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Spin the bottle

I got this email from a friend, so of course I had to check it out :) It doesn't make sense to compare your own wealth to someone else's, but of course it's a fun way to waste a few minutes on a Monday :) And who knows - maybe you get a boost of confidence from it? We're usually much better off than we think, unless your name is Nate St. Pierre. (I have his permission to share this with you FYI - I'm not that mean :) He says philanthropy doesn't pay well, and I remember from when we ran Love Drop together. Great guy who follows passion about \$\$\$, for the better or the worse... He also once fooled the internet into thinking Abraham Lincoln invented Facebook, but that's for another day.) Anyway, here's the calculator: [Wealthometer.org](#) You only need to enter four things - which most of you nerds will know from the top of your head: How rich you think you are (I put 80%) Total amount of real assets (home, vehicles, etc - I put \$306,000) Total amount of financial assets (savings, 401k, etc - I put \$475,000) Total debt (I put \$292,000 - our mortgages) And the number of people in your household (I put 2 because babies don't count, right?) If you keep track of your net worth, you'll find these numbers there as well. Or you just guess, it doesn't matter. Here's where I landed compared to others in the U.S.: Your wealth is \$244,500 per household member, which is more than what 85% of the U.S. population own (blue bar). This means that 85% of the population of the US are less wealthy than you. At 80%, a green bar at \$151,244 marks your first estimate. 85% - I was close! You will notice the 1% (dwe 99%) is in the \$2,700,000 range. That's quite a stretch of 14% lower at \$244,500! I don't think that's a game I want to try and beat, haha... You will also find that you are still to blame (or, as my friend Maria prefers to put it, negative wealth) and better off than others as well. It just depends on how much debt you have. You would have been richer as a baby, but you know - life happens :) The calculator then goes on to charge for some other fascinating things like taxes, but unfortunately I wasn't smart enough to move on. If it were mine, I would have chosen to include a few different variables. Like: The level of what you plan to do, (Don't give \$hit all the way until I'm a hustla, I'm one, I'm one, I'm a Hustla) A place to choose what stage of life you're in (graduating with tons of debt, starting a family and babies eating all my money, Old, gray, and how do I use this mouse again?) And of course, the amount you need to achieve financial freedom. Aka early retirement. AKA the only thing that really matters with money. This would paint a lot better - and - picture, spit things out like: Anyone can be richer than you, but you just graduated college and are a hustla, hustla, hustla baby! Unlike those who are older than you who don't give \$hit... or Congratulations! You're worth \$2 million. Worth. better than 98% of everyone! But guess what? You're old and forgot to have a life. Why don't you stop working already? or, less drasticy You're as average as they get at 50% w/your (maybe) affordable home and 2.3 kids, but you're definitely living, right? Right? Who doesn't want to be average? (RIGHT?) You could have a lot of fun pumping out these :) And I bet people would pass it around the internets much faster too... Hell - anyone knows of any good developers? I'm jot-write this under my where is your podcast? note on my great list of ideas, d'oh. But, back to the point ... that is.... Oh, yes. It's nice to see where you rank among other fine Americans, Greeks, Italians and others who compare you to in this calculator, but at the end of the day what matters most is what it means to you. Does it make you happy? Stresses? Pissed? What are you going to do about it? What is one thing you start today to bring you a small step closer to your goals? I offer up to 3 if you don't think: Walk in HR now and increase your 401 (k) percentage by 1%. You won't notice, and your money will grow like the dickens (if you don't know what money to put it in, check out my review of Smart401k - it's free (for you)) If you come home tonight stay away from the TV and instead spend an hour brainstorming ways to make extra money. If you already do so because you're a rock star like that, go around the house and find something to sell on Craigslist/eBay instead. That'll only take 20 minutes. Find the account that pisses you off the most and call them and ask if there's anything you can do to lower it. Literally just ask that and see what they say. If they don't say anything, ask for a manager. If the manager doesn't say anything, hang up and call the next worst cost list :)*BONUS* If you really want to be on fire, create a spankin' new spreadsheet and list every debt you have - including balances, %, expiration dates, etc, then create a new tab and put all your bank/investment balances, and finally a third tab labeled net worth where you deduct your total debt from your total assets to see where you're at. In the future, add everything - and everything! - on this magazine regarding money! You account info, goals, dreams, random calculations that incite you to - whatev. You'll be amazed at what happens when you see it all in one place. I'll make you a template later if you want, but start writing things down today. Okay, I'm now going to the beach to make some sand dollars castles with my guys... I was supposed to be on vacation, but I couldn't finish my duties in advance, so here I type :) While my \$\$\$ is in the 85th percentile, my work habits are leaning towards that old man w/the \$2 mil... And I certainly don't want to be that old man with the \$2 million. So *my* task has been shutting down the computer for a while and appreciate the things money you get. Like hanging out with people. People. Love. I'll come back later to see how you guys are being honest about this thing. Here's the calculator again: [wealthometer.org](#) Share below and we'll discuss it! UPDATE: Fellow reader Gene Roberts also found this calculator that is neat: [shnugi.com/networth-percentile-calculator](#). It uses more up-to-date statistics, as well as an option to compare the net value by age group :) This put me at 82% of the general population, and 94% of those my same age. Jay loves talking about money, collecting coins, blasting hip-hop, and hanging out with his three beautiful guys. You can view all his online projects on [jmoney.biz](#). Thanks for reading the blog! My mom cooked food. (In case you missed it, there was a discussion several weeks ago when my mother refused to be bullied in her own kitchen in preparing food for the family.) I think this was a special case born of extreme hunger. For reasons any Weight-Watchers follower will understand (weighing night), my mother had almost starved herself all day. When she got home at 5:30 and found me elbow-deep in Easter egg dye, she pulled out all the ingredients for a healthier version of sloppy Joe's and got cooking. It's another recipe from the Shortcuts cookbook she picked up at a meeting, and I'm really starting to like that book. All recipes have fairly short ingredient lists and three steps or less. Dinner was ready in about 15 minutes, which is pretty important if you're trying to convince a starving dieter that cooking is a better idea than the drive-through window. This is not an entirely faithful representation of the recipe in the book, so I will not presume to know the points; we used more ground beef and more vegetables and a different kind of cheese than the recipe instructed. She started by browning a pound of ground beef, then tossed in a 16-oz bag of frozen peas and carrots, a 6-oz tin of tomato paste, 1 1/3 cups of water and a sloppy Joe spice packet. Let it all bubble together while I helped assemble and toast the buns: 2 wholegrain buns, split, each half covered in straw cheese (which I'm really growing to DiSLike; it melts like plastic and kind of smells like it, too) and broiled until the edges are toasted and the cheese melts. Top with the meat mixture and eat with a knife and fork. I know a little bit that you get a bit of a sloppy out of it, but this way you only eat half a sandwich. I'm going to try the leftover meat mixture stirred in my son's Spider Man macaroni and cheese. Meaty mac should be good, right? I love the idea of having a bunch of brown meat ready to go; this recipe starts with a ground beef base that would be good in tacos, chili or pasta sauce. I also have another recipe for a new twist on Joe's sloppy and a sandwich idea (from a no-cook recipes story) that in common with the traditional Joe, but the name. Chili at the Half-Shell Two-Bean Sloppy Joes Smokey Joe Clubs Do you have any old favorites you've changed so they're healthier? Tell us about them in the comments. — Kim This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may find more information about this and similar content on [piano.io](#)

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