Summary of US Millionaire Data

Value of a Million Dollars each Year 1850 to 2003 in Dollars of 2002

Read this graph as follows: $1 million in 1850 would equal in value approximately $22 million in 2002.

Note: Data prior to 1913 should be considered approximations, so seemingly sharp fluctuations during the 1800s may be exaggerated.

Dollars Needed to Equal in Value $1 Million in the Year 2002 for each Year 1850 to 2003

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Net worth of selected wealthy Americans in 2002 or at year of death (parentheses), in Billions of Current and Constant (2002) Dollars

- Stephen Girard (banking; 1831) $0.160
- John Jacob Astor (furs; 1848) $0.543
- Cornelius Vanderbilt (railroads; 1877) $1.721
- William H. Vanderbilt (son of Cornelius; 1883) $3.345
- J.P. Morgan (banking; 1913) $2.164
- Frederick Weyerhaeuser (timber; 1914) $3.571
- Andrew Carnegie (steel; 1919) $4.948
- John T. Dorrance (Campbell Soup; 1930) $1.237
- Richard Mellon (steel, oil; 1933) $4.861
- Andrew Mellon (steel, oil; 1937) $4.375
- John D. Rockefeller (oil; 1937) $17.500
- Henry Ford (automobiles; 1947) $8.065
- Arthur Davis (Alcoa Aluminum; 1962) $2.381
- Robert Wood Johnson (Johnson & Johnson; 1968) $5.181
- Haroldson Hunt (oil; 1974) $3.650
- Howard Hughes (aircraft; 1976) $4.747
- J. Paul Getty (oil; 1976) $6.329
- David Packard (Hewlett-Packard; 1996) $4.243
- Lowest listings on Forbes 400 in 2002 $0.550
- H. Ross Perot $3.700
- Samuel I. Newhouse (newspapers) $7.700
- John Kluge (Metromedia) $10.500
- Michael Dell (computers) $11.200
- Lawrence Ellison (Oracle) $15.200
- Alice Walton, 3 other Waltons (Wal-Mart) $18.800
- Paul Allen (Microsoft, Sports teams) $21.000
- Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway) $36.000
- Bill Gates (Microsoft) $43.000

Read this as follows: Girard net worth in 1831 was $8 million, equivalent to about $160 million in dollars of 2002.

Number of US Millionaires and Value of $1 Million in Dollars of the Year 2002 for Selected Years 1848 to 1988