Table 3: Accumulation of private wealth in rich countries, 1970-2010

	Private wealth-national income ratios		Additive decomposition of 2010 private wealth-national income ratio			Multiplicative decomposition of 1970-2010 wealth growth rate		
	β (1970)	β (2010)	Initial wealth effect	Cumulated new savings	Capital gains or losses	Real growth rate of private wealth g_w	Savings-induced wealth growth rate $g_{ws} = s/β$	Capital-gains-induced wealth growth rate q
U.S.	342%	410%	113%	236% *80%*	60% *20%*	3.3%	2.9% *88%*	0.4% *12%*
Japan	299%	601%	110%	456% *93%*	35% *7%*	4.3%	3.4% *78%*	0.9% *22%*
Germany	225%	412%	104%	356% *116%*	-48% *-16%*	3.5%	4.3% *121%*	-0.8% *-21%*
France	310%	575%	130%	346% *78%*	99% *22%*	3.8%	3.4% *90%*	0.4% *10%*
U.K.	306%	522%	128%	193% *49%*	201% *51%*	3.6%	1.9% *55%*	1.6% *45%*
Italy	239%	676%	114%	480% *85%*	83% *15%*	4.6%	4.2% *92%*	0.4% *8%*
Canada	247%	416%	80%	308% *92%*	28% *8%*	4.2%	4.3% *103%*	-0.1% *-3%*
Australia	330%	518%	94%	275% *65%*	149% *35%*	4.4%	3.4% *79%*	0.9% *21%*

In the U.S., private wealth amounts to 410% of national income in 2010. 80% of the 2010 level of wealth can be accounted for by cumulated saving flows, and 20% by real capital gains. The real growth rate of national wealth has been 3.3% per year between 1970 and 2010. This can be decomposed into a 2.9% savings-induced growth rate (88% of the total growth rate of wealth) and a 0.4% residual term (capital gains and/or measurement errors, 12% of the total growth rate of wealth).

Authors' computations using country national accounts. Other volume changes were included in saving. For full decomposition, see Appendix Country Tables US.4a, JP.4a, etc.