \$50,000	*0.5	*79	*0.5	*58	*21	*0.5	*7
\$50,000 under \$100,000	15.1	2,068	15.1	841	1,227	15.0	519
\$100,000 under \$150,000	290.0	39,614	256.7	1,999	37,615	282.9	11,830
\$150,000 under \$250,000	328.2	64,667	289.2	2,518	62,148	321.5	17,757
\$250,000 under \$500,000	214.9	75,769	197.3	2,847	72,922	213.2	15,237
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	67.9	47,671	64.9	1,547	46,123	67.3	6,663
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	31.5	61,919	30.9	2,813	59,106	31.2	4,005
\$5,000,000 or more	2.0	20,969	1.9	655	20,314	2.0	582

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	688.2	70,796	509.7	30,880	248.1	6,263	253.0	4,085
Negative net worth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$0 under \$50,000	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**4.2	**60	**3.7	**38	**	**	*2.9	*17
\$100,000 under \$150,000	192.4	5,302	130.0	2,488	**53.1	**880	78.2	1,085
\$150,000 under \$250,000	240.4	11,494	179.1	4,348	88.1	1,505	93.9	1,386
\$250,000 under \$500,000	163.8	15,975	126.0	5,800	65.4	1,697	56.4	911
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	58.8	13,148	48.5	5,913	29.0	1,342	16.3	424
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	26.6	18,582	21.0	8,695	12.0	777	5.2	262
\$5,000,000 or more	2.0	6,235	1.4	3,597	0.5	63	0.1	1

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)					
Total	132.0	10,632	100.5	9,900	436.7	1,080	309.9	12,823
Negative net worth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$0 under \$50,000	—	—	—	—	**	**	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**	**	—	—	**9.7	**34	**0.7	**26
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**17.7	**320	13.1	226	160.8	328	81.6	1,871
\$150,000 under \$250,000	36.7	994	21.6	462	147.5	292	100.1	3,143
\$250,000 under \$500,000	41.9	2,260	26.4	933	86.9	250	80.6	3,374
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	22.4	2,172	22.9	1,976	21.8	94	30.1	2,612
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	12.5	3,067	15.4	4,590	10.0	76	15.5	1,631
\$5,000,000 or more	0.8	1,819	1.1	1,714	0.1	6	1.2	168

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
							(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	747.4	78,263	83.1	4,027	883.1	58,284	26,273	9,022	8,738
Negative net worth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$0 under \$50,000	*0.5	*57	**	**	*0.5	*6	*14	*3	*1
\$50,000 under \$100,000	14.3	1,071	**1.0	**18	13.0	309	133	23	11
\$100,000 under \$150,000	230.6	13,168	20.8	363	267.1	4,262	7,003	962	924
\$150,000 under \$250,000	252.4	20,340	21.4	467	299.6	6,826	9,862	1,925	1,873
\$250,000 under \$500,000	169.0	21,898	22.5	686	204.1	12,546	6,200	2,171	2,118
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	52.2	10,562	9.6	943	65.9	7,737	2,084	1,450	1,414
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	26.8	9,006	7.2	548	31.0	19,376	905	1,651	1,597
\$5,000,000 or more	1.6	2,160	0.6	1,000	2.0	7,221	72	837	799

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 10. — TOP WEALTHHOLDERS UNDER 50 YEARS OF AGE, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	3,619.4	705,785	3,469.7	205,348	500,436	3,363.0	56,554
Negative net worth	105.9	16,799	105.9	23,335	- 6,536	95.0	509
\$0 under \$50,000	969.3	74,377	950.4	45,913	28,464	859.0	4,114
\$50,000 under \$100,000	898.3	106,770	869.1	40,189	66,581	830.2	8,740
\$100,000 under \$150,000	723.2	111,498	670.0	23,787	87,711	674.9	14,535
\$150,000 under \$250,000	514.9	121,080	493.0	25,223	95,858	509.9	12,679
\$250,000 under \$500,000	275.9	115,107	253.5	23,781	91,326	263.3	7,829
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	93.0	74,874	89.7	10,953	63,922	92.3	4,335
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	37.7	78,374	37.1	11,864	66,510	37.4	3,694
\$5,000,000 or more	1.1	6,905	1.1	304	6,601	1.1	119

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	2,160.2	144,695	931.1	22,204	345.8	4,418	609.5	1,355
Negative net worth	33.6	2,469	*25.7	*242	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	371.0	5,354	195.7	513	**46.2	**563	**192.4	**148
\$50,000 under \$100,000	529.5	10,699	208.2	604	60.7	311	138.1	217
\$100,000 under \$150,000	497.8	16,991	190.9	886	77.2	263	133.4	297
\$150,000 under \$250,000	392.9	25,590	134.7	1,473	72.7	504	79.9	310
\$250,000 under \$500,000	219.6	26,166	95.6	2,219	43.3	441	45.0	331
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	85.0	25,063	55.0	4,674	29.4	1,073	13.1	28
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	29.7	28,591	24.3	9,976	**16.2	**1,265	7.8	25
\$5,000,000 or more	1.1	3,771	1.1	1,618	**	**	—	—

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	86.7	7,766	110.5	8,664	3,114.8	13,724	822.6	22,663
Negative net worth	—	—	**	**	105.9	760	34.9	772
\$0 under \$50,000	—	—	**	**	940.5	4,712	116.2	1,508
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**	**	**	**	846.4	3,437	218.4	2,477
\$100,000 under \$150,000	**25.6	**283	**21.4	**165	575.0	1,659	151.3	3,764
\$150,000 under \$250,000	*8.5	*120	26.7	539	378.5	1,489	129.3	4,056
\$250,000 under \$500,000	27.4	947	17.0	500	183.2	1,031	107.6	4,446
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	14.4	570	26.2	3,003	62.2	389	45.4	3,473
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	**10.8	**5,846	18.5	3,943	**23.2	**246	18.8	2,158
\$5,000,000 or more	**	**	0.7	515	**	**	0.7	11

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	3,151.0	298,717	922.4	43,585	3,469.7	103,639	6,098	1,658	882
Negative net worth	91.9	8,598	67.9	2,407	103.4	1,041	154	56	- 13
\$0 under \$50,000	820.9	47,165	102.6	3,464	946.2	7,545	1,418	252	43
\$50,000 under \$100,000	813.5	60,382	242.3	6,738	881.2	13,693	1,621	293	119
\$100,000 under \$150,000	642.6	57,742	124.0	4,840	657.6	11,081	1,252	245	152
\$150,000 under \$250,000	446.5	52,918	210.6	9,305	488.0	13,569	941	265	174
\$250,000 under \$500,000	226.2	44,360	124.1	8,751	265.6	20,304	487	237	181
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	75.4	18,157	34.5	4,893	91.3	13,892	158	139	106
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	**34.0	**9,396	15.3	2,358	35.4	22,451	63	135	107
\$5,000,000 or more	**	**	1.1	828	1.1	63	4	36	33

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 11.—TOP WEALTHHOLDERS 50 TO 64 YEARS OF AGE, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	2,878.5	791,966	2,584.0	105,231	686,735	2,769.1	97,834
Negative net worth	11.8	5,035	11.8	6,901	-1,866	11.8	193
\$0 under \$50,000	76.2	11,891	76.2	9,040	2,850	74.8	557
\$50,000 under \$100,000	490.9	53,763	462.7	13,862	39,901	472.8	6,234
\$100,000 under \$150,000	877.1	123,241	758.7	13,892	109,349	821.5	22,310
\$150,000 under \$250,000	761.9	161,467	662.7	16,895	144,572	745.4	29,091
\$250,000 under \$500,000	457.9	173,402	416.1	18,301	155,101	442.5	21,080
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	137.7	104,018	132.5	10,896	93,122	136.2	9,561
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	61.0	121,647	59.4	13,574	108,073	60.1	7,707
\$5,000,000 or more	4.0	37,503	4.0	1,870	35,633	4.0	1,101

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	2,116.4	189,388	1,224.3	40,036	521.1	10,376	679.7	5,426
Negative net worth	5.6	376	*0.6	*37	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	34.6	688	9.9	29	**3.6	**9	**5.1	**5
\$50,000 under \$100,000	323.1	4,427	174.4	857	43.1	261	132.1	504
\$100,000 under \$150,000	610.5	16,713	371.8	4,294	137.7	1,525	242.7	1,683
\$150,000 under \$250,000	574.4	26,204	331.1	5,949	155.2	2,375	179.0	1,529
\$250,000 under \$500,000	381.7	39,004	212.2	7,082	108.0	1,864	85.5	996
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	126.5	33,056	78.6	6,755	46.8	1,735	25.6	443
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	56.4	49,772	42.6	11,716	24.4	1,612	9.2	263
\$5,000,000 or more	3.9	19,149	3.0	3,318	2.2	995	0.5	1

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	186.8	9,824	205.3	14,412	2,325.8	18,780	894.1	34,507
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	10.3	180	*3.7	*325
\$0 under \$50,000	**	**	**	**	72.9	944	16.3	245
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**9.7	**79	**5.9	**66	465.3	4,752	74.1	1,360
\$100,000 under \$150,000	38.1	570	31.3	516	726.1	4,547	214.5	4,228
\$150,000 under \$250,000	53.0	1,264	44.0	781	582.4	3,859	283.1	9,117
\$250,000 under \$500,000	48.4	1,933	59.3	2,286	326.3	2,610	193.8	9,218
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	21.9	1,863	36.9	2,714	98.8	1,077	72.0	5,132
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	14.5	3,473	25.8	6,367	41.6	747	33.7	4,184
\$5,000,000 or more	1.2	642	2.0	1,680	2.2	64	2.8	696

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total	2,595.8	281,636	717.8	40,558	2,744.3	89,221	22,773	6,812	5,271
Negative net worth	10.7	1,527	*1.8	*2,235	11.7	161	71	40	-80
\$0 under \$50,000	66.0	7,575	14.1	1,022	73.0	831	531	113	20
\$50,000 under \$100,000	461.0	29,900	89.5	1,864	472.4	5,368	3,763	591	305
\$100,000 under \$150,000	783.3	53,360	173.5	4,635	825.8	13,153	7,097	1,164	884
\$150,000 under \$250,000	677.0	64,395	191.0	8,101	728.8	14,750	6,261	1,457	1,190
\$250,000 under \$500,000	416.0	66,594	159.5	6,266	433.9	19,547	3,524	1,418	1,190
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	124.5	32,296	57.4	6,761	135.2	9,380	1,059	833	714
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	54.2	22,461	28.8	7,372	59.4	17,667	436	893	768
\$5,000,000 or more	3.1	4,509	2.2	302	4.0	8,364	31	303	282

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

***NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 12. — TOP WEALTHHOLDERS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, BY SIZE OF NET WORTH, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	1,940.4	645,395	1,626.5	29,677	615,718	1,903.0	112,843
Negative net worth	1.1	581	1.1	849	-268	1.1	37
\$0 under \$50,000	2.0	425	2.0	356	69	1.5	38
\$50,000 under \$100,000	23.7	3,207	23.3	1,161	2,046	21.9	380
\$100,000 under \$150,000	557.5	76,119	440.4	3,372	72,747	542.4	21,377
\$150,000 under \$250,000	726.1	142,934	588.4	4,454	138,481	715.1	37,516
\$250,000 under \$500,000	420.5	147,502	372.2	5,006	142,496	414.0	29,101
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	140.9	99,329	132.3	3,802	95,527	139.3	13,336
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	84.3	119,838	62.7	6,435	113,403	63.4	9,187
\$5,000,000 or more	4.4	55,460	4.1	4,243	51,217	4.4	1,898

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds					
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Government	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Federal savings	
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	1,455.7	180,721	1,053.6	62,140	544.8	11,937	520.8	9,571
Negative net worth	0.8	88	*0.4	*18	**	**	**	**
\$0 under \$50,000	*1.3	*31	*0.4	*12	**	**	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	15.0	290	7.7	70	**5.9	**49	**2.9	**15
\$100,000 under \$150,000	368.5	11,279	253.5	4,677	113.1	1,526	154.2	1,996
\$150,000 under \$250,000	541.7	27,238	376.8	9,447	191.4	2,988	198.2	3,309
\$250,000 under \$500,000	343.7	36,618	264.7	12,404	148.2	3,633	116.7	2,577
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	122.7	31,083	97.4	10,809	56.9	2,024	34.2	1,046
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	58.0	46,569	49.0	17,207	27.5	1,506	14.1	593
\$5,000,000 or more	4.1	27,524	3.7	7,496	1.8	211	0.6	35

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
Total	264.4	18,997	217.9	21,835	1,125.3	8,961	624.0	28,171
Negative net worth	**	**	**	**	1.0	18	*0.4	*85
\$0 under \$50,000	**	**	—	—	*1.2	*14	*0.3	*18
\$50,000 under \$100,000	**1.2	**29	**0.4	**7	18.6	303	6.5	123
\$100,000 under \$150,000	38.9	753	23.8	402	351.3	1,938	144.4	3,538
\$150,000 under \$250,000	81.0	2,084	50.9	1,067	415.6	2,509	215.9	6,790
\$250,000 under \$500,000	77.7	3,764	61.1	2,430	228.1	2,059	161.2	7,107
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	38.8	3,413	45.7	4,326	73.5	1,114	61.7	4,433
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	24.7	5,833	33.0	9,275	33.8	862	30.8	3,873
\$5,000,000 or more	2.0	3,122	2.9	4,128	2.2	144	2.7	2,203

Size of net worth	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	1,569.4	167,228	280.5	13,116	1,773.4	72,213	87,130	31,628	30,135
Negative net worth	0.9	140	*0.2	*31	0.9	163	42	20	-18
\$0 under \$50,000	1.8	180	*1.0	*31	2.0	104	87	19	3
\$50,000 under \$100,000	22.1	1,708	5.4	96	20.6	235	806	127	69
\$100,000 under \$150,000	454.2	27,016	54.0	872	491.9	5,422	23,294	3,235	3,057
\$150,000 under \$250,000	579.3	45,565	94.1	1,887	657.6	11,981	32,501	6,445	6,203
\$250,000 under \$500,000	339.0	43,069	74.0	2,569	397.1	14,575	20,078	7,094	6,837
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	115.2	24,201	32.3	2,206	136.1	12,147	6,918	4,885	4,692
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	52.9	20,949	17.7	3,051	62.9	18,158	3,166	5,901	5,611
\$5,000,000 or more	3.8	4,399	1.7	2,371	4.4	9,428	237	3,902	3,681

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 13. — ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY SIZE OF TOTAL ASSETS, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of total assets	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Cash	
						Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	8,695.0	2,212,731	7,893.4	343,796	1,866,933	8,283.3	280,784
\$0 under \$50,000	319.8	10,802	300.8	4,948	5,854	284.6	1,139
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,266.3	95,891	1,207.9	30,839	85,052	1,159.9	10,858
\$100,000 under \$150,000	2,437.8	310,635	2,131.1	44,706	265,928	2,324.1	58,777
\$150,000 under \$250,000	2,486.3	472,782	2,213.4	95,251	407,531	2,393.7	66,526
\$250,000 under \$500,000	1,486.0	499,441	1,367.8	89,903	429,538	1,435.7	65,821
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	467.7	318,902	449.6	45,637	273,065	481.1	30,353
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	212.1	369,065	208.1	51,783	317,302	209.2	23,210
\$5,000,000 or more	15.0	135,194	14.7	30,531	104,663	15.0	4,299

Size of total assets	Types of assets — Continued							
	Corporate stock		Bonds				Government	
	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign		Federal savings	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
Total	5,897.8	530,974	3,326.1	129,650	1,480.8	27,825	1,877.7	17,418
\$0 under \$50,000	96.5	732	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$50,000 under \$100,000	838.3	7,436	**436.9	**1,362	**96.5	**578	**358.5	**701
\$100,000 under \$150,000	1,808.9	41,829	879.3	9,621	338.6	3,213	587.1	4,107
\$150,000 under \$250,000	1,782.7	80,280	936.1	17,781	448.5	6,308	513.7	5,573
\$250,000 under \$500,000	1,183.1	110,660	667.7	22,657	345.6	6,198	297.0	4,336
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	407.9	81,490	253.2	22,809	143.1	5,055	82.3	1,707
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	186.3	135,250	142.0	40,561	81.2	4,473	37.4	855
\$5,000,000 or more	13.9	63,198	11.0	14,859	7.4	1,801	1.7	137

Size of total assets	Types of assets — Continued							
	Bonds — Continued				Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages	
	Government — Continued				Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Other Federal		State and local					
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)					
Total	564.7	38,315	547.7	46,263	6,708.2	42,267	2,404.4	87,727
\$0 under \$50,000	—	—	—	—	319.8	2,032	*36.6	*320
\$50,000 under \$100,000	*13.1	*22	*17.5	*82	1,266.3	8,558	145.4	1,098
\$100,000 under \$150,000	79.1	1,389	57.2	911	1,934.0	9,461	538.0	9,953
\$150,000 under \$250,000	158.4	3,677	122.0	2,203	1,782.5	9,212	777.5	20,861
\$250,000 under \$500,000	167.8	6,722	140.6	5,401	975.6	7,109	559.5	22,336
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	85.0	6,408	114.2	6,641	306.9	3,168	224.8	16,413
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	56.4	14,155	86.4	21,077	131.5	2,306	112.2	12,080
\$5,000,000 or more	4.9	5,944	6.6	6,976	9.6	439	10.5	4,664

Size of total assets	Types of assets — Continued						Estate tax return statistics		
	Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	7,531.0	770,787	1,989.3	96,728	8,214.8	271,782	119,167	40,997	37,104
\$0 under \$50,000	196.7	4,968	**	**	306.5	1,484	486	78	10
\$50,000 under \$100,000	1,148.6	51,022	**201.9	**3,831	1,241.1	12,050	4,006	611	251
\$100,000 under \$150,000	2,144.7	140,689	427.2	7,924	2,245.4	32,278	31,667	4,462	3,920
\$150,000 under \$250,000	2,144.5	193,951	575.7	16,120	2,328.9	46,067	43,138	6,532	7,818
\$250,000 under \$500,000	1,290.5	185,356	495.2	26,747	1,413.3	58,750	26,550	9,272	8,566
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	406.9	96,563	175.3	17,671	456.9	36,436	8,907	6,180	5,636
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	184.3	75,000	85.2	17,558	205.8	63,117	4,099	7,375	6,776
\$5,000,000 or more	12.7	21,238	9.0	6,876	14.9	19,622	313	4,506	4,132

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 14.—TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY AGE AND MARITAL STATUS, 1976

Figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars

Age group and marital status	Number of top wealthholders (1)	Total assets (2)		Debts and mortgages (3)		Net worth (5)	Cash (6)		Corporate stock (8)		Types of assets (10)		Bonds (12)		Federal savings (14)		Government savings (15)
		Amount (4)		Number (7)	Amount (9)		Number (11)	Number (13)	Amount (14)	Number (15)	Amount (16)	Number (17)	Amount (18)	Number (19)	Amount (20)		
		Number	Amount													Number	
Total	8,685.0	2,212,731	343,798	1,868,933	8,283.3	280,784	5,897.6	530,974	3,326.1	129,850	1,480.8	27,625	1,877.7	17,418	9,068	2,802	5,089
Married	6,175.7	1,499,089	276,612	1,222,477	5,814.2	163,945	4,138.3	353,218	2,150.2	73,123	894.0	15,937	1,224.8	15,937	2,843	2,802	5,089
Single	1,742.8	373,790	682.6	19,558	154,231	29,948	48,933	29,948	10,471	169.8	308.1	7,513	325.3	325.3	487	487	487
Widowed	1,219.8	391,732	1,100.5	370,796	1,201.4	71,627	879.9	89,773	636.9	37,987	88.1	1,831	67.2	67.2	67.2	67.2	67.2
Other	556.6	148,120	535.7	121,428	547.9	15,272	348.8	39,049	164.1	6,656	89.1	1,831	67.2	67.2	67.2	67.2	67.2
Under 50 years, total	3,619.4	705,785	3,469.7	500,436	3,363.0	56,554	2,160.2	144,695	931.1	22,204	345.8	4,418	609.5	1,355	1,355	1,355	1,355
Married	2,804.3	521,768	2,678.1	170,453	351,314	2,567.9	102,816	674.4	15,291	218.2	284.5	2,845	451.9	1,049	1,049	1,049	1,049
Single	406.2	78,248	396.0	12,822	65,426	8,801	23,343	23,343	159.4	2,336	76.8	761	118.3	217	217	217	217
Widowed	82.7	33,446	79.4	4,268	29,177	82.7	3,666	481	1,251	35.8	1,059	333	19.3	65	65	65	65
Other	326.2	72,323	326.2	17,805	54,519	323.7	4,564	17,285	61.5	3,517	35.8	478	19.9	25	25	25	25
Under 60 years, total	2,059.2	543,403	1,861.2	83,596	459,808	1,980.4	63,882	121,945	835.9	24,471	340.8	6,178	457.2	3,094	3,094	3,094	3,094
Married	1,629.6	422,758	1,467.8	69,307	353,451	1,557.5	43,985	1,164.2	96,690	603.9	15,522	3,717	332.2	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Single	115.9	31,724	104.2	4,711	27,013	115.6	5,777	89.2	7,539	73.9	2,280	32.6	691	45.3	45.3	45.3	45.3
Widowed	195.0	56,079	178.0	5,159	50,920	192.2	9,347	151.0	9,347	106.0	4,550	48.1	1,064	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2
Other	118.8	32,841	111.2	4,418	28,424	115.2	4,421	84.4	8,668	52.2	2,119	28.1	686	26.6	26.6	26.6	26.6
Under 65 years, total	819.3	248,563	722.8	21,635	226,928	788.7	33,952	617.7	67,443	388.4	15,567	180.3	4,198	2,333	2,333	2,333	2,333
Married	596.5	181,517	516.4	17,086	164,431	571.4	21,706	457.9	52,394	274.3	10,551	127.3	2,961	1,606	1,606	1,606	1,606
Single	39.6	9,669	36.0	588	9,083	39.6	1,643	27.0	1,877	22.2	731	9.1	86	230	230	230	230
Widowed	144.1	44,860	135.7	2,668	42,321	139.0	8,100	103.9	10,669	76.0	3,679	35.4	965	44.6	44.6	44.6	44.6
Other	39.2	12,387	34.7	1,295	11,093	34.7	1,503	28.8	2,502	15.9	607	8.5	166	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Under 70 years, total	690.5	212,828	575.4	12,282	200,546	676.5	36,310	524.0	53,618	354.6	16,918	182.2	3,890	1,762	1,762	1,762	1,762
Married	441.6	138,134	350.4	8,625	129,509	431.9	20,983	335.9	35,308	219.6	10,118	115.4	2,252	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035
Single	55.9	14,762	49.3	483	14,278	53.8	3,327	3,879	3,879	1,125	15.0	206	26.4	463	463	463	463
Widowed	166.9	50,253	151.2	2,563	47,690	164.6	10,180	126.6	11,533	85.1	4,959	45.1	1,268	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5
Other	26.1	9,678	24.4	610	9,068	26.1	1,811	17.8	2,886	13.0	715	6.6	145	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Under 75 years, total	166,059	418.4	9,241	156,818	489.7	29,112	379.4	44,634	284.8	15,849	154.1	3,322	137.7	2,487	2,487	2,487	2,487
Married	289.2	94,478	228.7	4,916	89,561	280.9	15,318	223.9	24,887	163.7	8,359	91.0	1,810	75.6	75.6	75.6	75.6
Single	33.0	10,242	29.5	198	10,044	33.0	2,735	23.9	3,306	23.2	1,198	9.5	192	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9
Widowed	162.4	51,594	146.9	1,988	49,606	161.0	10,052	120.3	12,097	89.6	5,686	49.6	1,168	42.4	42.4	42.4	42.4
Other	14.9	9,746	13.3	2,139	7,606	14.8	1,008	11.3	4,344	8.1	606	4.1	152	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Under 80 years, total	346.0	117,118	289.4	3,951	113,167	341.1	22,042	260.1	34,803	193.4	12,883	100.5	2,314	97.8	97.8	97.8	97.8
Married	161.8	59,622	126.3	2,411	57,211	159.0	9,571	122.6	18,706	90.9	6,487	49.8	1,149	43.6	43.6	43.6	43.6
Single	29.6	8,791	25.6	195	8,596	29.2	2,325	21.5	2,415	20.6	943	8.9	136	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Widowed	146.4	45,625	130.0	1,188	44,427	144.5	9,561	108.5	12,730	78.0	5,164	39.2	941	39.4	39.4	39.4	39.4
Other	8.3	3,060	7.6	147	2,833	8.3	585	6.4	949	3.9	289	2.5	88	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Under 85 years, total	231.3	82,121	194.7	2,372	79,748	226.7	14,483	167.1	25,492	123.8	8,569	61.3	1,359	62.7	62.7	62.7	62.7
Married	85.1	31,188	67.2	836	30,352	82.5	5,088	61.1	9,594	46.2	3,002	23.8	572	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4
Single	21.7	6,798	18.0	258	6,539	21.4	1,514	16.3	1,792	13.0	593	6.2	67	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Widowed	120.2	41,628	105.7	1,109	40,519	118.5	7,578	86.4	12,392	62.5	4,776	30.2	687	31.2	31.2	31.2	31.2
Other	4.3	2,507	3.8	67	2,440	4.3	303	3.3	303	2.1	197	1.2	23	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Years or more, total	173.1	67,269	148.6	1,830	65,439	169.1	10,895	125.1	22,174	97.1	7,922	46.7	1,052	46.4	46.4	46.4	46.4
Married	38.8	15,465	31.1	430	15,036	37.8	2,390	28.1	4,588	11.5	1,860	11.5	273	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Single	18.1	1,960	15.5	198	1,762	17.6	1,324	14.2	2,441	6.3	795	6.3	135	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Widowed	112.7	43,558	98.7	1,154	42,404	110.2	6,925	80.6	14,639	61.5	5,317	28.1	627	28.7	28.7	28.7	28.7
Other	3.5	1,485	3.2	47	1,439	3.5	255	2.2	508	1.8	150	1.5	15	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Unknown, total	256.7	69,595	213.1	3,542	66,043	248.2	13,552	165.3	16,171	117.1	5,268	49.1	893	67.9	67.9	67.9	67.9
Married	129.0	34,159	108.5	2,446	31,713	123.8	8,237	86.6	8,237	55.8	2,133	25.0	356	29.9	29.9	29.9	29.9
Single	22.9	6,795	18.5	104	6,691	22.2	143	14.3	1,961	13.4	471	5.3	69	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Widowed	89.4	24,558	74.8	827	23,731	88.8	5,866	55.5	5,114	42.2	2,207	17.4	390	25.9	25.9	25.9	25.9
Other	15.4	4,072	11.3	165	3,907	13.4	823	8.8	858	5.8	457	1.5	77	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8

Continued at end of table.

Table 14. — TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY AGE AND MARITAL STATUS, 1976 — Continued
 [All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Age group and marital status	Types of assets — Continued										Estate tax return statistics										
	Bonds — Continued					Life insurance equity					Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Government — Continued		State and local			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number				Amount
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number														Amount	Number	Amount
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)					
Total	564.7	38,315	547.7	46,293	6,708.2	42,287	2,404.4	87,727	7,531.0	770,787	1,963.3	98,728	8,214.8	271,782	119,167	40,997	37,104				
Married	320.7	19,664	343.1	28,454	5,196.7	36,205	1,663.8	60,995	5,658.2	574,790	1,632.4	81,657	5,869.7	155,147	67,482	22,381	19,416				
Single	45.4	1,966	45.4	3,360	475.0	1,652	147.8	3,490	467.8	44,779	90.8	5,846	667.7	28,678	9,066	2,878	2,708				
Widowed	158.7	12,753	118.5	632.9	332.9	2,627	389.2	15,699	974.0	102,292	140.7	5,821	1,135.6	66,493	38,913	13,447	12,932				
Other	40.0	3,933	40.8	2,437	403.6	1,903	203.6	7,543	431.0	48,926	105.5	5,403	541.7	21,464	3,686	2,291	2,049				
Under 50 years, total	86.7	7,766	110.5	8,664	3,114.8	13,724	822.6	22,663	3,151.0	298,717	922.4	43,585	3,469.7	103,639	6,098	1,658	882				
Married	54.3	4,171	74.9	6,679	2,525.9	12,024	605.3	17,531	2,594.8	240,697	789.4	37,120	2,707.2	56,763	5,057	1,356	682				
Single	6.8	174	13.2	1,154	276.0	768	26.4	1,091	73.3	21,626	36.1	1,758	357.9	18,270	489	116	79				
Widowed	3.3	206	8.8	456	57.7	158	26.4	1,091	73.3	7,517	21.7	1,375	82.7	17,328	146	62	48				
Other	22.2	2,668	13.6	346	255.2	773	115.9	2,687	253.8	23,877	75.2	3,332	322.0	11,278	407	121	72				
50 under 60 years, total	124.0	6,212	137.6	8,987	1,685.3	13,156	615.4	23,132	1,867.4	204,410	538.2	31,407	1,971.9	60,998	12,198	3,526	2,510				
Married	88.9	4,005	90.9	6,000	1,374.4	11,695	474.7	17,731	1,516.9	169,060	465.7	26,057	1,553.6	42,015	10,018	2,904	2,010				
Single	9.1	269	10.4	269	87.6	376	26.4	729	77.4	8,197	24.7	3,312	111.6	3,514	632	186	148				
Widowed	20.4	1,338	22.6	1,535	136.9	466	67.7	2,859	177.0	17,043	29.4	832	189.7	11,281	884	243	205				
Other	5.6	600	13.7	708	86.4	618	46.7	1,813	96.1	10,110	18.4	1,206	117.1	4,197	664	193	147				
60 under 65 years, total	62.8	3,612	67.8	5,424	640.5	5,624	278.7	11,375	728.4	77,226	179.6	9,151	772.4	28,224	10,575	3,286	2,762				
Married	43.8	2,475	47.9	3,507	491.8	4,965	200.1	8,481	543.6	57,862	152.9	7,962	560.6	17,675	8,361	2,633	2,181				
Single	3.4	134	3.5	281	25.7	120	10.1	289	33.1	2,929	6.6	192	36.5	187	106	100	106				
Widowed	12.9	862	11.6	1,398	93.3	447	50.6	2,069	120.9	12,334	15.6	522	137.8	7,169	1,327	396	356				
Other	2.8	141	4.8	238	29.7	191	18.0	536	30.9	4,081	4.4	476	37.6	2,491	409	137	116				
65 under 70 years, total	76.3	4,272	73.8	6,414	475.3	4,069	242.6	11,018	601.8	63,012	130.3	5,897	643.8	21,965	13,126	4,116	3,756				
Married	45.4	2,807	45.9	3,840	330.9	3,383	159.7	7,369	399.8	42,583	97.9	4,908	410.0	13,470	9,364	2,960	2,702				
Single	7.5	213	4.1	244	34.7	184	8.8	448	37.8	3,748	8.6	165	50.5	1,956	963	266	253				
Widowed	20.8	1,155	19.9	1,973	94.5	645	64.8	2,807	137.0	14,615	19.7	609	158.4	5,135	2,338	702	657				
Other	2.6	97	3.8	357	15.6	86	9.3	463	20.2	2,066	4.1	215	24.9	1,424	461	157	144				
70 under 75 years, total	69.1	4,416	59.7	5,624	299.4	2,210	168.0	8,491	414.8	43,872	69.1	4,085	467.0	17,805	15,926	5,352	4,970				
Married	36.9	2,091	38.6	3,176	200.3	1,757	99.9	4,368	253.1	27,054	49.8	2,585	266.5	10,148	10,466	3,445	3,214				
Single	4.1	243	3.1	276	15.4	81	9.4	295	22.7	1,888	3.7	76	31.3	664	1,010	309	301				
Widowed	26.0	2,003	14.8	1,844	77.3	320	53.3	2,348	129.7	13,748	14.1	1,728	154.8	6,015	4,043	1,272	1,212				
Other	2.1	79	2.3	324	6.4	52	5.4	1,480	9.3	1,182	1.5	96	14.3	977	408	326	241				
75 under 80 years, total	47.2	3,741	39.8	4,614	184.3	1,279	106.4	4,518	267.2	27,729	41.9	1,692	310.6	12,172	17,567	6,098	5,832				
Married	20.5	1,627	21.3	2,749	104.9	936	49.6	2,436	135.1	14,536	26.6	1,251	145.2	5,697	9,430	3,527	3,344				
Single	3.4	238	3.9	239	11.8	39	6.5	179	19.6	1,916	3.0	119	25.8	853	1,364	420	409				
Widowed	21.9	1,802	13.6	1,519	64.1	284	47.8	1,815	107.6	10,549	11.6	299	132.1	5,222	6,393	2,008	1,944				
Other	1.4	75	1.1	106	3.4	20	2.4	87	4.9	726	0.7	23	7.6	399	380	143	135				
80 under 85 years, total	35.0	3,032	25.1	2,734	107.0	913	63.7	2,585	168.4	18,182	23.7	948	205.9	10,950	18,363	7,308	7,084				
Married	13.3	832	10.1	1,067	52.7	605	25.3	1,216	68.1	7,302	11.9	488	75.2	3,868	7,709	2,838	2,734				
Single	3.2	194	2.5	148	9.4	35	4.4	102	12.8	1,214	1.9	76	18.4	1,062	1,638	524	500				
Widowed	18.0	1,938	12.0	1,444	43.4	258	32.9	1,236	84.5	9,220	9.4	365	108.4	5,802	8,685	2,970	2,884				
Other	0.5	79	0.5	75	1.5	15	1.0	31	3.0	446	0.5	19	3.9	158	332	975	966				
85 years or more, total	36.8	3,536	19.4	2,249	59.3	491	43.4	1,560	117.2	14,433	15.5	493	146.0	9,301	22,147	8,754	8,493				
Married	6.7	504	5.5	660	22.5	233	11.1	487	30.7	3,659	5.1	155	34.1	2,293	5,499	2,231	2,159				
Single	4.3	340	2.3	143	5.0	28	2.7	85	10.2	1,180	1.0	30	14.8	877	2,229	852	825				
Widowed	25.0	2,615	11.2	1,407	31.0	225	28.7	950	74.2	9,305	9.2	298	94.2	5,896	13,984	5,485	5,326				
Other	0.8	77	0.3	39	0.8	5	0.8	37	2.1	288	0.2	11	2.9	232	434	186	180				
Age unknown, total	26.7	1,729	14.0	1,582	142.4	822	63.6	2,376	214.8	23,206	48.6	1,469	227.4	6,708	3,166	900	815				
Married	11.1	605	8.0	769	93.7	706	38.1	1,376	116.1	12,017	33.2	1,131	117.4	3,188	1,579	454	389				
Single	3.6	171	1.5	101	9.5	54	5.0	88	68.9	7,960	4.4	118	20.9	852	283	85	83				
Widowed	10.3	834	3.9	467	34.7	54	17.0	523	69.9	7,080	9.9	194	77.7	2,640	308	295	295				
Other	1.9	118	0.6	118	4.5	42	4.0	399	10.7	1,148	0.3	26	11.4	318	190	53	53				

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.
 NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 15. — ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY STATE OF RESIDENCE, 1976

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Men		Women		Types of assets	
			Number	Amount		Number	Net worth	Number	Net worth	Cash	
										Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
Total	8,695.0	2,212,730	7,893.4	343,801	1,868,931	5,782.0	1,107,553	2,912.9	761,383	8,283.3	280,788
Alabama	79.9	24,737	75.0	4,044	20,693	81.8	13,113	18.2	7,580	71.7	3,239
Alaska	17.6	5,731	16.8	1,168	4,563	13.7	3,005	3.9	1,558	17.6	658
Arizona	89.8	20,596	78.5	4,250	16,346	41.4	8,067	48.4	8,279	87.1	2,280
Arkansas	63.5	13,816	54.1	3,855	9,961	54.0	7,262	9.5	2,699	52.7	1,788
California	807.6	233,003	769.0	40,534	192,469	420.2	87,181	387.4	105,289	788.9	28,877
Colorado	128.6	28,729	119.7	5,763	22,967	98.2	16,212	30.3	6,755	128.2	3,183
Connecticut	176.5	53,745	172.1	5,092	48,653	113.6	28,956	62.8	19,697	167.3	5,503
Delaware	37.7	8,938	35.3	607	8,331	25.3	4,943	12.4	3,388	37.7	1,073
Florida	438.9	134,878	392.4	20,575	114,303	292.0	65,661	146.8	48,642	414.4	16,350
Georgia	159.9	41,110	156.1	12,817	28,292	122.0	18,679	37.8	9,613	152.0	5,026
Hawaii	39.0	7,436	33.7	1,546	5,890	32.0	4,288	7.1	1,603	36.2	498
Idaho	36.4	8,726	36.0	1,804	6,922	29.8	4,559	6.6	2,363	34.9	846
Illinois	564.4	142,294	501.6	16,184	126,110	369.7	77,495	194.7	48,615	545.6	18,574
Indiana	174.6	47,781	153.9	6,739	41,042	122.2	28,109	52.4	12,933	172.3	5,887
Iowa	212.8	52,339	187.9	7,027	45,312	132.7	29,454	80.1	15,858	197.7	5,308
Kansas	143.8	36,519	112.8	4,596	31,924	94.6	18,816	49.2	13,108	139.6	4,032
Kentucky	107.8	24,245	105.0	5,025	19,220	71.9	12,473	35.9	6,746	107.5	2,804
Louisiana	91.5	24,092	88.3	5,233	18,859	57.7	10,377	33.9	8,482	88.6	2,932
Maine	28.9	8,031	25.0	415	7,615	22.7	4,019	6.2	3,596	28.9	946
Maryland (includes D.C.)	221.2	49,163	193.8	5,565	43,598	144.2	23,741	77.0	19,857	190.7	6,482
Massachusetts	202.1	50,575	184.5	6,383	44,192	133.7	27,351	68.4	16,841	187.9	7,033
Michigan	301.9	74,868	254.3	10,097	64,771	235.2	47,337	66.7	17,434	287.7	8,238
Minnesota	175.4	40,310	158.1	5,124	35,186	131.8	24,612	43.5	10,574	173.6	4,738
Mississippi	73.1	19,711	70.0	3,628	16,083	52.7	10,006	20.5	6,078	70.4	2,311
Missouri	183.3	50,365	162.2	8,077	42,288	128.2	29,073	55.1	13,215	161.1	5,773
Montana	48.9	11,165	48.1	2,020	9,145	40.9	7,202	8.1	1,943	45.2	1,013
Nebraska	119.6	30,763	109.1	6,014	24,749	98.5	18,925	21.1	5,825	114.3	2,720
Nevada	27.3	12,951	25.7	3,836	9,115	9.4	5,639	17.9	3,476	26.7	660
New Hampshire	28.8	7,221	20.6	618	6,603	20.2	4,378	8.7	2,226	28.7	2,206
New Jersey	321.0	75,580	277.0	10,195	65,385	195.8	37,637	125.2	27,749	305.0	10,899
New Mexico	26.4	8,301	17.3	1,464	6,837	13.6	3,107	12.8	3,730	26.4	1,150
New York	899.5	226,509	804.1	30,690	195,819	603.9	109,507	295.6	86,312	861.6	32,754
North Carolina	176.7	45,204	145.4	7,385	37,818	121.7	23,799	54.9	14,019	154.0	5,017
North Dakota	48.7	10,347	40.6	1,884	8,463	38.9	6,736	9.8	1,726	42.1	1,183
Ohio	376.8	87,992	342.8	9,198	78,794	238.2	44,670	138.6	34,124	354.9	13,728
Oklahoma	137.7	40,781	125.0	11,173	29,609	77.5	16,358	60.2	13,251	125.3	4,685
Oregon	91.9	21,251	83.4	1,791	19,461	59.7	12,907	32.2	8,554	91.4	2,733
Pennsylvania	368.5	90,202	334.2	9,260	80,942	273.4	51,513	95.1	29,429	361.1	14,002
Rhode Island	32.2	5,534	28.7	913	4,621	24.6	2,109	7.7	2,513	23.3	756
South Carolina	87.8	19,060	84.5	3,712	15,348	72.7	10,946	15.0	4,402	84.8	2,171
South Dakota	51.7	12,242	44.9	1,417	10,825	24.0	5,594	27.7	5,231	49.1	1,130
Tennessee	135.2	31,372	132.7	6,190	25,182	104.1	17,381	31.1	7,800	132.4	3,642
Texas	409.7	113,724	390.1	23,210	90,515	219.0	38,359	190.8	52,156	398.9	16,165
Utah	36.6	7,164	34.4	609	6,555	10.6	2,635	25.9	3,920	35.6	1,163
Vermont	14.5	3,950	13.7	347	3,603	10.4	2,316	4.1	1,288	14.5	581
Virginia	210.0	43,277	193.4	7,102	36,175	176.4	25,902	33.6	10,273	206.8	5,375
Washington	123.5	29,092	119.1	4,934	24,158	62.4	11,806	61.1	12,552	123.2	3,687
West Virginia	39.8	8,498	36.5	1,357	7,141	32.0	5,150	7.8	1,992	39.8	1,199
Wisconsin	233.3	46,746	222.9	9,261	37,485	182.6	27,381	50.6	10,103	216.9	4,627
Wyoming	35.2	7,659	30.9	1,774	5,885	28.3	4,669	6.9	1,216	29.9	749
Other areas ¹	57.4	14,407	52.0	1,299	13,108	41.8	6,338	15.6	6,770	52.8	1,534

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 15.— ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY STATE OF RESIDENCE, 1976 — Continued

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Types of assets—Continued									
	Corporate stock		Bonds		Life insurance equity		Notes and mortgages		Real estate	
	Number (12)	Amount (13)	Number (14)	Amount (15)	Number (16)	Amount (17)	Number (18)	Amount (19)	Number (20)	Amount (21)
Total	5,897.6	530,975	3,326.1	129,648	6,708.2	42,286	2,404.4	87,724	7,531.0	770,788
Alabama	53.8	5,264	33.3	1,221	63.2	646	21.3	1,261	74.4	9,772
Alaska	13.1	1,563	4.1	390	13.3	80	6.0	314	17.6	2,202
Arizona	75.0	5,399	29.3	1,231	50.2	205	43.1	1,284	84.5	7,461
Arkansas	26.5	1,681	15.0	588	53.3	219	19.1	1,075	60.7	6,040
California	559.6	52,052	291.1	12,047	525.4	2,319	319.3	11,500	658.5	76,180
Colorado	77.1	5,966	50.1	1,102	98.3	632	34.7	965	112.5	11,114
Connecticut	143.4	17,952	91.0	3,521	133.4	1,093	38.0	1,444	147.2	15,873
Delaware	28.2	2,631	12.8	300	24.6	206	10.2	915	30.7	2,537
Florida	309.1	30,647	177.5	13,136	306.1	2,005	171.9	7,239	388.1	39,564
Georgia	93.9	8,798	47.6	1,864	136.9	1,233	39.0	1,948	136.7	17,267
Hawaii	24.7	834	14.4	92	36.1	208	3.1	166	37.7	4,191
Idaho	25.8	2,393	5.4	274	31.5	116	17.5	304	30.1	3,444
Illinois	371.6	27,731	212.5	7,921	448.1	2,709	110.5	3,901	500.4	57,767
Indiana	112.8	9,080	67.2	1,968	138.2	893	45.0	1,664	162.1	19,122
Iowa	124.9	4,516	87.0	1,660	157.8	715	66.8	2,316	200.9	29,544
Kansas	83.8	5,386	53.3	1,447	99.8	524	44.7	1,234	133.7	16,666
Kentucky	73.9	7,553	24.2	911	86.0	446	17.1	771	99.4	8,535
Louisiana	65.9	6,226	37.3	1,454	64.8	347	36.1	1,486	84.8	9,775
Maine	21.0	3,410	13.1	745	21.7	166	7.7	219	24.9	1,901
Maryland (includes D.C.)	149.4	9,891	111.0	3,333	176.4	1,176	42.9	1,988	193.2	16,664
Massachusetts	154.2	15,954	70.4	2,642	156.0	1,080	33.4	1,314	160.3	12,929
Michigan	200.7	16,099	95.7	4,556	253.2	1,712	91.7	3,072	282.4	22,578
Minnesota	120.4	6,423	76.2	1,552	140.8	793	47.8	1,284	154.9	16,772
Mississippi	46.4	2,576	11.0	423	64.5	493	16.6	523	55.1	6,774
Missouri	116.8	13,695	75.3	2,569	152.8	959	56.4	2,602	157.0	16,723
Montana	35.7	2,064	13.1	303	40.2	176	14.9	566	40.9	4,510
Nebraska	76.4	4,632	45.0	1,319	97.2	526	32.8	1,565	102.7	13,601
Nevada	15.7	4,560	10.0	1,850	20.5	44	18.7	2,230	24.0	2,313
New Hampshire	24.2	1,993	9.2	303	21.5	147	7.4	192	22.3	1,838
New Jersey	230.8	21,434	176.6	6,055	274.1	2,008	74.8	2,567	276.1	25,917
New Mexico	15.8	1,707	10.2	443	15.6	71	11.1	334	23.1	2,408
New York	648.9	66,987	432.4	19,718	716.4	5,077	202.8	6,068	720.3	60,593
North Carolina	96.3	11,597	42.9	1,925	137.9	951	59.5	2,382	160.5	18,354
North Dakota	33.1	1,410	12.3	201	38.4	159	7.2	257	39.2	5,298
Ohio	294.8	24,492	151.4	4,028	297.9	1,984	74.8	1,810	316.2	26,972
Oklahoma	77.0	10,425	25.1	960	109.7	681	35.9	1,265	134.9	15,666
Oregon	61.4	4,559	29.9	1,186	60.8	347	43.3	1,675	81.5	7,581
Pennsylvania	274.0	27,376	199.0	7,066	300.7	2,473	55.7	1,822	317.3	25,553
Rhode Island	15.3	1,432	14.1	377	27.2	235	3.4	94	30.4	1,754
South Carolina	62.6	5,370	15.6	568	61.0	576	17.8	731	85.4	7,558
South Dakota	41.8	3,784	10.9	230	21.5	76	9.2	260	31.2	4,802
Tennessee	73.2	9,200	32.1	1,724	112.1	849	23.1	823	119.3	10,727
Texas	262.2	23,248	123.2	6,802	308.6	1,314	166.0	6,781	363.2	42,330
Utah	31.2	2,928	3.8	149	11.8	63	6.3	415	15.2	1,324
Vermont	12.8	870	6.4	205	10.2	94	4.5	137	13.6	1,469
Virginia	119.5	8,736	76.7	2,188	180.7	1,312	35.9	1,141	190.5	18,673
Washington	60.9	6,365	43.1	1,907	79.5	312	57.9	1,604	117.7	11,095
West Virginia	24.8	2,612	16.0	520	31.6	225	9.0	221	38.1	2,703
Wisconsin	162.4	11,983	84.9	2,049	210.1	1,102	69.1	1,497	213.5	18,524
Wyoming	26.0	1,888	4.7	100	32.5	122	3.8	244	29.7	3,374
Other areas	46.8	3,596	29.9	505	36.1	385	18.8	234	36.2	4,654

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 15. — ALL TOP WEALTHHOLDERS, BY STATE OF RESIDENCE, 1976 — Continued

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples — numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Types of assets — Continued				Millionaires as defined by:				Estate tax return statistics		
	Noncorporate business assets		Other assets		Total assets		Net worth		Number of returns	Gross estate	Net worth
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	
Total	1,969.3	98,725	8,214.8	271,779	227.1	504,277	178.9	393,561	119,164	40,997	37,106
Alabama	21.0	1,203	76.2	2,137	2.7	8,068	2.2	6,448	1,134	396	348
Alaska	3.4	164	16.7	364	*1.1	*2,075	*1.1	*1,829	155	41	33
Arizona	17.7	215	87.9	2,521	1.6	2,840	1.5	2,510	1,058	336	310
Arkansas	24.9	1,636	61.6	789	1.2	2,525	0.7	1,255	840	258	230
California	206.4	10,596	773.4	39,437	25.2	61,905	20.2	50,098	11,544	4,834	4,412
Colorado	32.5	1,480	127.1	4,287	2.3	4,373	1.5	3,260	1,313	421	366
Connecticut	29.8	748	169.5	7,610	5.8	15,141	4.5	12,569	2,238	843	767
Delaware	*1.0	*26	30.8	1,249	0.3	411	0.3	397	361	105	93
Florida	75.2	6,263	412.3	19,674	19.2	38,660	16.9	31,888	7,816	2,744	2,506
Georgia	30.9	1,483	154.8	2,591	4.3	10,834	2.4	5,400	1,848	649	544
Hawaii	6.3	155	38.4	1,293	0.5	1,048	0.4	816	377	120	101
Idaho	20.4	661	35.2	687	*0.9	*1,235	*0.5	*684	361	105	94
Illinois	112.7	6,036	518.7	17,654	14.1	28,288	12.2	24,489	8,477	2,939	2,725
Indiana	48.2	3,117	168.6	6,050	4.8	10,282	4.3	8,682	3,303	1,203	1,118
Iowa	86.7	4,736	202.5	3,527	3.1	4,256	1.8	2,672	3,655	993	920
Kansas	48.3	2,956	132.3	4,270	2.6	4,445	2.2	3,730	2,456	742	686
Kentucky	30.1	1,123	101.1	2,102	2.5	5,288	1.7	3,215	1,404	430	383
Louisiana	17.1	607	91.1	1,264	3.3	6,263	2.7	4,309	1,088	366	327
Maine	7.7	161	21.2	482	2.7	3,209	0.4	800	625	172	161
Maryland (includes D.C.)	39.1	1,618	272.1	8,012	4.7	7,564	3.9	6,221	2,662	882	802
Massachusetts	19.7	1,563	192.0	8,059	6.4	11,841	4.5	9,061	3,111	979	897
Michigan	73.0	3,805	292.5	14,806	7.1	19,162	6.4	16,927	3,702	1,312	1,188
Minnesota	68.7	3,508	166.8	5,239	3.5	5,458	2.7	4,171	2,513	689	608
Mississippi	23.3	2,206	72.6	4,402	2.0	2,912	0.7	1,141	750	234	196
Missouri	30.0	1,827	166.2	6,216	7.3	14,522	4.9	9,856	2,723	950	878
Montana	15.0	775	44.5	1,757	0.9	1,346	*0.2	*408	509	155	139
Nebraska	59.4	3,725	112.8	2,675	2.0	5,302	1.7	3,650	1,965	585	513
Nevada	4.9	736	26.9	557	0.8	6,929	0.6	3,816	287	295	180
New Hampshire	1.9	58	28.1	664	0.8	1,460	0.8	1,391	524	162	147
New Jersey	30.7	1,485	297.2	5,196	8.1	14,806	6.4	11,229	4,410	1,380	1,239
New Mexico	13.2	428	26.1	1,760	1.7	2,603	1.0	1,817	372	115	106
New York	98.4	6,807	823.8	26,503	22.3	63,167	17.3	50,574	11,082	4,197	3,784
North Carolina	63.7	1,867	150.8	3,110	3.4	9,298	2.8	7,553	2,118	691	612
North Dakota	19.8	821	43.4	1,019	**0.7	**1,054	**0.2	**418	672	167	153
Ohio	64.2	2,833	362.9	12,144	8.1	18,764	6.7	15,592	5,662	1,831	1,680
Oklahoma	29.7	1,677	129.4	5,423	5.9	15,599	5.5	9,708	1,699	567	501
Oregon	17.9	445	90.9	2,726	1.2	2,169	1.2	2,017	1,338	371	341
Pennsylvania	61.6	2,841	350.0	9,069	9.9	21,731	8.4	18,763	5,785	1,922	1,752
Rhode Island	*0.8	*30	27.9	856	0.9	1,459	0.9	1,372	473	162	149
South Carolina	17.0	615	87.5	1,468	2.7	5,694	1.6	4,264	950	317	278
South Dakota	19.9	1,166	26.5	794	**	**	**	**	663	164	151
Tennessee	28.5	1,593	133.0	2,814	1.7	6,111	1.6	5,837	1,547	716	649
Texas	176.6	6,652	402.1	10,432	13.2	27,080	10.8	21,439	4,776	1,791	1,596
Utah	4.5	339	35.7	782	0.3	437	0.3	393	368	104	95
Vermont	4.8	227	13.7	367	0.2	322	0.2	281	302	90	81
Virginia	31.6	1,320	206.2	4,533	5.2	9,927	3.9	7,562	2,616	828	733
Washington	56.6	1,190	123.1	2,931	3.0	5,328	2.4	4,210	1,496	485	443
West Virginia	6.5	462	38.4	555	1.1	1,496	0.8	1,185	611	187	169
Wisconsin	45.8	2,143	220.6	4,819	2.9	6,945	2.3	5,316	2,727	779	694
Wyoming	7.3	445	33.3	737	*0.3	*674	*0.3	*639	296	96	86
Other areas ¹	14.8	150	50.6	3,346	0.6	1,971	0.6	1,697	402	167	142

*Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

**Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

¹U.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 total because of rounding.

Estimates of Personal Wealth, 1982: A Second Look

by Marvin Schwartz

According to updated estimates of the personal wealth of individuals in 1982, approximately 4.5 million people had gross assets of \$325,000 or more that year. These individuals, the Nation's "top wealthholders," represented only 2.8 percent of the Nation's adult population [1]. Their net worth, estimated from estate tax returns using the "estate multiplier technique," exceeded \$2.7 trillion and accounted for approximately 29.6 percent of the personal wealth in the United States in 1982 [2].

In contrast, during 1976, fewer than 2 million people had gross assets of \$300,000 or more, the amount closest to the level at which data are available for 1982. The net worth of these top wealthholders in 1976 was approximately \$1.0 trillion.

Just as the total number of top wealthholders increased during this period, so did the millionaires among them. Approximately 475,000 individuals had a net worth of \$1 million or more in 1982, well over twice the number in 1976 (180,000). The sharp increase in the number of millionaires between 1976 and 1982, however, was largely due to inflation. On the basis of constant 1976 dollars, only 232,000 individuals—52,000 more than in 1976—had a net worth of \$1 million or more in 1982 [3].

ESTIMATING PERSONAL WEALTH FROM ESTATE TAX RETURNS

The measurement of personal wealth in the United States has attracted considerable attention in recent years. This interest has been stimulated by a number of factors, not the least of which is the public's fascination with the topic. Accurate and comprehensive estimates of wealth, however, are difficult to obtain, because individuals are not required to report information on wealth regularly on any tax return or other public document. Several alternative approaches, each with its own merits, have been developed. The estimates presented here are based on the "estate multiplier technique." This approach utilizes administrative records, in particular, estate tax returns filed for the deceased to estimate the wealth of the living population.

This procedure can be used to estimate wealth for all individuals whose assets exceed the estate filing requirement in effect that year. Estimates of wealth thus can be provided for the top 2 to 3 percent of the wealthholders—

those individuals or "top wealthholders" who control a large portion of the personal wealth in the United States. (The mechanics of the estimating technique are discussed later.)

The updated estimates of personal wealth in 1982 represent the first phase of an effort by the Internal Revenue Service to improve the accuracy of the data [4,5]. In the past, wealth estimates, such as the preliminary estimates for 1982 published earlier, were made from the Statistics of Income sample of estate tax returns filed in a given year for deaths that had occurred over several years [6]. Thus, the wealth estimates generated from a sample selected on a filing year basis actually reflected the value of wealth held during several years, unadjusted for the rates of inflation applicable to those years.

The final personal wealth estimates for 1982 presented here are based on estate tax returns filed from 1982 through 1984 for individuals who died in 1982 [7]. By sampling returns filed over this 3-year period, the returns filed for nearly all individuals who died in 1982 can be captured. The advantage of a "year-of-death" sample is it represents the wealth of a given year, rather than a series of years, and thus more accurately reflects wealth at a particular time.

As the level of gross estate (or gross assets) required for filing an estate tax return has increased, the definition of top wealthholders also has changed. The level of wealth to which the estimates apply rose from \$60,000 or more in 1972 to \$120,000 or more for 1976 and subsequently to \$325,000 or more for 1982. While summary estimates of wealth are provided for wealthholders with gross assets of \$325,000 or more, asset detail is presented only for individuals with gross assets exceeding \$500,000 because such detail was not required for the estates of decedents with smaller assets.

The gross estate criterion is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth that does not conform to the 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 policy loans but excluding any reduction for other indebtedness. This measure defines the individuals included in the top

*Foreign Special Projects Section. Prepared under the direction of Mike Alexander, Chief.

wealthholder group. The amount of total assets, a lower wealth value, is still essentially a gross measure. Total assets are obtained by using the cash value of life insurance, i.e., the value the insurance had immediately before the policyholder's death [8]. Net worth, the level of wealth after all debts have been removed, includes the cash value of life insurance.

PERSONAL WEALTH IN 1982

Female wealthholders accounted for 38.3 percent of the 4.5 million top wealthholders in 1982 (see Figure A) compared with 32.8 percent in 1976. But because women held 43.4 percent of the net worth of top wealthholders in 1982, they had an average net worth nearly 24 percent higher than that of their male counterparts.

Figure A.—Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by Sex, 1982

[Number of wealthholders in thousands; amounts in billions, except as indicated]

Item	Total	Male	Female
Number of top wealthholders	4,479	2,763	1,715
Total assets	\$3,218	\$1,916	\$1,302
Net worth	2,714	1,536	1,178
Average net worth (dollars)	605,900	555,700	686,700

Composition of Assets

In 1982, real estate constituted the largest share of the assets held by all individuals with gross assets exceeding \$500,000 (see Figure B), continuing the trend first observed the previous year [9]. In contrast, estate multiplier estimates of wealth for 1976 and earlier years showed corporate stock to be the most commonly-held asset [10]. Real estate and corporate stock together accounted for more than 62 percent of the assets of these top wealthholders in 1982.

Figure B.—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Exceeding \$500,000, by Type of Asset and Sex, 1982

Type of asset	Total	Males	Females
Total assets	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Real estate	32.5	32.7	32.2
Corporate stock	29.9	29.7	30.3
Cash	8.4	7.4	9.8
Noncorporate business assets	7.8	9.2	5.5
Bonds	7.0	5.5	9.4
Notes and mortgages	4.7	5.1	4.2
Life insurance	1.2	1.8	0.3
Other assets	8.5	8.6	8.3

Corporate stock, long the most prominent asset in the portfolio of top wealthholders, declined from more than 35 percent of the assets in 1976 to roughly 30 percent in 1982, probably because of the decline in the stock market, as well as the increase in the value of real estate during that period [11]. Between 1976 and 1982 the Dow-Jones Industrial Average fell 9.3 percent while the Consumer Price Index for

home purchases rose 67.2 percent [12, 13]. These measures of the market condition are reflected in the shift in the composition of the assets of the wealthy for these 2 years.

Bonds and noncorporate business assets also switched positions of importance [14]. The share of assets held as bonds declined from more than 9 percent in 1976 to 7 percent in 1982, and noncorporate business assets increased from 5 percent of the assets in 1976 to nearly 8 percent in 1982.

A look at the composition of assets by sex shows that the share of the wealth held in the form of real estate and corporate stock was similar for men and women. On the other hand, the difference in the proportion of the wealth held as bonds or as noncorporate business assets is noteworthy. Noncorporate business assets made up 9 percent of the assets of men in 1982, compared with 5.5 percent for women. Conversely, wealth held by women was typified by a greater concentration in bonds, over 9 percent, compared with only 5.5 percent for men. An examination of all other assets shows that notes and mortgages and life insurance constituted a more significant portion of the assets of men, while cash represented a greater share of the assets of women.

Although real estate constituted the greatest share of the assets in the portfolio of all top wealthholders, the proportions of wealth held as real estate and corporate stock were quite different for millionaires and submillionaires (see Figure C). Real estate made up just 25 percent of the assets of millionaires; they held more than 38 percent of their assets as corporate stock. In contrast, real estate accounted for almost 42 percent of the assets of submillionaires; 20 percent of their assets were in corporate stock.

Figure C.—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Exceeding \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth and by Type of Asset, 1982

Type of asset	Size of net worth	
	Under \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 or more
Total assets	100.0%	100.0%
Real estate	41.6	24.6
Corporate stock	20.1	38.5
Cash	10.5	6.5
Noncorporate business assets	7.1	8.3
Notes and mortgages	5.3	4.2
Bonds	4.8	9.0
Life insurance	2.0	0.6
Other assets	8.5	8.4

Cash and bonds together represented just over 15 percent of the assets of both groups of top wealthholders but were held in quite different proportions. Whereas bonds represented just under 5 percent of the assets of the less wealthy group, they were, at 9 percent of the assets, the third most common asset held by millionaires. Proportionately, millionaires held more corporate stock, bonds, and

noncorporate business assets and less real estate, cash, notes and mortgages, and life insurance than the submillionaires.

Geographic Distribution of Wealth

In 1982, nearly 700,000 of the top wealthholders in the United States lived in California. This was more than twice the number of top wealthholders in the "second wealthiest" State, Texas. New York, which had the most wealthy individuals in 1976, had dropped to third place by 1982. As a result of the effect of the recent decline in oil prices on the economy of Texas, coupled with Florida's rapid growth and attractive tax policy (no State income tax), Florida may become the "second wealthiest" State by the end of this decade.

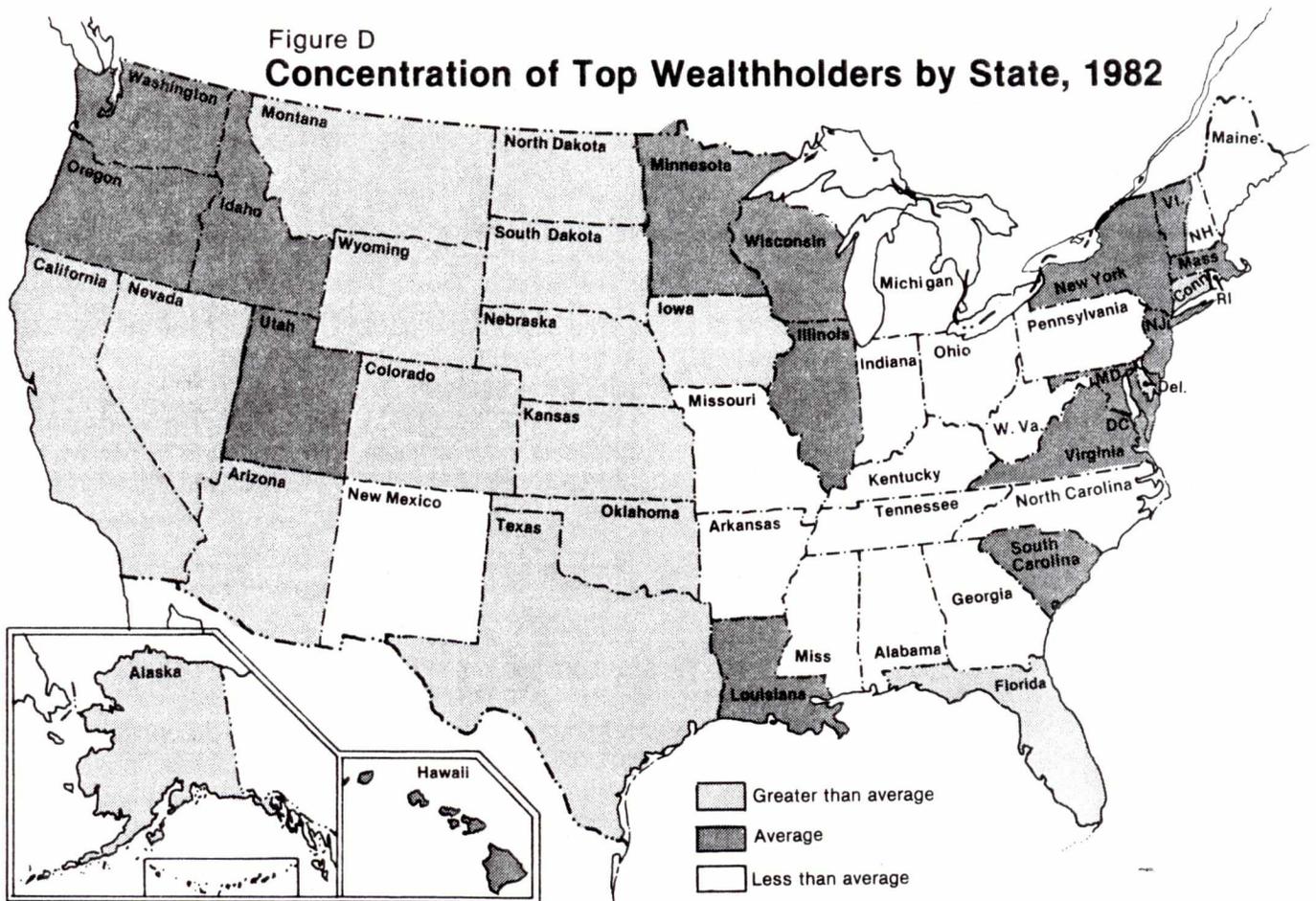
The ratio of wealthy individuals to the adult population illustrates the distribution of wealth, undistorted by the large populations of certain States. California, the most populous State, had an above-average concentration of wealth, with 15 percent of the top wealthholders but only 11 percent of the Nation's adult population. Although there were a large number of wealthholders in New York and Illinois, the proportion of top wealthholders in these States was only

average. As shown in Figure D, wealth appears to be more heavily concentrated in the more rural States west of the Mississippi River. Conversely, the southern States—with one of the principal exceptions being Florida—and the more heavily industrialized States of the Midwest had a lower-than-average proportion of wealthy individuals.

ESTATE MULTIPLIER TECHNIQUE

Researchers have been using the estate multiplier technique since the beginning of the 20th century (financial records were used as early as 1864 to estimate total personal wealth by a related technique) to draw conclusions about the wealth of the living population through knowledge of the wealth of the deceased [15, 16]. The technique assumes that estate tax returns taken as a whole represent a random sample, designated by death, of the living population. In fact, however, death is not a random event and therefore is not a simple representative sample of the living population under consideration.

The probability of "death's selection" of an individual, i.e., that a person will die in a given year, depends on the particulars of one's life. Age and sex are usually taken as "gross" indicators of these conditions. If one knows the



Note: The average concentration of top wealthholders by State was 2.2 to 3.0 percent of the State's adult (age 20 and above) population.

mortality rate and the number of deaths for each age and sex group, one can derive the population of wealthholders by multiplying the inverse of the mortality rate by the number of deaths in each group [8].

Vital to the estimates of personal wealth is the use of a mortality rate appropriate to the top wealthholder population. This is essential to the estimates because there is much evidence that the wealthy have mortality rates lower than those of the population as a whole. In other words, social class also is a determinant in the "selection of the sample" [17]. Therefore, an adjustment to the general mortality rates is necessary.

The mortality rates assumed to approximate those of the wealthy are based on the mortality experience of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's preferred-risk policyholders [18]. Multipliers are then derived from the adjusted mortality rates for each decedent according to age and sex. These multipliers, applied to sampled estate tax return data, produce wealth estimates for the living population.

The multipliers used to develop the preliminary estimates for 1982 were based on Metropolitan Life mortality experience for a 4-year period. As part of the effort to improve the accuracy of these estimates, the Internal Revenue Service has developed new mortality differentials and multipliers based on data for a series of years between 1969 and 1982. Thus, the effect of the sampling variance of death has been reduced.

As mentioned earlier, the updated estimates of personal wealth in 1982 are based on a sample of estate tax returns filed between 1982 and 1984 for individuals dying in 1982. This approach, which is a departure from the year-of-filing approach used for the preliminary 1982 estimates and for the estimates for earlier studies, is designed primarily to reduce the effects of inflation. The preliminary estimates of personal wealth for 1982 were based on estate tax returns filed during 1983. Although the returns filed that year were primarily for decedents who died in the preceding year, they also reflected deaths that occurred in 1983 as well as deaths that occurred in 1981 and several earlier years. Therefore, the estimates for the 1 year were achieved by using values based on several.

In addition to reducing the effect of inflation, the use of a year-of-death file has improved the estimates by reducing the sampling error.

The strength of the estate multiplier technique, in part, lies in the large sample size. The sample of 19,000 returns selected in 1983, on which the preliminary estimates of wealth for 1982 were based, was considerably larger than the samples selected for other studies for comparable

levels of wealth [19, 20]. Yet, despite the large overall sample size, the limited number of returns filed each year for young (under 45 years of age) and very wealthy (gross assets of \$5 million or more) decedents can make results for these categories subject to considerable sampling error.

The achieved selection probabilities of "death's sample" of these relatively young and very wealthy decedents in a given year can distort estimates of the wealth of the living. Death samples at high and low rates which tend to average out over a period of years, but which can result in large short-term fluctuations, i.e., for a given year. When death "selects" a smaller sample, i.e., fewer deaths for a limited population during a sample year, wealth estimates will be lower than the true population values. Similarly, too large a sample produces estimates that overstate the wealth of the population.

The updated estimates of wealth for 1982 have incorporated two modifications from recent-year estimates designed to reduce the variability of death's annual sample selection. First, the sample of estate tax returns was redesigned so that it was stratified by age as well as by size of gross estate. Whereas all returns of the very wealthy (those with gross estates of \$5 million or more) were selected for past studies, before the 1982 study the returns of the relatively young were selected at rates dictated by the size of gross estate. Thus, the high sampling variance already present because of the limited number of returns for relatively young decedents was further increased by sampling those returns for less wealthy decedents at rates less than 100 percent. Starting with 1982, all estate tax returns, regardless of the size of gross estate, were selected for decedents under 45 years of age.

The sampling variability of the final estimates for wealthy and relatively young individuals is reduced further by basing the estimates on returns filed for the specific year of death (1982) during a 3-year period. Thus, this technique produces more accurate estimates of the type and amount of wealth of the young and very wealthy.

SUMMARY

For 1982, approximately 4.5 million people—2.8 percent of the adult population of the United States—held gross assets of \$325,000 or more. The net worth of these individuals exceeded \$2.7 trillion and accounted for almost 30 percent of the personal wealth in this country.

The top wealthholder in 1982 was typically a man under 50 years of age from California. Just over 60 percent of his wealth was held as real estate and corporate stock, with corporate stock becoming more prominent as wealth increased.

Wealthy women, although still the minority of top wealthholders, nevertheless increased their representation from less than 33 percent in 1976 to just over 38 percent in 1982. Of the total, approximately 38 percent were under 50 years of age, and over 36 percent were between 50 and 64 years of age.

DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

Although estimates of wealth are provided for all individuals with gross assets of \$325,000 or more, the composition of assets was examined only for wealthholders with gross assets exceeding \$500,000. This limitation is the result of a change in the reporting requirements for the estate tax returns on which the estimates are based. Detailed asset information is not required to be filed on the returns of persons who died after December 31, 1981 with a gross estate (gross assets) of \$500,000 or less. Nevertheless, 72 percent of the assets of the wealthholders derived from this group were reported on the returns. Because the decision to provide asset detail on the return may be a reflection of the asset composition of the estate, the inclusion of estimates of wealth based on this incomplete detail would have distorted the estimates and introduced a bias into the estimates.

The treatment of the assets included on the estate tax return as "lifetime transfers" was modified to provide more accurate data on the composition of the assets of top wealthholders. In the past, all assets reported as lifetime transfers were included in the statistics as "other assets". The redefinition of lifetime transfers under the Economic Recovery Tax Act (ERTA) of 1981 made it more appropriate to allocate lifetime transfers to the specific type of asset [21]. Figure E shows the effect of this change on the data for 1982.

Figure E.—Treatment of Lifetime Transfers Made by All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Exceeding \$500,000, by Type of Asset, 1982

Type of asset	Lifetime transfers	
	Allocated to specific asset type	Included in "Other assets"
Total	100.0%	100.0%
Real estate	32.5	30.7
Corporate stock	29.9	26.4
Cash	8.4	7.8
Noncorporate business assets	7.8	7.4
Bonds	7.0	5.9
Notes and mortgages	4.7	4.4
Life insurance	1.2	1.2
Other assets	8.5	16.2

Sample Selection Criteria

The 1982 estimates of personal wealth are based on data from a sample of estate tax returns, Form 706, processed by the Internal Revenue Service between 1982 and 1984. The sample was stratified according to the year of death

and age of the decedent, along with the size of the gross estate. The returns were selected during the 3-year period at annual rates that ranged from 10 percent—for decedents age 70 and older with gross estate under \$1 million—to 100 percent—for decedents under age 45 or with gross estate of \$1 million and above—with weights appropriate to each year maintained.

Of the returns filed during the 1982–1984 period, only those filed for individuals dying in 1982 were selected, with two exceptions. All returns for the very wealthy (those with gross estates of \$5 million or more) and individuals under 45 years of age were selected, regardless of the year of death. The estate multipliers for those returns were adjusted accordingly. Other returns filed during this period for individuals who died in years other than 1982 were not used for these estimates.

Limitations

Because the data in this article are estimated on the basis of a sample of estate tax returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service, they are subject to sampling as well as nonsampling error. For proper use of the statistical data, the magnitude of the potential sampling error must be known.

Figure F presents preliminary estimates of the coefficients of variation (CV's) for frequency estimates. The approximate CV's shown here are intended only as a general indication of the reliability of the data. For a number other than that shown, the corresponding CV's can be estimated by interpolation. The reliability of estimates based on samples and the use of coefficients of variation for evaluating the precision of sample estimates are discussed in the Appendix.

Figure F.—Approximate Coefficients of Variation for Frequency Estimates, 1982

Number of wealthholders	Approximate coefficient of variation
02	2,600,000
03	540,000
05	124,000
10	18,500
15	3,900
20	1,900

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- [1] The adult population is defined as individuals 20 years of age and older.
- [2] Marley, Marcia, and Wolff, Edward N., "Long-term Trends in U.S. Wealth Inequality: Methodological Issues and Results," *1987 Proceedings of the Conference on Research on Income and Wealth*, National Bureau of Economic Research (in preparation as of June 1988).

- [3] Using the Personal Consumption Expenditures Implicit Price Deflator calculated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, \$1 million in 1976 had the equivalent value of \$1,597,400 in 1982. For a discussion of the deflator, see U.S. Department of Commerce, *Survey of Current Business*, April 1987, Volume 66, Number 4.
- [4] McCubbin, Janet, "Improving Wealth Estimates Derived from Estate Tax Data," *Statistics of Income and Related Administrative Record Research: 1986-1987*, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, 1987.
- [5] Scheuren, Fritz, and McCubbin, Janet, "Piecing Together Personal Wealth Distributions," *Statistics of Income and Related Administrative Record Research: 1986-1987*, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, 1987.
- [6] Schwartz, Marvin, "Preliminary Estimates of Personal Wealth, 1982: Composition of Assets," *Statistics of Income Bulletin, Winter 1984-1985*, Volume 4, Number 3.
- [7] For estimates of the number of individuals with net worth of \$5 million or more based on estate tax returns filed in each of the 3 years, as well as those filed in 1985, see Skelly, Daniel F., and Kozielec, John A., "Statistics of Income Domestic Special Studies," *Statistics of Income Bulletin, Fall 1987*, Volume 7, Number 2. These estimates reflecting wealth in 1981 through 1984 were developed prior to the methodological improvements reflected in the estimates for 1982 included herein.
- [8] For a detailed explanation of the estate multiplier technique and the computation of the equity value of life insurance, see *Statistics of Income—1972, Personal Wealth Estimated from Estate Tax Returns*, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, 1976.
- [9] Schwartz, Marvin, "Trends in Personal Wealth," *Statistics of Income Bulletin, Summer 1983*, Volume 3, Number 1.
- [10] The revised treatment for the 1982 estimates of the assets included on the estate tax return as "lifetime transfers" should be noted. This is described in the section on "Data Sources and Limitations." Although the revised treatment yields somewhat higher asset shares, the basic relationship described later remains largely unaffected.
- [11] Ruggles, Richard, and Ruggles, Nancy, D., "Integrated Economic Accounts for the United States, 1947-1980," *Survey of Current Business*, Volume 62, Number 5, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, May 1982.
- [12] U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, various issues.
- [13] For information about the Consumer Price Index, see U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, various issues.
- [14] Noncorporate business assets include the net value of sole proprietorships, farms, and interests in partnerships, except for the value of the real estate associated with the business or farm.
- [15] Lampman, Robert J., *The Share of Top Wealthholders in National Wealth, 1922-56*, Princeton University Press, 1962.
- [16] Smith, James, and Calvert, Staunton, "Estimating the Wealth of Top Wealthholders from Estate Tax Returns," *1965 American Statistical Association Proceedings, Section on Business and Economics Statistics*.
- [17] Kitagawa, Evelyn M., and Hauser, Philip M., *Differential Mortality in the United States: A Study in Socioeconomic Epidemiology*, Harvard University Press, 1973.
- [18] The author is extremely grateful for the continued support received from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, beginning with the late Mortimer Spiegelman and continuing most recently with Frances Baffa, who provided the mortality data used in the computation of the estate multipliers.
- [19] Data on wealth are also available from the 1983 Survey of Consumer Finances. This study, jointly sponsored by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and six other Federal agencies, presents information on assets as well as other financial information based on a survey of approximately 3,800 families. The inclusion of data from interviews with an additional 438 high-income families allowed greater comparability with the estate multiplier estimates of the wealth of top wealthholders. For further information, see Avery, Robert B., Elliehausen, Gregory E., Canner, Glenn B., and Gustafson, Thomas A., "Survey of Consumer Finances, 1983," *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, September 1984; Avery, Robert B., Elliehausen, Gregory E., Canner, Glenn B., and Gustafson, Thomas A., "Survey of Consumer Finances, 1983: A Second Report," *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, December 1984;

and Avery, Robert B., and Elliehausen, Gregory E., "Financial Characteristics of High-Income Families," *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, March 1986.

Wealth, National Bureau of Economic Research (in preparation as of June 1988).

[20] Lamas, Enrique J., and McNeil, John M., "Year-Apart Estimates of Household Net Worth from the Survey of Income and Program Participation," *1987 Proceedings of the Conference on Research on Income and*

[21] Prior to 1982, all gifts within the 3 years preceding death were required to be included in the estate. Under ERTA, only certain transfers—primarily gifts in which the decedent had a reversionary interest and revocable trusts—were included in the estate.

Table 1A.—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total.....	4,478.8	3,218,225	3,976.5	504,714	2,713,510
Under \$100,000 ¹	341.7	93,796	332.2	107,990	-14,193
\$100,000 under \$250,000.....	649.0	200,942	620.4	84,079	116,863
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	2,032.3	868,468	1,744.4	118,996	749,472
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	980.3	734,872	843.7	73,659	661,212
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	437.3	874,391	399.1	87,402	786,989
\$5,000,000 or more.....	38.2	445,755	36.6	32,588	413,167

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 1B.—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total.....	2,233.1	2,464,225	2,033.2	399,206	2,065,019
Under \$250,000 ¹	282.6	130,729	278.0	121,511	9,219
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	494.7	278,478	475.8	84,045	194,433
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	980.3	734,872	843.7	73,659	661,212
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	437.3	874,391	399.1	87,402	786,989
\$5,000,000 or more.....	38.2	445,755	36.6	32,588	413,167

Size of net worth	Types of assets							
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Total.....	2,178.0	205,960	1,842.9	737,964	980.7	173,635	407.7	17,264
Under \$250,000 ¹	269.5	6,655	196.7	13,155	50.6	1,252	16.2	487
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	478.0	21,392	387.4	44,114	143.7	5,688	56.1	1,262
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	960.9	92,597	820.0	173,044	499.8	48,444	221.1	6,626
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	431.7	64,936	401.5	298,522	259.4	75,739	102.2	5,746
\$5,000,000 or more.....	37.9	20,380	37.3	209,129	27.1	42,512	12.0	3,143

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued						Life insurance equity	
	Government				State and local			
	Federal savings		Other Federal		Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount					Number	Amount
(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	
Total.....	244.4	6,609	324.5	55,871	559.9	93,891	1,622.4	30,610
Under \$250,000 ¹	21.0	31	8.2	157	14.8	576	269.9	6,467
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	44.6	360	36.2	1,546	61.8	2,520	422.2	8,019
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	125.4	3,377	175.8	16,834	278.6	21,606	624.2	8,247
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	50.9	2,177	92.5	24,532	183.8	43,284	282.0	6,777
\$5,000,000 or more.....	2.6	664	11.8	12,801	20.9	25,904	24.0	1,100

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)
Total.....	975.9	116,005	2,074.3	800,391	971.8	191,128	2,139.0	208,533
Under \$250,000 ¹	82.0	6,357	264.7	67,621	127.8	17,449	270.8	11,774
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	197.9	14,475	476.0	137,430	221.8	22,792	476.5	24,569
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	432.4	39,662	893.4	270,544	373.2	41,371	932.0	60,964
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	238.0	39,411	403.9	252,025	221.3	67,958	421.8	69,023
\$5,000,000 or more.....	25.7	16,101	36.4	72,772	27.7	41,559	37.8	42,203

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 2A.—All Men: Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total	2,763.4	1,915,893	2,478.6	380,392	1,535,501
Under \$100,000 ¹	304.7	84,376	296.1	95,421	-11,046
\$100,000 under \$250,000	527.9	158,789	500.2	64,461	94,329
\$250,000 under \$500,000	1,136.1	494,675	974.7	79,694	414,981
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	529.8	412,968	462.8	53,546	359,422
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	243.5	503,067	224.5	62,056	441,010
\$5,000,000 or more	21.4	262,019	20.3	25,214	236,804

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 2B.—All Men: Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total	1,408.7	1,495,612	1,299.0	307,794	1,187,818
Under \$250,000 ¹	248.5	114,829	243.8	105,463	9,366
\$250,000 under \$500,000	365.5	202,730	347.5	61,515	141,215
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	529.8	412,968	462.8	53,546	359,422
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	243.5	503,067	224.5	62,056	441,010
\$5,000,000 or more	21.4	262,019	20.3	25,214	236,804

Size of net worth	Types of assets							
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Total	1,371.4	110,648	1,167.1	444,251	543.8	82,332	215.7	7,654
Under \$250,000 ¹	238.1	5,322	172.7	11,665	45.0	957	**	**
\$250,000 under \$500,000	352.6	15,070	298.2	36,111	104.9	3,723	**51.6	**1,207
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	518.3	45,777	447.4	99,502	244.3	20,977	105.6	2,698
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	241.3	34,149	227.7	179,011	135.5	33,871	52.7	2,638
\$5,000,000 or more	21.1	10,330	21.0	117,962	14.0	22,804	5.7	1,111

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued								
	Bonds—Continued							Life insurance equity	
	Federal savings			Other Federal		State and local			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	
Total	148.1	3,266	145.4	22,842	298.4	48,570	1,236.5	27,426	
Under \$250,000 ¹	**	**	**	**	**	**	241.6	6,078	
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**53.0	**283	**29.3	**1,047	**58.6	**2,142	343.2	7,201	
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	66.1	1,465	71.3	6,720	133.2	10,094	432.4	7,324	
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	27.4	965	38.8	7,793	95.6	22,475	201.3	5,850	
\$5,000,000 or more	1.7	553	5.9	7,282	11.0	13,858	18.0	974	

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)
Total	636.1	75,687	1,325.2	488,642	697.2	138,021	1,353.8	128,605
Under \$250,000 ¹	73.3	5,578	234.3	58,923	114.1	15,949	238.9	10,356
\$250,000 under \$500,000	146.1	9,997	352.5	91,990	182.3	19,540	355.1	19,098
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	260.4	24,175	491.5	149,722	243.6	30,060	504.1	35,432
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	141.5	24,765	226.4	142,153	141.1	44,030	234.6	39,239
\$5,000,000 or more	14.8	11,173	20.5	45,854	16.3	28,441	24.4	24,481

** Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.
¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 3A.—All Women: Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total	1,715.3	1,302,332	1,497.9	124,322	1,178,010
Under \$100,000 ¹	37.0	9,421	36.2	12,568	-3,147
\$100,000 under \$250,000	121.0	42,153	120.2	19,619	22,535
\$250,000 under \$500,000	896.2	373,793	769.8	39,302	334,491
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	450.5	321,904	380.9	20,114	301,790
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	193.8	371,325	174.6	25,346	345,979
\$5,000,000 or more	16.8	183,736	16.3	7,374	176,362

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 3B.—All Women: Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total	824.5	968,614	734.2	91,413	877,201
Under \$250,000 ¹	34.2	15,901	34.2	16,048	-148
\$250,000 under \$500,000	129.2	75,748	128.3	22,531	53,217
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	450.5	321,904	380.9	20,114	301,790
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	193.8	371,325	174.6	25,346	345,979
\$5,000,000 or more	16.8	183,736	16.3	7,374	176,362

Size of net worth	Types of assets							
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Total	806.6	95,312	675.8	293,713	436.9	91,303	192.0	9,610
Under \$250,000 ¹	31.4	1,333	24.0	1,490	*5.6	*295	**	**
\$250,000 under \$500,000	125.5	6,322	89.2	8,004	38.8	1,965	**20.7	**542
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	442.6	46,820	372.6	73,542	255.5	27,467	115.5	3,928
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	190.4	30,787	173.8	119,510	123.9	41,868	49.6	3,108
\$5,000,000 or more	16.8	10,050	16.2	91,166	13.1	19,708	6.3	2,032

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued						Life insurance equity	
	Government			State and local				
	Federal savings		Other Federal		State and local		Number	Amount
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	
Total	96.2	3,343	179.1	33,029	261.5	45,321	385.8	3,184
Under \$250,000 ¹	**	**	**	**	**	**	28.3	388
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**12.5	**107	**15.1	**657	**18.1	**954	79.0	818
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	59.4	1,912	104.5	10,114	145.4	11,512	191.8	924
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	23.5	1,212	53.7	16,739	88.1	20,809	80.8	927
\$5,000,000 or more	0.9	111	5.9	5,519	9.9	12,046	6.0	126

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Total	339.8	40,317	749.2	311,750	274.5	53,107	785.2	79,928
Under \$250,000 ¹	8.7	777	30.4	8,698	13.7	1,500	32.0	1,418
\$250,000 under \$500,000	51.8	4,478	123.5	45,440	39.6	3,251	121.4	5,470
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	171.9	15,487	401.9	120,822	129.6	11,311	428.0	25,532
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	96.5	14,646	177.4	109,873	80.2	23,928	187.1	29,785
\$5,000,000 or more	10.9	4,928	15.9	26,917	11.4	13,117	16.8	17,722

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

** Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 4A.—Top Wealthholders Under 50 Years of Age With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total	1,702.4	1,040,871	1,590.4	290,518	750,353
Under \$100,000 ¹	313.7	78,846	304.6	85,970	-7,125
\$100,000 under \$250,000	438.4	133,968	423.1	58,043	75,925
\$250,000 under \$500,000	599.7	275,637	546.0	63,445	212,192
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	232.5	189,086	205.1	32,880	156,206
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	105.8	234,179	99.5	39,387	194,792
\$5,000,000 or more	12.3	129,155	12.1	10,792	118,362

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 4B.—Top Wealthholders Under 50 Years of Age With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total	833.7	798,190	790.0	225,555	572,635
Under \$250,000 ¹	232.2	101,248	228.4	92,147	9,102
\$250,000 under \$500,000	250.7	144,521	244.9	50,349	94,172
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	232.5	189,086	205.1	32,880	156,206
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	105.8	234,179	99.5	39,387	194,792
\$5,000,000 or more	12.3	129,155	12.1	10,792	118,362

Size of net worth	Types of assets							
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Total	806.1	48,492	639.2	223,877	231.8	36,970	87.6	3,871
Under \$250,000 ¹	222.0	5,414	158.4	10,562	40.5	673	12.8	391
\$250,000 under \$500,000	241.2	8,862	192.4	23,616	51.6	1,833	20.8	523
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	226.8	17,434	181.5	43,641	85.4	8,603	37.1	1,335
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	103.9	11,477	95.0	82,451	46.2	17,392	13.2	604
\$5,000,000 or more	12.1	5,306	12.0	63,607	8.1	8,469	3.8	1,019

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued						Life insurance equity	
	Government				State and local			
	Federal savings		Other Federal		Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount				
(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	
Total	62.2	1,249	67.0	15,843	101.0	16,007	683.1	10,568
Under \$250,000 ¹	17.1	13	6.7	93	10.9	177	223.4	4,637
\$250,000 under \$500,000	16.3	59	12.4	239	18.4	1,012	216.2	2,873
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	19.6	516	30.5	3,925	36.7	2,827	160.9	1,472
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	8.9	226	13.9	8,739	29.0	7,822	74.6	1,358
\$5,000,000 or more	0.3	434	3.5	2,846	5.9	4,169	8.1	228

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)
Total	333.1	34,097	771.3	290,063	402.2	77,923	800.8	76,200
Under \$250,000 ¹	62.8	4,788	216.7	53,105	101.3	12,109	224.0	9,960
\$250,000 under \$500,000	95.1	6,913	242.6	75,592	116.2	12,253	242.2	12,580
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	107.5	8,832	203.0	73,786	111.5	15,610	222.1	19,708
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	59.2	9,227	97.2	66,805	63.3	25,105	100.4	20,365
\$5,000,000 or more	8.4	4,338	11.9	20,775	10.0	12,845	12.1	13,586

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 5A.—Top Wealthholders 50 to 64 Years of Age With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total.....	1,631.3	1,217,460	1,431.4	166,300	1,051,160
Under \$100,000 ¹	27.3	14,291	26.8	21,008	-6,718
\$100,000 under \$250,000.....	200.5	62,253	187.2	23,337	38,916
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	826.1	347,291	711.3	44,964	302,326
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	384.9	292,162	331.3	31,172	260,990
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	179.3	353,658	162.3	33,975	319,682
\$5,000,000 or more.....	13.3	147,807	12.6	11,844	135,963

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 5B.—Top Wealthholders 50 to 64 Years of Age With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total.....	828.8	932,461	745.3	133,696	798,765
Under \$250,000 ¹	47.9	27,351	47.1	27,264	87
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	203.4	111,483	192.0	29,440	82,043
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	384.9	292,162	331.3	31,172	260,990
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	179.3	353,658	162.3	33,975	319,682
\$5,000,000 or more.....	13.3	147,807	12.6	11,844	135,963

Size of net worth	Types of assets							
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Total.....	808.0	70,537	704.3	269,650	370.1	45,973	147.0	5,578
Under \$250,000 ¹	45.4	1,107	36.7	2,435	10.0	564	3.4	89
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	196.8	8,994	161.0	16,754	73.3	2,646	27.6	528
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	375.6	30,685	329.1	65,595	180.5	13,021	74.9	2,064
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	176.9	23,724	164.5	116,079	97.8	19,206	37.4	2,033
\$5,000,000 or more.....	13.2	6,027	13.1	68,786	8.5	10,535	3.7	864

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued						Life insurance equity	
	Federal savings		Other Federal		State and local			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)
Total.....	87.4	1,549	102.3	11,697	219.3	27,149	639.2	14,283
Under \$250,000 ¹	3.7	15	*1.4	*62	4.0	399	44.7	1,775
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	22.7	160	17.9	916	34.5	1,042	179.1	4,533
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	43.3	722	50.6	3,216	105.1	7,020	277.0	4,185
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	16.8	570	29.2	4,568	69.5	12,035	129.3	3,315
\$5,000,000 or more.....	1.0	82	3.1	2,936	6.2	6,653	9.1	474

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)
Total.....	385.4	46,310	798.0	323,751	396.5	79,609	797.4	82,349
Under \$250,000 ¹	17.8	1,440	45.6	13,163	24.9	5,158	44.8	1,708
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	83.8	6,021	196.6	52,313	93.5	9,441	196.1	10,781
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	175.3	17,183	371.3	116,630	166.0	19,150	369.3	25,712
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	99.3	16,252	171.5	114,258	101.6	29,633	174.1	31,190
\$5,000,000 or more.....	9.2	5,414	12.9	27,387	10.5	16,227	13.2	12,957

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 6A.—All Top Wealthholders 65 Years of Age or Older With Gross Assets Greater Than \$325,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total.....	1,103.8	935,392	921.3	46,509	888,883
Under \$100,000 ¹	0.8	660	0.8	1,011	-351
\$100,000 under \$250,000.....	9.0	4,231	9.0	2,407	1,824
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	578.1	233,913	464.0	9,941	223,972
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	354.2	247,844	301.1	9,490	238,354
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	149.3	281,381	134.7	13,715	267,666
\$5,000,000 or more.....	12.6	167,363	11.8	9,945	157,418

* Estimates should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 6B.—All Top Wealthholders 65 Years of Age or Older With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth
			Number	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total.....	557.8	720,654	488.1	39,487	681,167
Under \$250,000 ¹	2.4	2,130	2.4	2,100	30
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	39.4	21,936	38.1	4,236	17,700
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	354.2	247,844	301.1	9,490	238,354
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	149.3	281,381	134.7	13,715	267,666
\$5,000,000 or more.....	12.6	167,363	11.8	9,945	157,418

Size of net worth	Types of assets							
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total		Corporate and foreign	
					Number	Amount	Number	Amount
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Total.....	551.2	84,834	489.8	241,173	372.9	89,073	170.9	7,739
Under \$250,000 ¹	2.1	135	1.7	158	*0.1	*13	**	**
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	38.8	3,401	32.9	3,597	18.8	1,198	**7.8	**219
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	349.7	43,262	303.6	62,687	229.9	26,388	107.4	3,208
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	148.1	29,002	139.5	98,765	113.6	38,256	51.1	3,062
\$5,000,000 or more.....	12.5	9,033	12.1	75,966	10.4	23,217	4.5	1,250

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Bonds—Continued						Life insurance equity	
	Federal savings		Other Federal		State and local			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Total.....	92.7	3,682	152.9	27,927	235.7	49,725	294.1	5,705
Under \$250,000 ¹	**	**	**	**	**	**	1.8	54
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	**5.7	**143	**6.0	**390	**8.9	**460	25.9	594
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	61.4	2,122	93.1	9,542	134.5	11,516	182.5	2,569
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	24.2	1,269	48.6	10,975	83.7	22,950	77.1	2,090
\$5,000,000 or more.....	1.3	147	5.2	7,020	8.7	14,800	6.8	397

Size of net worth	Types of assets—Continued							
	Notes and mortgages		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Total.....	252.3	35,024	492.9	182,455	169.1	33,291	529.2	49,099
Under \$250,000 ¹	1.4	129	2.4	1,353	1.6	181	2.1	106
\$250,000 under \$500,000.....	18.6	1,518	35.5	9,354	12.1	1,098	37.1	1,176
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000.....	146.3	13,347	311.1	77,902	93.1	6,501	333.0	15,187
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	78.0	13,682	132.4	69,286	55.1	13,024	144.6	17,276
\$5,000,000 or more.....	8.0	6,348	11.5	24,560	7.2	12,487	12.4	15,353

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of estate tax returns on which it is based.

** Data combined to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 7A.—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets of \$325,000 or More, by State of Residence

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Men		Women		Millionaires as defined by:	
			Number	Amount		Number	Net worth	Number	Net worth	Net worth	
										Number	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
United States, total.....	4,478.8	3,218,225	3,976.5	504,714	2,713,510	2,763.4	1,535,501	1,715.3	1,178,010	475.5	1,200,157
Alabama.....	44.8	31,813	41.4	4,000	27,813	32.0	18,338	12.7	9,475	7.2	14,402
Alaska.....	18.0	11,121	17.3	2,571	8,550	13.7	6,266	4.3	2,284	1.8	3,448
Arizona.....	67.3	53,998	59.9	6,022	47,976	37.8	19,637	29.5	28,338	7.0	24,058
Arkansas.....	31.8	24,715	27.6	4,752	19,963	21.6	10,835	10.2	9,128	4.7	9,301
California.....	689.4	598,487	607.7	98,479	500,009	341.6	221,115	347.8	278,893	95.2	257,506
Colorado.....	83.3	70,049	73.4	16,015	54,033	49.7	34,215	33.6	19,819	8.2	26,382
Connecticut.....	75.1	54,720	68.0	4,535	50,185	44.1	23,955	31.0	26,231	9.7	24,362
Delaware.....	13.7	8,222	11.8	1,347	6,875	7.6	4,145	6.1	2,729	0.8	2,234
Florida.....	288.1	229,310	246.9	35,141	194,170	169.8	114,157	118.3	80,013	41.8	97,606
Georgia.....	86.3	57,153	75.6	9,421	47,731	62.4	31,697	23.9	16,034	7.9	20,432
Hawaii.....	20.3	14,767	18.4	3,523	11,244	13.1	7,309	7.2	3,935	1.4	4,813
Idaho.....	18.5	11,380	16.1	3,443	7,937	9.6	3,354	8.9	4,584	1.0	2,074
Illinois.....	230.7	154,487	209.4	27,745	126,743	150.5	81,571	80.2	45,172	20.8	47,403
Indiana.....	80.3	48,387	64.8	8,009	40,378	49.5	25,780	30.8	14,598	7.6	14,702
Iowa.....	105.6	58,303	92.3	12,658	45,645	73.9	30,125	31.7	15,520	4.7	10,528
Kansas.....	69.5	44,070	58.7	6,121	37,949	46.9	26,256	22.6	11,693	4.2	12,700
Kentucky.....	49.6	31,524	45.2	5,275	26,249	34.7	16,577	14.9	9,673	5.0	11,200
Louisiana.....	70.6	50,846	66.1	9,538	41,308	38.9	21,302	31.7	20,006	7.6	18,201
Maine.....	14.7	10,550	13.2	2,458	8,092	9.7	4,929	5.0	3,163	1.2	2,999
Maryland (includes District of Columbia).....	88.9	65,458	76.1	7,735	57,723	62.3	36,741	26.6	20,982	9.8	28,489
Massachusetts.....	102.3	61,078	99.0	6,334	54,744	61.2	30,527	41.1	24,217	8.8	20,739
Michigan.....	111.8	68,734	98.9	8,913	59,822	76.5	38,342	35.4	21,479	9.8	22,199
Minnesota.....	90.6	56,643	78.5	12,055	44,588	74.7	34,156	15.9	10,433	6.4	15,418
Mississippi.....	33.9	18,320	30.3	3,793	14,526	25.0	10,326	8.9	4,200	1.6	3,107
Missouri.....	77.0	55,610	62.3	7,206	48,404	55.2	31,313	21.8	17,091	8.1	19,855
Montana.....	25.5	16,539	22.2	4,600	11,939	16.7	7,714	8.8	4,226	1.9	4,385
Nebraska.....	57.0	36,002	48.3	7,550	28,452	39.6	17,864	17.4	10,588	4.1	8,016
Nevada.....	27.7	26,249	25.9	4,198	22,051	10.4	6,835	17.3	15,215	4.4	13,483
New Hampshire.....	13.6	9,387	13.0	1,677	7,710	9.9	5,610	3.7	2,100	1.3	3,547
New Jersey.....	141.7	89,787	128.0	11,902	77,885	97.3	49,331	44.4	28,554	11.6	29,223
New Mexico.....	14.6	11,530	13.0	3,168	8,362	9.2	4,736	5.4	3,626	1.6	3,602
New York.....	326.5	245,727	280.1	24,810	220,917	200.2	124,809	126.3	96,108	38.1	109,525
North Carolina.....	71.2	43,059	67.7	8,799	34,260	52.7	22,604	18.5	11,656	5.0	10,680
North Dakota.....	29.5	18,942	24.3	5,457	13,485	24.5	10,448	5.0	3,037	2.2	3,555
Ohio.....	141.5	86,605	130.0	12,498	74,106	88.0	43,199	53.5	30,907	13.0	27,143
Oklahoma.....	72.8	54,997	59.5	9,121	45,876	48.6	29,341	24.2	16,535	7.5	21,454
Oregon.....	51.5	28,866	41.3	3,922	24,943	32.2	14,056	19.3	10,887	2.6	5,259
Pennsylvania.....	144.6	95,247	133.0	13,051	82,196	92.7	45,620	51.9	36,576	13.8	33,475
Rhode Island.....	10.9	8,043	9.8	1,184	6,859	8.0	5,214	2.9	1,646	1.5	2,966
South Carolina.....	50.0	29,130	48.3	4,335	24,795	32.9	16,381	17.1	8,414	3.4	9,080
South Dakota.....	19.4	10,407	17.7	3,207	7,200	15.6	5,379	3.8	1,821	1.0	1,645
Tennessee.....	61.5	38,146	58.8	5,839	32,306	41.9	20,777	19.6	11,530	7.2	13,677
Texas.....	343.5	266,266	323.0	39,344	226,921	167.1	102,056	176.4	124,866	41.4	110,861
Utah.....	24.0	16,431	21.0	2,782	13,649	13.4	8,723	10.6	4,927	3.4	6,688
Vermont.....	10.3	8,844	7.8	710	8,134	6.6	5,858	3.6	2,276	1.4	4,242
Virginia.....	89.9	60,632	79.9	7,464	53,168	61.8	34,707	28.1	18,462	8.0	25,067
Washington.....	75.5	56,157	65.7	8,842	47,315	41.8	29,089	33.8	18,226	7.7	17,931
West Virginia.....	10.6	7,449	10.0	1,949	5,499	8.1	4,041	2.5	1,458	0.8	1,320
Wisconsin.....	77.6	45,672	69.2	8,954	36,718	63.7	27,781	13.9	8,937	5.5	11,381
Wyoming.....	14.1	10,716	12.1	1,811	8,904	11.1	6,264	3.0	2,641	2.5	4,590
Other Areas ¹	11.3	7,647	8.1	448	7,199	6.8	4,098	4.5	3,101	1.9	3,204

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.

Table 7B.—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by State of Residence

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands, money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Number of top wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth	Men		Women	
			Number	Amount		Number	Net worth	Number	Net worth
United States, total	2,233.1	2,464,225	2,033.2	399,206	2,065,019	1,408.7	1,187,818	824.5	877,201
Alabama	23.6	25,467	22.1	3,021	22,445	16.4	14,266	7.1	8,180
Alaska	8.8	8,118	8.7	1,788	6,330	6.5	4,707	*2.3	*1,623
Arizona	34.2	42,511	30.8	4,471	38,040	19.5	14,618	14.7	23,422
Arkansas	20.8	21,232	17.9	3,828	17,404	14.0	9,322	6.8	8,082
California	380.7	487,466	337.6	79,958	407,508	183.6	178,613	197.1	228,895
Colorado	44.5	56,727	38.6	13,663	43,064	26.9	28,989	17.6	14,075
Connecticut	40.6	43,536	38.9	3,844	39,693	22.6	18,177	18.1	21,516
Delaware	4.4	5,181	4.1	1,151	4,030	3.7	3,371	0.6	659
Florida	154.0	182,854	137.1	29,875	152,979	98.0	93,870	56.0	59,109
Georgia	42.0	43,633	37.3	7,309	36,324	31.2	24,746	10.8	11,578
Hawaii	8.7	10,864	8.0	2,919	7,946	6.0	5,655	2.7	2,290
Idaho	10.6	8,448	10.2	2,393	6,054	5.2	2,794	5.4	3,260
Illinois	116.8	116,416	107.2	22,642	93,775	83.3	64,286	33.5	29,488
Indiana	36.2	33,484	30.4	7,088	26,395	22.4	18,322	13.8	8,073
Iowa	41.7	36,373	38.6	9,404	26,969	32.0	18,360	9.7	8,609
Kansas	30.2	30,476	26.1	4,024	26,452	19.7	18,651	10.5	7,801
Kentucky	22.2	22,945	21.9	3,647	19,299	15.6	12,533	6.6	6,766
Louisiana	37.5	39,405	36.5	7,566	31,839	21.4	17,589	16.2	14,250
Maine	7.8	8,525	7.0	2,068	6,457	4.6	3,785	3.2	2,672
Maryland (includes District of Columbia)	45.5	51,609	41.5	6,400	45,209	32.7	29,278	12.8	15,931
Massachusetts	44.4	42,630	42.7	4,489	38,141	26.7	22,255	17.7	15,886
Michigan	50.7	48,945	46.4	5,409	43,535	36.9	29,192	13.8	14,343
Minnesota	41.1	40,631	38.5	9,134	31,497	34.4	24,303	6.7	7,194
Mississippi	14.5	11,705	13.2	2,437	9,268	12.1	7,243	2.4	2,025
Missouri	41.6	43,135	36.0	6,127	37,008	32.3	24,611	9.3	12,397
Montana	14.3	13,092	12.2	4,139	8,954	8.5	5,540	5.8	3,414
Nebraska	30.1	25,718	27.2	6,315	19,403	23.0	12,372	7.1	7,031
Nevada	12.6	20,459	12.0	2,849	17,610	6.3	6,088	6.2	11,522
New Hampshire	7.3	7,810	6.9	1,352	6,459	4.6	4,713	2.8	1,745
New Jersey	64.4	64,707	58.1	9,492	55,215	46.4	36,296	18.0	18,919
New Mexico	7.8	9,106	7.0	2,690	6,416	5.4	3,702	2.5	2,714
New York	151.3	187,963	136.6	18,802	169,161	98.5	97,467	52.8	71,693
North Carolina	37.0	31,777	35.5	7,067	24,710	28.0	16,640	9.0	8,070
North Dakota	16.9	14,284	14.8	4,862	9,421	15.2	7,397	*1.7	*2,024
Ohio	63.5	61,322	59.8	9,376	51,946	43.5	32,382	20.0	19,564
Oklahoma	36.8	43,270	30.0	7,727	35,543	25.4	23,870	11.4	11,673
Oregon	24.3	19,488	21.7	2,933	16,555	13.0	8,482	11.3	8,074
Pennsylvania	73.6	72,848	70.7	10,513	62,335	43.8	33,767	29.8	28,568
Rhode Island	5.5	6,287	5.4	1,014	5,273	4.3	4,307	1.2	966
South Carolina	20.0	20,329	19.5	3,105	17,224	13.3	12,258	6.7	4,965
South Dakota	8.7	6,711	8.2	2,430	4,281	6.7	3,126	1.9	1,155
Tennessee	27.4	27,277	25.8	4,524	22,753	17.9	14,730	9.5	8,022
Texas	175.9	209,965	168.0	30,965	179,000	91.5	82,461	84.4	96,539
Utah	11.0	12,033	9.4	1,853	10,180	7.1	7,266	3.9	2,914
Vermont	5.1	6,972	4.9	575	6,397	3.5	4,986	1.6	1,412
Virginia	41.5	45,503	37.7	5,039	40,464	30.2	27,321	11.3	13,143
Washington	37.7	41,904	32.4	6,738	35,166	21.9	23,082	15.8	12,084
West Virginia	7.2	6,312	6.7	1,600	4,713	5.4	3,475	1.8	1,238
Wisconsin	35.9	32,131	33.9	6,975	25,156	28.1	18,313	7.8	6,843
Wyoming	7.0	8,409	6.4	1,337	7,073	5.2	4,861	1.8	2,211
Other Areas ¹	7.3	6,232	5.2	281	5,951	4.2	3,376	3.1	2,575

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 7B—All Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets Greater Than \$500,000, by State of Residence—Continued

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers of top wealthholders are in thousands; all money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Selected assets									
	Cash		Corporate stock		Bonds		Real estate		Noncorporate business assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
United States, total	2,178.0	205,960	1,842.9	737,964	980.7	173,635	2,074.3	800,391	971.8	191,128
Alabama	23.1	1,687	19.9	6,767	11.2	1,381	23.0	8,302	10.8	1,845
Alaska	8.8	577	5.2	1,765	1.4	98	8.5	3,733	5.9	1,021
Arizona	32.9	2,470	28.1	18,172	13.6	1,954	32.4	11,999	16.7	2,735
Arkansas	20.3	2,452	16.4	4,193	8.5	3,375	19.3	6,504	9.8	1,247
California	370.3	33,905	301.2	123,506	146.6	23,706	363.4	202,568	174.6	45,124
Colorado	44.3	4,092	36.0	14,768	17.5	2,676	41.2	20,600	21.7	7,597
Connecticut	38.9	4,007	35.1	17,536	22.4	4,116	34.8	11,014	9.8	1,011
Delaware	4.2	570	3.9	1,712	1.9	387	4.2	1,352	1.8	545
Florida	149.8	15,824	125.5	52,078	77.1	21,148	143.4	57,377	49.7	10,049
Georgia	40.8	3,100	35.6	14,390	15.8	1,730	39.1	13,880	15.7	2,770
Hawaii	8.4	501	7.2	2,376	3.0	899	8.5	5,840	3.5	467
Idaho	9.6	662	6.6	1,081	2.7	328	10.0	3,819	7.8	1,048
Illinois	114.6	11,856	100.2	34,443	55.6	9,115	107.4	34,590	47.0	8,182
Indiana	35.5	2,834	27.4	10,818	14.3	2,430	35.0	11,722	13.9	1,776
Iowa	40.8	2,178	36.5	8,309	16.0	1,435	39.0	15,328	28.1	4,497
Kansas	29.4	2,933	24.9	9,045	13.9	2,282	28.5	9,832	18.8	2,790
Kentucky	21.8	2,120	19.9	9,293	13.2	1,790	21.1	6,611	10.2	800
Louisiana	36.6	3,197	33.9	11,425	18.8	2,414	35.9	14,440	15.2	2,202
Maine	7.8	719	7.5	3,723	3.4	449	7.2	1,564	2.1	657
Maryland (includes District of Columbia)	44.8	4,136	40.2	14,125	24.0	3,635	41.3	15,067	15.9	4,164
Massachusetts	44.1	4,253	36.9	16,696	24.8	4,764	39.8	9,443	10.3	1,368
Michigan	48.9	5,188	41.2	17,481	23.1	3,891	45.6	10,792	21.6	3,861
Minnesota	39.9	2,342	33.1	10,738	15.6	1,833	39.8	16,801	23.9	4,357
Mississippi	14.1	1,147	11.5	2,436	6.2	587	13.6	4,024	5.7	1,165
Missouri	40.0	2,993	33.7	16,766	17.9	3,769	36.8	10,761	20.0	2,495
Montana	14.2	1,064	9.4	2,312	5.1	357	13.7	5,695	7.6	1,232
Nebraska	28.9	1,830	22.3	4,701	10.8	1,207	29.6	11,514	22.4	3,569
Nevada	12.4	2,270	10.1	5,569	4.9	1,866	11.9	7,478	7.3	876
New Hampshire	7.3	943	5.7	3,104	3.4	703	6.0	1,793	1.3	100
New Jersey	62.6	6,280	55.8	24,661	36.8	7,282	60.3	15,794	19.6	3,157
New Mexico	7.7	656	5.5	2,066	2.9	273	7.8	2,820	3.9	346
New York	145.6	19,107	132.8	69,276	87.7	23,036	119.2	35,114	45.7	13,119
North Carolina	36.1	2,850	32.4	10,063	15.9	1,703	36.0	11,257	14.2	1,664
North Dakota	15.7	768	11.9	1,373	5.0	140	16.6	6,957	12.2	2,569
Ohio	62.1	5,875	56.2	23,705	26.6	3,542	57.2	15,528	22.8	3,060
Oklahoma	35.2	4,498	27.2	13,870	10.7	1,655	34.4	12,859	16.4	3,516
Oregon	24.1	1,875	17.5	4,271	7.8	1,104	23.2	6,800	11.9	1,828
Pennsylvania	73.3	6,753	66.5	28,220	41.3	7,224	67.1	16,861	21.6	3,818
Rhode Island	5.4	566	4.9	2,581	4.2	714	5.0	1,656	1.2	88
South Carolina	19.7	1,866	17.1	7,483	9.4	931	18.2	5,595	7.5	1,147
South Dakota	7.7	468	5.6	1,196	2.6	139	8.6	2,687	6.7	1,591
Tennessee	26.5	2,883	23.6	8,376	12.2	1,484	27.3	7,771	12.1	1,597
Texas	174.3	18,229	147.1	52,981	60.8	9,887	171.1	73,518	101.0	19,877
Utah	10.9	705	7.6	3,780	3.6	551	9.6	4,127	5.6	871
Vermont	5.1	398	4.9	3,721	3.2	783	4.9	1,226	3.0	134
Virginia	40.9	3,143	35.2	14,323	19.2	2,664	38.4	12,776	16.0	4,326
Washington	37.6	2,922	30.4	9,719	16.1	3,051	36.1	16,626	21.6	4,166
West Virginia	7.0	664	6.5	2,612	2.9	256	7.1	1,616	2.6	331
Wisconsin	34.2	2,023	28.4	10,339	14.0	1,705	34.7	10,170	20.6	3,208
Wyoming	7.0	1,019	5.1	1,731	1.9	399	6.7	3,168	3.8	572
Other Areas ¹	7.1	565	5.6	2,291	3.2	786	5.1	1,024	2.6	593

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample estate tax returns on which it is based.

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.

Estimates of Personal Wealth, 1986

by Marvin Schwartz and Barry W. Johnson

Approximately 3.3 million people had gross assets of \$500,000 or more in 1986 according to estimates of personal wealth derived from estate tax returns using the "estate multiplier technique." These individuals, the Nation's "top wealthholders," represented only 1.9 percent of the Nation's adult population [1]. Their net worth was nearly \$3.8 trillion and accounted for approximately 28.5 percent of the personal wealth in the United States in 1986 [2]. In contrast, 2.2 million people had gross assets of \$500,000 or more in 1982 [3]. The net worth of these top wealthholders was approximately \$2.1 trillion.

Just as the total number of top wealthholders increased between 1982 and 1986, so too did the number of millionaires among them. Approximately 941,000 individuals had a net worth of \$1 million or more in 1986, nearly twice the 475,000 in 1982. This followed a sharp increase from the 180,000 millionaires estimated for 1976.

ESTIMATING PERSONAL WEALTH FROM ESTATE TAX RETURNS

The measurement of personal wealth in the United States has attracted considerable attention in recent years. This interest has been stimulated by a number of factors. The effects of changes in the tax law, and other public policies, on the economy and on the concentration of wealth has focused attention on this subject. Accurate and comprehensive estimates of wealth, however, are difficult to obtain because individuals are not required to regularly report wealth information on any tax return or other public document. Several alternative approaches, each with its own merits, have been developed [4]. The estimates presented here are based on the "estate multiplier technique." This approach utilizes administrative records, in particular, estate tax returns filed for the deceased, to estimate the wealth of the living population.

The estate multiplier technique can be used to estimate wealth for all individuals whose assets exceed the estate filing requirement in effect for a particular year. While the increase in the filing requirement from \$60,000 for decedents who died in 1976 to \$500,000 for those who died in 1986 has served to limit the scope of the estimates, the estate tax return still serves as a valuable source of information on the wealthy. From these returns, estimates of wealth can be provided for the top 1 to 2 percent of the Nation's wealthholders; that is, those individuals or "top wealthholders" who control the largest portion of the personal wealth in the United States. (The estimation technique is discussed in greater detail later.)

The estimates of personal wealth in 1986 are the result of continuing efforts by the Internal Revenue Service to improve the accuracy of the data [5]. In the past, wealth estimates, such as the preliminary estimates for 1982, were derived from the Statistics of Income sample of estate tax returns filed in a particular year [6]. Because a decedent's estate has up to 9 months to file an estate tax return and an extension of 6 months is not uncommon, returns filed in a given year can include deaths that occurred over several years. Thus, wealth estimates generated from a sample selected on a filing year basis actually reflected the value of wealth held during several years, and are therefore subject to different economic conditions based on the year of death.

The personal wealth estimates for 1986 presented here are based on estate tax returns filed from 1986 through 1988 for individuals who died in 1986 [7]. By sampling returns filed over this 3-year period, the returns filed for nearly all individuals who died in 1986 can be captured. By looking at the wealth of a single year, rather than a series of years, the estimates more accurately reflect wealth at a particular time.

As the level of gross estate (or gross assets) required for filing an estate tax return has increased, the definition of top wealthholders also has changed. The level of wealth to which these estimates apply is \$500,000 or more of gross assets. The gross estate criterion is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth that does not conform to the 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 policy loans but excluding any reduction for other indebtedness [8]. This measure defines the individuals included in the top wealthholder group. The amount of total assets, a lower wealth value, is still essentially a gross measure. Total assets differs from gross assets in that the cash 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 [9]. Net worth, the level of wealth after all debts have been removed, also includes the cash value of life insurance.

PERSONAL WEALTH IN 1986

Female wealthholders accounted for 41.2 percent of the 3.3 million top wealthholders in 1986 (see Figure A) compared with 36.9 percent at a corresponding level in 1982. While this increase continued a recent trend, it was also due, in part, to a change in the estate tax law in 1982. This change permitted bequests to the surviving spouse of a decedent to go untaxed.

Figure A.—Top Wealthholders With Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Sex, 1986

(Number of wealthholders in thousands; amounts in billions)

Item	Total	Male	Female
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Number of top wealthholders.....	3,329	1,957	1,372
Total assets.....	\$4,321	\$2,557	\$1,764
Debts and mortgages.....	554	395	160
Net worth.....	3,767	2,163	1,604
Average net worth.....	1,131	1,105	1,169

Note: Detail does not add to totals because of rounding.

Women, holding 42.6 percent of the net worth of top wealthholders, were on average wealthier and had fewer debts than their male counterparts. Their

average net worth was 6 percent higher than that of male top wealthholders. The debt burden, i.e., amounts owed as debts and mortgages, of women was only 9 percent of their total assets compared to 15.4 percent for men. In part because they had fewer debts, just 15 percent of the female top wealthholders had net worth below \$500,000, while nearly one third of the male top wealthholders had net worth below that level.

Composition of Assets

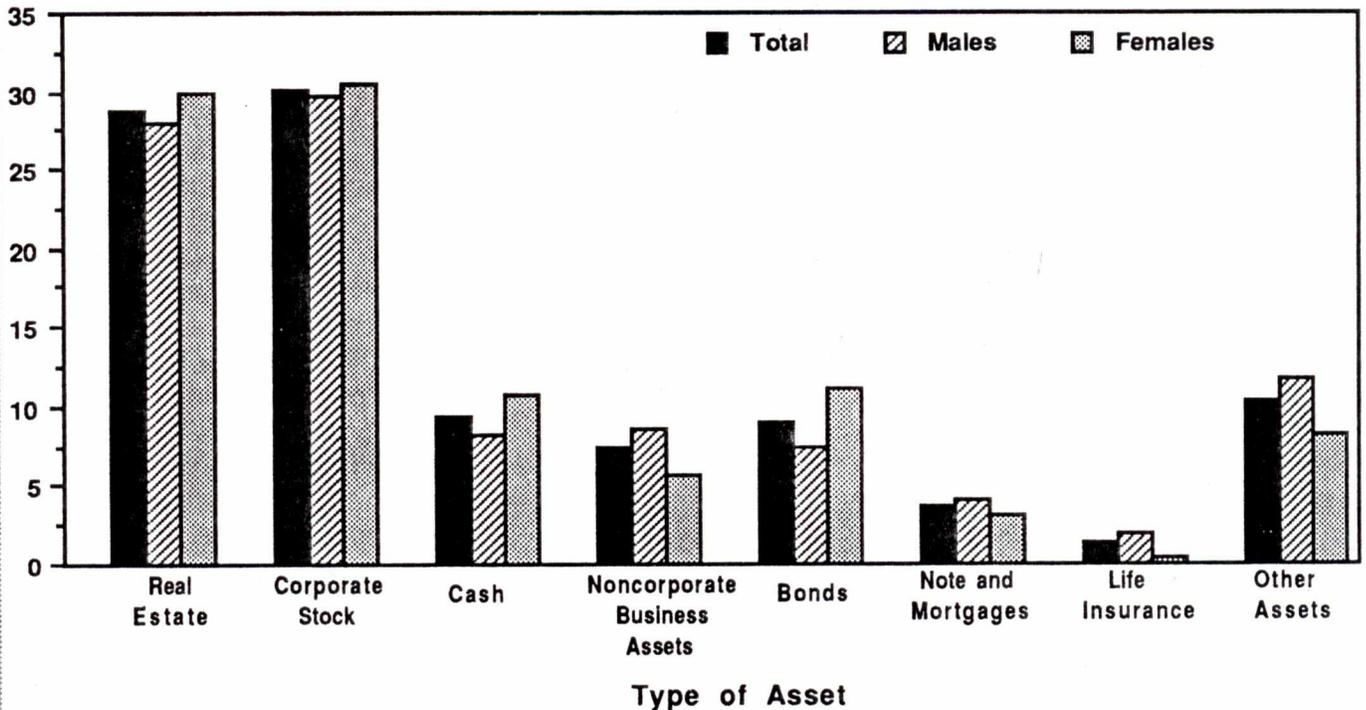
In 1986, corporate stock constituted the largest share of the assets held by top wealthholders (see Figure B). This is a departure from the portfolio mix observed in 1981 and 1982 when real estate was the predominant asset. Previous to that, corporate stock comprised the largest share of the portfolio of the wealthy. Considering the relative performance of the real estate and stock markets between 1982 and 1986, this reversal was not unexpected. The Dow Jones Industrial Average more than doubled during this period, rising 103 percent, while the Price Index of New One-Family Houses Sold rose a comparatively modest 14 percent [10, 11].

Once again, cash at 9.3 percent of the assets was the third most commonly held asset. Bonds and noncorporate business assets, however, switched positions of importance [12]. The share of assets held as bonds increased from 7 percent in 1982 to 9 percent in 1986, while noncorporate business assets remained constant at 7.5 percent. With 70 percent of the bonds held by top wealthholders consisting of State and local Government bonds, the 56 percent increase in the Standard and Poor's Municipal Bond Price index during this period provides some insight into the increase [10].

A look at the composition of assets by sex shows that the share of wealth held in the form of corporate stock was similar for men and women. Real estate, the other major asset in the portfolio of the wealthy, represented a slightly larger share of the wealth of females, 30 percent compared to 28 percent for males. Noteworthy differences in the proportion of assets held by men and women were observed for several other types of assets. Bonds made up 11.2 percent of women's assets in 1986, compared with 7.5 percent for men. Conversely, wealth held by men was characterized by a greater concentration in noncorporate business assets, nearly 9 percent, compared with only 5.7 percent for women. An examination of all other asset types shows that notes

Figure B
Top Wealthholders, by Type of Asset and Sex, 1986

Percentage



and mortgages and life insurance constituted a more significant portion of the assets of men, while cash represented a greater share of the assets of women. Another noteworthy difference in the portfolios of men and women was in the share of assets held as "other assets." ("Other assets" includes intangible and depletable assets, annuities, pensions, and personal property.) Nearly 12 percent of the assets of men were classified as "other assets" compared with just 8.3 percent for women.

Although corporate stock constituted the greatest share of assets in the portfolio of top wealthholders, the proportions of wealth held as corporate stock and real estate were quite different for millionaires and "sub-millionaires," that is, those top wealthholders whose net worth was less than \$1 million (see Figure C). Corporate stock made up more than 36 percent of the assets of millionaires while just 23.6 percent of their assets were held as real estate. In contrast, real estate accounted for over 37 percent of the assets of sub-millionaires while 19.5 percent

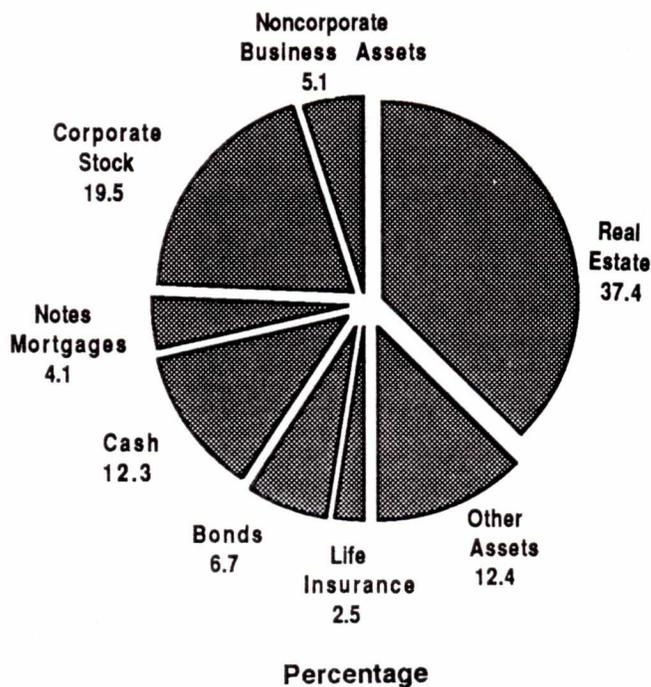
of their assets were in corporate stock. In 1982, nearly 42 percent of the assets of sub-millionaires were held as real estate.

Cash and bonds were held in quite different proportions by the two groups. Whereas cash represented more than 12 percent of the assets of the less wealthy group, they were, at 7.5 percent, a less significant asset in the portfolio of millionaires. Proportionately, millionaires held more corporate stock, bonds, and noncorporate business assets, and less real estate, cash, notes and mortgages, life insurance and "other assets," than the sub-millionaires.

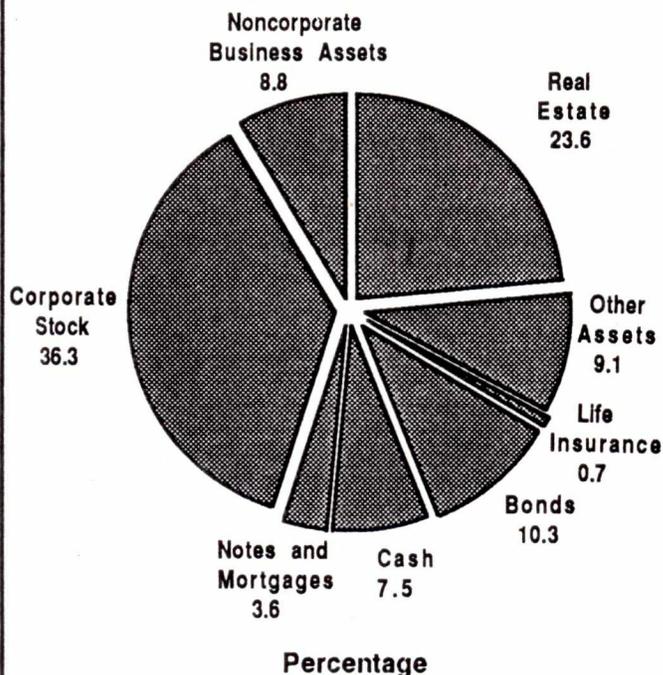
Geographic Distribution of Wealth

Estimates of personal wealth using the estate multiplier technique for a limited population, for instance, by state, are subject to high variance making it difficult to reliably estimate wealth for the extremely wealthy. Thus, the estimates by state presented

Figure C
Top Wealthholders With Net Worth Under \$1,000,000, 1986



Top Wealthholders With Net Worth \$1,000,000 or More, 1986



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

here are limited to those individuals whose net worth is not in excess of \$10 million. (Only 25,000 top wealthholders were excluded from these estimates.)

In 1986, nearly 560,000 of these 3.3 million top wealthholders in the United States lived in California. New York, with 340,000, had the second highest number of top wealthholders, displacing Texas, which dropped to third. Florida with its rapid growth and attractive tax policy (no State income tax) was a close fourth behind Texas whose economy showed the effects of the decline in oil prices.

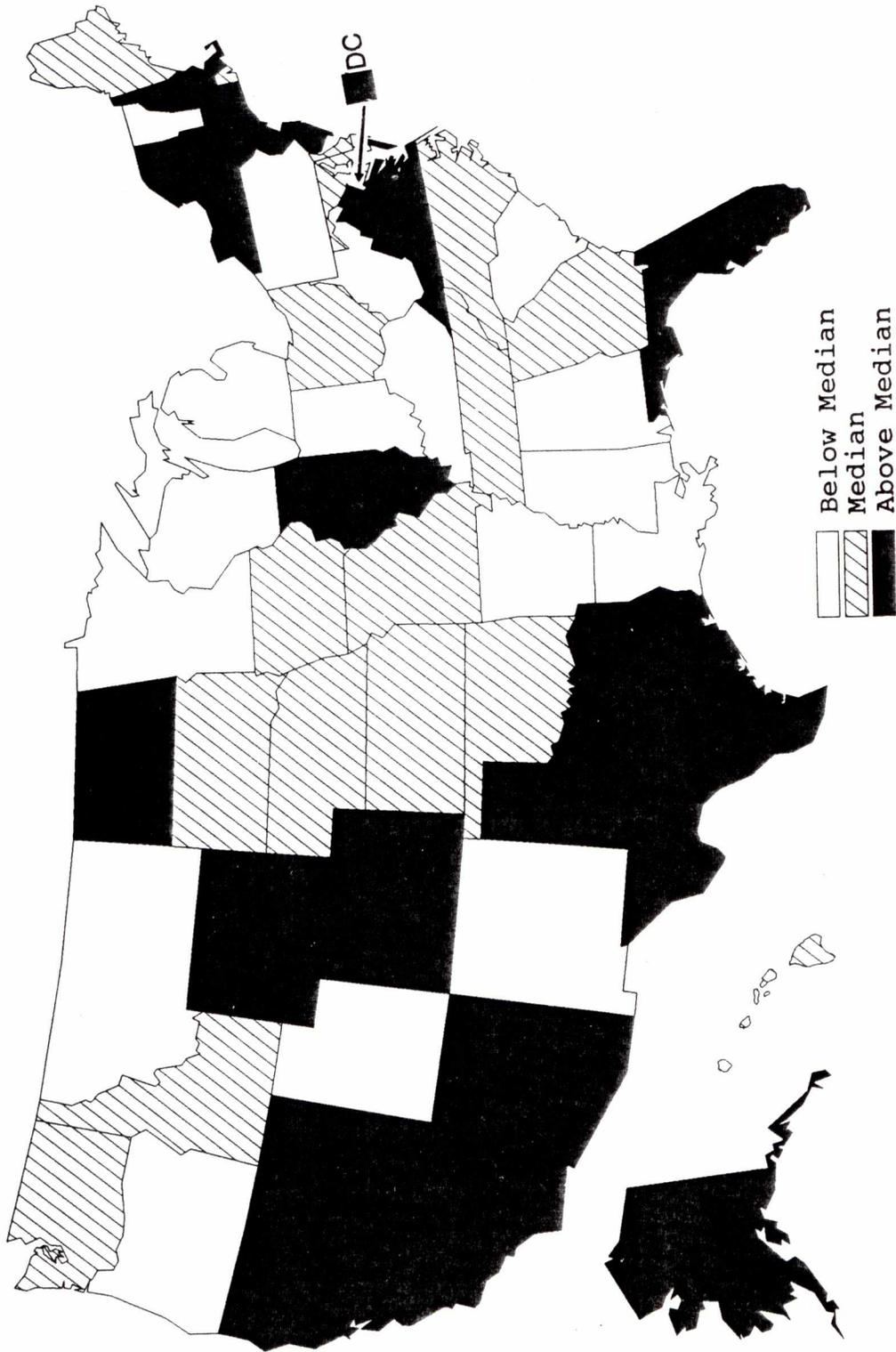
Looking at wealth on a per capita basis presents a somewhat different picture of wealth in this country by eliminating the distortions caused by the large populations of some states. For instance, Connecticut, the 25th most populous state (adults), had the highest concentration of top wealthholders, 327 per 10,000 adults [13]. This compared with the 198 top wealthholders per 10,000 adults for the Nation. California with 17 percent of the Nation's top wealthholders and 11 percent of the adult population, still had the third highest concentration of top wealthholders with 299 per 10,000. On the other hand, Pennsylvania, ranked seventh in the number of top wealthholders, had a relatively low concentration of wealthy individuals, just 134 per 10,000 adults. As shown in Figure D, wealth appears to be more heavily concentrated in the Southwest—with the exception of New Mexico—and in the Northeast.

ESTATE MULTIPLIER TECHNIQUE

Researchers have been using the estate multiplier technique since the beginning of the 20th century to draw conclusions about the wealth of the living population through knowledge of the wealth of the deceased [14]. (Financial records were used as early as 1864 to estimate total personal wealth by a related technique.) The technique assumes that estate tax returns taken as a whole represent a random sample, designated by death, of the living population. Death, however, is not a truly random event and therefore is not a simple representative sample of the living population under consideration. It does, however, provide a means of producing reasonable estimates of personal wealth utilizing existing data.

The probability that a person will die in a given year depends on the particulars of one's life. Age and sex are usually taken as indicators of these conditions.

Figure D
Concentration of Top Wealthholders With Net Worth Less Than \$10,000,000, by State, 1986



NOTE: The median concentration of top wealthholders by State was 143 to 183 per 10,000 adults.

If one knows the mortality rate and the number of deaths for each age and sex group, one can approximate the population of living wealthholders [15].

Vital to the estimation of personal wealth is the use of a mortality rate appropriate to the top wealthholder population. This is essential to the estimates because there is much evidence that the wealthy have mortality rates that are lower than those of the population as a whole. In other words, social class also is a determinant in the "selection of the sample" [16]. Therefore, an adjustment to the general mortality rates is necessary.

The mortality rates assumed to approximate those of the wealthy are based on the mortality experience of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's preferred-risk policyholders [17]. As part of the effort to improve the accuracy of these estimates, the Internal Revenue Service developed new mortality differentials based on Metropolitan Life data for a series of years. Thus, the effect of the sampling variance of death has been reduced. Multipliers are then derived using the inverse of the adjusted mortality rates for each decedent according to age and sex. These multipliers, applied to sampled estate tax return data, produce wealth estimates for the living population.

The estimates of personal wealth for 1986 are based on a stratified sample of estate tax returns filed between 1986 and 1988 for individuals dying in 1986. This approach, first used for the updated 1982 estimates, is a departure from the filing year approach used for the preliminary 1982 estimates and for the estimates for earlier studies [3,5].

The strength of the estate multiplier technique is due, in part, to the large sample size. The 13,694 returns sampled during the 3-year period for 1986 decedents was considerably larger than the samples selected for other studies for comparable levels of wealth. Yet, despite the large overall sample size, the limited number of returns filed each year for decedents who were young (under 40 years of age) or very wealthy (gross assets of \$5 million or more) can make results for these categories subject to considerable variance.

Death's achieved sample of these relatively young and very wealthy decedents in a given year can

distort estimates of the wealth of the living. Death samples at varying rates which tend to average out over a period of years. This can result in large short-term fluctuations for a given year. When death "selects" a smaller sample, i.e., fewer deaths for a segment of the population during a sample year, wealth estimates of that segment will be lower than the true population values. Similarly, too large a sample produces estimates that overstate the wealth of the population.

In order to reduce the variability of the estimates, the sample of estate tax returns is designed so that it is stratified by age as well as by size of gross estate. All returns filed for both the very wealthy (those with gross estates of \$5 million or more) and the young (those under 40 years of age) were selected for the study. Thus, the sampling variance introduced by the IRS sample for returns of relatively young or wealthy decedents was eliminated.

The variability of the final estimates for very wealthy and relatively young individuals was further reduced by including in the sample all returns filed for non-1986 decedents during the 3-year period. These segments of the sample were then post-stratified and reweighted to represent the true 1986 decedent population. This technique reduces the affect of outliers on the estimates of the type and amount of wealth for the young and very wealthy.

Further adjustments to the estimation technique have been incorporated in a continuing effort to improve the accuracy of the estimates. The use of returns for a particular year of death filed during a 3-year period is dependent upon all or nearly all the returns being filed timely for that year, or, alternatively, an awareness of the number of missing or yet-to-be filed returns. Data for prior years have enabled us to estimate the number of unfiled returns for 1986 decedents. This adjustment proved to be age dependent since the likelihood of the return being filed timely increases with the decedent's age.

Basing the estimates on returns for a single year of death eliminated much of the distortion of inflation on the estimates. However, the problem was not entirely eliminated due to the use of all returns for the young and wealthy decedents regardless of the year of death. Money amounts for these individuals were converted to 1986 dollars to further reduce the effects of inflation on the estimates.

SUMMARY

For 1986, approximately 3.3 million people--1.6 percent of the adult population of the United States--held gross assets of \$500,000 or more. The net worth of these individuals was nearly \$3.8 trillion and accounted for almost 28.5 percent of the personal wealth in this country.

Wealthy women, although still the minority of top wealthholders, nevertheless increased their representation from just under 37 percent in 1982 to 41.2 percent in 1986. Their average net worth, \$1,169,000 was 6 percent higher than that of male top wealthholders.

Corporate stock constituted the largest share of the assets held by top wealthholders. Real estate, the predominant asset in the portfolio of the wealthy in 1982, comprised the next largest share of the assets. Together they represented nearly 59 percent of the assets of top wealthholders.

DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

Sample Selection Criteria

The 1986 estimates of personal wealth are based on data from a sample of estate tax returns, Form 706, processed by the Internal Revenue Service between 1986 and 1988. The sample was stratified according to the year of death and age of the decedent, along with the size of the gross estate. The returns were selected during the 3-year period at annual rates that ranged from 7 percent to 100 percent with weights appropriate to each year maintained.

Of the returns filed during the 1986-1988 period, only those filed for individuals dying in 1986 were selected, with two exceptions. All returns for the very wealthy (those with gross estates of \$5 million or more) and individuals under 40 years of age were selected, regardless of the year of death. The estate sample weights for those returns were adjusted accordingly. Other returns filed during this period for individuals who died in years other than 1986 were not used for these estimates.

Limitations

Because the data in this article are estimated on the basis of a sample of estate tax returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service, they are subject to

sampling as well as nonsampling error. For proper use of the statistical data, the magnitude of the potential sampling error should be considered. Estimates of the coefficients of variation (CV's) for frequency estimates can be obtained by writing the authors at the Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division R:S:F, P.O. Box 2608, Washington, DC 20013-2608.

Estimates of personal wealth using the estate multiplier technique are subject to further limitations. Since the data are obtained prior to audit, the possibility exists of some understatement of the value of certain assets. This and other issues concerning the accuracy of these estimates are discussed by Scheuren and McCubbin in an earlier publication [5].

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- [1] U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Number 1045, United States Population Estimates, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980 to 1988. While the onset of adulthood is more commonly considered to be 18 or 21 years of age, it is defined here as 20 years of age because of the available mortality data used to develop these estimates.
- [2] Information on the wealth of the U. S. population is derived from the 1986 Survey of Consumer Finances sponsored by the Federal Reserve Board. See Avery, Robert B. and Kennickell, Arthur B., "Household Saving in the U. S.," *Review of Income and Wealth* (forthcoming).
- [3] Schwartz, Marvin, "Estimates of Personal Wealth, 1982: A Second Look," *Statistics of Income Bulletin*, Spring 1988, Volume 7, Number 4, 1988.
- [4] Scheuren, Fritz, and McCubbin, Janet, "Piecing Together Personal Wealth Distributions," *Statistics of Income and Related Administrative Record Research: 1986-1987*, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, 1987.
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- [6] Schwartz, Marvin, "Preliminary Estimates of Personal Wealth, 1982: Composition of Assets," *Statistics of Income Bulletin*, Winter 1984-1985, Volume 4, Number 3, 1985.
- [7] Johnson, Barry W., "1986-1988 Estate Tax Returns," *Statistics of Income Bulletin*, Spring 1990, Volume 9, Number 4.
- [8] Post-mortem dividends and interest are included in the value of the life insurance reported on estate tax returns.
- [9] For a detailed explanation of the estate multiplier technique and the computation of the equity value of life insurance, see *Statistics of Income--1972, Personal Wealth Estimated from Estate Tax Returns*, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, 1976.
- [10] U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, various issues.
- [11] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Construction Reports, Series C-27, Price Index of New One-Family Houses Sold, First Quarter 1990.
- [12] Noncorporate business assets include the net value of sole proprietorships, farms, and interests in partnerships, except for the value of the real estate associated with the business or farm.
- [13] Population estimates by state for 1986 were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Number 1058, State Population and Household Estimates: July 1, 1989. Adults are defined for purposes of this discussion as individuals 21 years of age or over because of the availability of the data.
- [14] Lampman, Robert J., *The Share of Top Wealthholders in National Wealth, 1922-56*, Princeton University Press, 1962.
- [15] Smith, James, and Calvert, Staunton, "Estimating the Wealth of Top Wealthholders from Estate Tax Returns," 1965 *American Statistical Association Proceedings, Section on Business and Economics Statistics*.
- [16] Kitagawa, Evelyn M., and Hauser, Philip M., *Differential Mortality in the United States: A Study in Socioeconomic Epidemiology*, Harvard University Press, 1973.
- [17] The authors are extremely grateful for the continued support received from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, beginning with the late Mortimer Spiegelman and continuing most recently with Frances Baffa, who provided the mortality data used in the computation of the estate multipliers.

Table 1.—All Top Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—numbers are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Total assets by type	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Real estate	
							Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	3,329.4	4,321,202	2,943.7	554,496	3,329.4	3,766,706	3,041.6	1,241,884
Under \$250,000 ¹	291.2	118,635	282.3	112,174	291.2	6,460	265.9	58,597
\$250,000 under \$500,000	548.9	306,901	510.6	87,731	548.9	219,171	519.0	141,585
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	1,548.3	1,182,818	1,304.7	116,277	1,548.3	1,066,541	1,390.4	401,352
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	710.0	1,148,848	633.0	98,132	710.0	1,050,716	651.4	335,571
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	150.3	574,279	138.0	61,063	150.3	513,217	138.1	137,255
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	55.5	412,160	51.2	38,314	55.5	373,847	52.6	89,086
\$10,000,000 or more	25.0	577,561	23.9	40,805	25.0	536,756	24.1	78,438

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Corporate stock		Cash		Noncorporate business assets		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total	
Number							Amount	
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	2,692.4	1,299,492	3,248.5	401,968	1,299.5	322,595	1,657.9	387,803
Under \$250,000 ¹	165.1	11,242	269.2	6,823	101.5	11,648	44.7	1,306
\$250,000 under \$500,000	415.4	43,431	532.8	28,956	218.2	16,230	173.3	7,308
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	1,268.1	258,942	1,523.3	162,632	510.6	54,944	848.5	99,258
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	627.0	319,063	695.6	110,357	329.1	87,610	440.0	117,789
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	140.0	210,520	147.7	40,454	87.2	49,164	94.0	58,542
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	52.4	170,314	55.1	23,376	34.8	39,543	37.6	48,638
\$10,000,000 or more	24.5	285,979	24.9	29,370	18.0	63,457	19.8	54,962

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Bonds (continued)							
	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	1,173.3	269,919	554.2	31,009	360.6	8,532	508.8	78,344
Under \$250,000 ¹	20.1	1,137	9.8	84	18.7	31	*3.6	*54
\$250,000 under \$500,000	95.1	4,812	40.8	872	60.3	426	35.1	1,198
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	577.5	59,864	301.7	10,815	194.0	5,028	288.2	23,551
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	347.6	83,557	152.1	9,522	72.2	2,238	136.0	22,473
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	83.2	46,629	29.3	3,218	10.0	607	27.2	8,088
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	32.6	36,825	12.2	3,384	4.0	105	12.2	8,324
\$10,000,000 or more	17.3	37,095	8.3	3,114	1.5	98	6.5	14,656

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)					
	Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total	1,151.6	163,124	2,360.8	59,550	3,222.8	444,786
Under \$250,000 ¹	66.2	4,655	278.8	10,161	281.7	14,203
\$250,000 under \$500,000	154.6	14,515	479.1	11,320	539.9	43,556
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	524.0	46,252	997.1	18,272	1,485.7	141,165
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	288.5	44,624	449.1	11,864	690.0	121,970
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	74.5	19,804	103.5	4,705	146.4	53,836
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	26.5	10,407	36.5	1,800	54.3	28,997
\$10,000,000 or more	17.3	22,866	16.7	1,428	24.8	41,059

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sampled estate tax returns on which it is based.

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

Table 2.—All Male: Top Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Total assets by type	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Real estate	
							Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	1,957.4	2,557,364	1,743.2	394,671	1,957.4	2,162,692	1,803.1	714,752
Under \$250,000 ¹	248.6	103,475	242.3	102,698	248.6	777	227.7	49,697
\$250,000 under \$500,000	389.1	211,403	362.0	58,855	389.1	152,548	367.1	90,268
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	789.0	618,115	663.1	74,139	789.0	543,976	714.8	199,938
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	389.2	642,995	345.4	63,433	389.2	579,562	361.1	183,205
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	93.0	356,532	84.7	38,191	93.0	318,340	86.2	81,026
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	32.2	242,260	30.0	25,334	32.2	216,925	30.6	51,404
\$10,000,000 or more	16.4	382,584	15.7	32,021	16.4	350,564	15.6	59,214

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Corporate stock		Cash		Noncorporate business assets		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total bonds	
Number							Amount	
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	1,579.4	759,511	1,904.6	212,108	869.7	222,672	878.1	190,530
Under \$250,000 ¹	143.8	10,385	228.8	5,652	91.0	10,969	42.1	1,233
\$250,000 under \$500,000	298.9	30,853	379.4	19,534	159.7	12,945	129.9	5,367
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	656.9	140,596	775.9	71,882	323.3	34,945	392.2	41,886
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	346.0	182,374	380.3	55,302	200.2	49,265	222.0	54,627
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	87.3	124,944	92.0	25,760	60.2	37,898	57.1	30,063
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	30.3	96,316	31.9	14,308	22.5	28,882	21.9	24,387
\$10,000,000 or more	16.1	174,044	16.2	19,670	12.8	47,766	13.0	32,967

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Bonds (continued)							
	State and local bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	604.8	134,004	279.5	16,232	214.9	3,716	232.4	36,578
Under \$250,000 ¹	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**86.6	**4,575	**39.2	**781	**64.5	**289	**28.3	**955
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	267.2	27,197	134.6	4,223	99.2	1,793	116.6	8,673
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	173.1	39,300	73.9	5,152	38.9	1,239	61.0	8,937
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	48.1	23,565	18.8	1,919	8.0	255	15.6	4,324
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	19.0	17,631	7.8	2,547	3.0	60	6.6	4,149
\$10,000,000 or more	10.8	21,737	5.2	1,610	1.2	80	4.4	9,540

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)					
	Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total	691.4	106,403	1,670.0	52,277	1,900.2	299,111
Under \$250,000 ¹	58.7	4,066	239.5	9,283	239.0	12,190
\$250,000 under \$500,000	107.6	8,862	357.2	10,067	383.4	33,507
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	280.8	25,951	636.6	15,387	762.0	87,531
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	164.9	27,815	317.9	10,443	377.5	79,964
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	50.1	15,334	79.0	4,222	90.8	37,284
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	17.6	7,445	26.2	1,540	31.2	17,978
\$10,000,000 or more	11.7	16,931	13.5	1,335	16.3	30,658

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

**Data combined with those for next size class to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 3.—All Female: Top Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Total assets by type	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Real estate	
							Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	1,372.0	1,763,838	1,200.5	159,824	1,372.0	1,604,014	1,238.4	527,132
Under \$250,000 ¹	42.7	15,159	40.0	9,476	42.7	5,683	38.3	8,900
\$250,000 under \$500,000	159.8	95,499	148.7	28,875	159.8	66,623	151.8	51,317
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	759.3	564,703	641.6	42,138	759.3	522,565	675.6	201,414
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	320.9	505,853	287.6	34,700	320.9	471,153	290.3	152,366
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	57.3	217,748	53.3	22,872	57.3	194,876	51.9	56,228
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	23.3	169,900	21.1	12,979	23.3	156,921	22.0	37,682
\$10,000,000 or more	8.7	194,976	8.2	8,784	8.7	186,192	8.5	19,224

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Corporate stock		Cash		Noncorporate business assets		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total bonds	
Number							Amount	
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	1,113.0	539,981	1,343.8	189,860	429.8	99,923	779.8	197,273
Under \$250,000 ¹	21.3	857	40.3	1,172	10.5	678	*2.6	*73
\$250,000 under \$500,000	116.4	12,578	153.3	9,421	58.6	3,285	43.4	1,941
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	611.2	118,347	747.3	90,751	187.3	19,998	456.3	57,372
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	280.9	136,689	315.3	55,055	128.9	38,345	218.1	63,163
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	52.7	85,577	55.7	14,693	27.0	11,266	36.9	28,479
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	22.1	73,998	23.2	9,068	12.3	10,660	15.7	24,251
\$10,000,000 or more	8.4	111,936	8.6	9,700	5.3	15,691	6.8	21,995

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Bonds (continued)							
	State and local bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
								Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	568.5	135,915	274.7	14,777	145.8	4,816	276.4	41,766
Under \$250,000 ¹ .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**28.6	**1,374	**11.4	**176	**14.5	**168	**10.3	**296
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	310.3	32,667	167.1	6,592	94.8	3,234	171.7	14,879
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	174.5	44,258	78.2	4,370	33.3	999	75.0	13,536
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	35.1	23,064	10.5	1,298	2.0	351	11.7	3,765
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	13.6	19,194	4.4	838	1.0	45	5.6	4,174
\$10,000,000 or more	6.5	15,358	3.1	1,503	0.3	17	2.1	5,117

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)					
	Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Number							Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total	460.2	56,721	690.9	7,273	1,322.6	145,674
Under \$250,000 ¹	7.5	589	39.3	877	42.7	2,013
\$250,000 under \$500,000	47.1	5,653	121.9	1,254	156.5	10,049
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	243.2	20,301	360.5	2,886	723.7	53,634
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	123.5	16,809	131.2	1,421	312.5	42,005
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	24.4	4,471	24.5	483	55.7	16,552
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	8.9	2,962	10.3	260	23.1	11,019
\$10,000,000 or more	5.6	5,936	3.2	94	8.6	10,402

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sampled estate tax returns on which it is based.

** Data combined with those for next size class to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 4.—Top Wealthholders Under 50 Years of Age With Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth
 [All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Total assets by type	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Real estate	
							Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	1,174.7	1,376,584	1,104.4	293,889	1,174.7	1,082,696	1,073.4	425,013
Under \$250,000 ¹	239.5	83,185	232.3	76,746	239.5	6,439	215.9	42,356
\$250,000 under \$500,000	297.8	170,521	280.0	56,203	297.8	114,318	282.1	83,012
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	373.9	309,408	340.9	53,907	373.9	255,502	333.5	112,466
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	197.8	339,845	189.0	45,289	197.8	294,556	179.8	98,511
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	38.4	162,126	36.4	29,845	38.4	132,281	35.2	37,355
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	18.6	141,461	17.3	16,537	18.6	124,924	18.2	28,768
\$10,000,000 or more	8.6	170,038	8.4	15,361	8.6	154,676	8.6	22,545

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Corporate stock		Cash		Noncorporate business assets		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total bonds	
Number							Amount	
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	898.4	424,892	1,130.1	105,764	515.4	135,843	412.7	68,597
Under \$250,000 ¹	131.8	7,806	219.5	5,098	75.3	7,343	34.8	612
\$250,000 under \$500,000	227.6	24,309	286.0	15,023	126.6	10,152	83.2	3,204
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	303.3	72,278	370.2	30,241	160.3	21,116	157.0	15,191
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	174.7	92,380	190.0	27,718	112.5	42,474	105.1	24,605
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	34.9	69,131	37.1	9,412	22.0	19,877	15.4	6,445
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	17.3	65,389	18.6	6,179	12.1	14,692	10.3	13,185
\$10,000,000 or more	8.6	93,599	8.6	12,094	6.7	20,188	6.9	5,355

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Bonds (continued)							
	State and local bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	262.5	47,478	121.7	7,275	100.0	713	100.8	13,130
Under \$250,000 ¹ .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**56.8	**2,476	**28.2	**595	**43.3	**163	**17.7	**581
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	106.6	9,356	54.2	2,546	36.3	271	47.7	3,018
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	71.5	15,922	31.4	3,542	17.1	175	28.8	4,966
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	12.4	4,965	*3.0	*158	*1.6	*98	*2.8	*1,224
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	**15.2	**14,759	**4.8	**434	**1.7	**5	**3.9	**3,341
\$10,000,000 or more .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)					
	Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total	363.9	48,587	941.7	19,330	1,145.9	148,559
Under \$250,000 ¹	47.1	2,320	232.3	7,267	233.0	10,383
\$250,000 under \$500,000	80.2	7,116	257.9	4,539	294.5	23,166
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	122.8	10,599	269.5	3,688	362.7	43,830
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	79.5	12,770	133.8	2,149	191.7	39,237
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	19.3	4,785	29.1	983	37.2	14,139
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	8.2	2,635	13.0	409	18.2	10,204
\$10,000,000 or more	6.7	8,363	6.1	294	8.6	7,600

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
 * Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sampled estate tax returns on which it is based.
 ** Data combined with those for next size class to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.
 Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 5.—Top Wealthholders 50 under 65 Years of Age With Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Total assets by type	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Real estate	
							Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	1,195.8	1,580,264	1,040.2	202,956	1,195.8	1,377,307	1,135.8	498,997
Under \$250,000 ¹	50.0	33,012	48.3	32,449	50.0	563	48.4	15,461
\$250,000 under \$500,000	207.0	111,897	189.5	27,743	207.0	84,154	198.1	49,440
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	588.2	454,650	490.3	48,874	588.2	405,776	556.4	171,869
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	265.4	433,632	233.3	39,471	265.4	394,161	251.8	136,654
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	58.1	220,596	53.3	22,177	58.1	198,419	55.4	60,237
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	19.3	147,370	17.9	16,543	19.3	130,827	18.2	36,450
\$10,000,000 or more	7.9	179,106	7.6	15,699	7.9	163,407	7.5	28,886

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Corporate stock		Cash		Noncorporate business assets		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total bonds	
Number							Amount	
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	984.1	422,070	1,171.5	128,032	513.1	120,824	571.2	112,196
Under \$250,000 ¹	32.0	3,163	47.9	1,610	24.7	3,945	8.8	544
\$250,000 under \$500,000	154.3	14,657	204.3	10,441	76.8	5,139	64.7	2,474
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	485.0	86,528	573.7	49,217	218.2	22,755	298.5	27,941
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	233.0	117,179	261.6	36,071	135.7	31,959	146.0	32,561
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	53.8	69,380	57.1	14,799	38.5	18,404	35.3	19,310
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	18.4	55,509	19.0	8,853	13.2	16,627	12.4	13,645
\$10,000,000 or more	7.7	75,653	7.8	7,041	6.1	21,995	5.5	15,721

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Bonds (continued)							
	State and local bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	416.6	75,801	177.0	11,161	117.3	1,600	156.1	23,634
Under \$250,000 ¹	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**43.7	**2,164	**14.4	**274	**28.3	**200	**12.7	**380
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	207.5	18,046	99.2	2,881	64.0	951	90.7	6,063
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	119.6	24,407	45.8	2,485	20.5	372	36.1	5,297
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	31.2	15,027	10.7	1,845	3.2	50	10.0	2,389
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	**14.5	**16,157	**7.0	**3,676	**1.3	**28	**6.6	**9,505
\$10,000,000 or more	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)					
	Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total	429.6	64,349	902.0	27,573	1,166.5	206,223
Under \$250,000 ¹	18.0	1,961	45.1	2,832	47.0	3,497
\$250,000 under \$500,000	56.2	5,681	189.7	5,874	203.0	18,189
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	198.1	19,510	416.8	9,217	571.8	67,613
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	112.3	16,658	188.0	6,012	260.6	56,538
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	29.2	8,581	42.4	2,227	57.3	27,658
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	10.4	4,215	14.3	749	19.0	11,323
\$10,000,000 or more	5.4	7,743	5.8	663	7.9	21,404

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

**Data combined with those for next size class to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 6.—Top Wealthholders 65 Years of Age or Older With Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More, by Size of Net Worth

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Size of net worth	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Total assets by type	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Real estate	
							Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	958.8	1,364,354	799.1	57,651	958.8	1,306,703	832.4	317,874
Under \$250,000 ¹	1.7	2,437	1.7	2,979	1.7	-542	1.7	780
\$250,000 under \$500,000	44.2	24,483	41.2	3,785	44.2	20,698	38.8	9,133
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	586.2	418,759	473.4	13,496	586.2	405,263	500.5	117,016
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	246.8	375,371	210.7	13,372	246.8	361,999	219.8	100,407
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	53.8	191,557	48.3	9,041	53.8	182,516	47.6	39,662
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	17.6	123,329	15.9	5,233	17.6	118,096	16.1	23,868
\$10,000,000 or more	8.5	228,417	7.8	9,744	8.5	218,673	7.9	27,008

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Corporate stock		Cash		Noncorporate business assets		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Total bonds	
Number							Amount	
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total	809.9	452,530	946.9	168,172	270.9	65,928	674.0	207,010
Under \$250,000 ¹	1.3	273	1.7	116	1.5	360	*1.1	*151
\$250,000 under \$500,000	33.4	4,465	42.5	3,492	14.8	939	25.4	1,630
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	479.8	100,136	579.4	83,175	132.1	11,072	392.9	56,126
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	219.2	109,504	244.0	46,568	80.9	13,177	189.0	60,623
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	51.2	72,009	53.5	16,243	26.8	10,883	43.2	32,787
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	16.7	49,416	17.4	8,343	9.5	8,224	15.0	21,808
\$10,000,000 or more	8.2	116,727	8.4	10,235	5.3	21,273	7.4	33,887

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)							
	Bonds (continued)							
	State and local bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total	494.2	146,639	255.5	12,573	143.3	6,219	251.9	41,579
Under \$250,000 ¹	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$250,000 under \$500,000	**14.7	**1,309	**8.1	**87	**7.5	**94	**8.2	**290
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	263.4	32,462	148.2	5,388	93.6	3,806	149.8	14,470
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	156.4	43,228	74.9	3,495	34.6	1,691	71.1	12,209
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	39.6	26,637	15.6	1,214	5.1	459	14.5	4,476
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	**20.1	**43,004	**8.7	**2,388	**2.5	**169	**8.2	**10,134
\$10,000,000 or more	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

Size of net worth	Total assets by type (continued)					
	Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)
Total	358.1	50,188	517.1	12,647	910.4	90,004
Under \$250,000 ¹	1.2	375	1.4	61	1.7	322
\$250,000 under \$500,000	18.2	1,717	31.5	907	42.4	2,201
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	203.1	16,144	310.8	5,368	551.2	29,723
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	96.7	15,195	127.3	3,703	237.7	26,194
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000	25.9	6,439	32.1	1,495	51.9	12,039
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	7.9	3,558	9.2	642	17.1	7,470
\$10,000,000 or more	5.1	6,761	4.8	471	8.3	12,055

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sampled estate tax returns on which it is based.

** Data combined with those for next size class to avoid disclosure of information for specific estate tax returns.

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

Table 7.—Top Wealthholders With Net Worth Under \$10,000,000 and Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More: Total and Selected Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by State of Residence

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Total assets		Debts and mortgages		Net worth	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total	3,304.3	3,743,641	2,919.8	513,691	3,304.3	3,229,951
Alabama.....	39.0	40,469	34.5	3,585	39.0	36,884
Alaska.....	8.8	10,409	8.4	2,300	8.8	8,110
Arizona.....	52.9	60,649	47.6	9,662	52.9	50,988
Arkansas.....	16.7	18,753	15.5	3,596	16.7	15,157
California.....	558.3	701,235	506.4	107,717	558.3	593,518
Colorado.....	52.6	48,355	46.6	7,166	52.6	41,189
Connecticut.....	74.7	90,336	70.5	9,775	74.7	80,562
Delaware.....	7.1	6,332	6.9	369	7.1	5,964
District of Columbia.....	14.0	17,990	13.2	1,350	14.0	16,641
Florida.....	238.8	294,922	202.7	39,408	238.8	255,514
Georgia.....	62.6	72,469	58.9	9,540	62.6	62,929
Hawaii.....	11.0	11,330	10.1	1,475	11.0	9,855
Idaho.....	11.3	10,088	9.3	1,846	11.3	8,242
Illinois.....	148.5	175,151	129.8	27,114	148.5	148,037
Indiana.....	39.7	39,746	31.2	5,717	39.7	34,030
Iowa.....	34.5	28,936	30.8	4,072	34.5	24,863
Kansas.....	25.9	29,258	20.6	3,453	25.9	25,805
Kentucky.....	34.9	38,942	30.2	6,019	34.9	32,924
Louisiana.....	38.3	42,047	35.2	8,472	38.3	33,576
Maine.....	14.9	11,792	13.9	1,477	14.9	10,314
Maryland.....	49.7	53,351	40.1	5,429	49.7	47,923
Massachusetts.....	113.2	117,160	106.9	12,922	113.2	104,238
Michigan.....	72.4	71,707	62.5	5,465	72.4	66,242
Minnesota.....	35.2	36,411	30.6	5,405	35.2	31,006
Mississippi.....	23.5	23,388	22.6	6,167	23.5	17,221
Missouri.....	53.9	61,335	48.5	6,990	53.9	54,345
Montana.....	7.2	6,384	5.9	1,051	7.2	5,333
Nebraska.....	19.8	18,352	14.9	3,699	19.8	14,654
Nevada.....	13.3	17,953	12.0	1,249	13.3	16,704
New Hampshire.....	20.2	24,892	16.9	4,681	20.2	20,211
New Jersey.....	139.2	150,128	115.2	16,549	139.2	133,579
New Mexico.....	12.3	15,797	9.9	1,646	12.3	14,151
New York.....	339.6	381,476	288.9	35,843	339.6	345,633
North Carolina.....	66.3	80,352	61.1	8,936	66.3	71,416
North Dakota.....	9.4	7,548	7.9	3,096	9.4	4,451
Ohio.....	106.4	103,880	95.7	13,218	106.4	90,662
Oklahoma.....	37.6	48,605	34.9	7,331	37.6	41,273
Oregon.....	25.4	37,008	22.9	5,221	25.4	31,788
Pennsylvania.....	113.8	120,914	100.8	13,171	113.8	107,743
Rhode Island.....	12.1	15,902	10.5	1,886	12.1	14,015
South Carolina.....	29.4	31,084	27.8	3,529	29.4	27,555
South Dakota.....	7.0	4,784	5.9	1,220	7.0	3,564
Tennessee.....	51.4	55,303	42.2	5,736	51.4	49,567
Texas.....	250.6	295,471	229.9	60,646	250.6	234,825
Utah.....	7.3	8,787	6.2	1,276	7.3	7,510
Vermont.....	4.8	5,483	4.8	445	4.8	5,038
Virginia.....	76.5	75,017	69.7	9,140	76.5	65,878
Washington.....	55.6	56,618	45.0	9,034	55.6	47,584
West Virginia.....	11.2	9,996	9.2	620	11.2	9,375
Wisconsin.....	44.8	48,107	39.9	5,393	44.8	42,715
Wyoming.....	6.4	6,670	5.1	2,255	6.4	4,415
Other areas ¹	4.5	4,566	3.3	329	4.5	4,238

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7.—Top Wealthholders With Net Worth Under \$10,000,000 and Gross Assets of \$500,000 or More: Total and Selected Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by State of Residence—(continued)

[All figures are estimates based on estate tax return samples—number are in thousands; money amounts are in millions of dollars]

State of residence	Total assets by type							
	Real estate		Corporate stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Total	3,017.4	1,163,446	2,667.9	1,013,512	3,223.6	372,598	1,638.0	332,841
Alabama	35.4	10,444	30.3	11,042	37.8	5,269	18.9	3,835
Alaska	8.3	4,115	6.3	834	8.8	554	4.7	1,180
Arizona	48.8	20,583	46.1	14,263	51.3	4,502	27.5	5,308
Arkansas	15.9	4,249	15.5	6,454	15.9	2,081	8.0	2,011
California	526.4	301,244	423.0	148,121	541.1	59,770	236.2	50,816
Colorado	47.3	13,547	41.0	12,071	52.1	5,725	30.2	4,964
Connecticut	68.3	30,840	66.8	24,815	73.9	6,706	45.3	8,197
Delaware	6.4	1,524	5.8	1,832	6.5	661	4.3	491
District of Columbia	10.9	5,062	11.6	5,762	14.0	1,852	9.1	2,061
Florida	216.5	83,015	178.9	82,742	229.4	25,897	116.4	35,720
Georgia	57.9	21,956	49.8	20,962	59.6	8,402	22.6	3,843
Hawaii	10.8	5,447	8.9	2,439	10.7	1,041	5.8	806
Idaho	11.2	4,026	7.0	2,636	11.3	558	5.1	652
Illinois	138.3	41,310	121.5	53,830	145.0	18,318	80.7	16,749
Indiana	37.7	9,179	33.6	12,698	39.4	4,709	23.5	4,413
Iowa	31.1	6,502	28.9	7,053	33.0	2,732	18.2	3,781
Kansas	23.8	7,265	20.1	9,820	25.7	3,075	13.5	2,339
Kentucky	28.9	8,598	30.1	14,385	34.1	4,578	19.8	4,778
Louisiana	37.4	15,064	33.7	8,599	36.6	5,295	18.4	4,080
Maine	13.4	4,207	10.5	3,642	14.9	1,081	6.3	665
Maryland	45.3	15,570	40.4	16,171	49.4	6,007	28.5	4,164
Massachusetts	101.2	40,548	87.3	31,872	110.7	10,873	46.5	7,924
Michigan	65.4	13,268	61.3	23,244	70.6	7,816	42.2	9,265
Minnesota	32.9	10,790	30.2	10,366	34.1	3,031	18.3	2,904
Mississippi	21.7	6,596	19.9	7,405	23.4	1,975	11.8	1,369
Missouri	49.3	11,772	44.4	25,207	52.3	7,749	27.5	6,793
Montana	6.5	2,374	5.0	1,767	7.2	653	1.5	160
Nebraska	17.8	5,104	15.2	4,230	19.5	1,924	10.5	2,475
Nevada	10.8	5,318	10.9	4,547	13.3	1,875	5.4	1,889
New Hampshire	19.3	11,256	15.6	6,526	19.9	1,420	8.0	1,803
New Jersey	127.8	47,782	118.1	42,598	134.7	16,161	81.9	13,942
New Mexico	12.1	4,384	7.9	3,356	11.9	1,831	4.0	1,125
New York	277.1	108,135	278.1	110,295	332.5	39,611	189.2	35,842
North Carolina	61.6	23,143	53.4	29,431	65.1	6,623	31.9	5,854
North Dakota	9.2	2,984	7.1	1,277	8.8	618	4.8	434
Ohio	92.8	19,979	95.0	34,715	103.4	12,195	58.4	9,523
Oklahoma	34.8	9,417	29.1	11,973	36.8	5,775	12.6	7,173
Oregon	24.5	9,241	21.3	10,242	25.0	2,439	14.8	3,001
Pennsylvania	101.7	25,199	93.1	36,390	108.5	14,309	65.8	14,195
Rhode Island	10.8	5,613	10.1	5,017	12.1	1,640	6.2	1,288
South Carolina	27.4	9,905	25.4	10,265	28.8	2,615	11.4	1,972
South Dakota	5.8	1,467	5.3	694	7.0	545	3.9	550
Tennessee	49.0	14,621	38.7	18,728	50.3	5,230	24.9	5,374
Texas	241.4	100,863	210.4	60,418	249.1	38,479	107.4	20,164
Utah	6.9	1,452	5.6	2,159	7.3	757	2.8	896
Vermont	4.8	1,576	4.8	1,299	4.5	224	2.2	345
Virginia	71.1	21,861	63.3	19,432	75.8	7,437	38.5	5,528
Washington	53.1	20,630	45.1	14,207	54.1	4,330	26.9	3,966
West Virginia	10.9	2,438	10.3	3,252	11.2	1,102	7.2	967
Wisconsin	40.6	9,581	38.1	18,752	44.2	3,091	21.8	3,999
Wyoming	5.8	1,381	4.1	2,024	6.3	868	3.4	773
Other areas ¹	3.3	1,021	4.0	1,654	4.4	591	3.0	498

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.

Estimates of Personal Wealth, 1989

by Barry W. Johnson and Marvin Schwartz

There were approximately 3.4 million people with gross assets of \$600,000 or more in 1989 according to estimates of personal wealth derived from Federal estate tax returns using the "estate multiplier technique." These individuals, the Nation's "top wealthholders," represented less than 2 percent of the adult population [1]. Their net worth was over \$4.8 trillion and accounted for between 25 and 30 percent of the personal wealth in the United States [2]. Almost 1.3 million of these individuals had a net worth of at least \$1 million.

Background

The distribution and composition of personal wealth in the United States is a topic of great interest among researchers and policy planners. Much of the economic debate preceding the 1992 Presidential election focused on how the policies of the previous 12 years had affected various sectors of society: how had the wealthiest individuals in society fared compared to middle class and needy Americans?

This is a difficult question to answer because, while there are several sources of data available to study income trends, little is known about wealth. The few surveys which attempt to measure wealth tend to under-represent the very wealthy because of the relatively small size of this important group [3]. An alternate approach is the use of administrative records, i.e., the Federal estate tax return, to approximate the wealth of the living.

The personal wealth estimates for 1989 are based on estate tax returns filed for individuals who died in 1989. The estate multiplier technique is used to estimate the wealth of living individuals using tax returns filed for the deceased. Because a decedent's estate has up to 9 months to file an estate tax return, and a 6 month extension is not uncommon, it is necessary to sample returns filed over a 3-year period in order to capture data for nearly all estate tax decedents dying in a single year. One of the strengths of this estimation technique is the large sample upon which the estimates are based. The sample contains over 17,500 returns for 1989 decedents, which is about 35 percent of the total population of 1989 estate tax filers, considerably larger than the samples selected for other studies at comparable levels of wealth (see the appendix to this article for a more complete discussion of the estate multiplier technique).

The estate multiplier technique has been used by Statistics of Income to estimate the wealth of living individuals since the 1960's (most recently for 1982 and 1986). As

the level of gross estate (or gross assets) required for filing a tax return has increased, the definition of a top wealthholder has also changed. The level of wealth to which these estimates apply is \$600,000 or more in gross estate, the filing threshold in effect for 1989. The gross estate criterion is a Federal estate tax concept of wealth which 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 policy loans, but excluding any reduction for other indebtedness [4]. This measure defines the individuals included in the top wealthholder group. Total assets, while a narrower definition of wealth, is still essentially a gross measure. It differs 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, the level of wealth after all debts have been removed, also includes the cash value of life insurance.

Personal Wealth in 1989

Although 52.1 percent of the adult population in 1989 was female, just 41.8 percent of the 3.4 million top wealthholders that year were women (see Figure A). Nevertheless, this represented a modest increase from the 40.3 percent who were female at a corresponding level in 1986. On the other hand, women were on the average wealthier and had fewer debts than their male counterparts, holding 43.1 percent of the net worth of top wealthholders. Their average net worth was 5.6 percent higher than that of male top wealthholders. The debt burden, i.e., amounts owed as debts and mortgages, of

Figure A

Top Wealthholders: Selected Items, by Sex, 1989

(Number of wealthholders is in thousands)

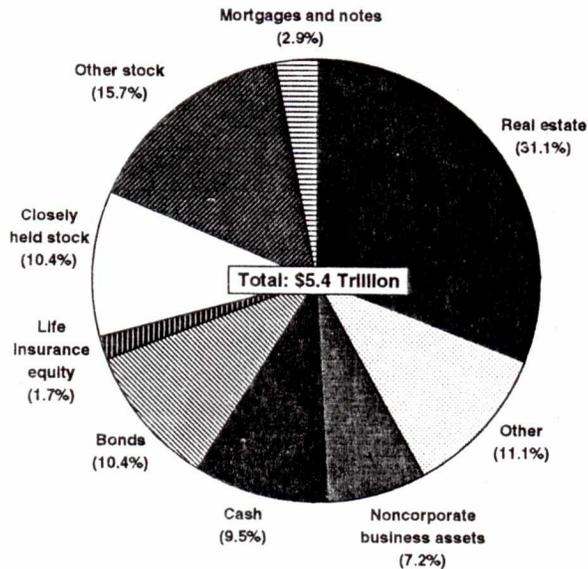
Item	Total	Males	Females
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Number of top wealthholders.....	3,417	1,989	1,427
Total assets (billions).....	5,390	3,150	2,241
Debts and mortgages (billions).....	586	416	170
Net worth (billions).....	4,804	2,733	2,071
Mean net worth (millions).....	1.41	1.37	1.45
Median net worth (millions).....	0.81	0.77	0.85

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

Barry W. Johnson is an economist and Marvin Schwartz is a statistician with the Foreign Special Projects Section. This article was prepared under the direction of Michael Alexander, Chief.

Figure B

Top Wealthholders: Composition of Assets, 1989



women was only 7.6 percent of their total assets, compared to 13.2 percent for men.

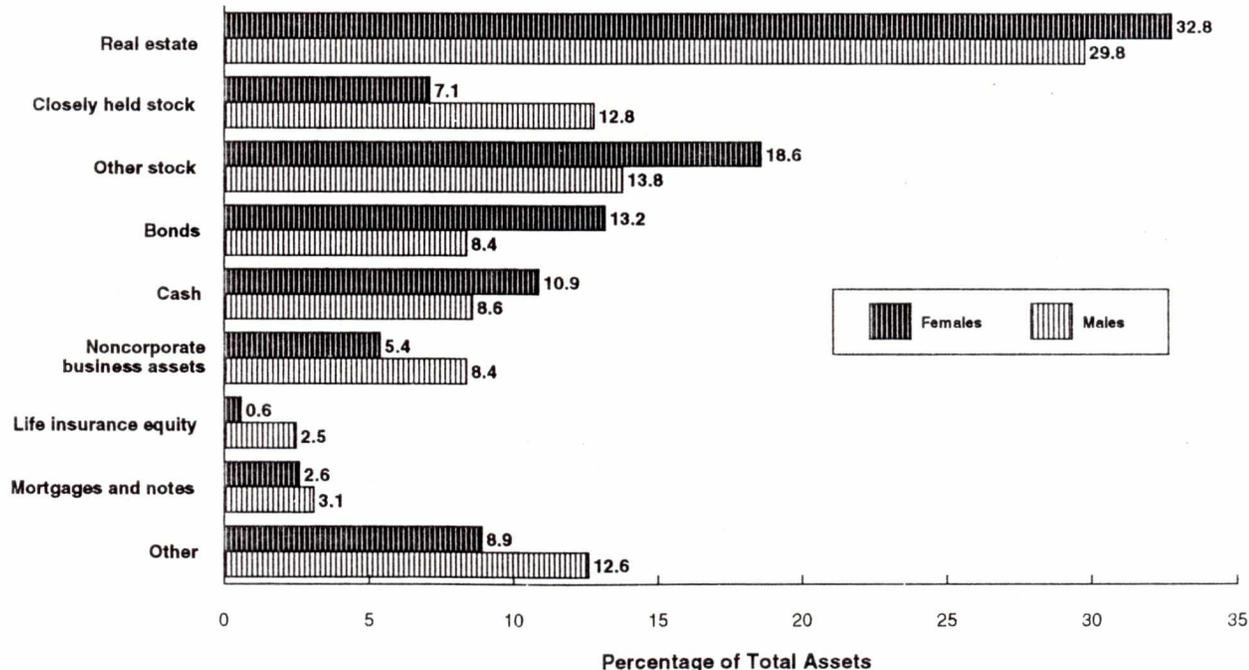
Composition of Assets

Real estate comprised the largest share of the assets held by top wealthholders in 1989 (see Figure B). Over 31 percent of their portfolios consisted of real estate holdings, while corporate stock comprised just 26 percent. This is in contrast to 1986 estimates where corporate stock, at 30 percent, was the most commonly held asset. Both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Standard and Poor's common index increased about 40 percent between 1986 and 1989, while the Index of New One-Family Houses Sold increased a more modest 14 percent over the same period [6]. This indicates that the change in the relative importance of stock and real estate was mainly attributable to a redistribution of investments, rather than an actual decline in the performance of the stock market [7].

Some of the assets held in 1986 as corporate stock were subsequently redirected to bonds, which made up 10.4 percent of 1989 wealthholders' holdings and was the third largest asset type. This was an increase from the 9.0 percent of the assets held as bonds in 1986 by top wealthholders. Nearly two-thirds of the bonds held by the wealthy in 1989 were State and local Government bonds. These bonds are particularly attractive to top wealth-

Figure C

Top Wealthholders: Types of Assets as a Percentage of Total Assets, by Sex, 1989



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

holders because interest payments on them are generally tax-exempt. The modest 1.5 percent increase in Standard and Poor's Municipal Bond Price Index between 1986 and 1989 shows that the rise in their relative share was due to the increased use of bonds as a means of diversifying and balancing a portfolio, rather than to an increase in their investment value. Cash, at 9.5 percent, and noncorporate business assets, at 7.2 percent, represented the next largest assets.

There were significant differences in the asset portfolios of men and women (see Figure C). While the portfolios of both men and women included roughly the same share of investments in corporate stock, the make-up of the stock holdings was quite different. At least 48 percent of the corporate stock held by men was untraded or in closely held corporations, compared to 28 percent for women [8]. This indicates that men are still more active in the creation and management of small companies than women, despite the increasingly important role of female entrepreneurs. It may also say something about different attitudes toward risk taking, as investments in this kind of stock are usually much riskier and less liquid than investments in the stock of larger, publicly traded firms.

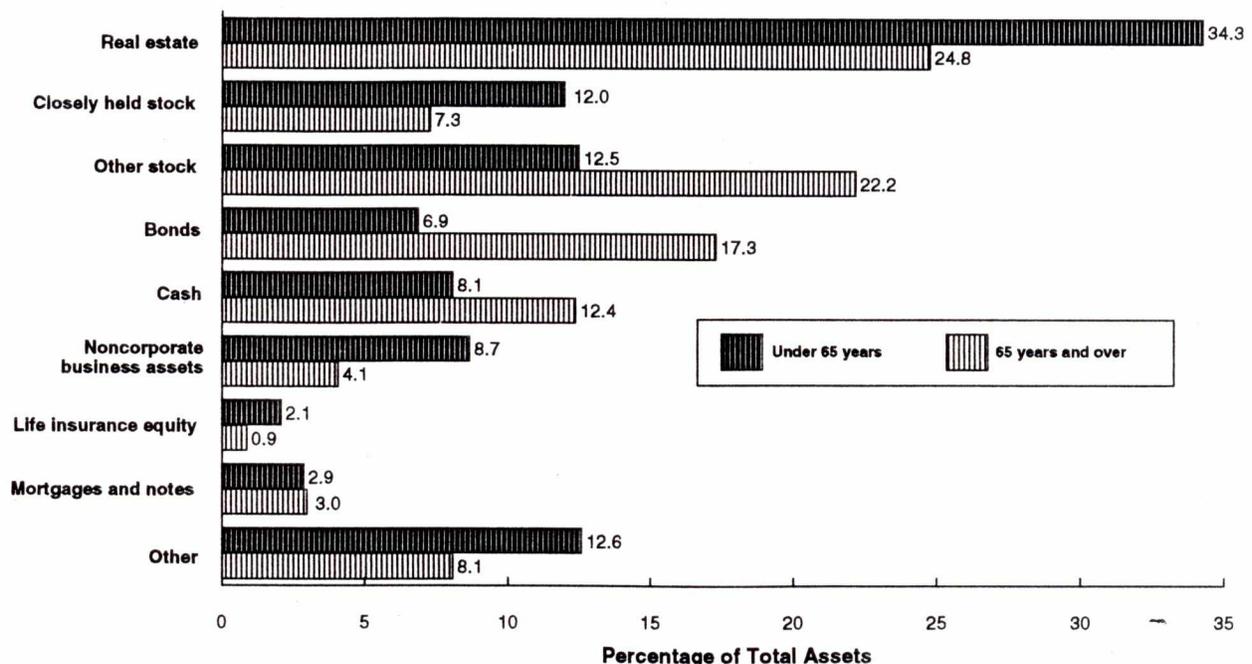
There were other noteworthy differences between the

portfolios of males and females as well. Bonds made up 13.2 percent of women's assets in 1989 compared to just 8.4 percent of the assets of men. Conversely, wealth held by men was characterized by a higher concentration in noncorporate business assets, 8.4 percent, compared to just 5.4 percent for women. Though a small portion of the assets of the wealthy, the share held as equity in life insurance by men and women was also quite different. While 2.5 percent of the assets of men was life insurance, only 0.6 percent of the assets of women was in the form of life insurance. Another noteworthy difference in the portfolios of men and women was in the share of assets comprising "other assets." (These assets include intangible and depletable assets, annuities, interests in pension plans and personal property.) Just 8.9 percent of the assets of women were classified as "other assets" compared to 12.6 percent for men.

More distinct differences in the composition of the assets of the top wealthholders exist when looking at the way the portfolio changes as the wealthy age (see Figure D). More than one-third of the assets of top wealthholders under 65 years of age was held as real estate, with corporate stock comprising just 24 percent of their portfolios. At least 49 percent of the corporate stock held by these top wealth-

Figure D

Top Wealthholders: Types of Assets as a Percentage of Total Assets, by Age, 1989



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

wealthholders, with net worth \$10 million or more. (These wealthholders represented only 1 percent of the 3.4 million people with gross assets of \$600,000 or more.)

In 1989, nearly 662,000, or almost 20 percent of the top wealthholders with net worth under \$10 million, lived in California. New York, with 325,000, accounted for the second largest number. Florida, with its rapid growth and attractive tax policy (no State income tax), showed the third largest number of top wealthholders, 241,000, displacing Texas, which had been third in 1986.

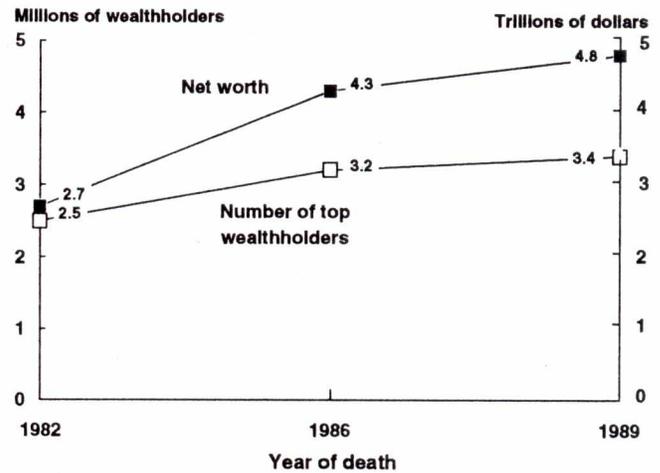
Looking at wealth on a per capita basis presents a somewhat different picture of wealth in this country by eliminating the distortions caused by the large population of some States. For instance, Connecticut, the 26th most populous State, had the highest concentration of top wealthholders—422 per 10,000 adults [9]. This compared with the 196 top wealthholders per 10,000 adults nationwide. Using this measure, California, with 11 percent of the adult population, had the second highest concentration of top wealthholders, with 330 per 10,000. On the other hand, Pennsylvania, the fifth most populous State, had a relatively low concentration of wealthy individuals, just 146 per 10,000, ranking it 35th among the 50 States and the District of Columbia. As shown in Figure E, wealth appears to be more heavily concentrated in the more populous coastal States of the Northeast and some Western States.

Personal Wealth, 1982-1989

The U.S. economy continued to grow during 1989, making the period from 1982 to 1989 the longest consecutive peacetime expansion in U.S. history. Between 1982 and 1989, over 20 million jobs were created, so that by 1989, the unemployment rate, at 5.3 percent, was at its lowest since 1973. Gross domestic product (GDP) experienced real growth of almost 29 percent, while inflation grew at an average annual rate of about 3 to 4

Figure F

Top Wealthholders: Number and Net Worth, 1982-1989



NOTE: Top wealthholders with gross assets of \$600,000 or more, using constant 1989 dollars.

percent, or just over 29 percent, between 1982 and 1989. The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased 184 percent. Interest rates fell between 1982 and 1989, lowering the yield on most bonds, but making mortgages more affordable. Exports reached an all time high by 1989, making the United States the world's leading exporter that year [10].

Between 1982 and 1989, the number of top wealthholders with gross assets of at least \$600,000 (in constant 1989 dollars) increased 38.5 percent (see Figure F) [11]. Figure F shows that the value of net worth increased at a much higher rate, growing 77.6 percent. This rate is more than double the increase in the GDP. The greatest change occurred between 1982 and 1986.

Figures G and H show that the number of top wealthholders with a net worth of at least \$5 million experienced the largest growth between 1982 and 1989, more than

Figure G

Top Wealthholders: Number and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1982-1989

[Number of wealthholders is in thousands--money amounts are in billions of dollars]

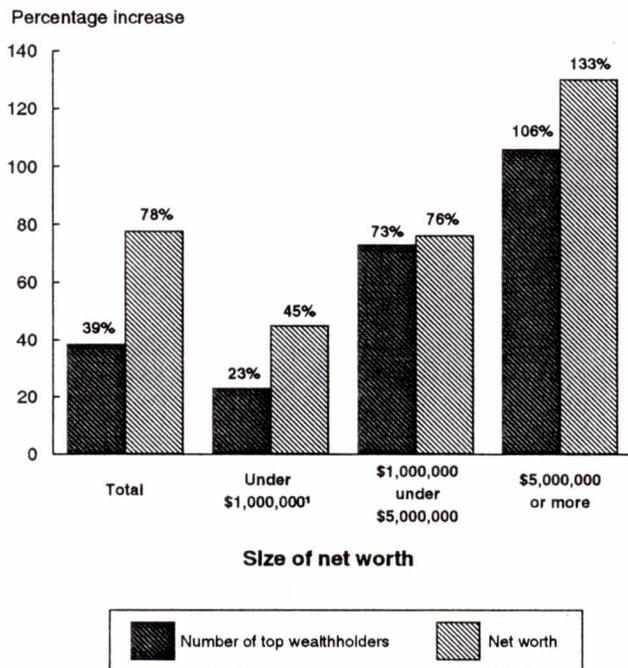
Size of net worth	1982		1986		1989	
	Number	Net worth	Number	Net worth	Number	Net worth
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total.....	2,467	2,705	3,206	4,347	3,417	4,804
Under \$1,000,000 ¹	1,748	914	2,070	1,164	2,156	1,323
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000.....	666	1,196	1,035	1,888	1,151	2,100
\$5,000,000 or more.....	53	594	102	1,295	109	1,382

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

NOTES: Top wealthholders with gross assets of \$600,000 or more, using constant 1989 dollars. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Figure H

Top Wealthholders: Percentage Increase in Number and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth, 1982-1989



*Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

NOTE: Top wealthholders with gross assets of \$600,000 or more, using constant 1989 dollars.

doubling to 109,000. The value of their combined net worth increased by 133 percent, meaning that each individual in this group was, on average, wealthier than his or her 1982 counterpart. As a group, they accounted for almost \$1.4 trillion of the personal wealth in the United States.

Individuals with a net worth of at least \$1 million but less than \$5 million increased by 73 percent between 1982 and 1989. Similarly, the value of assets owned by this group increased by about 76 percent. Individuals with gross assets of \$600,000 or more, but with a net worth less than \$1 million, increased by only 23 percent, while their net worth grew by 45 percent.

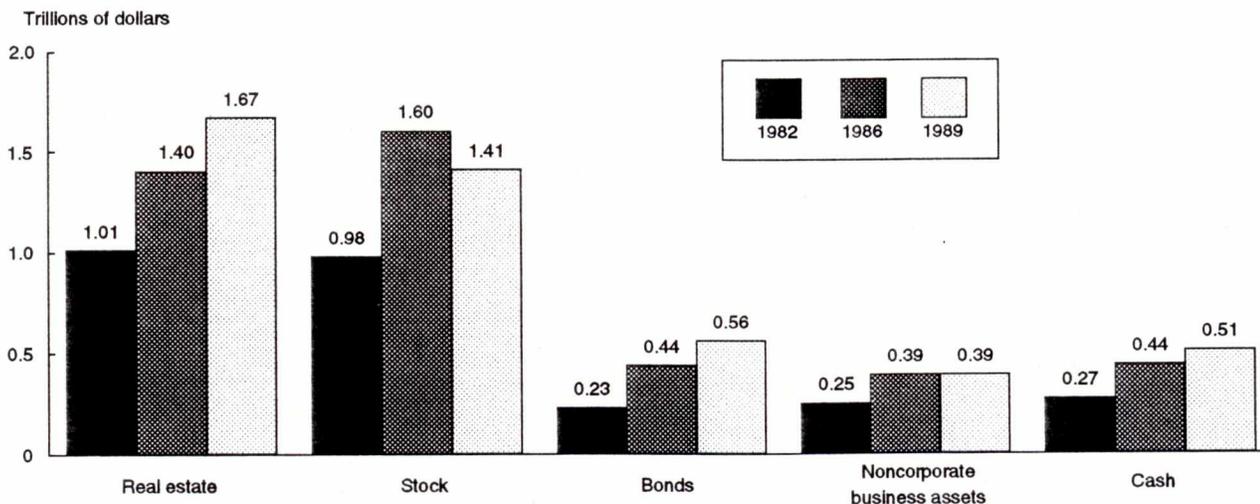
As mentioned earlier, real estate comprised the largest single component of the portfolios of top wealthholders in 1989. Figure I shows that the value of the real estate held by top wealthholders increased by an inflation-adjusted \$660 billion between 1982 and 1989. The graph also shows the decline between 1986 and 1989 in the real value of corporate stock included in the portfolios of the wealthy. The value of bonds in the portfolios of top wealthholders increased the most on a percentage basis, more than doubling. The amount of cash nearly doubled over the period, due, in part, to the increased popularity of money market mutual funds.

Summary

In 1989, approximately 3.4 million people—less than 2 percent of the Nation's adult population—held gross

Figure I

Top Wealthholders: Selected Assets, 1982-1989



NOTE: Top wealthholders with gross assets of \$600,000 or more, using constant 1989 dollars.

assets of \$600,000 or more. The net worth of these individuals was \$4.8 trillion and accounted for between 25 and 30 percent of the personal wealth in this country.

Although 52.1 percent of the adult population in 1989 was female, they accounted for only 41.8 percent of the top wealthholders. This represented a modest increase from 1986 when 40.3 percent of those individuals at the corresponding level of wealth were female. Their average net worth, however, was 5.6 percent higher in 1989 than that of male top wealthholders.

Real estate constituted the largest share of the assets held by top wealthholders. Corporate stock, the predominant asset in the portfolio of the wealthy in 1986, comprised the next largest share of the assets. Together they represented over 57 percent of the assets of top wealthholders.

Notes and References

- [1] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Number 1057, *United States Population Estimates, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1989*. While the onset of adulthood is more commonly considered to be 18 or 21 years of age, it is defined here as 20 years of age because of the available mortality data used to develop these estimates.
- [2] Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, *Balance Sheets of the U.S. Economy, 1960-1991*, Publication C-9, September 1992, estimates the total net worth of the private sector to be \$18.9 trillion. The 1989 Survey of Consumer Finances, also sponsored by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, estimates a more conservative \$15.9 trillion.
- [3] The 1989 Survey of Consumer Finances, sponsored by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, is a noteworthy exception to this problem. The survey design uses a dual frame which over-samples the very wealthy in order to ensure that they are adequately represented in the resulting data base. The Survey collects data on assets, debts, income and attitudes about finances.
- [4] Post-mortem dividends and interest included in the value of life insurance are included in gross assets for estate tax purposes.
- [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 two independent sources of data. The first was a study conducted by the Institute for Life Insurance which looked at the life insurance policies reported in the estates of 1971 Federal estate tax filers. The second was the Federal Reserve Board's 1982 and 1989 Surveys of Consumer Finances. The results from each of these sources were encouragingly similar. A simple regression in which age was the independent variable 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 lack of sex-specific data.
- [6] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Construction Reports, Series C-27, *Price Index of New One-Family Houses Sold*, First Quarter 1990.
- [7] The Federal Reserve Board's Flow of Funds estimates of household financial assets and liabilities showed that the value of corporate equity (including mutual funds) held by households increased by 20.2 percent between 1986 and 1989, again, less than the increase in the market indices during the same period. Both the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and the stock market decline in 1987 may have influenced the amount of stock held by individual investors.
- [8] Untraded, or closely held, stock is identified from the descriptions of assets provided by executors on the Federal estate tax return. When such descriptions are too vague (or are absent) to make a reasonable determination, amounts are included in the more general "other corporate stock" category. Therefore, the estimate of "closely held stock" presented in this article should be considered extremely conservative.
- [9] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Number 1058, *State Population and Household Estimates, July 1, 1989*. Adults are defined for purposes of this discussion as individuals 21 years of age or over, because of the availability of the data.
- [10] U.S. Office of Management and Budget, *Economic Report of the President*, Washington, DC, 1990.
- [11] Some of the change in the number of top wealthholders may be due to the influence of a revision of the estate tax law which became effective in 1982. This revision permitted an unlimited deduction from gross estate for bequests to the decedent's surviving spouse. (Prior to this, the deduction was limited to the greater of one-half of the adjusted gross estate, or \$250,000.) This meant

that by bequeathing most of the assets to the surviving spouse, the estate would be exempt from Federal estate taxes. The new law may have caused changes in bequest patterns, whereby more of the decedent's estate was left to the surviving spouse, postponing bequests to children and grandchildren until the death of the surviving spouse. Such a shift in bequest patterns could influence the number and make-up of the top wealthholder population and should be considered when comparing estimates between 1982 and 1989.

Appendix: The Estate Multiplier Technique

Researchers have been using the estate multiplier technique since the beginning of the 20th century to draw conclusions about the wealth of the living population through knowledge of the wealth of the deceased. (Financial records were used as early as 1864 to estimate total personal wealth by a related technique.) The technique assumes that estate tax returns taken as a whole represent a random sample, designated by death, of the living population. Death, however, is not a truly random event and therefore is not a simple representative sample of the living population under consideration. It does, however, provide a means of producing reasonable estimates of personal wealth utilizing existing data.

The probability that a person will die in a given year depends on the particulars of one's life. Age and sex are usually taken as indicators of these conditions. If one knows the mortality rate and the number of deaths for each age and sex group, one can approximate the population of living wealthholders.

Vital to the estimation of personal wealth is the use of a mortality rate appropriate to the top wealthholder population. This is essential to the estimates because there is much evidence that the wealthy have mortality rates that are lower than those of the population as a whole. In other words, social class is also a determinant in the "selection of the sample." Therefore, an adjustment to the general mortality rates is necessary.

The mortality rates assumed to approximate those of the wealthy are based on the mortality experience of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's preferred-risk policyholders. Mortality differentials were derived based on Metropolitan Life data for a series of years. Thus, the effect of the sampling variance of death has been reduced. Multipliers are then derived using the inverse of the adjusted mortality rates for each decedent according to age and sex. These multipliers, applied to sampled estate tax return data, produce wealth estimates for the living population.

The estimates of wealth are based on a sample of estate tax returns filed for 1989 decedents during 1989-1991. Sampling rates varied from 7 to 100 percent, with weights appropriate to each year maintained. Although this yielded a large overall sample size, the limited number of returns filed each year for decedents who were relatively young (under 40 years of age) or very wealthy (gross assets of \$5 million or more) can make results for these categories subject to considerable variance.

Death's achieved sample of these relatively young and very wealthy decedents in a given year can distort estimates of the wealth of the living. Death samples at varying rates which tend to average out over a period of years. This can result in large short-term fluctuations for a given year. When death "selects" a smaller sample, i.e., fewer deaths for a segment of the population during a sample year, wealth estimates of that segment will be lower than the true population values. Similarly, too large a sample produces estimates that overstate the wealth of the population.

In order to reduce the variability of the estimates, the sample of estate tax returns is designed so that it is stratified by age, as well as by size of gross estate. All returns filed for both the very wealthy (those with gross assets of \$5 million or more) and the relatively young (those under 40 years of age) were selected for the study. Thus, the sampling variance introduced by the Statistics of Income sample for returns of relatively young or wealthy decedents was eliminated.

The variability of the final estimates for very wealthy and relatively young individuals was further reduced by including in the sample all returns filed for non-1989 decedents during the 3-year period. These segments of the sample were then post-stratified and reweighted to represent the true 1989 decedent population. This technique reduces the effect of outliers on the estimates of the type and amount of wealth for the relatively young and very wealthy.

Further adjustments to the estimation technique have been incorporated in a continuing effort to improve the accuracy of the estimates. The use of returns for a particular year of death filed during a 3-year period is dependent upon the timely filing of all or nearly all the returns for that year, or, alternatively, an awareness of the number of missing or yet-to-be-filed returns. Data for prior years have allowed estimates to be made of the number of unfiled returns for 1989 decedents. This adjustment proved to be age dependent; the likelihood of a timely return being filed increases with the decedent's age, possibly because the elderly have been able to make more complete estate plans.

Basing the estimates on returns for a single year of death eliminated much of the distortion due to inflation. However, the problem was not entirely eliminated due to the use of all returns for the relatively young and very wealthy decedents regardless of the year of death. Money amounts for these individuals were converted to 1989 dollars to further reduce the effects of inflation on the estimates.

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

[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 wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Real estate	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total.....	3,416.8	5,390,431	2,969.1	585,964	3,416.8	4,804,467	3,150.7	1,674,667
Under \$600,000 ¹	811.9	483,063	763.1	184,206	811.9	298,858	759.5	241,987
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	1,344.4	1,117,669	1,113.3	93,956	1,344.4	1,023,713	1,216.6	401,760
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	945.4	1,539,118	812.7	135,316	945.4	1,403,801	879.8	513,803
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	205.5	770,162	179.1	73,933	205.5	696,230	190.6	227,773
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	73.1	529,737	66.5	37,497	73.1	492,240	69.2	124,634
\$10,000,000 or more.....	36.4	950,682	34.5	61,056	36.4	889,626	35.2	164,710

Size of net worth	Closely held stock		Other stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total.....	762.2	561,372	2,399.3	848,968	3,336.9	513,422	1,876.1	561,452
Under \$600,000 ¹	157.9	25,708	448.3	24,846	778.7	38,963	259.7	12,472
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	221.8	51,148	957.6	147,681	1,319.9	161,072	799.9	109,943
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	250.1	122,687	733.2	237,915	927.5	161,335	594.3	164,293
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	80.7	90,946	164.0	139,992	201.9	60,923	138.3	84,379
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	32.3	72,977	64.7	102,217	72.6	40,098	55.6	69,692
\$10,000,000 or more.....	19.5	197,905	31.5	196,317	36.3	51,031	28.4	120,673

Size of net worth	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	1,330.9	370,917	735.7	42,514	393.4	11,139	732.6	136,882
Under \$600,000 ¹	130.6	7,370	76.2	1,253	78.2	902	67.4	2,948
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	549.0	65,381	317.7	10,631	175.6	5,465	324.2	28,466
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	464.9	111,431	247.6	11,044	111.1	3,322	248.0	38,496
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	115.0	61,051	56.6	4,865	19.4	983	59.3	17,480
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	46.6	50,655	24.5	4,995	6.5	290	21.0	13,752
\$10,000,000 or more.....	24.8	75,031	13.2	9,726	2.5	177	12.9	35,739

Size of net worth	Noncorporate business assets		Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total.....	1,404.2	385,764	1,072.0	156,140	2,359.4	92,718	3,289.8	595,929
Under \$600,000 ¹	289.0	28,546	180.8	11,493	733.3	32,490	784.9	66,560
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	475.6	50,630	405.5	39,667	831.5	21,224	1,279.5	134,543
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	443.8	86,569	335.1	44,606	593.2	23,390	915.8	184,521
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	117.9	65,309	87.2	21,314	131.2	8,129	201.1	71,397
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	50.5	51,214	40.0	17,113	47.0	5,033	72.3	46,758
\$10,000,000 or more.....	27.4	103,497	23.3	21,948	23.1	2,452	36.3	92,149

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 2.—Male Top Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth

[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 wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Real estate	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total.....	1,989.3	3,149,720	1,740.5	416,308	1,989.3	2,733,412	1,845.3	940,002
Under \$600,000 ¹	610.1	355,648	567.4	143,501	610.1	212,147	569.6	168,692
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	672.8	575,397	556.8	61,242	672.8	514,155	616.4	201,492
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	523.0	869,203	450.3	91,293	523.0	777,910	489.1	277,520
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	119.2	455,967	105.6	52,515	119.2	403,452	109.4	126,970
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	42.5	311,404	39.6	24,544	42.5	286,860	39.9	65,787
\$10,000,000 or more.....	21.7	582,103	20.8	43,215	21.7	538,888	20.9	99,541

Size of net worth	Closely held stock		Other stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total.....	541.0	402,971	1,353.1	433,099	1,940.3	270,116	973.1	254,753
Under \$600,000 ¹	125.5	20,740	344.5	19,173	585.8	26,300	187.0	7,523
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	151.3	36,094	465.1	63,171	658.0	71,654	359.4	44,071
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	174.0	90,265	392.5	109,972	514.2	84,619	303.5	74,168
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	56.4	66,596	95.9	76,767	118.4	36,390	75.8	41,800
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	20.9	51,426	36.9	55,583	42.4	22,402	31.4	38,306
\$10,000,000 or more.....	12.8	137,851	18.4	108,434	21.6	28,750	16.0	58,884

Size of net worth	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	667.8	176,084	362.7	21,928	234.7	5,242	341.8	61,498
Under \$600,000 ¹	88.9	4,131	51.7	903	66.1	572	46.1	1,917
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	243.9	26,261	133.5	4,758	88.4	2,117	135.2	10,935
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	235.6	51,754	124.2	5,360	61.4	1,704	111.8	15,349
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	60.2	30,503	32.4	2,727	12.9	586	30.6	7,984
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	25.6	26,907	13.6	3,054	4.3	166	11.4	8,179
\$10,000,000 or more.....	13.7	36,528	7.3	5,125	1.6	97	6.7	17,134

Size of net worth	Noncorporate business assets		Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total.....	915.6	285,818	653.3	97,325	1,668.5	79,019	1,928.6	396,618
Under \$600,000 ¹	223.1	23,943	131.5	7,991	576.3	28,266	592.7	53,020
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	287.1	33,139	212.8	21,189	529.1	17,645	649.1	86,942
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	279.2	57,859	213.1	29,933	413.6	20,446	506.7	124,422
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	78.2	38,966	56.6	14,546	97.5	7,241	116.6	46,690
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	31.0	35,462	25.0	11,683	34.8	3,137	42.0	27,618
\$10,000,000 or more.....	16.9	76,450	14.3	11,983	17.2	2,284	21.5	57,927

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.
 NOTE: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

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

[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 wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Real estate	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total.....	1,427.5	2,240,710	1,228.6	169,655	1,427.5	2,071,055	1,305.5	734,666
Under \$600,000 ¹	201.8	127,416	195.7	40,705	201.8	86,711	189.9	73,295
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	671.6	542,272	556.4	32,715	671.6	509,558	600.1	200,268
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	422.4	669,915	362.3	44,024	422.4	625,891	390.6	236,283
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	86.3	314,196	73.5	21,418	86.3	292,778	81.2	100,804
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	30.7	218,333	26.9	12,953	30.7	205,380	29.3	58,847
\$10,000,000 or more.....	14.8	368,579	13.8	17,841	14.8	350,738	14.3	65,170

Size of net worth	Closely held stock		Other stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total.....	221.3	158,400	1,046.2	415,869	1,396.5	243,306	903.0	296,699
Under \$600,000 ¹	32.4	4,967	103.8	5,674	192.8	12,662	72.7	4,949
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	70.5	15,054	492.5	84,510	661.8	89,418	440.4	65,872
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	76.2	32,423	340.8	127,943	413.3	76,716	290.8	90,125
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	24.3	24,350	68.2	63,225	83.6	24,534	62.5	42,578
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	11.4	21,552	27.8	46,634	30.3	17,696	24.2	31,386
\$10,000,000 or more.....	6.6	60,054	13.2	87,883	14.7	22,280	12.4	61,789

Size of net worth	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	663.1	194,833	373.0	20,586	158.7	5,897	390.8	75,383
Under \$600,000 ¹	41.7	3,239	24.5	350	12.1	330	21.3	1,031
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	305.1	39,120	184.2	5,873	87.3	3,348	189.0	17,531
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	229.3	59,676	123.4	5,684	49.7	1,618	136.2	23,147
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	54.8	30,548	24.2	2,138	6.5	397	28.6	9,496
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	21.0	23,748	10.9	1,941	2.2	124	9.6	5,573
\$10,000,000 or more.....	11.1	38,503	5.9	4,601	0.9	80	6.2	18,605

Size of net worth	Noncorporate business assets		Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total.....	488.5	119,946	418.7	58,816	690.9	13,698	1,361.2	199,310
Under \$600,000 ¹	65.9	4,603	49.3	3,502	157.0	4,223	192.2	13,540
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	188.4	17,491	192.8	18,478	302.5	3,579	630.3	47,602
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	164.6	28,710	122.0	14,673	179.6	2,943	409.1	60,099
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	39.7	26,342	30.6	6,767	33.7	888	84.5	24,707
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	19.5	15,753	15.0	5,430	12.2	1,897	30.3	19,140
\$10,000,000 or more.....	10.5	27,047	9.0	9,966	5.9	168	14.7	34,223

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 4.—Top Wealthholders Under 50 Years of Age with Gross Assets of \$600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth

[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 wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Real estate	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total.....	1,196.6	1,693,990	1,108.0	310,110	1,196.6	1,383,880	1,103.9	591,362
Under \$600,000 ¹	538.2	302,485	510.7	127,083	538.2	175,402	504.5	159,306
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	321.2	291,090	289.1	46,259	321.2	244,831	283.8	115,278
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	247.2	440,871	226.1	66,902	247.2	373,969	233.0	162,548
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	58.5	240,264	52.2	38,864	58.5	201,400	52.5	81,905
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	21.0	154,325	19.5	14,262	21.0	140,064	19.8	41,936
\$10,000,000 or more.....	10.4	264,954	10.4	16,740	10.4	248,214	10.3	30,389

Size of net worth	Closely held stock		Other stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total.....	321.1	225,675	716.4	194,219	1,150.5	130,803	452.9	94,365
Under \$600,000 ¹	107.5	17,385	279.0	13,138	514.5	22,310	147.4	5,121
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	84.8	20,934	200.3	26,867	310.0	31,493	144.2	14,409
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	87.5	50,580	172.2	57,932	237.8	37,700	110.6	25,444
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	24.5	30,915	39.7	36,816	57.0	16,751	29.5	14,758
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	9.8	22,507	17.4	20,782	20.7	12,734	14.0	13,142
\$10,000,000 or more.....	7.1	83,353	7.8	38,684	10.4	9,815	7.2	21,492

Size of net worth	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	265.9	51,179	147.8	9,403	103.3	972	158.8	32,811
Under \$600,000 ¹	67.7	3,090	39.4	440	49.1	372	37.0	1,218
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	88.7	8,010	48.0	1,424	24.0	147	52.4	4,828
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	71.1	13,840	39.1	1,569	23.7	436	50.3	9,599
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	21.6	8,096	11.6	1,543	4.2	2	13.2	5,116
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	10.5	8,898	6.1	1,816	*1.8	*14	3.5	2,415
\$10,000,000 or more.....	6.4	9,245	3.6	2,611	--	--	*2.4	*9,636

Size of net worth	Noncorporate business assets		Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total.....	528.8	165,752	318.9	39,218	935.1	34,406	1,153.4	218,189
Under \$600,000 ¹	191.7	19,613	103.8	5,841	494.4	18,768	517.7	41,004
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	149.4	24,379	96.6	10,906	217.7	5,175	307.1	41,650
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	128.1	33,172	75.3	10,089	160.7	5,559	240.2	57,846
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	34.9	27,761	22.7	5,717	41.2	2,322	56.9	23,317
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	15.9	21,860	13.0	3,485	14.0	2,258	21.0	15,621
\$10,000,000 or more.....	8.6	38,967	7.5	3,179	7.2	325	10.4	38,750

* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sampled estate tax returns on which it is based.

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 5.—Top Wealthholders Age 50 Under 65 Years with Gross Assets of \$600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth

[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 wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Real estate	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total.....	1,157.4	1,887,231	994.0	204,965	1,157.4	1,882,266	1,099.0	635,510
Under \$600,000 ¹	222.5	145,425	203.8	48,600	222.5	96,825	208.1	66,290
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	476.2	397,780	396.5	34,974	476.2	362,806	452.2	157,495
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	345.0	561,093	294.5	52,414	345.0	508,679	329.1	204,181
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	76.1	282,246	65.0	26,514	76.1	255,732	73.4	88,941
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	25.1	185,069	22.7	15,608	25.1	169,461	24.1	43,328
\$10,000,000 or more.....	12.6	315,618	11.5	26,855	12.6	288,763	12.2	75,274

Size of net worth	Closely held stock		Other stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total.....	294.8	204,516	839.2	252,405	1,134.9	158,258	621.1	154,159
Under \$600,000 ¹	40.7	6,749	139.4	8,866	214.8	12,622	85.4	5,033
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	92.0	20,748	337.5	44,593	468.4	45,318	256.6	28,160
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	105.0	47,698	265.0	68,250	339.7	49,304	203.0	45,326
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	36.5	39,325	63.6	41,308	74.5	20,594	48.7	23,249
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	13.5	29,880	22.5	32,761	25.1	11,696	18.1	20,745
\$10,000,000 or more.....	7.1	60,116	11.3	56,626	12.4	18,722	9.3	31,647

Size of net worth	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	451.0	104,486	226.8	11,999	124.6	2,437	227.5	35,236
Under \$600,000 ¹	46.2	3,099	26.9	483	24.0	360	23.0	1,091
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	182.0	16,716	87.0	2,391	56.1	1,222	98.0	7,830
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	160.6	30,606	81.3	4,097	35.3	622	76.7	10,000
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	39.6	17,483	19.5	1,344	6.4	125	18.9	4,297
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	15.2	14,786	8.1	1,627	1.8	88	6.8	4,244
\$10,000,000 or more.....	7.6	21,796	4.1	2,057	1.1	20	4.1	7,775

Size of net worth	Noncorporate business assets		Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total.....	530.3	145,372	394.5	63,000	854.0	42,245	1,132.4	231,768
Under \$600,000 ¹	79.5	7,549	56.2	3,330	199.8	12,316	219.0	22,668
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	184.8	16,533	144.4	13,792	333.9	10,821	463.6	60,320
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	187.4	34,772	135.9	18,773	242.5	12,029	337.8	80,759
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	49.3	26,126	36.3	8,056	51.2	3,867	74.7	30,779
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	18.9	18,971	13.6	8,302	18.2	1,807	24.9	17,578
\$10,000,000 or more.....	10.4	41,420	8.2	10,746	8.4	1,404	12.5	19,662

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 6.--Top Wealthholders Age 65 Years or Older with Gross Assets of \$600,000 or More: Total and Type of Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by Size of Net Worth

[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 wealthholders	Total assets	Debts and mortgages		Net worth		Real estate	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total.....	1,062.8	1,809,211	867.1	70,889	1,062.8	1,738,322	947.9	447,795
Under \$600,000 ¹	51.3	35,153	48.6	8,523	51.3	26,630	46.9	16,390
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	547.0	428,799	427.6	12,724	547.0	416,076	480.6	128,987
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	353.2	537,154	292.1	16,001	353.2	521,153	317.6	147,074
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	70.9	247,652	61.8	8,554	70.9	239,098	64.8	56,927
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	27.0	190,343	24.3	7,627	27.0	182,716	25.3	39,370
\$10,000,000 or more.....	13.4	370,109	12.6	17,461	13.4	352,648	12.7	59,047

Size of net worth	Closely held stock		Other stock		Cash		Total bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Total.....	146.4	131,180	843.7	402,344	1,051.5	224,361	802.1	312,928
Under \$600,000 ¹	9.7	1,573	29.9	2,842	49.3	4,031	26.9	2,319
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	45.0	9,466	419.8	76,222	541.4	84,261	399.0	67,375
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	57.7	24,410	296.1	111,733	350.1	74,331	280.7	93,523
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	19.8	20,706	60.7	61,867	70.4	23,578	60.0	46,372
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	9.0	20,590	24.9	48,674	26.9	15,667	23.5	35,805
\$10,000,000 or more.....	5.3	54,436	12.4	101,007	13.4	22,494	12.0	67,535

Size of net worth	State and local Government bonds		Corporate and foreign bonds		Federal savings bonds		Other Federal Government bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Total.....	614.0	215,252	361.1	21,113	165.6	7,730	346.4	68,834
Under \$600,000 ¹	16.7	1,180	9.9	330	5.1	169	7.4	639
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	278.3	40,654	182.7	6,816	95.6	4,096	173.8	15,808
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	233.3	66,984	127.2	5,379	52.1	2,264	120.9	18,897
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	53.8	35,472	25.6	1,978	8.9	855	27.2	8,067
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	21.0	26,971	10.3	1,552	2.9	188	10.7	7,094
\$10,000,000 or more.....	10.9	43,990	5.5	5,058	1.0	157	6.4	18,329

Size of net worth	Noncorporate business assets		Mortgages and notes		Life insurance equity		Other assets	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Total.....	345.3	74,640	358.6	53,923	570.2	16,066	1,004.0	145,972
Under \$600,000 ¹	17.8	1,384	20.8	2,322	39.2	1,405	48.2	2,887
\$600,000 under \$1,000,000.....	141.4	9,718	164.5	14,969	279.9	5,228	508.8	32,573
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000.....	128.3	18,625	123.9	15,743	190.0	5,801	337.8	45,915
\$2,500,000 under \$5,000,000.....	33.8	11,421	28.3	7,540	38.9	1,940	69.5	17,301
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000.....	15.7	10,383	13.4	5,326	14.8	968	26.4	13,559
\$10,000,000 or more.....	8.4	23,109	7.6	8,023	7.5	723	13.3	33,737

¹ Includes top wealthholders with negative net worth.

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

Table 7.--Top Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$600,000 or More and Net Worth Under \$10,000,000: Total and Selected Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by State of Residence

[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 and mortgages		Net worth	
			Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total.....	3,380.3	4,439,561	2,934.5	525,097	3,380.3	3,914,463
Alabama.....	30.1	45,408	25.2	5,646	30.1	39,763
Alaska.....	6.7	7,514	5.9	1,239	6.7	6,275
Arizona.....	42.3	67,165	37.9	8,665	42.3	58,500
Arkansas.....	17.1	22,173	14.5	2,629	17.1	19,544
California.....	661.9	943,548	573.5	133,200	661.9	810,349
Colorado.....	42.3	50,976	35.4	5,566	42.3	45,410
Connecticut.....	98.7	123,644	91.4	14,039	98.7	109,605
Delaware.....	13.1	16,041	10.7	1,771	13.1	14,270
District of Columbia.....	13.1	16,492	12.5	1,566	13.1	14,926
Florida.....	240.8	348,654	204.1	41,060	240.8	307,594
Georgia.....	68.7	81,211	62.7	12,425	68.7	68,786
Hawaii.....	22.3	28,393	18.3	2,447	22.3	25,947
Idaho.....	7.7	9,015	6.7	1,275	7.7	7,740
Illinois.....	148.0	201,884	126.2	20,184	148.0	181,701
Indiana.....	37.0	45,772	31.3	3,188	37.0	42,584
Iowa.....	33.1	37,080	24.5	4,145	33.1	32,936
Kansas.....	28.3	29,255	22.9	2,607	28.3	26,648
Kentucky.....	30.9	38,339	26.2	5,563	30.9	32,776
Louisiana.....	30.6	37,922	28.7	5,598	30.6	32,324
Maine.....	16.2	24,673	13.9	2,781	16.2	21,892
Maryland.....	65.2	97,857	56.4	9,673	65.2	88,184
Massachusetts.....	108.8	121,856	105.2	15,426	108.8	106,430
Michigan.....	85.3	103,254	71.2	11,039	85.3	92,215
Minnesota.....	44.3	51,211	36.1	4,936	44.3	46,274
Mississippi.....	16.8	17,398	15.5	2,598	16.8	14,800
Missouri.....	55.1	63,568	43.9	3,751	55.1	59,817
Montana.....	9.9	9,692	8.3	1,343	9.9	8,348
Nebraska.....	20.4	24,187	15.9	2,855	20.4	21,332
Nevada.....	21.0	35,383	17.7	5,536	21.0	29,848
New Hampshire.....	15.0	18,328	13.0	1,843	15.0	16,485
New Jersey.....	162.0	211,677	134.6	20,600	162.0	191,077
New Mexico.....	14.7	14,680	13.4	1,846	14.7	12,834
New York.....	324.9	427,117	279.4	43,568	324.9	383,549
North Carolina.....	70.9	95,843	60.4	8,213	70.9	87,630
North Dakota.....	9.6	8,244	8.1	801	9.6	7,443
Ohio.....	99.1	122,323	87.2	12,981	99.1	109,343
Oklahoma.....	29.8	36,128	25.5	2,993	29.8	33,135
Oregon.....	24.4	28,357	18.4	2,300	24.4	26,058
Pennsylvania.....	126.6	147,743	114.2	14,344	126.6	133,399
Rhode Island.....	16.6	17,554	15.9	1,112	16.6	16,441
South Carolina.....	41.6	41,497	36.1	4,377	41.6	37,119
South Dakota.....	7.0	6,345	5.8	916	7.0	5,429
Tennessee.....	45.3	56,253	41.1	7,547	45.3	48,706
Texas.....	174.4	229,198	159.1	39,520	174.4	189,677
Utah.....	7.6	12,033	6.8	1,832	7.6	10,201
Vermont.....	7.0	8,163	6.5	1,183	7.0	6,980
Virginia.....	69.2	102,491	62.9	8,246	69.2	94,245
Washington.....	60.1	80,357	52.9	9,411	60.1	70,946
West Virginia.....	9.1	8,653	7.6	656	9.1	7,997
Wisconsin.....	36.3	50,588	31.2	4,118	36.3	46,470
Wyoming.....	6.3	7,676	5.4	1,315	6.3	6,361
Other areas ¹	7.2	8,747	6.5	2,627	7.2	6,120

Footnotes at end of table.

Table 7.--Top Wealthholders with Gross Assets of \$600,000 or More and Net Worth Under \$10,000,000: Total and Selected Assets, Debts and Mortgages, and Net Worth, by State of Residence--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		Bonds	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Total.....	3,115.5	1,509,923	2,640.7	1,016,468	3,300.5	462,143	1,847.5	439,955
Alabama.....	27.8	17,159	26.5	11,904	29.0	3,623	15.4	4,483
Alaska.....	6.5	2,153	4.6	1,593	6.7	672	3.9	374
Arizona.....	39.2	18,707	36.5	14,447	42.3	4,520	27.7	9,417
Arkansas.....	16.5	7,023	14.1	6,909	17.0	2,045	7.4	2,015
California.....	630.9	481,634	474.7	143,790	647.6	81,208	305.0	60,373
Colorado.....	38.8	11,193	34.6	12,893	41.1	4,607	23.3	6,045
Connecticut.....	92.5	50,186	78.9	27,939	96.5	12,315	56.8	10,154
Delaware.....	12.1	5,089	11.5	4,523	13.1	2,207	8.3	1,727
District of Columbia.....	12.3	6,955	11.1	2,877	13.1	1,876	9.0	1,927
Florida.....	220.0	99,975	193.8	77,571	236.5	40,946	148.5	56,163
Georgia.....	63.7	26,372	52.9	18,545	68.5	8,258	31.1	7,034
Hawaii.....	19.1	11,713	14.8	8,707	22.2	2,194	7.9	1,542
Idaho.....	7.6	2,772	6.2	1,946	7.7	1,052	3.7	745
Illinois.....	136.0	57,470	119.7	50,781	144.7	24,090	82.7	23,004
Indiana.....	32.7	8,581	28.9	13,613	37.0	5,652	19.0	4,427
Iowa.....	27.9	8,899	26.3	11,074	32.5	5,211	21.3	3,227
Kansas.....	26.3	5,516	21.9	9,230	26.8	3,676	16.1	3,696
Kentucky.....	28.5	8,765	23.4	10,847	30.3	5,825	15.2	4,835
Louisiana.....	28.6	8,879	28.6	10,173	30.2	4,470	19.9	5,810
Maine.....	14.8	7,595	14.9	6,875	16.1	1,626	10.7	3,417
Maryland.....	61.2	29,526	54.7	25,835	61.1	9,046	36.6	9,332
Massachusetts.....	102.7	45,217	81.3	27,447	106.2	12,233	51.5	11,172
Michigan.....	77.7	21,908	70.8	31,221	84.2	11,601	48.2	10,214
Minnesota.....	40.1	10,336	36.0	16,372	42.5	4,825	27.0	6,014
Mississippi.....	16.2	5,628	15.1	4,094	16.1	1,909	7.5	1,619
Missouri.....	47.5	11,445	46.2	21,592	53.5	7,784	30.1	9,594
Montana.....	8.6	2,884	8.5	1,927	9.9	930	7.8	1,094
Nebraska.....	17.6	5,560	13.5	8,778	20.1	2,337	13.0	2,356
Nevada.....	20.4	16,291	15.3	5,455	19.4	2,782	9.2	3,009
New Hampshire.....	13.3	6,189	12.8	5,156	14.6	2,415	8.8	1,697
New Jersey.....	148.2	67,294	130.3	46,550	154.7	23,679	93.3	17,577
New Mexico.....	13.4	4,744	10.5	2,367	14.7	1,702	8.3	1,504
New York.....	281.9	132,342	240.1	96,066	317.4	45,713	186.4	43,936
North Carolina.....	67.3	29,109	61.2	26,572	69.6	9,463	40.4	11,174
North Dakota.....	8.9	2,570	6.2	1,163	9.6	1,305	6.7	708
Ohio.....	82.6	24,421	83.3	43,581	94.9	13,995	59.4	12,745
Oklahoma.....	25.5	5,522	23.6	7,455	28.9	6,548	14.5	4,799
Oregon.....	21.7	5,971	20.1	8,531	23.6	3,036	15.1	4,359
Pennsylvania.....	115.3	36,382	100.5	38,296	124.0	17,870	79.9	18,828
Rhode Island.....	16.0	4,933	13.0	4,064	16.6	3,195	11.4	2,445
South Carolina.....	38.5	14,391	30.1	10,212	40.2	3,628	21.8	2,848
South Dakota.....	7.0	2,269	5.0	1,344	6.6	584	2.1	475
Tennessee.....	43.3	17,771	33.5	12,200	43.8	5,838	22.4	6,595
Texas.....	168.8	70,885	140.5	49,179	172.8	26,969	95.8	21,813
Utah.....	7.2	3,624	5.9	2,996	7.6	899	3.7	1,078
Vermont.....	6.0	1,912	6.5	3,256	6.7	1,006	4.2	786
Virginia.....	67.1	34,041	55.2	26,328	66.7	9,762	38.6	7,804
Washington.....	56.4	28,394	47.4	19,846	59.1	7,992	35.5	6,225
West Virginia.....	8.6	1,551	7.3	3,218	9.1	884	4.9	1,197
Wisconsin.....	33.9	13,526	31.5	15,860	35.2	4,151	24.1	5,265
Wyoming.....	5.5	2,761	5.5	1,642	5.5	716	4.2	652
Other areas ¹	5.6	3,892	5.8	1,628	7.1	1,275	2.7	625

¹ U.S. citizens domiciled abroad. Persons who acquired U.S. citizenship solely by the 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.

The Relationship Between Realized Income and Wealth

A Report From A Selected Sample of Estates Containing Farms or Businesses

by C. Eugene Steuerle, Ph.D

Income from wealth can be realized or unrealized for both tax and accounting purposes. Generally, realized income is in the form of direct cash flow from the underlying assets, while unrealized income is in the form of appreciation in the value of the assets. This division is not pure. The selling of an asset, for instance, causes a cash flow from previously unrealized income.

The Federal income tax is primarily a tax on realized income. The base for calculating the tax is essentially the cash receipts of the taxpayer less certain outlays for business costs. Imputations of changing asset value are normally not used, except in the case of depreciation of qualified assets.

In filing their income tax returns, taxpayers provide direct information on the amount of their income realization. These data are used for a wide variety of studies, ranging from national income accounting to analyses of behavioral reactions to tax disincentives. Whatever their limitations, income tax returns are widely believed to be one of the best sources of microdata on realized property income, partly because they do not suffer from the amount of underreporting present in survey data.

Unfortunately, previous comparisons of households on the basis of realized income suffered from the drawback that there was no information on the wealth which was the source of property income. One draws very different conclusions about a household which realizes \$10,000 in property income if the associated value of its property is \$100,000 than if it is \$1,000,000. Because unrealized income is not reported or even calculated by most households, knowledge of the wealth of households, when combined with other information on economic rates of return on assets, would also give a means of determining whether much economic income goes unrealized for tax purposes.

On a separate track, however, work has proceeded on the use of estate tax returns as a source of wealth data [1]. These data are highly valued because of the requirement of complete assessment of property value at death and because there have been serious problems of nonresponse and underreporting when other attempts have been made to gather data on the wealth of households.

The availability of a small national sample of estate tax returns matched with the previous year's income tax returns made possible a unique opportunity to examine the relationship between realized income from capital and the underlying value of the assets

that produced that income. This data set is especially rich in information on reported rates of return on closely held assets, as the sample consists of farmers and businessmen with substantial amounts of such assets at time of death. For purposes of this article, the ratio of realized income to value of wealth shall be referred to as the realized rate of return or simply the rate of return. The realized rate of return differs from the actual economic rate of return by the amount of unrealized income or other income on capital not reported on the tax return.

For this sample the size of the realized rate of return on all wealth is found to be around 2 percent, much less than would be recognized if that wealth were invested in the lowest paying savings account. Even when wage income is added to capital income (because of the difficulty of separating the two components), the amount of realized income is still less than 4 percent of the total value of assets.

Because economic theory holds that each investor equalizes after-tax rates of return on assets of equal risk, it is difficult to believe that these low realized rates of return actually reflect equally low economic rates of return. Indeed, if account is made for the illiquidity and riskiness [2] of many of the assets held by members of the sample, one would expect that the average economic return of these individuals would be in excess of the rate of return received by individuals holding less risky assets such as savings accounts and, therefore, considerably in excess of the rates of return realized for tax purposes. In a related paper [3], it was reported that the net income from capital reported on individual tax returns is less than one-third of the net income from capital (excluding inflationary returns) in the economy. The evidence presented here is consistent with the earlier finding that much income from capital is not reported or required to be reported on individual income tax returns.

This study also finds that the realized rate of return varies according to certain economic circumstances of the taxpayer. The realized rate of return on all assets generally declines as the value of assets increases. Even after accounting for portfolio differences, regression analysis reveals that there is still a significant rate of decline. In terms of portfolio differences themselves, the greater the percentage of assets which are closely held, the lower the realized rate of return on all assets. Additionally, farmers and owners of real estate businesses tend to realize lower rates of return on their total portfolio than other businessmen.

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This low ratio of realized income to economic income has a number of implications for both policy and research. For expenditure and tax policy, these results imply that realized income is not a very reliable measure of well-being, at least for persons with substantial ownership of capital. If need is based on economic income, then an expenditure program may be inadequately targeted if grants vary only with realized income. A similar limitation applies to the individual income tax system, where realized income is used as the measure of ability-to-pay.

Moreover, the efficiency of investment in the economy may be seriously distorted when the tax rate (or the potential for not realizing income) varies by asset type. Tax considerations lead individuals to invest more in assets for which smaller portions of total economic income are realized as income subject to tax. Resulting portfolio adjustments lead to a sectoral misallocation of investment.

The low ratio of realized income to asset value has implications for a number of related areas of research. Realized income is often used to measure the degree of inequality in society and counts of those in poverty [4]. This study provides further evidence of the extent to which such data, if not adjusted to account for unrealized income or wealth, must be interpreted with a good deal of caution.

Finally, realized income is sometimes used by researchers as a means to estimate wealth of households. Under the investment-income approach to wealth estimation, the wealth of an individual in a particular asset is estimated by dividing the realized income (data sources generally contain information only on realized income) from that asset by the expected rate of return on that asset.[5]. This article presents one of the few independent estimates of such rates of return, and perhaps the only independent estimate for those who wish to apply wealth/income multipliers to income tax return data.

SOURCE OF DATA

This study uses a sample of 117 estate tax returns matched with the income tax returns of decedents for the calendar year before the year of death. The estate tax returns were filed during 1973 (for deaths generally in 1972 or 1973), while the income tax returns usually covered calendar 1971 or calendar 1972 income. Each estate in the sample had a gross estate of \$60,000 or more, contained a large percentage of assets in the form of closely held business or farm, and its executor applied for deferred payment of estate tax. To be more precise, this study uses a random sample of returns which applied under IRS Code Section 6166 for an extension of time for payment of estate tax. Under this provision, the value of the interest in the closely held business must exceed 65 percent of the adjusted gross estate.

Although this study presents heretofore ungathered information on the important relationship between income and wealth for owners of closely held assets, ideally the sample would have included all estate tax returns, not just those with closely held assets. Nonetheless, it is hoped that this study will prove to be an important first step in estate-income analysis and a useful catalyst for comments on alternative approaches to using such data. Although the hypothesis cannot be tested here, we might also expect that much of the portfolio behavior of this sample is similar to that of wealthholders with similar amounts of wealth, especially with regard to behavioral responses to tax incentives.

The match of the estate tax with the previous year's income tax allowed a direct comparison of the income from capital with the value of the capital that produced that income. Since the year of death differed by one or two years from the year in which the income was recorded, the comparison was not exact. The value of an asset may have differed slightly from year to year, and the taxpayer may have engaged in purchases and sales of assets after the receipt of the income, but before death. In order to file for an extension of payment of estate tax, however, most of the assets for members of this sample had to be held in closely held businesses at time of death, and sales of portions of closely held businesses are often difficult. Moreover, to the extent that consumption was likely to be financed out of sales of assets, any bias in the estimates of realized rates of return would be upward. However, if wealthholders tend not to consume out of their wealth [6], then the bias due to inexact match of year of income and year of valuation of assets is slightly downward, and the wealth measure should be discounted about one year.

Any bias due to the inexact match of year of death and year of income is still likely to be small. However, there are two tax accounting reasons why there is almost certain to be a net upward bias in the realized rate of return measures. First, valuations of farms and businesses for estate tax purposes are typically low. While estimates of value must be reasonable, there clearly is a tax incentive for executors and heirs to provide the lowest among reasonable estimates. Second, the measure of asset value includes only the assets of the deceased, while the income measure may include both the deceased's former income and that of a spouse.

Practically all of the data items were taken directly from the estate and income tax returns. Further information on items of data is contained at the end of this article.

REALIZED RATES OF RETURNS

Average rates of return for various asset types and various gross estate classes are presented in Table 1. (Estate classes are split so as to provide equal sample sizes in each class.) For closely held business assets of all members of this sample, income was only 1.15 percent of the value of the assets (3.56 percent is the average of the individual rates of return, if no weighting of individuals by amount of assets is made). Even this estimate may be high, as data limitations required attribution to the closely held business of all business and farm income reported on related tax schedules [7].

The rate of return for corporate stock is the dividend rate. To the extent that capital gains are earned and realized on such stock, the estimate of the realized rate of return from ownership of corporate stock does not reflect the total return. It is not possible in this study to separate out capital gains on corporate stock from other capital gains nor to know the year in which those capital gains were accrued. Dividends on nonclosely held stock equaled 2.32 percent of assets. This figure can be contrasted to a Standard and Poors dividend rate on 500 stocks of 2.84 percent for 1972 and 3.14 percent for 1971.

While all asset types exhibit realized rates of return which are low, the rate of return for stock of closely held corporations is the lowest of all. Closer examination of the data indicates that, of 49 persons owning stock in closely held corporations at

time of death, only 16 reported any dividends at all. Of these 16 persons, 5 had dividend rates of less than 1 percent, and 12 had rates of less than 3 percent. In effect, closely held corporations, at least in this sample, are not prone to pay out dividends. This result should not surprise us, for corporations (other than subchapter S corporations) are subject to corporate tax. Wages and dividends are both taxable to the individual recipient, but only wages are deductible against corporate tax.

When all nonwage income [8] is treated as capital income, the income for all members of the sample is only 1.88 percent of their assets. Capital income includes income from all nonwage sources, including savings accounts and capital gains, while the asset measure includes value of homes and durables. In practice, it is impossible to separate capital income from wage income for owners of business and farms. These owners may receive capital income in the form of wages or labor income in the form of profits. By adding income designated as "wages" to capital income, then, we can derive an upper bound for the income earned on all assets. Total income is still only 3.66 percent of the value of assets.

No matter what the measure of realized rate of return or the gross estate class, the rate is quite low--less than the lowest paying savings account. Moreover, as noted in the previous section, this method of estimation probably results in an overstatement of the rate actually declared. When wages are added to income from capital, the resulting measure of the realized rate of return from capital is biased upward even more.

REGRESSION RESULTS

From Table 1, it appears that the realized rate of return decreases as gross estate size increases and that the rate of return is lower for closely held businesses than for other assets. For tax reasons, of course, we should not find such results surprising. Larger gross estate sizes are generally indicative of higher marginal tax rates. Taxpayers with higher marginal tax rates shift toward assets for which exclusions of income from tax are possible. Moreover, assets cannot be costlessly exchanged once they have appreciated in value (that is, investors become "locked into" their assets because of the capital gains taxes); therefore, past as well as current marginal tax rates may have induced the particular portfolios observed at any one point in time. Indeed, current wealth may be more representative than current income of the marginal rates which influenced the existing portfolio.

While tax effects clearly induce the distribution of assets among different income and wealth groups, the data are insufficient to determine whether these low realized rates of return imply low economic rates of return as well [9]. Economic theory does hold that after-tax rates of return on assets of equal risk are equilibrated across assets and that differentials in tax rates will become reflected in different before-tax rates of return on the assets. [10] However, this study finds that lower realized rates of return are generally associated with assets considered to have higher risk. Thus, the tax effects may indeed have lowered the economic rate of return on risky, but tax-preferred, assets relative to other assets; however, the economic rate is still likely to be higher for these risky assets than for many less risky investments such as interest-bearing financial instruments. Empirical evidence generally has borne out the finding of higher economic rates of return to

assets with higher risk [11, 12]. There is no reason to suspect that such findings are not also applicable to this sample.

There are two related reasons to believe that lower realized rates of return do not imply lower economic rates of return for persons with large amounts of wealth. First, the very presence of large amounts of wealth means that top wealthholders are likely to have been persons who were successful, rather than unsuccessful, in their investment. Second, top wealthholders are also likely to be persons who accumulated rather than consumed much of their income. In this case, a lower realized rate of return may simply indicate that persons with higher rates of savings do not need to realize as much income to finance their consumption.

One means of testing this last hypothesis is to see if increases in wealth significantly affect realized rates of return even after accounting for differences in portfolio allocation. Such a finding would lend support to the notion that larger wealthholders are more likely to take advantage of the option not to realize income even when they receive equal before-tax rates of return on particular types of assets.

In this section we use regression analysis to find out whether the relationship between realized rate of return and wealth is statistically significant and, further, whether realized rates of return vary by type of asset held, e.g., by type of closely held business: farm, real estate, or other business. Accordingly, regressions were run using rates of return from closely held business or farm (noncorporate), corporate stock, and all assets as dependent variables. In the case of all assets, wage income is both excluded and included in the measure of income and, hence, rate of return from those assets. Recall that for owners of closely held business, it is often difficult to separate wage from capital income.

Table 2 presents the results of these regressions. For each dependent variable, one equation was run using only one independent variable--the value of the assets from which the related income is derived. For instance, if the rate of return from corporate stock is the dependent variable, the independent variable is the value of all corporate stock in the estate. In remaining equations, other possible explanatory variables are added: the value of all other assets, income other than the income from the particular assets being examined, dummy variables for closely held business comprised entirely of farm assets or of real estate assets, and variables which reflect the percentage of assets in closely held or corporate form.

The first equation of each series is meant primarily to be descriptive of the data. We check to see whether rates of return for closely held assets and all assets decline as the amount of ownership of those assets increase. As suggested by the summary data reported in the previous section, these do indeed decline and the relationship tends to be significant for all except corporate stock, although for closely held business (noncorporate), the relationship is significant only at the .10 level. Although not reported in Table 2, similar regressions using value of all assets (rather than assets from which the income was derived) as the only independent variable show similar results--a decline in realized rate of return for all except corporate stock as the value of assets increases.

The rate of return for closely held businesses or farms is found to be sensitive primarily to the value of other assets (see equation 1b). For a \$1 million increase in value of assets other than closely held businesses, the rate of return on closely held business goes up by 11.0 percentage points. For a \$1 million increase in closely held business assets, the realized rate of return on those assets goes down by 1.8 percentage points, but the relationship is no longer significant. A possible explanation of this result is as follows: as noted before, owners of closely held business have a great deal of discretion as to when to realize income, and, like other wealthholders, they tend to realize lower rates of return as their wealth increases. However, persons who show greater amounts of other assets include both those who are diversifying in order to obtain better or less risky returns elsewhere and those who find it necessary to realize more income in order to obtain more liquidity, perhaps to cover consumption needs. In summary, for owners of closely held business, the presence of larger amounts of other assets indicates a greater current tendency to realize income from the closely held assets themselves.

Other variables add little to the explanation of the realized rate of return on closely held business. Other income [13]--in part a proxy for marginal tax rates applying when the first dollar of income is received from the business--is insignificant, as are dummy variables for farm and real estate. As noted above, however, past marginal tax rates may be more appropriate than current marginal tax rates when examining those parts of portfolios which are especially locked in due to past investment decisions.

Turning to corporate stock, we find that only the "percentage of stock held closely" tends to explain much of the difference among individuals in rates of return (equation 2b). Given the tax incentive for owners of closely held corporations to pay wages in lieu of dividends, we expected the dividend rate on closely held stock to be lower than the dividend rate on other corporate stock. This is indeed what we found.

A number of theories assert that taxpayers with higher-than-average marginal tax rates will tend to hold corporate stock with lower-than-average dividend rates [14]. However, we found no significant negative correlation between the dividend/price ratio and income (or wealth) in this sample.

In equation (3b), we test whether the rate of return on all assets, capital income only, is related to several variables: value of assets, amount of other income, type of closely held business--farm, real estate, or other business, and percentage of assets in 1) noncorporate, closely held form, 2) stock of closely held corporations, and 3) stock of nonclosely held corporations. Only "other income" and "percentage of assets in noncorporate, closely held form" are significant at the .10 level [15].

The percentage of assets in noncorporate, closely held form is significant not only in equation (3b), but in all equations in which it is introduced as a variable. However, equation (2b) is the only equation in Table 2 in which "other income" is significant, although only at the .10 level. Economic theory suggests that as other income goes up and marginal tax rates rise, taxpayers would tend to control their portfolios so as to minimize the extent to which the economic return from assets is realized for tax purposes. The insignificance of "other income" in equation (1b), as contrasted to (3b), would indicate

that total portfolio rates of return are likely to be controlled through adjustments in asset holdings other than holdings of closely held business. A simpler explanation is that the measure of capital income, or the distinction between wage and capital income, is especially poor for closely held business assets.

Equation (4d) is similar to equation (3b), except that wage income is included in the income from the assets and there is no "other income" since all income is included in the rate of return variable. In equation (4d), a decline in realized rate of return is indicated as asset value increases. Since this equation allows for various portfolio adjustments, the significance of the asset value variable lends support to the hypothesis that top wealthholders lower their realized rates of return not only through portfolio adjustments, but also by simply realizing less of their income for tax purposes.

In terms of portfolio variables, equation (4d) also indicates a significant decline in rate of return as the proportion of the estate in noncorporate, closely held business increases. Even after adjusting for the proportion of assets held closely, owners of real estate have a much lower rate of return relative to owners of other business. Contrasting this equation to equation (3b)--in which the ownership of real estate is not significantly related to the rate of return on capital--would indicate that owners of real estate businesses pay themselves a lower wage rate (relative to value of capital) than owners of other businesses, while realizing about the same rate of capital income. Again, this does not imply a lower economic rate of return to owners of real estate, since owners of land and buildings may have substantial unrecognized income through appreciation in the value of assets.

Equations (4b) and (4c) are presented primarily to show the effect of variables reflecting farm or real estate (as opposed to other business) ownership separately from the effect of portfolio allocations into noncorporate, closely held assets and corporate assets (both closely and nonclosely held). Note that farm owners tend to realize less than owners of other business in equation (4b), but that this difference seems to be explained in equation (4d) by the allocation of the portfolio among closely held and nonclosely held assets, i.e., farmers realize lower rates of return on their total portfolio by holding a greater percentage of their assets in the closely held form.

SUMMARY

The realized rate of return on all assets for owners of closely held businesses and farms is quite low. The rate tends to decline both as wealth increases and as the percentage of wealth in noncorporate, closely held form increases. Dividend rates for closely held corporate stock are lower than rates for other corporate stock and often are zero. Counting both wages and other income, the realized rates of return for owners of real estate business are lower than those of other businesses. Farmers also tend to realize lower rates on their total assets than other business owners, but the difference tends to be reflected in a greater percentage of assets held in closely held form.

Although this source of data provides new and important information on the relationship between income and wealth, it does not allow determination of whether the decline in realized rates of return as wealth increases implies a similar decline in economic

rates of return. Three factors, however, argue against such a result. First, the assets held by top wealthholders tend to be more risky; other sources of data have tended to confirm higher rates of return for riskier assets. Second, persons who accumulate wealth are likely to have achieved such accumulation through successful investment in assets with relatively high rates of return. Finally, even after adjusting for portfolio changes, rates of realization were still found to decline significantly as wealth increased. My conclusion is that tax effects do cause portfolio shifts and do lower the economic rate of return on risky, but tax-preferred, assets relative to other assets. However, this economic rate of return is still likely to be higher for the risky assets held by top wealthholders than for other assets. Moreover, there remains a realization effect: that is, for many tax pre-preferred assets, the rate of realization of income is somewhat discretionary in nature, and it declines as wealth increases.

These low realized rates of return call into serious question the use of realized income from capital as part of any measure of well-being or ability-to-pay. For owners of capital, economic income may have little relationship to realized income, and rates of realization may vary according to the assets they hold. Tax and expenditure programs based upon realized income can produce inequitable results and may lead individuals to allocate their investments inefficiently.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF DATA

Each income tax return contained items of income such as wages, interest, dividends, farm income, rental income, partnership income, and business income. Each estate tax return identified value of gross estate, real estate, corporate stock, farm and non-corporate business assets, and value of closely held business. This last item was required of taxpayers to determine eligibility to file for the extension of time to pay the estate tax. By turning to worksheets and schedules attached to the returns, it was possible to differentiate wages from closely held business, dividends from closely held stock, and value of corporate stock in closely held business. In addition, the value of own home was separated from value of all other real estate. In most cases, the value of own home could be found in the documents attached to the estate tax return. However, in some cases--particularly where there was a farm--the presence of a home was indicated but the value of the house was not separated from the reported value of the farm or real estate. To impute a value of own home in these cases, two regression analyses were run. In the first regression, the sample consisted of all farms or ranches where value of own home was known. In the second regression, the sample consisted of all nonfarm estates where the value of own home was regressed against size of gross estate. These regressions were then used to impute the value of own home to those estates where a home was likely to be present, but where a value was not reported. The value of real estate in closely held business and the total value of closely held business assets were then adjusted by the value of own home.

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- [8] Income equals adjusted gross income as reported on tax returns. Except for a few items of exclusion, generally small in nature, adjusted gross income equals gross income.
- [9] The economic rate of return discussed here is before individual taxes, but after corporate taxes. The before-corporate tax economic rate of return on noncorporate assets is generally believed to be lower than the rate obtainable on corporate investment.
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Table 1. — Realized Rates of Return¹
(percent)

Type of asset	Gross estate class			
	\$60,000-\$362,000	\$362,000-\$840,000	\$840,000 or more	All classes
Closely held.....	2.22	1.78	0.47	1.15
Business (non-corporate).....	(2.45)	(3.78)	(4.69)	(3.56)
Corporate stock - total.....	0.81	2.18	1.24	1.30
a. Closely held.....	(2.03)	(4.09)	(1.94)	(2.66)
0.21	0.21	2.26	0.93	0.96
(0.22)	(0.22)	(3.00)	(0.85)	(1.08)
b. Non-closely held.....	4.14	2.10	2.27	2.32
(5.22)	(5.22)	(3.87)	(2.95)	(3.79)
All assets--capital income only.....	3.24	3.33	1.29	1.88
(3.38)	(3.38)	(3.39)	(1.82)	(2.86)
All assets--capital + wage income.....	6.57	4.67	2.99	3.66
(6.33)	(6.33)	(4.73)	(3.89)	(4.98)

¹/Top numbers: Weighted average rates of return (or $\frac{n}{x}$ income / $\frac{n}{x}$ value of assets).
 Bottom numbers, in parentheses: Unweighted average rates of return (or $\frac{n}{x}$ (income/assets) / n).
 Size of sample (by row, respectively): 1. (28,35,21,84)
 2. (19,25,33,77)
 2a. (13,9,27,49)
 2b. (13,23,24,60)
 4. (39,39,39,117)

Table 2. — Regressions for Realized Rates of Return¹

Regression number	(1a)	(1b)	(2a)	(2b)	(3a)	(3b)	(4a)	(4b)	(4c)	(4d)
Dependent variables	Rate of return on closely held business (non-corporate)		Rate of return on corporate stock		Rate of return on all assets--capital income		Rate of return on all assets--capital + wage income			
Independent variables										
Constant.....	5.40**	2.47	3.27**	5.19**	3.67**	5.93**	6.06**	7.25**	12.71**	9.89**
	(1.52)	(2.79)	(.94)	(1.67)	(.56)	(1.72)	(.75)	(.72)	(2.76)	(1.95)
Value of underlying assets (in millions of dollars).....	-3.95*	-1.80	-1.01	-.23	-.88**	.02	-1.18**	-.63*	-2.05**	-.76**
	(2.15)	(2.63)	(.86)	(1.11)	(.41)	(.35)	(.55)	(.38)	(.52)	(.38)
Value of other assets (in millions of dollars)...		11.03**		-.40						
		(3.01)		(1.63)						
Other income (in millions of dollars)...		-38.72		5.51		-33.79*				
		(64.00)		(21.32)		(17.07)				
Farm.....		.29				.78		(2.86**		-1.06
		(2.95)				(.97)		(.87)		(1.10)
Real estate.....		-4.01				-1.06		-3.57**		-2.68**
		(3.43)				(1.00)		(1.02)		(1.10)
Percentage of corporate stock held closely.....				-4.61**						
				(2.18)						
Percentage of assets in non-corporate, closely held form.....						-3.73*			-9.79**	-5.39**
						(2.01)			(3.21)	(2.32)
Percentage of assets in stock of closely held corporations.....						-3.45			-2.93	-3.34
						(2.36)			(3.86)	(2.71)
Percentage of assets in stock of non-closely held corporations.....						-3.15			-3.43	.84
						(3.23)			(5.30)	(3.73)
Size of sample.....	84	71	77	77	117	100	117	100	117	100
R ²	.040	.398	.018	.081	.039	.137	.039	.159	.253	.238

¹/ Standard errors are shown in parentheses.
 * Significant at the .01 level.
 ** Significant at the .05 level.

WEALTH, REALIZED INCOME, AND THE MEASURE OF WELL-BEING

by C. Eugene Steuerle, Ph.D

4.1 Introduction

All modern societies attempt to measure well-being of their people for both policy and research purposes. Government must explicitly define well-being for purposes of designing tax and welfare policies, while researchers must explicitly choose classifications by which to compare data and perform statistical analyses.

Measures of well-being involve a contrast of means with needs. This chapter falls within that set of studies that deal with the measurement of means (Steuerle and McClung 1977; Smeeding 1982; David and Smeeding 1985). Changing the measure of means does not necessarily imply that households are better or worse off, nor that the government should collect less or spend more for any particular type of program. Given any standard of needs, however, it will be possible to assert that the distribution of means, and therefore of well-being, changes significantly as the measurement of means is changed.

Attention will be directed toward the measure of well-being used most widely today—realized income—and its relationship to wealth and economic income. Using a unique national sample of income tax returns matched with estate tax returns, this chapter will compare the realized property income of individuals with the associated amount of wealth that generates that income.

The purpose of this study is twofold. First, with respect to wealth holders, realized income (with emphasis on the word realized) is demonstrated to be an extremely poor measure of well-being. As a consequence, substantial inequity is introduced into tax and welfare programs. If the goal of these programs is to measure real economic

income, that purpose may be better served by first obtaining measures of property or wealth than realized income. Second, in reporting the initial findings of the first national estate-income collation, this chapter shows the promise of this approach to research on the relationship between wealth and income. Whatever the problems, and they are not few, this estate-income collation may provide the best national data ever assembled for studying the wealth-income relationship for persons with significant amounts of wealth.

4.1.1 Source of Data

This study uses a collation of estate tax returns, income tax returns of decedents in years before death, and income tax returns of heirs in years both prior to and following the death of the persons granting the bequests. The estate tax returns were filed in 1977 (for deaths generally in 1976 or 1977), while income tax returns were collected for years 1974 through 1980. Each estate in the sample had a gross estate of

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\$60,000 or more (\$120,000 or more for decedents dying in 1977). The collation sample was a one-in-ten sub-sample of the sample of over 41,000 estate tax returns used for purposes of the Statistics of Income-Estate Tax Returns (U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service 1979) and for related wealth studies (Schwartz 1983).

While the collation sample began with 4,143 estate tax returns, in many cases there was an absence of accurate reporting of bequests made, and many income tax returns could not be found or were not filed for both decedents and heirs. For purposes of this study, therefore, two subsamples were used: decedents with income tax returns in the year prior to death (sample size, 2,924); and nonspousal heirs for whom a bequest of \$50,000 or more could be determined, while income tax returns were filed in a year prior to and a year following receipt of inheritance (sample size, 1,451).

The match of a decedent's estate tax return with the previous year's income tax return allowed a direct comparison of the realized or reported income from capital with the value of capital that produced that income. Similarly, the match of a bequest amount with income tax returns of an heir in years both prior to and after receiving the inheritance allowed comparison of the change in realized or reported income with a change in wealth.

Both types of comparisons suffer from the inexact match of income with wealth. Under ideal conditions, one would want to compare income on an instantaneous flow basis with the stock of wealth at a given point in time. The estate-income collation falls short of that ideal in two respects. First, only annual flows of income are reported. Second, accounting for wealth takes place in a period different from that in which income is measured. Because partial-year returns are often filed on behalf of decedents in year of death, obtaining an annual measure of income requires the use of an income tax return in a year prior to death. In measuring change in income for heirs, on the other hand, it was necessary to allow a sufficient time

to elapse so that income from inheritances would be reflected in the income tax returns rather than returns of estates. For both decedents and heirs, therefore, the comparison of income with wealth is inexact to the extent that any wealth transfer (not reported on estate tax returns), consumption out of wealth, or wealth accumulation out of income took place between the points in time at which measurements were made. Those problems are believed to be minor for the vast majority of returns, although important in a small number of cases.

For tax accounting reasons, a net upward bias exists in the measure of realized rates of return. Valuations for estate tax purposes are typically low for reported assets, especially businesses, farms, houses, and other illiquid or infrequently traded assets. Estimates must be reasonable, but there is a strong incentive to provide the lowest among available estimates. In addition, much wealth from life insurance and pensions does not pass through estates, so estimates of value of estates and inheritances are understated. Observations are also excluded from each subsample when income tax returns of decedents or heirs could not be found; in some of these cases, the decedent or heir did not file a return because of low amounts of realized income.¹

Finally, the collation file has not yet been merged to obtain estate tax weights; therefore, the reported data are unweighted. Fortunately, estate tax filers were sampled according to size of gross estate. Weighted results in each wealth or similar class therefore would differ little from unweighted results, and most issues of within- or between-class differences can be addressed either way.

While these problems mean that the data must be interpreted with caution, the estate-income match still offers the possibility of vast improvements in our understanding of the wealth-income relationship for persons with significant wealth holdings. An analogy might be provided by the improvement in our understanding of the wealth distribution first obtained through the efforts of Lampman (1962) and Smith and Franklin (1974). Both then and

now, the advantage of using administrative data stems in part from the considerable underreporting of wealth and income from property in survey data, even surveys dedicated to the measurement of such items. The evidence is fairly conclusive: even though there is some bias to underreport for tax purposes, population estimates of income from property or of wealth are much higher when using tax return data than survey data. As will be seen, the variation in realized rates of return is so great across taxpayers that our qualitative conclusions with respect to horizontal equity would hold even in the presence of significant bias and limitations of data.

4.2 Why Realized Income is Used as a Measure of Well-Being

The most common measure of well-being used for both statistical and policy purposes is realized income. Realized income is used to define income tax burdens, eligibility for various tax expenditures such as deductions for cost of health care and property tax relief, amount of assistance in various welfare programs, and distributions of income by class in many, if not most, census and survey analyses. The reason for this dominance is partly the result of historical circumstances. Originally, both in England and America, ability to pay was measured by property ownership (Musgrave 1959). In modern times, however, income has come to dominate other measures such as property as the prime measure of ability to pay and eligibility to receive. A major explanation for this shift is the increasing importance of wage income to most households' well-being. When labor income for most households was thought to equal only subsistence income, was derived in the form of self-employment income, or was paid in the form of in-kind benefits such as crop sharing, it was largely treated as both nontaxable and nonmeasurable.

With the development of the modern firm and the rise of the middle class, the problems of nontaxability and nonmeasurability dwindled enormously. Wage income now was large, varied markedly from one individual to the next, and could no

longer be treated merely as subsistence income. In addition, there was a significant improvement in the availability and accuracy of measures of income because wage payments were entered in two different sets of accounts: those of employers and employees. Increasingly, therefore, the measure of ability to pay or eligibility to receive has come to be defined as wage-plus-property income. This measure of means is often compared to a measure of needs such as a subsistence level of income, with income taxes being imposed principally above that level, and income-conditioned grants or subsidies targeted mainly below that level.

Property is still used today to measure well-being for certain purposes, and debates do take place over such issues as assets tests in welfare programs and methods of valuation for wealth subject to property tax and estate tax. Income has become the dominant measure of well-being for most tax and welfare purposes, nonetheless, and property-related issues have declined in relative importance. Moreover, since wage income is a major source of total income, the accuracy of the measure of wage income has tended to make income itself appear to be accurately reported or measured, at least in aggregate terms.

In recent years, there also has been increasing emphasis on providing incentives for investment and savings, perhaps even replacing an income tax with a consumption tax. This new emphasis has had an impact upon attempts to reflect more accurately property income or other current measures of wealth in on an income or consumption basis, is viewed by some as an insignificant issue. Although theoretically one can argue that improvement in the measure of property or property income need have no impact on marginal tax rates paid on returns to capital, it is sometimes feared that improvements in the measure of property income will not result simply in a more uniform treatment of such income, but also in an increase in the taxes paid on returns to capital. As one example, the accelerated cost recovery system (ACRS) was designed with little concern over the actual rates of depreciation of assets. The word

depreciation was deliberately omitted in 1981 tax changes in favor of the term *cost recovery* to make clear that the accurate measure of income was no longer a policy goal. We will return in section 4.5 to the question of whether it is possible to move closer to the goal of horizontal equity regardless of the choice between consumption and income taxes.

4.2.1 The Realization Base

In one sense the switch to income as a measure of well-being was as much a result of, as a cause of, prevalent accounting practices. Accounting practices were also extremely influential in determining that the measure of income to be used for most policy, as well as statistical purposes, would be based primarily upon realizations. Accounting for income, with a number of exceptions, has been associated with the realized payment and receipt of cash. The exceptions apply primarily at the business level, where accrual accounting is applied to such items as inventories and accounts receivable, and investment in plant, equipment, and buildings is treated differently from other expenses.² At the household level, however, measures of income for tax, welfare, and other purposes have tended to be recognized only when they show up in the form of cash. (This cash flow logic by the way, also helps explain the reluctance to count payments of in-kind benefits in the measure of income.)

It is well known that measuring income only when it shows up as household cash flow falls short in several respects of a Haig-Simons definition of economic income. The measure ignores implicit flows of services from housing and durables, accruals (less realizations) of gains and losses on assets, and often accruals of rights and services provided through insurance and pension plans. In addition, in an inflationary environment, a cash-flow-based measure tends to reflect nominal returns from assets, not real returns. Real payments and receipts of interest, for instance, are overstated by the inflationary component of the interest rate. Traditional measures of income of households are distorted, therefore, by nonrealiza-

tions of service flows, gains on assets, and accruals of benefits in certain institutional accounts, as well as by the failure to make proper adjustments for inflation.

In 1979 the income from over 80 percent of assets was found to benefit from one tax preference or another. Most of these preferences were a direct result of the tendency to recognize property income only when it showed up in the form of cash flow. As a result, only about 30 percent of the net real returns from capital were found to be reported on individual tax returns (Steuerle 1983c). These findings help support the view that at the individual level, the recognition of income from capital is in many ways a voluntary event for both tax and other purposes.

The voluntariness of the tax is actually a function of consumption needs (relative to income), risk, and knowledge. Put another way, the individual tax (and loss of benefits or implicit tax in welfare systems) on capital income is in part a tax on liquidity, risk reduction and diversification, simplicity, and ignorance. More than half of all interest and dividend receipts reported on individual tax returns are reported by taxpayers aged sixty-five and over. The elderly realize a greater percentage of their income than other wealth holders, although as a group they do not appear to draw down their wealth (Menchik and David 1983). Persons recognizing income from property are often in need of current receipts or liquid assets to cover consumption needs in the near future. For the person anticipating that savings may be needed soon, risk can also be reduced substantially by increasing the percentage of interest-bearing assets and by reducing the percentage of other assets in the portfolio. Those who realize capital gains or interest income also have greater opportunity for diversification relative to those who hold onto unrealized gains.

For many taxpayers, however, the tax is hardly paid after elaborate calculations of some optimally designed portfolio that achieves the maximum-expected after-tax rate of return. For these taxpayers, and to some extent for all taxpayers, the

tax is merely a tax on simplicity and ignorance.

It is not hard to find examples. Many persons fail to achieve tax savings obtainable by switching to assets of equal yield and equal risk, but with greater tax preference. Employer contributions to pensions can substitute for employee contributions; annuities with withdrawal rights can replace savings accounts; direct shareownership can replace ownership of mutual funds that recognize capital gains frequently, and so forth. Ownership can also be transferred among family members, a practice used less frequently than possible both by taxpayers and certain welfare (principally elderly Medicaid) recipients. The persons paying the additional direct or implicit taxes may find their time too valuable to search out alternative mechanisms for achieving tax savings and government benefits; they may find it distasteful to play socially unproductive games; or they may simply be ignorant of the laws.³

The voluntary nature of capital income realization does not imply that the total tax paid on returns from capital is too high or too low, nor that total welfare payments should be larger or smaller. Such issues are not addressed here and, to be treated properly, would require consideration of measures of needs, as well as the ways in which the various tax and welfare systems combine or stack on top of each other. What the voluntary nature of capital income recognition will imply, however, is that the taxes paid and benefits received will vary tremendously among persons in fairly identical circumstances, and that income classifiers in statistical analyses will be inaccurate for many purposes.

4.3 A Comparison of realized Income and Wealth

Aggregate data on income recognition lends support to the notion that substantial horizontal inequity is created when tax and welfare systems base the measure of well-being in part on recognized property income. To reinforce this view, we now turn to microdata on households.

Our first comparison of wealth and income is

between wealth in estates of decedents and their reported income in the year prior to death. Table 4.1 summarizes the sources of income and wealth for this sample. As is immediately apparent, by far the most important sources of recognized capital income are dividends and interest. Realized rates of return on farms and business assets are especially low, especially when it is noted that reported farm and business income represents returns to labor as well as capital.⁴

Table 4.2 narrows our focus to a comparison of gross capital income subject to tax (GCIST) and wealth. The realized rate of return declines significantly as wealth increases, reaching a low of 2.2 percent for decedents with assets of 2.5 million or more. What is equally interesting is the large variation in realized rates of return in every wealth class. At least 5 percent of each wealth class reported zero or negative returns from capital, while at least 23 percent of each class report rates of return between 0 and 3 percent.

Rates of return of 10 percent or more are reported by 30 percent of the lowest-wealth class, with the proportion dropping to 4 percent of those with assets of \$2.5 million or more. A separate analysis (not shown in the tables) was made on persons reporting unusually high rates of return. Capital gains were only a minor factor in explaining these rates; dividend and interest income, on the other hand, were implausibly high relative to total assets. Problems of accounting period differences or estate tax valuation are probably most significant for this group. That is, either many of these persons underreport wealth, or they transfer or consume wealth between accounting periods.

In table 4.3 we turn to a sample of beneficiaries other than surviving spouses, and compare the change in reported capital income between 1975 and 1978 to the amount of inheritance received in 1976 or 1977. Table 4.3 does not show any strong relationship between amount of inheritance and realized rate of return, but it does show striking differences within inheritance classes. In each class (except one class with a sample size of three), between 17 percent and 32 percent of all

Table 4.1 All Decedents: Average Income and Wealth by Source

Income by Source	Average Amount of Item	Item as a Percentage of	
		Net Income Subject to Tax	Net Worth
Salaries and wages	\$8,496	25.51	1.63
Dividends	10,425	31.30	2.00
Interest	6,951	20.87	1.33
Business (nonfarm)	1,460	4.38	0.28
Farm	-122	-0.37	-0.02
Partnership	644	1.93	0.12
Small business corporations	44	0.13	0.01
Capital gain distributions	11	0.03	-
Net capital gain	2,725	8.18	0.52
Supplemental gain	22	0.07	-
Pensions and annuities	1,220	3.66	0.23
Rents	1,751	5.26	0.34
Royalties	771	2.32	0.15
Estate and trusts	879	2.64	0.17
Alimony	34	0.10	0.01
Other	-744	-2.23	-0.14
Gross income subject to tax	34,339	103.10	6.59
Less: Interest deductions	1032	3.10	0.20
Net income subject to tax	33,308	100.00	6.39
Plus: State income tax returns	51	0.15	0.01
Less: Exemptions	2,196	6.59	0.42
Other deductions	9,224	27.69	1.77
Adjustments	227	0.68	0.04
Taxable income	22,970	68.96	4.41

Wealth by Source	Average Amount of Item	Item as a Percentage of Total Wealth
Corporate stock	\$228,813	40.7
Real estate	125,337	22.3
Cash, bonds, notes and mortgages	153,925	27.4
Noncorporate business assets	15,371	2.7
Other assets	39,185	7.0
Total wealth (total estate)	562,632	100.0
Less: Debts	41,208	7.3
Net worth (economic estate)	521,424	92.7

NOTE: Measures of income are from decedent's individual income tax return filed for year prior to death. Measures of wealth are from decedent's estate tax return.

Table 4.2 All Decedents: Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Wealth (amounts in thousands of dollars)

Size of Wealth	Total Number	Average Wealth	Average Gross Capital Income	Gross Capital Income as a Percentage of Wealth	Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Wealth		
					Zero or Negative		
					Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income
Under \$100,000	519	72	9	12.4	41	3,269	-43
\$100,000 under \$250,000	980	164	10	6.1	66	10,460	-140
\$250,000 under \$500,000	445	344	20	5.9	22	7,597	-139
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	668	675	34	5.1	39	25,608	-775
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	255	1,458	70	4.8	18	25,638	-144
\$2,500,000 or more	57	8,272	183	2.2	9	48,197	-578
All decedents	2,924	563	26	4.5	195	120,770	-2,116

Size of Wealth	Under 3 Percent			3 Percent under 5 Percent		
	Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income	Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income
Under \$100,000	120	9,620	140	99	7,930	315
\$100,000 under \$250,000	263	42,429	547	235	39,291	1,541
\$250,000 under \$500,000	102	35,261	532	109	37,055	1,487
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	168	114,206	1,273	204	139,757	5,692
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	75	110,868	1,656	93	134,038	5,337
\$2,500,000 or more	23	314,916	1,211	14	71,788	2,591
All decedents	751	627,302	5,361	754	429,860	16,964

Size of Wealth	5 Percent under 7 Percent			7 Percent under 10 Percent		
	Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income	Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income
Under \$100,000	57	4,340	260	48	3,850	331
\$100,000 under \$250,000	161	27,583	1,623	98	15,943	1,360
\$250,000 under \$500,000	92	31,282	1,808	54	18,931	1,576
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	119	78,818	4,628	70	47,243	3,852
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	29	41,848	2,436	22	32,441	2,618
\$2,500,000 or more	7	24,838	1,462	2	6,128	507
All decedents	465	208,707	12,216	294	124,534	10,244

Size of Wealth	10 Percent under 15 Percent			15 Percent or More		
	Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income	Number	Wealth	Gross Capital Income
Under \$100,000	42	2,968	358	112	5,192	3,237
\$100,000 under \$250,000	81	13,338	1,579	76	11,969	3,232
\$250,000 under \$500,000	40	14,490	1,716	26	8,398	1,916
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	39	25,314	3,059	29	19,720	4,627
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	11	17,137	1,925	7	9,790	3,999
\$2,500,000 or more	-	-	-	2	5,645	1,751
All decedents	213	73,247	8,636	252	60,716	18,761

Table 4.3 Change in Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Inheritance Received (Amounts in dollars)

Size of Inheritance	Number of Beneficiaries	Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax		Change in Income 1975-78	Inheritance Received	Income Change as a percentage of Inheritance
		1975	1978			
Under \$100,000	751	7,427,011	10,161,407	2,734,396	52,935,141	5.17
\$100,000 under \$250,000	521	7,693,609	11,823,199	4,129,590	80,309,871	5.14
\$250,000 under \$500,000	134	1,615,962	5,603,513	3,987,551	45,671,922	8.73
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	42	1,506,610	2,874,181	1,367,571	28,563,514	4.79
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	3	318,062	823,375	505,313	3,603,179	14.02
\$2,500,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1451	18,561,254	31,285,675	12,724,421	211,083,627	6.03

Size of Inheritance	Zero or Negative			Under 5 Percent		
	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received
Under \$100,000	242	(2,854,798)	16,997,682	148	294,188	10,248,779
\$100,000 under \$250,000	157	(2,079,446)	23,213,559	122	573,490	19,487,771
\$250,000 under \$500,000	31	(371,890)	10,784,633	44	434,550	14,924,315
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	7	(43,158)	5,002,242	21	363,306	14,293,016
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$2,500,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	437	(5,349,292)	55,998,116	335	1,665,534	58,953,881

Size of Inheritance	5 Percent under 10 Percent			10 Percent under 15 Percent		
	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received
Under \$100,000	139	759,489	10,184,132	75	659,587	5,436,714
\$100,000 under \$250,000	110	1,314,997	17,805,773	56	1,050,233	8,529,982
\$250,000 under \$500,000	34	801,092	11,374,375	10	378,947	3,435,351
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	8	364,623	5,392,852	3	211,936	1,879,189
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	2	152,494	2,465,985	-	-	-
\$2,500,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	293	3,392,695	47,223,117	144	2,300,703	19,281,236

Size of Inheritance	15 Percent under 20 Percent			20 Percent under 30 Percent		
	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received
Under \$100,000	34	405,801	2,355,276	43	755,138	3,085,816
\$100,000 under \$250,000	34	908,818	5,262,143	18	630,784	2,618,485
\$250,000 under \$500,000	6	317,876	1,821,144	3	223,257	1,022,271
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	-	-	-	3	314,545	1,468,956
\$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$2,500,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	74	1,632,495	9,438,563	67	1,923,724	8,195,528

Table 4.3 (continued)

Change in Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Inheritance (continued)			
30 Percent or More			
Size of Inheritance	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance Received
Under \$100,000	70	2,714,991	4,626,742
\$100,000 under \$250,000	24	1,730,714	3,392,158
\$250,000 under \$500,000	6	2,203,719	2,309,833
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000 } \$1,000,000 under \$2,500,000 }	2	509,138	1,654,453
\$2,500,000 or more	—	—	—
Total	102	7,158,562	11,983,186

NOTE: Table includes beneficiaries other than surviving spouses.

Table 4.4 Average Net Capital Income Subject to Tax, 1975 and 1978

Item	All Individual Income Tax Returns		Beneficiaries Other Than Surviving Spouses	
	1975	1978	1975	1978
Dividends	266	336	3,807	7,344
Interest	528	682	2,427	4,810
Business	679	829	2,627	3,767
Capital and other gains	185	273	1,748	2,493
Rents and royalties	63	64	1,566	1,587
Estates and trusts	31	34	617	1,560
Gross capital income subject to tax	1,752	2,218	12,792	21,561
Less: Interest deductions	473	676	1,675	2,357
Net capital income subject to tax	1,279	1,542	11,117	19,205

SOURCES: For all returns, Statistics of Income, Individual Income Tax Returns for 1975 and 1978. For beneficiaries, all identifiable beneficiaries (included in the subject study) who received benefits of \$50,000 or more and who filed income tax returns for both 1975 and 1978.

Table 4.5 Change in Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Inheritance Received by Size of Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax (amounts in dollars)

Size of Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax in 1975	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income 1975-78	Inheritance Received	Income Change as a Percentage of Inheritance	Change in Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Inheritance		
					Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance
Zero or negative	200	3,564,235	25,426,276	14.02	79	-316,980	8,468,557
\$1 under \$2,500	473	2,716,533	56,089,179	4.84	132	-271,430	15,089,443
\$2,500 under \$5,000	157	1,393,149	21,812,321	6.39	32	-138,315	4,426,021
\$5,000 under \$7,500	99	1,470,276	16,256,501	9.04	17	-136,400	1,883,314
\$7,500 under \$10,000	72	593,570	9,403,363	6.31	17	-74,386	1,776,119
\$10,000 under \$15,000	100	955,851	14,614,693	6.54	26	-279,450	3,622,226
\$15,000 under \$20,000	71	687,683	12,707,604	5.41	18	-246,667	3,157,892
\$20,000 under \$30,000	88	606,954	16,417,317	3.70	33	-610,026	5,549,910
\$30,000 under \$50,000	78	74,003	12,597,643	0.59	35	-752,210	4,469,510
\$50,000 under \$100,000	76	740,300	14,293,421	5.18	30	-108,660	3,856,196
\$100,000 or more	37	-78,133	11,465,309	-0.68	18	-155,958	3,968,928
Total	1,451	12,724,421	211,083,627	6.03	437	-5,349,292	56,268,116

Change in Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Inheritance (continued)

Size of Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax in 1975	Under 5 Percent			5 Percent under 10 Percent		
	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance
Zero or negative	33	208,051	6,138,233	24	226,315	3,204,985
\$1 under \$2,500	150	537,712	19,387,097	113	939,439	13,784,498
\$2,500 under \$5,000	48	217,505	7,286,223	41	395,684	5,383,093
\$5,000 under \$7,500	27	150,513	5,308,098	30	432,486	6,122,792
\$7,500 under \$10,000	17	81,559	2,987,902	13	140,136	1,181,693
\$10,000 under \$15,000	19	116,850	4,030,581	21	215,045	2,975,436
\$15,000 under \$20,000	13	119,522	3,880,828	15	247,900	3,342,123
\$20,000 under \$30,000	13	127,667	4,995,503	11	139,487	1,676,855
\$30,000 under \$50,000	9	40,151	2,309,102	13	267,703	3,577,919
\$50,000 under \$100,000	3	24,356	826,337	12	388,500	5,273,723
\$100,000 or more	3	41,637	1,803,977	-	-	-
Total	335	1,665,523	58,953,881	293	3,392,695	46,523,117

Change in Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax as a Percentage of Inheritance (continued)

Size of Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax in 1975	10 Percent under 15 Percent			15 Percent under 20 Percent		
	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance
Zero or negative	19	204,710	1,687,495	17	379,479	5,173,664
\$1 under \$2,500	37	481,917	3,993,123	14	264,787	1,537,155
\$2,500 under \$5,000	18	351,585	3,107,855	4	96,429	581,104
\$5,000 under \$7,500	11	143,625	1,196,516	6	101,321	569,838
\$7,500 under \$10,000	11	226,457	1,757,583	8	100,420	579,802
\$10,000 under \$15,000	12	157,298	1,378,723	5	113,922	641,633
\$15,000 under \$20,000	7	82,745	726,400	5	107,443	571,237
\$20,000 under \$30,000	12	247,563	2,036,655	5	147,587	899,864
\$30,000 under \$50,000	5	82,683	689,505	5	122,043	736,769
\$50,000 under \$100,000	7	184,108	1,541,160	5	199,064	1,147,497
\$100,000 or more	5	138,012	1,166,221	-	-	-
Total	144	2,300,703	19,281,236	74	1,632,495	12,438,563

Table 4.5 (continued)

Size of Gross Capital Income Subject to Tax in 1975	20 Percent under 30 Percent			20 Percent or More		
	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance	Number of Beneficiaries	Change in Income	Inheritance
Zero or negative	10	218,827	933,155	18	2,643,833	2,820,187
\$1 under \$2,500	14	295,789	1,250,384	13	468,319	1,047,479
\$2,500 under \$5,000	5	122,746	478,890	9	347,515	729,135
\$5,000 under \$7,500	2	45,482	186,458	6	610,489	989,485
\$7,500 under \$10,000	4	76,600	308,113	2	42,784	112,151
\$10,000 under \$15,000	8	277,136	1,235,791	9	355,050	730,303
\$15,000 under \$20,000	4	83,809	304,938	9	292,920	724,186
\$20,000 under \$30,000	7	195,190	836,729	7	359,486	511,801
\$30,000 under \$50,000	3	80,009	293,482	8	233,624	521,356
\$50,000 under \$100,000	7	213,591	898,632	14	907,080	1,654,220
\$100,000 or more	2	314,545	1,478,956	7	897,462	2,142,873
Total	66	1,923,724	8,205,528	102	7,158,562	11,983,176

NOTE: Table includes beneficiaries other than surviving spouses.

inheritors actually show a negative or zero change in gross capital income subject to tax. On the other hand, about 12 percent of those with inheritances under \$250,000 and 7 percent of those with inheritances over \$250,000 show a change in capital income that was equal to 20 percent or more of the recorded change in wealth.

Since reported capital income would normally increase over time regardless of inheritances, the number of inheritors reporting low or negative amounts of change becomes even more striking. Between 1975 and 1978, the average individual income tax return showed an increase of about 27 percent (from \$1,752 to \$2,218) in reported capital income, as contrasted with a 69 percent increase (from \$12,792 to \$21,562) for our sample (see table 4.4). If the change in interest rates, dividends rates, and growth in wealth in the economy were to have approximately equal effect on realized returns for both groups, capital income of inheritors also would have grown by 27 percent in absence of the inheritances. Thirty-nine percent (27 percent/69 percent) of the increase in reported capital income would then be attributable to factors other than the inheritances themselves.

Although table 4.3 shows little difference in realized rates of return across inheritors by size of

inheritance, table 4.5 provides some explanation. The ratio of the change in income to change in wealth is shown to decline significantly with an increase in the amount of capital income reported prior to the receipt of the inheritance. That is, beneficiaries with substantial amounts of realized income from wealth prior to the receipt of their inheritances were much quicker to convert their inheritances into assets for which the rate of income recognition would be low. Three consistent explanations can be offered for such behavior: (1) those with more capital income in 1975 faced higher marginal tax rates and therefore had more of an incentive to convert or hold their inheritances in the form of preferred assets; (2) those with greater amounts of capital income were more likely to be savers and accumulators and, in any case, would be less likely to need the income from their inheritances for near-term consumption purposes; (3) many of those owning substantial amounts of capital would already be engaged in tax-induced portfolio shifting and have access to investment advice, whereas inheritors without previous wealth accumulation more likely would react only with a significant time lag to the tax incentives to hold preferred assets.

Since the realized rate of return declines with an increase in 1975 capital income, it should not

surprise us that the percentage of returns showing a negative or zero change in capital income would actually rise with an increase in 1975 capital income. In fact, if one calculates returns reporting negative or zero changes in income as a percentage of total returns with similar amounts of 1975 capital income, a type of U-shaped curve emerges. At the bottom, 40 percent of those reporting zero or negative 1975 capital income show even more negative capital income by 1978 after receiving inheritances of \$50,000 or more.

In the middle, those with \$5,000 to \$7,500 in 1975 capital income have the smallest percentage of returns, 17 percent, showing a negative change after receiving their inheritance. At the top, 49 percent of those with \$100,000 or more of 1975 capital income show less (or the same) capital income in 1978. This finding is consistent with the observation that there are many wealthy taxpayers who report low or negative amounts of capital income because of substantial investment in tax-preferred assets or tax shelters of various sorts. They probably invest their inheritances in a similar manner. Those with significant amounts of reported capital income, on the other hand, include the wealthiest of taxpayers; they are also quite capable of limiting their increase in taxable income through sophisticated portfolio shifting. Those in the middle, however, often fall into neither category and include many whose experience of owning financial assets is confined principally to holding deposits in financial institutions. While this last group of individuals may also be likely to invest in owner-occupied housing -one of the best shelters of all- housing purchases are likely to take place only in discrete intervals and occur infrequently within a year or two after receiving an inheritance.

In summary, at least for persons receiving significant inheritances (\$50,000 or more) and for persons who eventually leave sizeable estates (\$60,000 or more), the measure of realized income from capital is likely to have only a small relationship to their economic rate of return from assets or any other accepted measure of well-being based on property income or property. Differences among households in realized rates of

return are quite large in all wealth classes.

4.4 Horizontal Equity: Some Theoretical Considerations

We have argued that the recognition of income from capital is partly a voluntary event and, therefore, that the realized return from capital will vary across persons of equal circumstance, whether measured by equal economic income, equal wealth, or similar classifier of well-being. Our data showed such large variations in realized rates of return across taxpayers that using realized property income as a basis for measuring equals in statistical analyses, as well as tax and welfare programs, must be called into serious question. One cannot address this topic, however, without turning to some of the theoretical arguments against the existence of horizontal inequity. "With multiple abilities or different tastes," as Feldstein notes, "any feasible tax on income or consumption will violate horizontal equity" (1976b, p. 129). Abstracting from the general case, however, it is then argued that if persons differ only in their endowment of a single type of ability, but have the same tastes, there will be no horizontal inequity. In the extreme case, of course, this argument would be hard to refute if it were assumed that equals were so alike in every respect -abilities, tastes, and outcomes- that there was no difference among them, including taxes paid and transfers received.

The first qualification to the argument must therefore come when persons with equal abilities and equal tastes are at least allowed to have different outcomes because of luck, uncertainty, and risk. Persons with equal abilities and tastes, for instance, might still purchase different assets with equal expected returns and equal risk. Once we introduce some degree of randomness to the returns from engaging in various forms of (investment) behavior, ex post results will start to deviate from ex ante expectations.

If tax and welfare systems, as well as statistical analyses, were to be designed on the basis of ex ante conditions, there would be much less need

for many of them. In simplest terms, if all persons start out with equal opportunities in life, and several flips of the coin determine eventual well-being, a horizontally equitable tax or welfare system designed on an ex ante basis would tax everyone equally and grant everyone an equal amount of transfers. In that sense, except for required governmental goods and services such as defence, much of the tax-transfer system would be redundant and unnecessary. If, however, taxes, transfers, and statistical analyses are directed at ex post results, then they cannot ignore the issues of luck, risk, and uncertainty, nor can they treat those who have gambled and won the same as those who have gambled and lost.

Part of the argument against horizontal inequity also relies on what will be labeled here the market compensation effect. Even if persons purchase assets with different degrees of preference in tax or welfare systems, under certain assumptions (sometimes implicit), they will receive the same after tax rewards from those purchases. The market compensates purchasers of nonpreferred assets by equilibrating after-tax rates of return across assets, while differentials in tax rates are then reflected in different before-tax rates of return on assets.⁵

A second qualification must therefore be made if the assumptions of the model do not hold in practice. Suppose that taxpayers are taxed under a progressive tax system or one in which there are substantial numbers of investors (such as tax-exempt institutions or foreign investors). Then it is not at all clear that after-tax rates of returns will equilibrate across assets with different degrees of tax preference. Any movement up in the price of an asset A or asset B to equalize after-tax rates of return for a given group of taxpayers will give an incentive for arbitrage between A and B by tax-exempt investors (or investors in other tax brackets). For instance, foreign investors may turn to future markets, short sales, and other financial mechanisms to arbitrage between the assets whenever before-tax rates of return begin to diverge. Theory alone cannot determine whether this financial arbitrage dominates the tax-induced

tendency for before-tax rates of return to differ according to the preferences given various assets, and one must resort in part to studies of institutions and empirical data to try to find an answer.⁶

What the data show rather conclusively is that preferred assets generally have higher economic rates of return than nonpreferred assets (e.g., for corporate stock, see Ibbotson and Sinquefeld 1982; for farms see U.S. Department of Agriculture 1981).⁷ In contradiction to the simple market compensation argument, interest-bearing assets usually have offered the lowest economic rate of return, yet at the same time are accompanied (for each investor) by the highest tax rate because of the inclusion of the entire inflationary component of the interest rate in income subject to tax. Even if the reasons for this result are partly institutional -statutory limitations of interest rates or the habitual tendency of many lenders and borrowers to require a higher before-tax rate of return on business investment than on loans financing that investment- the designer of a tax or welfare program or the statistical observer cannot assume away such differences.

Our own data also support the notion that those with lower realized rates of return have generally achieved higher economic rates of return. The very presence of large amounts of wealth means that the top wealth holders are likely to have been persons who were successful, rather than unsuccessful, in their investment. Yet at the same time, these are the same individuals holding the assets with the greatest amount of tax preference at the household level.

A further complication is added, however, once it is recognized that the assets with the greatest amount of tax preference are often the most risky, at least over a short period of time. One might argue that the compensation to holders of nonpreferred assets is hidden by this risk adjustment. Indeed, once account is made for risk, it is hard to deny that some compensation may have taken place through the lowering of economic rates of return on risky, but tax-preferred, assets relative to the rates paid on other assets; however, there

is no evidence, either theoretical or empirical, that this compensation is complete. Partly because of financial arbitrage and partly because of institutional factors, for instance, it would be quite difficult to provide full compensation to holders of interest-bearing assets if interest rates had to rise above the rate of return on other financial assets such as stock.

In deciding whether compensation for taxes paid takes place through equalization of after-tax rates of return, the obvious voluntary nature of the tax system also must be taken into account. It is simply not possible to argue that two persons owning the same stock receive a different economic rate of return or face a different risk because one recognizes capital gains and the other does not, nor that a person who finds a way to deposit and withdraw money from an annuity account faces a different risk or return than a person who engages in the same behavior at a bank. The greater the voluntariness of the tax, the less there can be any compensation through market adjustments to those who pay a higher rate of tax on the same income.

In summary, horizontal inequity is unimportant in a world in which tastes are so similar among equals that they purchase exactly the same assets and one is concerned with *ex ante* rather than *ex post* distributions of welfare. By the same token, all tax and welfare systems can be shown to have some degree of horizontal inequity under real-world assumptions of several abilities or different tastes. Between these two worlds lies the world of the designer of a tax or welfare system and the statistical analyst, both of whom must classify individuals in categories of equals primarily on the basis of means relative to needs, but not tastes. This designer or analyst must take into account luck, risk and uncertainty, *ex post* results, the inability of financial markets to fully compensate holders of non-tax-preferred assets, and differences in taxes or benefits among individuals holding essentially the same assets, but having different patterns of recognition of income from those assets.

4.5 Implications for Research and Policy

There are several research and policy implications to the poor relationship between the realized rate of return and the economic income, wealth, or similar measure of well-being of the household. The first of the research implications is in many ways the most obvious, but in other ways the most difficult to handle. A statistical analysis of household characteristics, government payments, or taxes can be very misleading when it uses realized income as a variable or classifier. The researcher may be aware of the misleading nature of the data, but in few cases will his readers have a similar level of understanding. The problem is difficult because the correlation often can be made only by imputation of other information. Because imputation is statistically imprecise, it often reduces bias only by adding errors of measurement to a file.

Studies such as the estate-income match help us to make the imputations that are necessary. Because we can obtain fairly good information on the relationship between realized income and wealth, we can enhance our ability to take files with only reported income from property and make imputations of wealth onto those files through the investment income approach to wealth estimation (Atkinson and Harrison 1978, p. 171). Imputations of economic income will be more difficult, but, once wealth is estimated, independent studies of returns to ownership of stock, land, housing, and other assets can also be used.

Information on the ratio of realized income to asset value can also help to correct measures of the degree of inequality in society or the count of those in poverty (e.g., U.S. Bureau of the Census 1981). From the type of data reported here, one can get an idea of the number of persons with substantial wealth who report low amounts of realized income from capital. This data must be supplemented at the bottom end of the distribution. Here survey data have a better chance of filling the void, both because wage income will tend to dominate property income no matter what the error and because there are usually fewer

types of assets held and, except for homes and pensions, lesser amounts of unrealized income for which to account.

Proper measurement of property and property income is crucial for policy purposes as well. Welfare programs using realized income as a measure of means would probably be better off abandoning altogether the measure of realized income (except as a compliance check of actual property ownership) and turning instead to a measure of ability based upon wage income and property. For instance, an estimate of expected economic income from net worth, a fraction of net worth, or the annuity value of net worth could be added to wage income. Any of these measures would appear to be a more accurate, and less horizontally inequitable, measure of means than wage income plus realized income from property. Such a shift would redistribute welfare benefits more toward the longer-term poor and those with lesser amounts of wealth (Steuerle and McClung 1977). This approach also would have the advantage of no longer separating homes from other assets, and it could eliminate the need for separate asset tests with arbitrary cutoff or notch points. In addition, it would solve the problem of treating interest income as real income no matter what the rate of inflation, thus requiring welfare recipients to spend down their wealth at different rates in different years. These corrections need not add nor subtract to total welfare payments, but can be done in a way to make more equal the distribution of such payments across households of equal means relative to needs.

As for the tax system, better measurement of property or property income is certainly necessary if the base of the tax is meant to be economic income. Better measurement would require some substantial changes in tax laws, including accurate measurement of economic depreciation, indexing or approximate indexing of different types of returns from capital, and movement toward an accrual rather than a realization base. By the same token, corporate, individual, and property taxes would need to be better integrated. One tax could be meant as a substitute for another tax, but

an integrated design would need to eliminate conditions whereby some persons paid double taxes, while others with equal incomes paid no tax at all. Some of these steps would tend to raise taxes and some would lower them, but that should not be allowed to detract from the fact that it is possible to move toward greater horizontal equity in the income tax without necessarily raising or lowering the taxes on income from capital.

If our capability of taxing uniformly income from wealth continues to prove so poor, it raises the distinct possibility that a solution to the problem may come from the measurement of property value rather than of realized income. Such a solution is readily feasible when considering corporate wealth in publicly traded stock. Even the normal property tax on real estate, despite the variation in effective rates because of poor administration, may prove to provide less horizontal inequity with respect to property owners than does the income tax.⁸ Its potential to provide more horizontal equity than a realized property income base is even greater. Better integration of property taxes with realized income taxes again may provide a back-door way of moving toward more uniform treatment of income from all assets.

If horizontal equity is the goal, better measurement of property and property income is required regardless of whether society moves further in the direction of a consumption tax or maintains an income tax. Horizontal equity requires at a minimum that, if two persons have equal incomes and equal savings, they should pay the same amount of taxes regardless of whether the ideal tax base is income or consumption.

The current policy approach of using realized income, adjusted by various piecemeal savings and investment incentives, unequivocally fails the standard of horizontal equity. Although the focus of this chapter has been on equity issues, the efficiency costs of existing failures to provide uniform treatment of different sources of capital income may be quite substantial and are caused by the same measurement problems that create

horizontal inequity (Steuerle 1983b; Galper and Steuerle 1983).

Obviously, if no societal consensus exists on whether to move toward an income or a consumption standard, the steps that can be agreed upon will be less. All of the following, however, at least move in the direction of meeting the common standard of imposing the same tax on those who have both equal incomes and equal savings: uniform measurement and taxation of real economic income from property, regardless of source;⁹ unification of savings and investment incentives to measure total savings and investment; and uniform reciprocal treatment of interest paid and received, or borrowing (dissavings) and savings.

In summary, both for research and policy purposes, reliance upon realized income from capital as part of a measure of well-being has led to misleading analyses and poorly designed programs. The standard of horizontal equity in tax and welfare programs is violated whether the measure of equals is on the basis of economic income or consumption. Accounting for economic income may be difficult, but there are approximate methods that would allow greater accuracy in statistical analyses and a fairer distribution of benefits and taxes in government programs.

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Comment James D. Smith

All societies have both political and functional imparities to define well-being. It is inevitably a topic of political debate, but beyond the realm of campaign rhetoric. The political process is the mechanism by which measures of well-being are translated into policies for sharing the burden of

public goods, one of which is the distribution of well-being itself. The term well-being has a ring to it that endears it to those charged with ennobling entrances to public edifices, drafting political tracts, or engaging in pure theory - all endeavors where the felicity of language transcends understanding. For public policy a more analytically tractable concept is necessary. The most widely applied proxy for well-being is realized income. Steuerle suggests that the use of realized income derives from historic accident, convenience, and ideology. Whatever the reasons for the use, it is not Steuerle's chosen burden to explicate them, but rather to disabuse the reader of any notion that it is a wise use. He does this in a minor way by the didactics of public finance texts, but in a more compelling way by putting on display a new data base, indeed, a data base that is not yet quite finished. In its present state it is like the product of the consummate designer of women's fashion: in good taste, but revealing just enough to maximize speculation and interest on the part of the viewer. Steuerle speculates a great deal about what is behind his data, and I will turn to his speculations and some of my own in a moment, but first let me describe its nature.

For routine statistical processing in its Statistics of Income (SOI) program, the Internal Revenue Service drew a sample of about 41,000 Federal estate tax returns filed in 1977. These returns were for decedents who died in 1977 or before (the majority of them being for decedents in 1976 and 1977). A one-in-ten subsample, or about 4,100 estate tax returns, was selected for Steuerle from the initial IRS sample with the intent that for each of these, the income tax return of the decedent in the year preceding his death would be located as well as the income tax return of the decedent's nonspousal legatees in the year prior to and the year following inheritance. For reasons that are not obvious, but troubling, tax returns from the year preceding death were not found for over one-quarter of the decedents for whom an estate tax return had been selected. The about 2,900 decedents for whom an income tax return

could be found were used for part of the analysis presented in Steuerle's paper.

Estate tax returns require filers to list legatees along with their Social Security number and amount bequeathed them. Steuerle formed a second analysis file consisting of all nonspousal legatees who received \$50,000 or more and for whom an income tax return could be found for 1975 and 1978. Thus, he has a set of legatees for whom he knows taxable income shortly before and shortly after the receipt of a bequest of \$50,000 or more. The size of this sample is 1,451 legatees.

Thus, he has two sets of data, one relating decedent's wealth to income in the year preceding death and another relating the income in years preceding and following an inheritance to that inheritance.

I applaud the kind of administrative record matching Steuerle is doing; we need a lot more of it. In its present state the data are not representative of any meaningful population, however, and our uses of them should keep this in mind. Steuerle notes that the SOI file was stratified according to size of gross estate. He argues that because his analysis deals primarily with issues of within- and between-wealth classes that the unweighted form of his file will not be biased.

Although I agree with this proposition so far as he wishes to make statements about rich decedents and draw some inferences about income/wealth relationships, it does not follow, that one can safely make inferences about the importance of income/wealth relationships for the living population, which is the relevant one. The estate tax returns are a sample of wealthy, living persons stratified by age, sex, race, and marital status. The stratification occurs because the sample is drawn by death, and factors that influence mortality rates make it unrepresentative of the living population. For instance, his sample overrepresents older persons who have a higher probability of dying than do younger ones.

The sample can be unbiased by weighting the observations by the reciprocals of mortality rates applicable to decedent characteristics. In table C4.1, I compare the asset composition in Steuerle's sample of decedents to the asset composition of the SOI file after it was weighted to represent the living population sufficiently wealthy to file estate tax returns were they to die. The weighting reverses the relative importance of real estate and corporate stock - the two largest asset types, and ones that have quite different income realization potentials because real estate is dominated by owner-occupied structures.

Table C4.1 Comparison of Asset Composition from Weighted SOI File and Unweighted Collation File

Asset	Percentage of Total Wealth	
	Weighted SOI	Unweighted Collation
Corporate stock	23.9	40.7
Real estate	34.8	22.3
Cash, bonds, notes, and mortgages	22.5	27.4
Noncorporate business	4.5	2.7
Other assets	14.2	7.0
Total Assets	100.0	100.0
Debts	15.5	7.3
Net worth	84.5	92.7

SOURCE: Schwartz 1983.

To the extent that behavior related to age, sex, and other mortality-related variables bear upon realization rates or portfolio composition, properly weighted data would give different results. Steuerle's main point, that the variance of realization rates is so high as to render realized income an inappropriate measure of well-being is so obvious in the data that it will likely hold when the sample is weighted, but the observed dispersion of the realization rates will be compressed some. His findings also pose considerable challenge to researchers who would link income and wealth either by capitalizing income flows or by converting asset value to yield. I will return to these

research issues later. First, let me comment further on Steuerle's findings.

In table 4.1 Steuerle provides an overall view of the composition of the income of these relatively affluent individuals and of the proportion that each income type represents of total net worth. On first glance the percentages that incomes represent of total net worth seem too small. But when one remembers that these income flows are essentially for 1975, when the average yield of stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange was 4.1 percent and treasury bills were yielding about 6 percent, the aggregate taxable income of this group which represented about 4.4 percent of its net worth certainly does not seem implausible. Keep in mind that not only is this group rich, but it is made up of considerably more women and older persons than would be found in a random selection of equally rich individuals. This accounts for the relatively small share, 25.5 percent, of total income represented by wages and salaries. The interpretation of the percentage that a particular income flow, such as dividends, represents of total net worth is not obvious. But Steuerle is pushed to such comparisons because in the period between the income tax return and death one can convert assets - stock into cash for instance. For treasury bills the opportunity for conversion to cash would be automatic with the maturity of the bill.

Steuerle goes on, making the point quite strongly in table 4.2 that considerable variability exists in realized income from capital. He compares the gross capital income reported on income tax returns in the year before decedents' deaths with the value of assets reported on their estate tax returns. He notes that the average rate of realization declines with size of wealth. Decedents with under \$100,000 in gross assets had a realization rate of 12.4 percent, while those with \$2.5 million or more of wealth had a realization rate of 2.2 percent. He points out that an examination was undertaken of cases with unusually high rates of realization; it was found that dividend and interest income were implausibly high relative to total assets. He speculates that the time interval

between the reporting of income and the recording of assets may have permitted people to transfer or consume wealth. Thus the high rates of realization observed for some decedents may, in fact, be a problem of intertemporal misalignment of accounting points and periods. I agree with the general speculation, but let me pursue it a bit.

First, it is known from estate tax data that costs of last illness can be substantial. The population with which he is dealing is quite old: the mean age is seventy-two. One can easily imagine prolonged illnesses. If the cost of these illnesses is less variable across individuals than is the value of their assets, the relatively higher medical cost for the less affluent of these rich folks diminishes their assets relatively more than it does the assets of the more affluent, and the ratio of their taxable income in the year before death to the wealth reported in their estate tax return is consequently higher. Steuerle can pursue this issue by examining the cost-of-last-illness value reported on the estate tax returns. He can also, with greater effort, locate decedents' death certificates, which provide information on cause of death and duration of last illness. Both of these might serve as proxies for the consumption of medical services.

In addition to consuming medical services, it is reasonable to expect that some of this decedent population was drawing down its assets for general consumption expenditures prior to death. If this drawing down involved the liquidation of bills, notes, and bonds as they matured, interest income will show up in the income tax returns, but some portion of the face value of the instruments will have been used for consumption and will not show up in the estate tax returns. If one hypothesizes, as I do, that consumption expenditures will not be proportional to wealth for this population, then the liquidation of assets will be relatively more important for the less affluent than for the more affluent. Thus the proportion of wealth represented by capital income would appear to be larger than for the more affluent in the Steuerle file.

There is also the problem that bearer bonds may

generate an interest flow but can be "informally" distributed among the heirs, hence escaping taxation and not appearing in the estate tax return. Finally, there is the problem of the tax-paying unit represented on the estate tax return versus the tax-paying unit represented on the income tax return. It is not clear from Steuerle's discussion how income reported on a joint income tax return is related to the assets on an estate tax return, which is always filed for a sole decedent. There is not an easy solution to the problem of ascribing ownership of income on joint returns to the person owning assets on the estate tax return. Although the income tax return in 1976 requested that dividend income be designated as joint or as belonging to the husband or wife, taxpayer compliance with this request is believed to have been very poor. Furthermore, large amounts of dividend income were frequently reported as from street accounts without differentiation among different street accounts or the ownership thereof. For other types of property income no designation of ownership was required on the return. Some insight into the joint return problem could be provided by analyzing separately joint returns and all other returns. It is suspected that if Steuerle were able to make corrections for the temporal misalignment of the income-reporting period and the asset evaluation point as well as for assets that are informally distributed, the variation of rates of return across wealth-size classes would be considerably compressed. There still would remain substantial within-class variation of rates of realization, however. Steuerle notes with respect to table 4.2 that at least 5 percent of each wealth class has zero or negative realization rates. Because the denominator for the realization rate is gross assets, negative rates must come about because of negative income. This suggests that significant numbers of farm and business losses are present on the income tax returns. Since farms and business assets are more likely to be held by men than women, when the file is weighted the proportion of negative and zero rates of return can be expected to increase.

Thirty percent of the decedent population had realization rates of 10 percent or more as calculat-

ed by Steuerle. However, 20 percent of the decedent population with assets of \$100,000 or less reported realization rates of 15 percent or more. I suggest that the factors offered in explanation for the overall high average realization rate (12.4 percent) for the group are at work to generate these unusually high rates of realization.

There is another factor that can generate artificially high realization rates. Professional practices and some small business assets are frequently identified with the owner. The value of the business for estate tax purposes may come down to an evaluation of accounts receivable and physical property, but the business income reported on tax returns reflects the owner's marketability. In purely economic terms, there would be a large factor payment to labor, but on the tax return it would all appear as business income. Thus we have a confounded problem of misconceptualization of income and asset devaluation induced by death.

Next Steuerle looks at the change in capital income from 1975 to 1978 for legatees other than spouses who inherited \$50,000 or more. In the upper-right-hand portion of table 4.3 Steuerle calculates the change in gross capital income amounted to approximately 6 percent. Because these inheritors were nonspouses, it is reasonable to speculate that assets such as residential housing, consumer durables, works of art, and other non-yield-producing forms were less important in these inheritances than they would have been in the inheritances of spouses. Given this and the fact that one might reasonable expect some increment in legatees' asset holdings to have occurred quite independent of any inheritance, a change in gross capital income that amounted to 6 percent of the inheritance does not seem unreasonable at all. Steuerle notes there is relatively little difference in the realization rate by size of inheritance. This is also plausible for the same reasons. When one looks at the percentage that change in gross capital income represents of the value of inheritance within inheritance-size classes, however, one finds a substantial variability. For instance, nearly one-third of those inheriting

between \$50,000 and \$100,000 have negative changes in gross capital income between 1975 and 1978. It is difficult, however, to tease much understanding out of the table because so many unobservable things are going on. For instance, we know little about the age of the inheritors and to what extent they might be selling off assets. We do not know the value of the assets they held prior to inheritance. For inheritors with substantial preinheritance wealth, small fluctuations in the rate of return of their prior wealth could swamp percentage changes in income due to inherited wealth. For inheritors who are farm and business proprietors, normal year-to-year variability in income could be substantially greater than any variability induced by the newly inherited assets. If the inheritance was itself a farm or business asset, then the variability in the asset yield on the inheritance itself could be quite large. In this particular instance the data has revealed too little to us to excite much speculation.

Finally, in table 4.5 Steuerle looks at changes in gross capital income over the period 1975 to 1978 by size of 1975 gross capital income. This is somewhat of a proxy for preinheritance wealth, but the whole thrust of Steuerle's argument on realization rates qualifies this use of it. Yet when he does this he finds that individuals with zero or negative capital income in 1975 were much more likely to have zero or negative changes in their capital income from 1975 to 1978 as were individuals with relatively high 1975 capital income. He speculates that persons with zero or negative capital income in 1975 and those with high capital income in 1975 are, in fact, similar individuals, the implication being that those with zero or negative capital income really were holding substantial amounts of assets but were effectively using tax shelters, as were very wealthy persons in 1975. It was, he argues, the petty rich, those with capital incomes between \$2,500 and \$20,000, who had high realization rates and consequently were taxed on their lack of tax sophistication. He speculates that legatees with large 1975 capital incomes were sensitive to high marginal tax rates and had strong incentives to convert their inheritances into preferred asset forms since they were

likely to be savers and had already accumulated large amounts of wealth. Their propensity to consume out of their inheritances would be low. He also speculates that the owners of substantial capital would have a higher probability of having already engaged in tax-induced portfolio shifting and have access to investment advice. Legatees without previous wealth accumulations would have a tendency to engage in tax minimization efforts only after a time lapse. Again, Steuerle's speculations are plausible and the evidence is suggestive, but the reader is left with a terrible sense of urgency to examine the files in detail to understand what is really going on behind the tabulated results.

Conclusions and Research Implications

Steuerle, without a doubt, demonstrates that realized income is an inappropriate measure of well-being. To the extent that it is used as a basis for allocating tax burdens and transfers, it introduces substantial horizontal and vertical inequities. Although the collation file will provide substantial insight into the equity issues posed by the use of realized income, even after it is weighted and much more is understood about the file, we will have done only the necessary preliminary work to exploit the rich body of data he has assembled. Although I encourage Steuerle to continue examining the relationship between income tax returns and assets on estate tax returns, I suggest that once he has completed this task that he consider a slightly different strategy.

Given the information he has available from the collation file plus some additional information he could obtain or may already have, I would argue for reconstructing a balance sheet for each individual decedent as it existed at some point within the year of the income tax return in the collation file. This would not necessarily be an easy task. It will require using information income tax returns filed by the decedent prior to his death and by executors of the estate for periods during which the decedent was alive but did not file. It might also require searching for gift tax returns. The central issue is that of entering into the balance sheet the

value of assets that disappeared because they were consumed or transferred between the income tax observation and the estate tax observation in the collation file. Schedule C will be of some value in their endeavor as will information on medical costs that appear in the estate tax return as well as in the income tax return. Once one has such a file, not only can one make judgements about equity distortion introduced by the utilization of realized income but one can move a consider

able distance the derivation of economic income for relatively affluent individuals. Such a file could be the basis for simulating a variety of tax policies.

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Endnotes

1. It was not possible to distinguish between cases in which an income tax return was not filed and cases in which the return could not be found because of an invalid Social Security number.
2. Even at the business level, major items of income such as accrued capital gains and nominal interest payments and receipts are measured essentially by a cash flow criterion.
3. One can model ignorance as a cost of acquiring information. If we assume that the cost of acquiring information rises with one's ignorance of the tax and welfare laws, however, then the tax and welfare systems still impose taxes that rise with ignorance. These taxes can be paid directly to the government or indirectly to advisors.
4. For a separate analysis of the returns to owners of farms and closely held businesses, see Steuerle 1983a.
5. For an excellent model of the extent to which such market compensation might take place in a progressive tax system, as well as the implicit taxes paid and transfers received under certain conditions, see Galper and Toder 1984. For other portfolio effects, see Bailey 1974 and Blume, Crockett, and Friend 1974.
6. A related issue is the effect of taxes on interest rates, especially in a period of inflation. Because inflation raises the effective tax rate on real income from interest-bearing assets, and because income from these assets is more vulnerable than other assets to this inflation-induced tax, one might initially expect the interest rate to rise by a multiple of the increase in the inflation rate. In almost all attempts to explain the effect of inflation and taxes on observed interest rates (e.g., Darby 1975; Tanzi 1980; Peek 1982), however, it is assumed incorrectly that the tax system is proportional or, through use of average marginal tax rates, effectively proportional for all investors, both domestic and foreign. This assumption prevents the type of financial arbitrage discussed above from working to reduce the increase in the interest rate. In addition, the failure to take into account the extent to which interest is deducted at a higher tax rate than it is included in income, as well as the extent to which receipts are never counted at all (Steuerle 1984), leads to a misestimation of average marginal rate.
7. An exception, of course, is provided by tax-exempt bonds, but even wealthy individuals generally hold only a small percentage of their assets in tax-exempt bonds. See Schwartz 1983,
8. See Aaron 1975 for an argument that the property tax may also be progressive.
9. Strictly speaking, if one were to move all the way to a consumption tax, economic income would not have to be measured. However, a consumption tax would require wealth accounting, or, to be more precise, at least a measure of withdrawals and deposits in qualified (wealth) accounts. In addition, during a transition period, wealth accounting of existing assets would be required to insure that trillions of dollars worth of consumption were not allowed to go tax free for current holders of wealth.

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