

Applied Economics Letters >

Volume 11, 2004 - [Issue 13](#)

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The super-rich in global perspective: a quantitative analysis of the Forbes list of billionaires

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Pages 793-796 | Published online: 22 Aug 2006

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/1350485042000258283>

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Abstract

Why are there more super-rich people in some countries than in others? Extra-ordinary wealth is often regarded with envy and might raise the suspicion that it can only be accumulated with the help of a minimalist state that does not concern itself with the plight of the many. This raises the issue whether a high number of billionaires can co-exist with a high-taxing, interventionist, social and welfare spending government? These two questions are at the heart of this paper's analysis. To answer them a quantitative analysis of the global Forbes list of billionaires is undertaken.

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