Figure 3: World Wealth Map 2018



Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberas and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2018

Wealth per adult across countries

The global figure of USD 63,100 for wealth per adult masks considerable variation across countries and regions, as is evident in Figure 3. Nations with wealth per adult above USD 100,000 are located in North America, Western Europe, and among the rich Asia-Pacific and Middle Eastern countries. Switzerland (USD 530,240), Australia (USD 411,060) and the United States (USD 403,970) again head the league table according to wealth per adult, followed by Belgium (313,050), Norway (291,100), and New Zealand (USD 289,800). Canada (288,260), Denmark (286,710), Singapore (283,260) and France (280,580) occupy the remaining places in the top ten.

The ranking by median wealth per adult favors countries with lower levels of wealth inequality and produces a slightly different table. This year, Australia (USD 191,450) edged ahead of Switzerland (USD 183,340) into first place according to our estimates. The median wealth placements of Belgium (USD 163,430), Canada (USD 106,340), New Zealand (98,610), the United Kingdom (97,170) and Singapore (USD 91,660) are similar to their mean wealth ranking, but lower inequality moves France (USD 106,830) up five places to fifth position, the Netherlands (USD 114,930) up eight places

to fourth position, and Japan (USD 103,860) up ten places to seventh position. In contrast, high wealth inequality pushes Norway down seven places, and Denmark down 11 places, while median wealth of just USD 61,670 relegates the United States to 18th place, alongside Austria and Korea.

The "intermediate wealth" group in Figure 3 covers countries with mean wealth in the range of USD 25,000-100,000. The core member these days is China. But the group also includes many recent entrants to the European Union (EU), together with important emerging-market economies in Latin America and the Middle East. One step below, the "frontier wealth" range from USD 5,000-25,000 per adult covers the largest land surface and most of the heavily populated countries including India, Russia, Brazil, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Turkey. The band also contains most of Latin America, many countries bordering the Mediterranean, and many transition nations outside the EU. The remaining members of this category include South Africa and other leading sub-Saharan nations, along with several fast-developing Asian countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. This leaves the final group of countries with wealth below USD 5,000, which are heavily concentrated in central Africa and central and south Asia.