The overall financial wealth of high net worth individuals (HNWI) declined across all regions in 2011, with the exception of the Middle East, according to the World Wealth Report 2012, released by RBC Wealth Management and Capgemini. However, despite the 1.7% decline in investable wealth to US$42.0 trillion, the global HNWI population grew marginally by 0.8% to 11 million.

Asia-Pacific becomes region with the most HNWIs, while North America retains the most HNWI wealth

The number of HNWIs in Asia-Pacific expanded 1.6% to 3.37 million in 2011, making Asia-Pacific the largest HNWI region for the first time. North America remained the largest region for HNWI wealth at US$11.4 trillion. U.S., Japan and Germany, retained 53.3% of the total share of HNWIs, slightly up from 53.1% in 2010. Of the top twelve countries by population, Brazil saw the greatest percentage rise (6.2%) in the number of HNWIs.

HNWI\(^1\) population edged up slightly while overall investable wealth declined

HNWIs are defined as those having investable assets of US$1 million or more, excluding primary residence, collectibles, consumables, and consumer durables.