

RESEARCH

Africa's millionaire population to jump 65pc by 2033: Henley & Partners

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Africa's affluent population is tiny in comparison to the U.S. and other major financial hubs. Image credit: Henley & Partners

By ZACH JAMES

The world's second biggest and second most populous continent is set to rise in wealth over the coming decade, according to the latest findings from London-based investment migration consultancy Henley & Partners.

In the "[2024 Africa Wealth Report](#)," the firm states that the region's millionaire population is set to expand by 65 percent by 2033. While Africa lags behind major markets like the United States, the United Kingdom and various Asian countries, a rebound in the number of affluent residents could place Africa back in the conversation among those looking for new financial havens and the groups that luxury maisons target in advertising.

"Looking ahead, Africa's youthful population and vast resources represent a significant opportunity," said Dominic Volek, group head of private clients at Henley & Partners, in a statement.

"The continent's growing middle class and increasing consumer spending power make it an attractive market for foreign firms seeking new growth frontiers; Africa's natural wealth, from minerals to hydrocarbons to arable land, also provides a solid foundation for prosperity if harnessed responsibly and equitably," Mr. Volek said. "Immense challenges coexist with incredible opportunities.

"By confronting these challenges head-on and seizing opportunities wisely, Africa can chart a path toward a more prosperous and inclusive future."

Data in the ninth-edition publication is sourced from partner organization and global intelligence firm New World Wealth and its proprietary database that tracks more than 150,000 HNWIs as of December 2023. Due to this database, Henley & Partners states that New World Wealth is the only known independent research company able to navigate wealth migration in countries and cities around the globe.

On the rise

In Africa, the population of HNWIs is significantly smaller than most other major regions, especially for the continent ranking second in total residents behind Asia.

Currently, there are 135,200 people in Africa with investible wealth of \$1 million or more, 342 centi-millionaires and 21 billionaires. If the firm's projections are correct, this would mean that nearly 223,100 millionaires would call the continent home by 2033.

Henley spotlights the report's key findings in a video

Comparatively, the U.S. has a high-net-worth population 40 times the size of the entire African continent right now (see story). In 2033, that multiplicity will have shifted to 24 times the U.S.'s current figures, as the population will have grown significantly.

More than a quarter of Africa's affluent population lives within South Africa. Reaching the continent's highest mark of 37,400 millionaires, the number represents more than double that of what any other country within the region houses.

Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya and Morocco round out the land mass' top five countries with the most HNWI's.

The firm states that the countries of Namibia, Morocco, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda are all expected to see their respective millionaire populations grow by upwards of 80 percent in the next decade. Mauritius, a small island nation in the Indian Ocean, is foreseen to have the largest surge of all, bursting up by 95 percent by 2033, marking it one of the fastest-growing wealth hubs in the world.



The continent is fighting an uphill battle to regain economic ground. Image credit: Henley & Partners

On a city scale, South Africa expectedly dominates, as Johannesburg and Cape Town are the two leading cities for affluent residents in all of Africa, housing 12,300 and 7,400 millionaires, respectively. Cairo, Egypt ranks third, coming in just below Cape Town, as 7,200 individuals in the municipality have more than \$1 million in investible wealth.

Overall, Africa accounts for 18 percent of all humans on Earth. Henley & Partners predict that a surge of affluent individuals is sure to come because of this, even though growth has been slow and steady, a trend that will continue to be over the coming decade.

Despite this, several hurdles will impact economic acceleration within the nation.

Challenges ahead

Experts foresee Africa continuing to deal with the depreciation of local currencies as well as slim opportunities for financial mobility.

The South African Rand has fallen by 43 percent compared to the U.S. dollar since 2013, with Nigeria, Egypt, Angola and Zambia seeing their respective regional currencies fall by 75 percent or more over the same period. Maintaining wealth through constant depreciation is difficult, leading to many outright leaving the continent.

Billionaire businessman Elon Musk hails from South Africa and amassed the basis of his fortune while living in the country, proving that personal monetary growth is possible at the greatest levels within the continent. Another 53 billionaires around the globe are originally from Africa, though more than 60 percent of them have left it behind; 18,700 HNWI's have also left the continent since 2013.



Luxury real estate is the key to economic development. Image credit: Henley & Partners

Wealth migration plays a huge role in Africa's low ranking in high-net-worth populations, as strong passport and visa programs are something the continent lacks as a whole, with only Egypt as an exception ([see story](#)). With a majority of the globe's affluent population expecting their portfolios to grow throughout the next calendar year ([see story](#)), Africa's unstable situation isn't a draw.

"Your passport serves as a determinant of financial freedom, impacting individuals' abilities to explore international business ventures, network efficiently, or engage in multinational trade opportunities," said Chidinma Okebalama, senior consultant at Henley & Partners Nigeria, in a statement.

"Consequently, African entrepreneurs and investors are often left out of lucrative global markets, impeding their potential for economic growth and financial prosperity."

Luxury real estate is seen as the burgeoning market that HNWIs and those on the fringes of being affluent will take advantage of in the short term, leading to the widespread financial growth that Henley & Partners predicts.

As more millionaires maintain more homes ([see story](#)), high-end properties in South Africa, Egypt, Mauritius and other coastal countries on the continent are likely to see increased interest. Favorable exchange rates could be the driving force, as foreign investors' cash would stretch further in Africa. Other areas such as eco-tourism, software development, mining, tech and media are seen as industries with high earning potential between now and 2033.