

# The World of Billionaires:

## Insights and Trends

**By Hanhee Yang**

In an endeavor to understand the underpinnings of vast wealth, I embarked on an exploratory analysis of billionaires' traits, aiming to uncover the patterns and characteristics shared among the world's richest. As thus, my initial question as an aspiring wealthy person was as follows:

**What are the most common characteristics of billionaires?**

## Dataset Overview

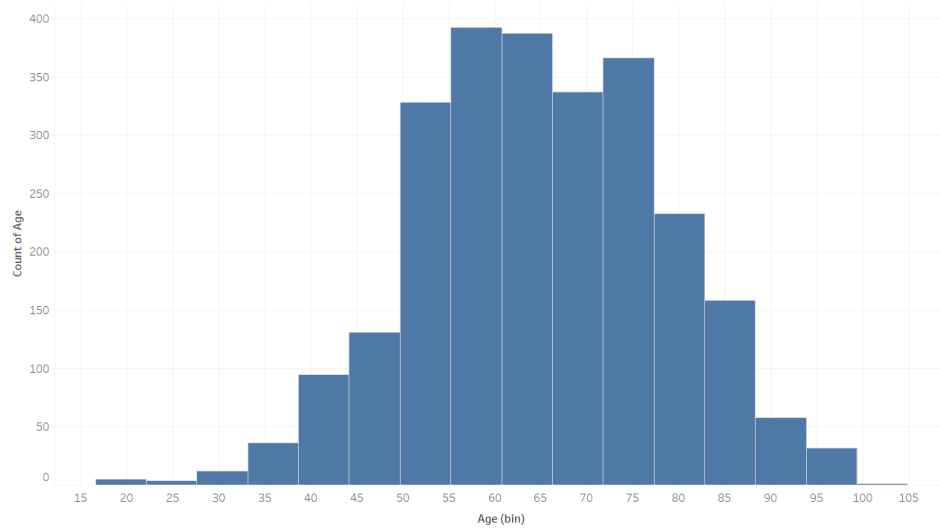
The exploration began with sourcing a comprehensive 2023 dataset detailing statistics on all recorded billionaires, yielding an extensive list of 2,640 individuals (rows) whose financial stature towers above the rest. As the organization and title column of the dataset were very sparse and not important to this topic, those columns were removed from the dataset during data cleaning.

## Section 1: Demographics of Billionaires

### **Age Distribution**

At the heart of the demographic examination is age — a crucial factor in wealth accumulation. The data suggests a bell-shaped age distribution, with the pinnacle between 50 and 75 years old. This distribution implies that youth and very old age are less associated with this level of affluence. This makes sense as it is very uncommon that if you are younger than 50 years old, you are most likely still building up wealth. I'd assume that the number drops off after 75 not because of old age, but because of death. The mean age of death of the world is 73, which pretty much lines up with the drop off the number of billionaires.

Age Distribution

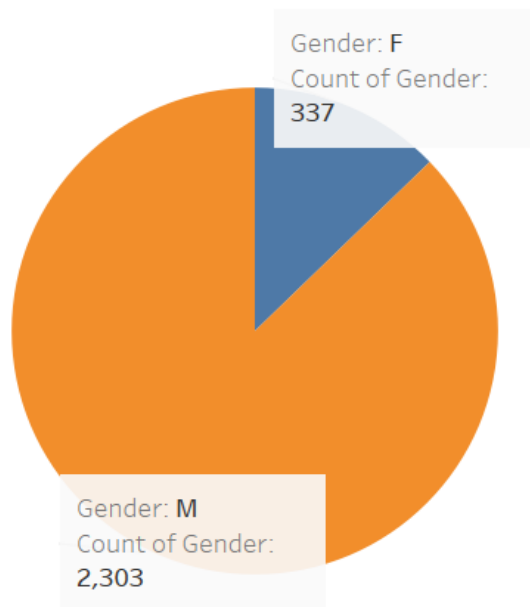


The trend of count of Age for Age (bin).

## Gender Distribution

Next, I wondered, does gender play a role? The gender landscape among billionaires is markedly uneven. A staggering 87% are male, while a mere 13% are female, signaling a pronounced gender gap in the highest echelons of wealth.

Gender Distribution



Gender (color) and count of Gender (size).

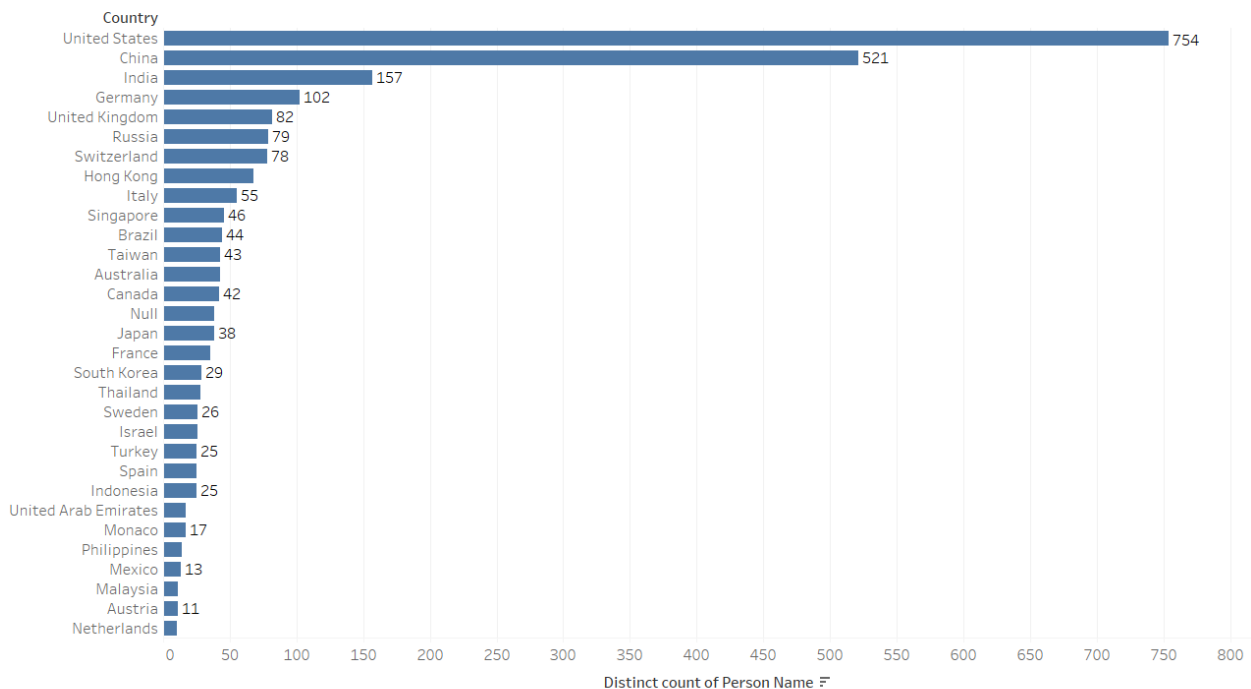
From the individual demographic characteristics, my curiosity naturally led me to the stage upon which these billionaires act: the global arena.

## Section 2: Overview of the Billionaires

### Global Distribution of Billionaires

Intrigued by demographics, I turned to geography. A glimpse into the geographic dispersal uncovers that the United States and China are the front-runners, hosting the majority of billionaires. Countries like India, Germany, the UK, and Russia also feature significantly on the map, revealing a global distribution with notable concentrations.

Global Distribution of Billionaires, cont

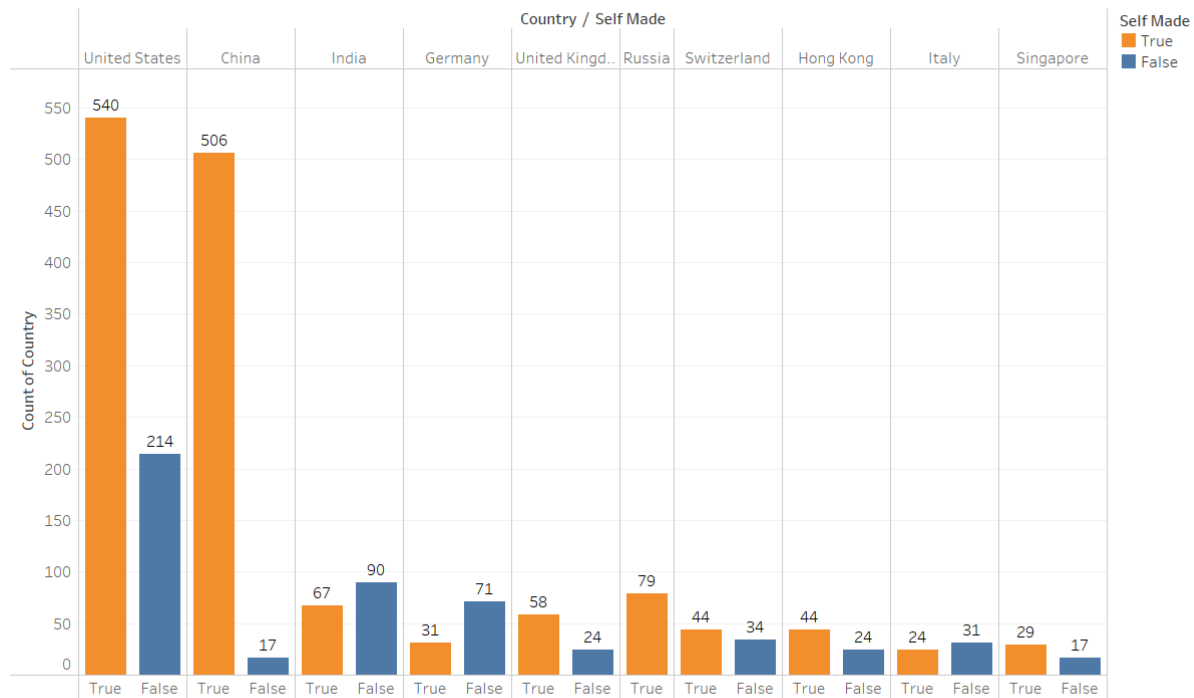


Distinct count of Person Name for each Country. The view is filtered on distinct count of Person Name, which ranges from 10 to 754.

### Old Money vs New Money

Based upon the distribution of the countries and my knowledge of countries, I wondered, is it easier to succeed / become a billionaire with “new money” in a capitalist country like America? I decided to check. While America had around  $\frac{2}{3}$  of its billionaires come from new money, China, a communist country, had almost all of its billionaires come from new money. In general, I was surprised by the amount of self-made billionaires in general. This was in contrast to countries such as India and Germany where a majority of their billionaires originated from “old money” or inheriting wealth from their parents. Then, I thought to myself, if there are so many self-made billionaires, wha

## Self-made Billionaires Per Country



Count of Country for each Self Made broken down by Country. Color shows details about Self Made. The view is filtered on Country, which keeps 10 of 79 members.

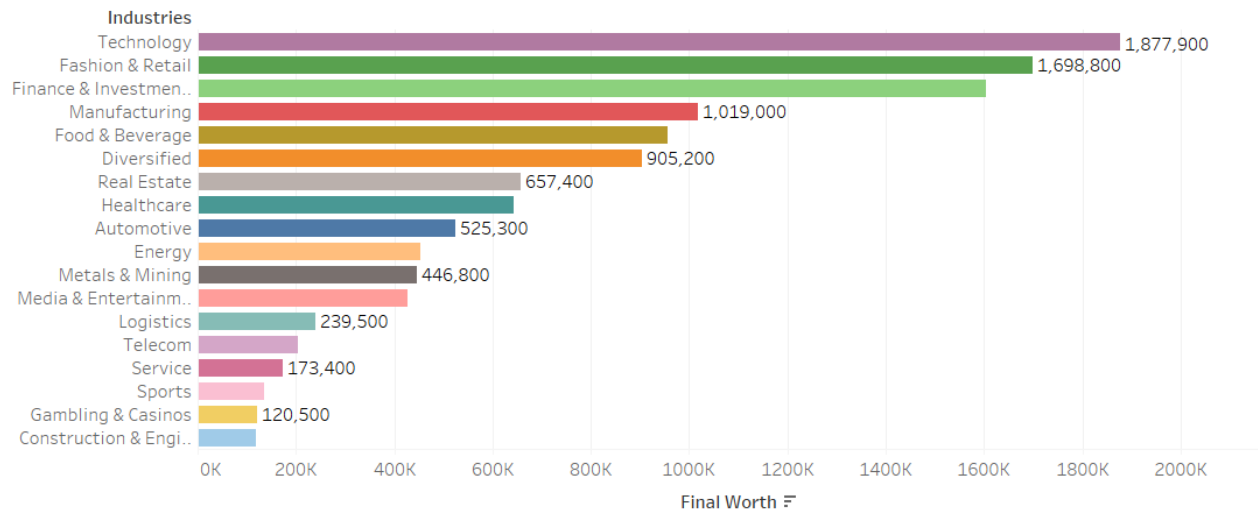
Understanding the countries set the stage, but it was time to peel back the curtain on the how—what was the specific environment like that allowed these individuals to amass such wealth?

## Section 3: Economic Sectors and Wealth Sources

### Industries Dominated by Billionaires

Moving beyond who they were and where they hailed from, I delved into the 'how', Technology, fashion & retail, and finance & investment surface as the dominant sectors among billionaires. Conversely, construction & engineering, gambling & casinos, and sports are the least represented industries. It made sense to me that the fields that are popular among everyday consumers such as technology and fashion are also big industries where the wealth gap is extremely high.

## Industries Dominated By Billionaires

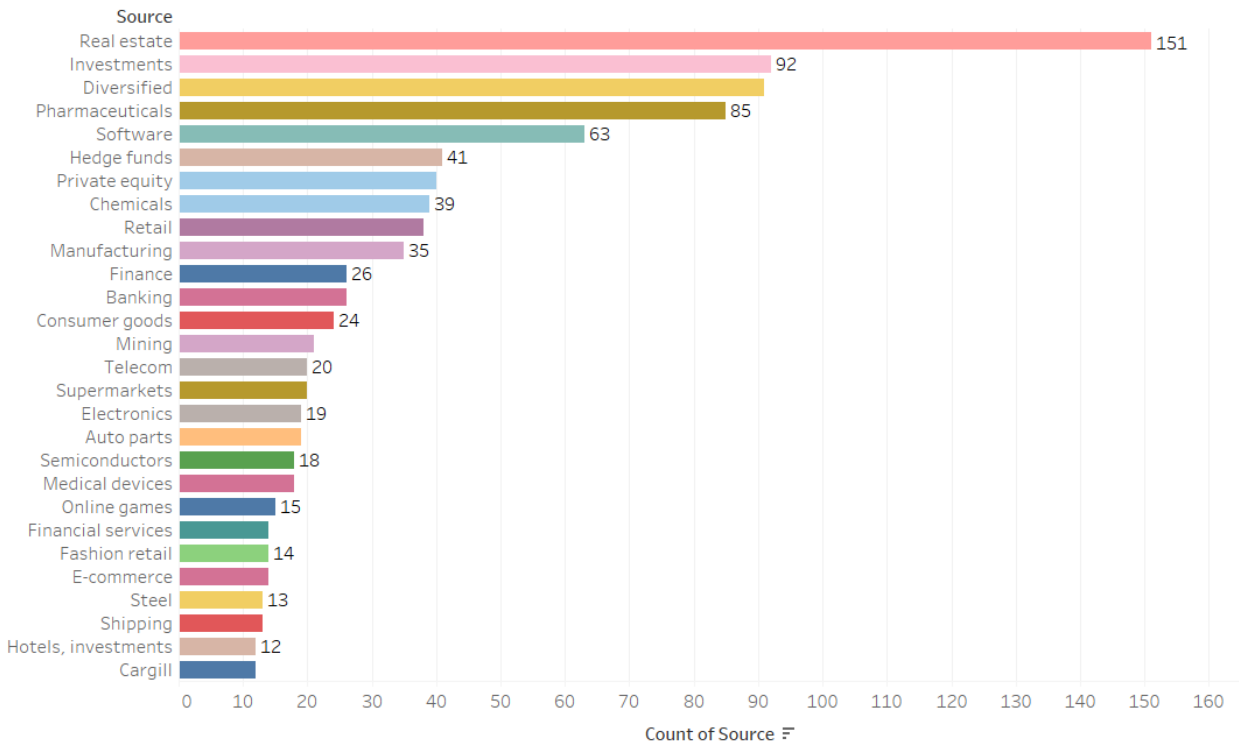


Sum of Final Worth for each Industries. Color shows details about Industries.

## Sources of Wealth

I drilled down further, seeking the sources of their wealth. The roots of billionaire wealth are diverse, yet real estate stands out as a primary source. Investments, diversified portfolios, pharmaceuticals, and software also emerge as significant contributors.

### Sources of Wealth



Count of Source for each Source. Color shows details about Source. The data is filtered on CNT(Source), which ranges from 12 to 151.

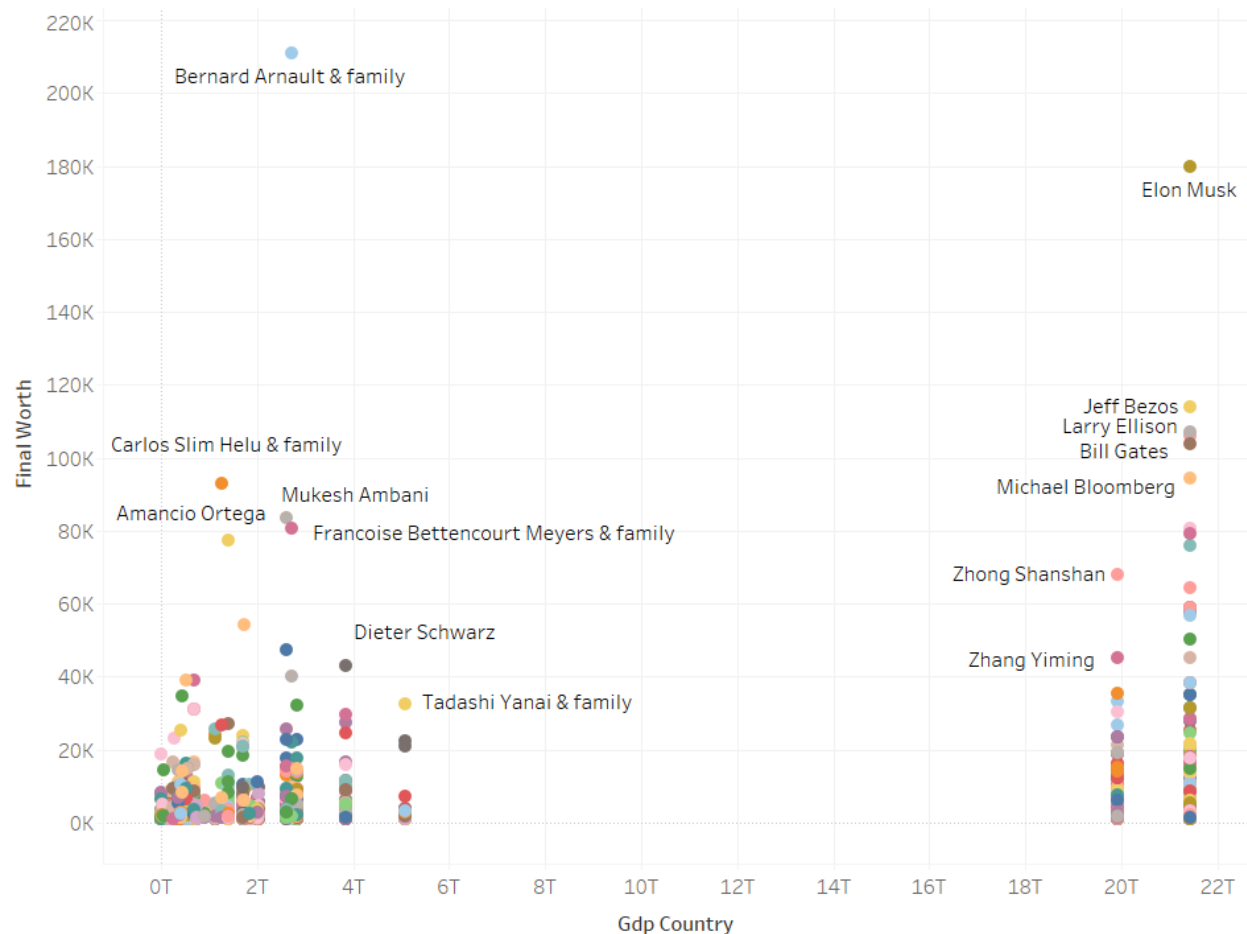
With the sectors and sources of wealth laid bare, I turned my attention to the broader economic and geopolitical context, where individual wealth meets national economy.

## Section 4: Geographical and Economic Context

### Wealth and Country GDP

Contemplating the relationship between personal and national wealth, I plotted billionaires' net worth against their country's GDP. The scatterplot told a tale of correlation but with outliers like Bernard Arnault, who stood apart. Why? What did he do differently?

#### Wealth & Country GDP



The plot of sum of Final Worth for Gdp Country. Color shows details about Person Name.

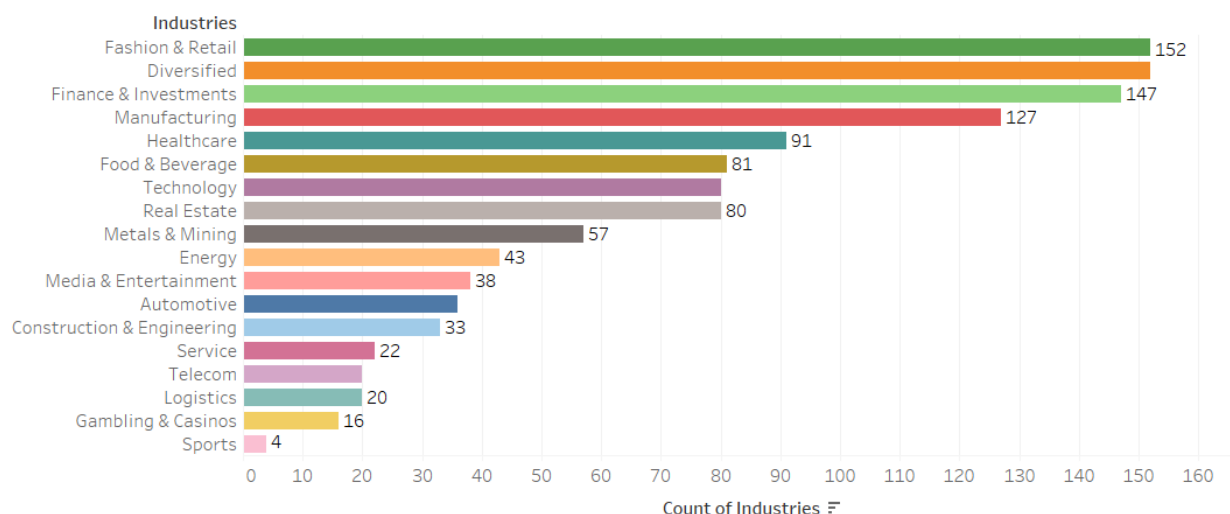
### Section 4.5: Bernard Arnault

## A tangent into Bernard Arnault...

Could it be that Bernard Arnault's exceptional rise among his fellow billionaires in nations with a GDP cap of \$5 million unveils a secret formula for success? When we zoom into the sectors thriving within these economies, it's fascinating to note that Fashion & Retail emerges as the go-to industry for the ultra-wealthy.

### Industry of Countries

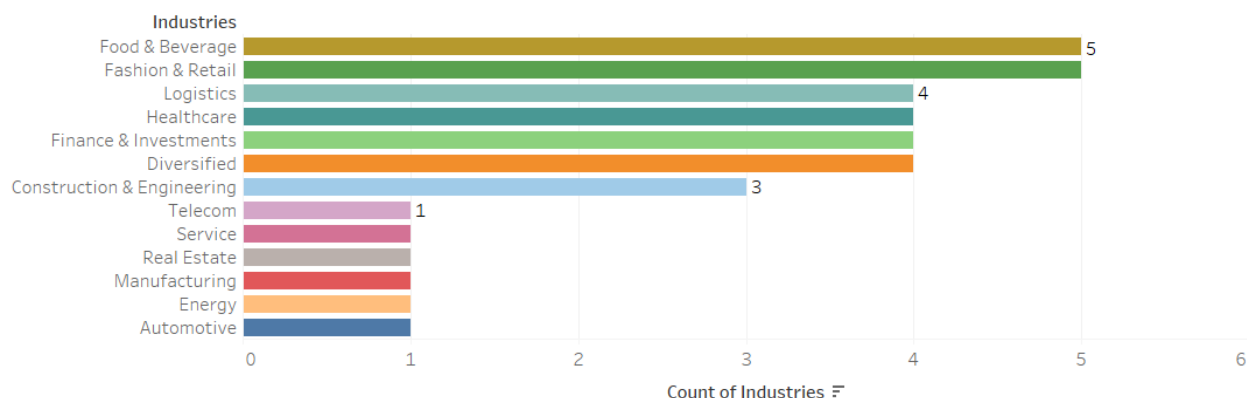
(with less than \$5 Trillion GDP)



Count of Industries for each Industries. Color shows details about Industries. The data is filtered on Gdp Country, which ranges from 3154057987 to 19334497235550.

France commands the stage as a global fashion powerhouse (according to the Brands Countries IPX by IFDAQ). It's no surprise then that even within France, billionaires and high fashion are a match made in luxury heaven. Does this mean Arnault's staggering success was just a stroke of genius in playing the game better than anyone else? What really distinguishes him if not the glittering industry he dominates?

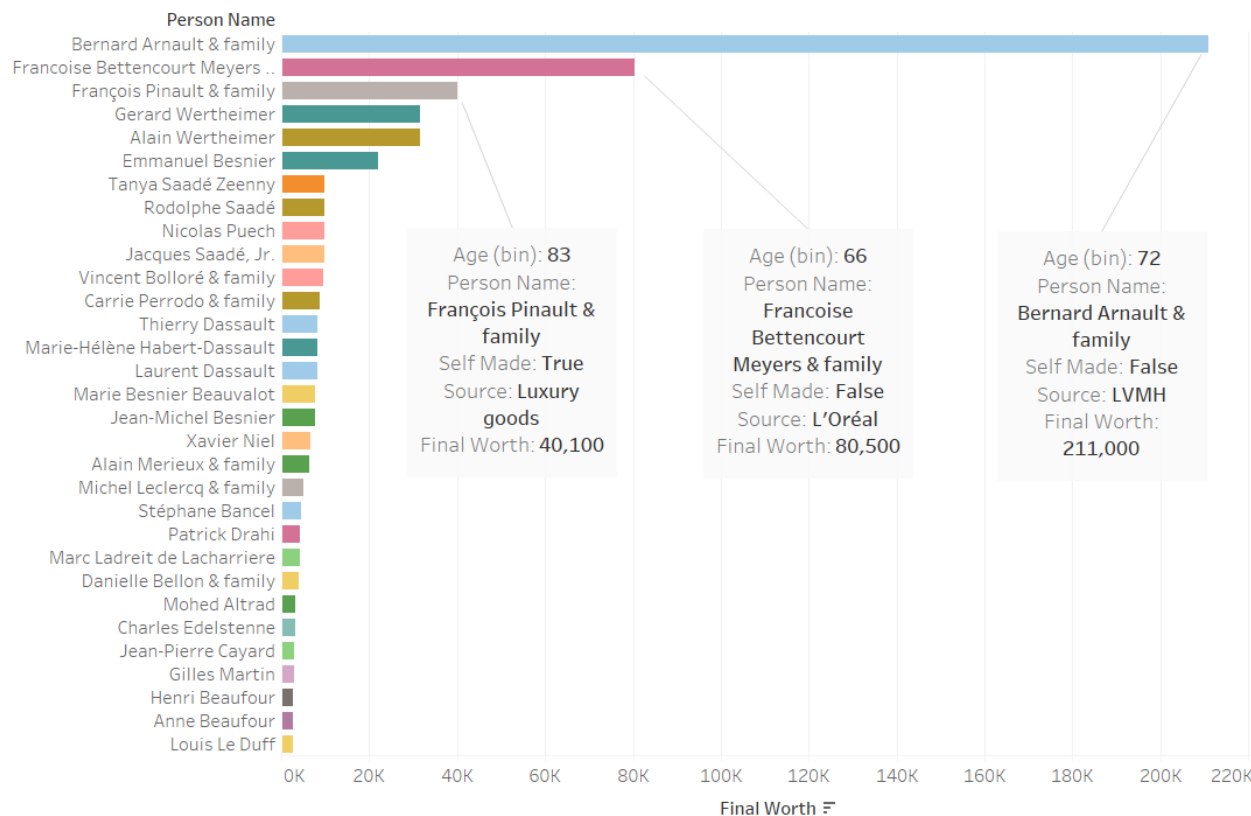
### Industries in France



Count of Industries for each Industries. Color shows details about Industries. The data is filtered on Gdp Country and Country. The Gdp Country filter ranges from 3154057987 to 19334497235550. The Country filter keeps France.

Zeroing in on France seemed like the logical next step. Peeling away the layers of national data, I honed in on the distinctions that spotlight the individual brilliance of Arnault. It's striking to see that the *crème de la crème* of French brands are sewn from the fabric of Fashion & Retail. While it's impossible to pinpoint the exact threads of Arnault's net worth towering over his peers just based on this dataset, it's unmistakably evident that a flair for fashion in France can weave a tapestry of immense wealth.

### Richest Individuals in France



Sum of Final Worth for each Person Name. Color shows details about Person Name. The data is filtered on Country Of Citizenship and Final Worth. The Country Of Citizenship filter keeps France. The Final Worth filter ranges from 2600 to 211000.

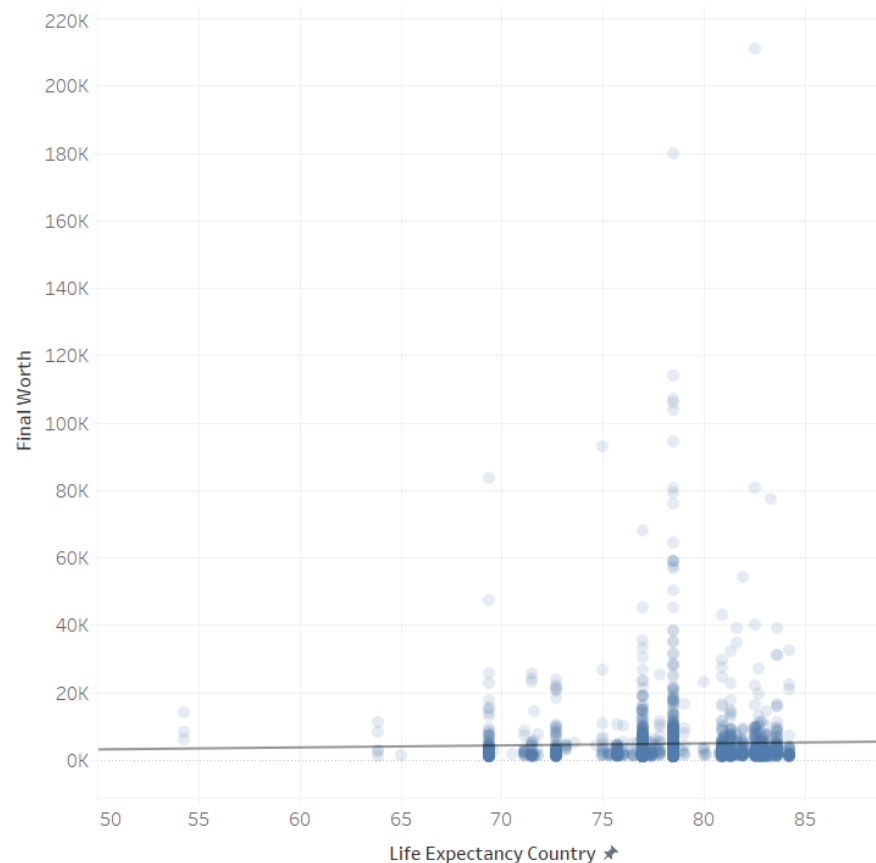
Now back to the main picture...

### Life Expectancy and Billionaire Presence

For my final analysis, I probed into how the health of a nation might reflect its wealth. Life expectancy surfaced as a positive correlation to billionaires' fortunes. I applied an opacity of 15% to be able to show the density in the scatter clusters. Each additional year of expected life corresponded to a \$59 million rise in a billionaire's net worth. Could this observed correlation imply a causal relationship, or is it simply a coincidental association?



Life Expectancy and Billionaire Presence



Life Expectancy Country vs. Final Worth.

The convergence of these inquiries wove together a multidimensional portrait of the billionaire class, inviting reflection on the forces that mold this society.

## Conclusion: Understanding the World of Billionaires

This investigation has revealed that billionaires are typically male, middle-aged or older, and hail predominantly from countries with strong GDPs and higher life expectancies. They frequently emerge from industries like technology and finance and often rely on real estate and diversified investments to build their fortunes.

These patterns speak volumes about the interplay between economics, social structures, and the concentration of global wealth. They underscore a world where health, geography, and gender play pivotal roles in shaping the uppermost tier of financial success.

## Appendices

## Data Sources

The dataset was obtained from Kaggle under the name Billionaires Statistics Dataset (2023) which was compiled by Nidula Elgiriye withana.

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/nelgiriye withana/billionaires-statistics-dataset/data>

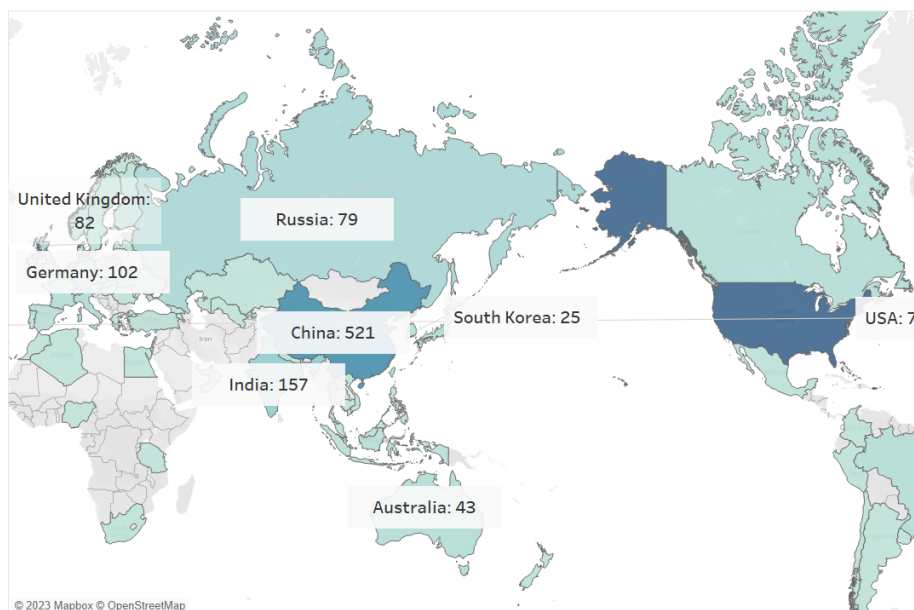
## Insights

This article displays how France is the leading country in fashion. Please feel free to check it out.

[https://www.statista.com/statistics/1202694/fashion-industry-leading-countries-worldwide/#:~:text=France%20is%20the%20leading%20country,the%20U.S.%20\(2%2C235%20points\).](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1202694/fashion-industry-leading-countries-worldwide/#:~:text=France%20is%20the%20leading%20country,the%20U.S.%20(2%2C235%20points).)

## Additional graphics

Global Distribution of Billionaires



© 2023 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap  
Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows distinct count of Person Name. Details are shown for Country.

*This image gives a graphical representation of the distribution of billionaires around the world.*