

Savings: a massive wealth effect in the United States compared with France

Household wealth can increase in two ways: through savings efforts or through the revaluation of the assets held. A comparison between the United States and France reveals a seemingly paradoxical finding: the French save more, yet their wealth grows only modestly. Americans save less, but see their wealth increase much faster. This substantial wealth effect provides strong support to consumption and, ultimately, to economic growth in the United States.

French ants and American grasshoppers

Since the Covid crisis, savings behavior has diverged on both sides of the Atlantic. According to harmonised OECD data, the US savings rate currently stands at around 10%, compared with about 12% on average before the pandemic. In France, it reaches 17.5%, versus less than 14% before 2019.

Several factors may explain this gap: a more dynamic labour market in the United States leading to stronger household income growth, as well as a degree of caution among French households in the face of political instability, etc. However, the most decisive factor likely lies in the evolution of wealth itself.

A strong rise in financial assets in the United States

Since Covid, US household financial wealth has increased by 70% in nominal terms, or around 40% in real terms, that is, adjusted for cumulative inflation. In France, financial wealth has grown by just over 20% in nominal terms, or roughly 5% in real terms. This difference reflects both a much higher exposure of US households to equity markets and significantly stronger market performance in the United States compared with Europe. Mechanically, this positive wealth effect reduces the need for US households to save more.

It should nevertheless be noted that the ownership of financial wealth remains highly uneven in the United States, and as a result, these wealth effects observed at the aggregate level benefit only part of the population.

A strong support to the US economic cycle

In the United States, despite a moderating labour market and rising inflation, the wealth effect continues to support consumption and cushion the cyclical slowdown. It thus acts as a powerful stabiliser, often underestimated in traditional macroeconomic models.

In France, the gradual deterioration in household conditions does not benefit from the same buffer. Weaker wealth effects mechanically limit support to consumption, depriving the economy of this important driver.

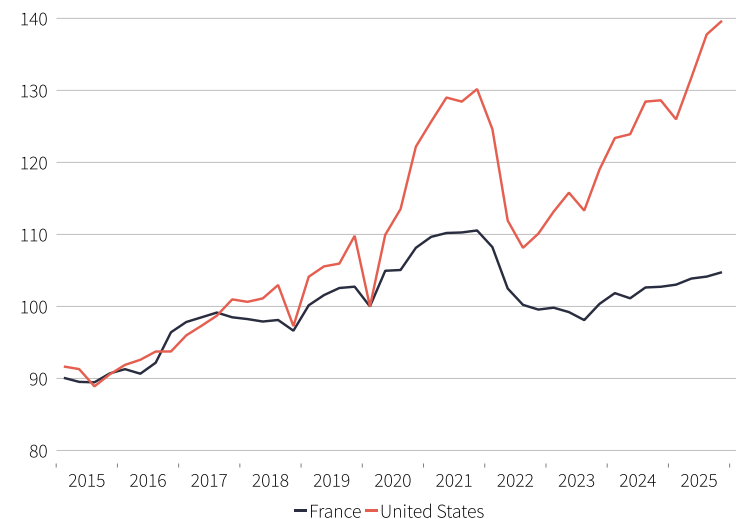
SAVING RATE

% of gross disposable income not consumed



REAL FINANCIAL WEALTH

100 = 01/01/2020



OUR MACRO COMMENTS

Events of the week

US RESILIENCE CONFIRMED

Survey and activity data in the United States remained well oriented in May, confirming the solid momentum of economic activity, with May ISM indices coming in above expectations. The manufacturing ISM reached 54, while the services ISM stood at 54.5—levels consistent with growth above 2%. Demand remains strong, supported by rising new orders and continued expansion in business activity. The main downside in the report lies in the price subcomponents, with indices back to their 2022 levels, pointing to inflation remaining above 3%.

The ADP survey on monthly job creation also indicates a resilient labour market, with 122,000 jobs created in May. While a policy pause is still expected at the next Federal Reserve meeting, upcoming inflation and labour market data are likely to fuel the debate.

EURO AREA: UPSIDE SURPRISE ON INFLATION

In May, euro area inflation reached 3.2% year-on-year, its highest level since September 2023. Core inflation also edged higher, standing at 2.5%. Energy prices remain elevated and continue to be the main driver of the overall increase in prices. However, services inflation accelerated more than expected, reaching 3.5% year-on-year, explaining the renewed pickup in core inflation. Against this backdrop, the ECB is expected to raise its policy rate by 25 bps to 2.25% and maintain a restrictive communication stance.

EVENTS IN THE COMING MONTHS

June 11 : ECB monetary policy meeting

June 17 : FED monetary policy meeting

June 18 : BoE monetary policy meeting

June 23 : BoJ monetary policy meeting

Source: Macrobond, June 5, 2026. The colors in the 'Actual' column correspond to the difference from the forecast

KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK



Monday

South Korea GDP growth Q1

China Trade balance MAY

Tuesday

Germany - Trade balance APRIL
- Industrial production APRIL

United States Trade balance APRIL

Taiwan Trade balance MAY

Wednesday

China Inflation MAY

United States

Thursday

Euro area ECB monetary policy meeting

Friday

United States Consumer sentiment index JUNE

United Kingdom Industrial production APRIL

MARKET PERFORMANCES

Interbank rates

%	02/06/2026	05/05/2026	05/03/2026	01/01/2024	05/06/2025
US SOFR	3,591	3,65	3,67	5,34	4,30
Euro area €ster	1,932	1,93	1,94	3,88	2,17
UK SONIA	3,731	3,73	3,73	5,19	4,21
Switzerland SARON	-0,041	-0,04	-0,07	1,70	0,20
Japan TONAR	0,727	0,73	0,73	-0,04	0,48

10Y Government rates

%	04/06/2026	05/05/2026	05/03/2026	01/01/2024	05/06/2025
US Treasuries	4,47	4,43	4,13	3,88	4,40
France OAT	3,73	3,79	3,47	2,55	3,26
Germany Bund	3,01	3,08	2,84	2,02	2,58
Italy BTP	3,81	3,92	3,55	3,70	3,54
Spain Bonos	3,45	3,53	3,30	2,98	3,17
Switzerland	0,45	0,43	0,35	0,66	0,23
UK Gilts	4,98	5,14	4,56	3,60	4,62
Japan JGB	2,62	2,51	2,11	0,62	1,49

Credit

%	04/06/2026	05/05/2026	05/03/2026	01/01/2024	05/06/2025
United States IG	5,17	5,15	4,88	5,06	5,21
United States HY	7,06	7,02	6,81	7,59	7,42
Europe IG	3,76	3,86	3,50	3,72	3,41
Europe HY	5,60	5,95	5,54	6,80	5,58
Emerging FX	5,77	5,80	5,54	6,77	6,19

Equity indices

04/06/2026 vs	-1w	-1m	-3m	01/01/2024	-1y
World	0,28	4,74	10,683	62,35	30,93
United States	0,26	4,62	11,518	62,38	28,98
Euro area	0,52	4,69	8,534	49,56	19,04
France	0,59	3,38	5,030	20,41	9,98
Germany	-0,75	2,63	5,283	44,96	3,39
United Kingdom	-0,52	1,86	0,622	44,04	20,92
Japan	0,16	6,76	8,910	79,04	47,96
Emerging	0,91	6,98	17,784	86,94	56,61
China USD	1,23	-2,80	-1,499	45,63	7,09
India USD	-1,47	-1,70	-4,656	3,81	-10,33
Latin America USD	-2,39	-6,79	-1,173	25,34	35,52

Foreign exchange rates

	04/06/2026	05/05/2026	05/03/2026	01/01/2024	05/06/2025
EUR/USD	1,16	1,17	1,16	1,11	1,15
GBP/USD	1,34	1,36	1,33	1,27	1,36
EUR/CHF	0,92	0,92	0,91	0,93	0,94
USD/JPY	160,02	157,66	157,55	141,03	143,51
USD/CNY	6,77	6,83	6,90	7,08	7,18

Commodity prices

	04/06/2026	05/05/2026	05/03/2026	01/01/2024	05/06/2025
Brent, USD/BL	95	110	84	77	65
Copper, USD/Metric ton	13872	12970	12841	8476	9834
Gold, USD/Troy oz	4497	4577	5104	2078	3375
Silver, USD/Troy oz	73	73	84	24	36
Palladium, USD/Troy oz	1326	1513	1645	1136	1014
Platinum, USD/Troy oz	1897	1974	2149	1000	1134

Source : Bloomberg on 5 June 2026, 1W=1 week change, 3M=3 month change, 12M=12 month change, YTD=year to date change, Equities; total return in local currency. Government bonds = 10 year returns. Figures are rounded.

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