

Version Note

November 28, 2023

The World Income Inequality Database (WIID) collects and stores information on income inequality for developed, developing, and transition countries.

Data on economic inequality are obtained from historical repositories from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Children's Fund, from selected current databases, such as the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurostat, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and Poverty and Inequality Platform (by the World Bank), as well as from national statistical offices and from a large range of independent research papers.

This version retains the concepts of the previous version, released on 30 June, 2022. New data has been added for several countries, and more precise metadata information has been included. A few observations from the previous version have been deleted, mostly duplicate records with similar information available in the other observations. Some cases, where the reported values of the Gini coefficient were inconsistent with historical trends, have been verified with the source and corrected accordingly.

Users are kindly referred to the WIID [User Guide](#) for the complete description of the variables and the format of the database.

Coverage

The WIID comprises 24,367 observations. The following table summarizes the total numbers of observations for different time periods:

Time span	Number of observations
Total observations	24,367
Before 1960	311
1960–69	714
1970–79	946
1980–89	1,651
1990–99	3,758
2000–09	6,764
2010–19	8,753
2020–	1,470

The database has 3,954 unique country-year observations for a total of 201 countries/economies (including historical entities), providing an almost worldwide coverage.¹ In several cases, the database reports more than one observation for the same country and year. This occurs when these observations add relevant information. For example, they provide consistency with other time series for the same country, or they refer to different resource concepts, area coverage, or equivalence scales, among others.

¹ Exceptions being Democratic People's Republic of Korea, some microstates (e.g., Monaco, Vatican City State), and certain specific areas (e.g., Western Sahara, French Guiana).