

Version Note

March 31, 2021

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 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 May 6, 2020. New data has been put in for several countries, and more precise metadata information has been added. 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 20,792 observations. The following table summarizes the total numbers of observations for different time periods:

Time span	Number of observations
Total observations	20,792
Before 1960	311
1960–69	710
1970–79	920
1980–89	1,652
1990–99	3,748
2000–09	6,352
2010–19	7,098
2020–	1

The database has 3,714 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

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).

country, or they refer to different resource concepts, area coverage, or equivalence scales, among others.

Variable level changes

The Gini index variable is now named *gini*; it is still presented as in the originating source.

Several new inequality measures have been added to the database: the family of the generalized entropy measures and the family of Atkinson's inequality measures.

Variable *gdp* replaces the old variable *gdp_ppp_pc_usd2011*. The values represent gross domestic product (GDP) converted to United States dollars (2017), per capita.