

Version Note

May 6, 2020

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

Data on economic inequality (Gini coefficients and distributional shares) are obtained from historical repositories from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UNICEF, from the main available current databases, such as the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEDLAC), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Eurostat, OECD and PovcalNet (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 December 17, 2019. New data has been added for several countries, and some observations have been updated with more metadata information. Certain observations from the previous version have been deleted, mostly duplicate records with similar information available in the other observations. A few 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 11,826 observations. The following table summarizes the total numbers of observations for different time periods:

Time span	Number of observations
Total observations	11,826
Before 1960	311
1960–69	689
1970–79	849
1980–89	1,440
1990–99	2,630
2000–09	3,219
2010–19	2,688

The database has 3,590 unique country-year observations for a total of 200 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, e.g., different resource concepts, area coverage, or equivalence scales.

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