#6 – World Inequality Database

Short description

Type of object: Datasets
Source (organisation): WID – World Inequality Database
Issues: The Dataset include the following: Aggregate income variables: Net National Income, GDP, Foreign Incomes, and Consumption of fixed capital; Income of households and NPISH; Income of the Corporate Sector, Income of the Government Sector. Distributed Income variables: the Fiscal Income; DINA Income. Aggregate wealth variables, including national economy; household sector; NAPISH; Corporate Sector, General government sector. Distributed Wealth Variables. Price Index, Exchange Rates, Population, etc. Aggregate Carbon Variables. Distributed Carbon Variables.
The Key indicators include: per Average Income, Per adult national income, per adult GDP; per Income Inequality, top 10% share, Bottom 50% share, top 1% share; per Average Wealth, per adult national wealth, wealth-income-ratio; per Wealth Inequality, top 10% share, bottom 50% share, top 1% share; per Carbon Inequality, top 10% carbon emitters; per gender inequality, female labor income share.
Time span: The dataset has been established in 2011; nevertheless, it includes data from 1991 to 2019
Geographical coverage: It is a global dataset, including data from all the five continents.
Link: https://wid.world/data/

Note/Interpretations

The *World Inequality Database* (**WID.world**) aims to provide open and convenient access to the most extensive available database on the historical evolution of the world distribution of income and wealth, both within countries and between countries.
The WID dataset is a collective effort, born in 2011. The **history of the database** started in 2011 (World Top Incomes Database) with a focus on top income shares series, which was subsequently extended to aggregate wealth series in 2015 (World Wealth and Income Databases). As of now (November 2022), the database includes series for the distribution of income, wealth, labor income by gender for all countries in the world.
Over the past decades, the increase in economic inequalities was largely driven by a rise in income and wealth accruing to the top of the distribution. However, household surveys, the data sources traditionally used to observe inequality dynamics, do not properly capture these evolutions. Surveys provide useful information and cover many countries, but they do not inform adequately on income and wealth levels of the richest individuals.
WID.world overcomes this limitation by combining different data sources: national accounts, survey data, fiscal data, and wealth rankings. By doing so, it becomes possible to track more precisely the evolution of all income or wealth levels, from the bottom to the top. The key novelty of WID.world is to use such data in a systematic manner, allowing comparisons between countries and over long time periods. In order to achieve this objective, we build upon the new wave of research on long-run inequality trends developed during the past 15 years by an international group of scholars.
WID has a library, including a large number of country-specific research papers and methodological documents that provide detailed information about the methods, concepts and data sources used in WID.world. WID.world Working Papers are research articles produced by WID.world fellows that present and discuss new inequality series for specific countries or at the global level or focus on general developments of the WID.world methodology.
The organisation published also a report "2022 World Inequality Report" with the main outcomes of the Dataset and various articles on national data.
The general structure of the Dataset is explained in Codes Dictionary.
The user can select country or region of interest; the indicators; the time series.

Go back to the List