OECD Regional Income distribution database:

Data source and reference years

Data Source: http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=RWB

The main indicators for income inequality are the Gini coefficient and the quintile share ratio (S80/S20, i.e. the ratio between the average income of the top and bottom quintile) of equivalized household disposable income. Relative poverty is measured through headcount ratios (i.e. the share of the population with income below the poverty line) based on different thresholds (e.g. 50 and 60%) of median income of the national population (national poverty lines). All the indicators are also computed for market income, i.e. household income before taxes and public transfers. The comparison of indicators based on market and on disposable income allows a first assessment of the redistributive role of taxes and transfers.

Table 1. Household income indicators collected at regional level

	Indicators	
Income Distribution	 Gini index for disposable and market income Quintile share ratio (S80/S20) for disposable and market income: ratio between average income of the top quintile and average income of the bottom quintile 	
Relative poverty	 Regional headcount ratios for disposable and market income, with poverty line set at 50 and 60% of the national median income 	

The geographic breakdown used in the paper is defined according to the OECD TL2 regional classification, broadly corresponding to the first level of administrative subdivision in each country (NUTS2 regions in Europe, States in the Unites States and Mexico, Provinces and Territories in Canada, etc.). This regional breakdown is meaningful from a policy perspective, as these large regions have considerable responsibilities for policy implementation. The choice is also dictated by practical considerations on data availability: reliable estimates could hardly be produced at a lower level of disaggregation without small-area models, and income survey micro-data do not generally include identifiers for lower geographic levels.

Table 2 describes the sources of the data used to compute the indicators listed above, and provides information on the size of the regional samples. For most countries, estimates refer to one single year around 2010; however, estimates for Austria, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States refer to three-year averaged data, to increase the precision of the sub-national estimates. These regional indicators are based on household surveys for most countries, but on administrative sources for Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and on a combination of survey and register-based data for Finland and France. The administrative data, which refer to the full population, tend to give higher poverty rates and a more skewed distribution than in the case of survey data, which may result from missing income items in the registers or from differences in the household concepts used in the survey and register data.

Table 2. Data sources used for the sub-national indicators

Country	Data Source and year	Regional level	Households
		and number of	in regional
		regional units	samples
			(min max.)
Australia	2009-10 Survey of Income and Housing	TL2, 8 regions	578 -
Austria	EU-SILC, 3 year averages for 2008-2009-2010	TL2, 8 regions	207 -
Belgium	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 3 regions	837 -
Canada			
	Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, 2011 reference	TL2, 10 regions	1766-18050
Chile	CASEN Survey, 2011 reference income	TL2, 15 regions	1588-5779
Czech Republic	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 8 regions	871 -
Denmark	Danish Law Model System 2010	TL2, 5 regions	Register
Finland	EU-SILC, 2012 wave (2011 reference income)	TL2, 4 regions	2298-2755
France	ERFS, 2010 reference income	TL2, 21 regions	304 -
Germany	SOEP, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 16 regions	66-1789
Greece	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 4 regions	706 -
Hungary	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	NUTS1, 3	2932-5446
Israel	Integrated Income Survey, 2011	TL2, 7 regions	2181-12213
Italy	UDB IT-SILC, 2012 wave (2011 reference income)	TL2, 21 regions	344 -
Japan	Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, 2009	TL2, 10 regions	729-3378
Mexico	Módulo de Condiciones Socioeconomicas, 2012	TL2, 32 regions	299 -
Netherlands	Income Panel Survey, 2010	TL2, 4 regions	9583-44587
New Zealand	Household economic survey, 2011 reference income	TL2, 2 regions	1134-2402
Norway	Income Statistics for Household, 2011 reference income	TL2, 7 regions	Register
Poland	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	NUTS1, 6	1294-2651
Slovak Republic	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 4 regions	611 -
Slovenia	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 2 regions	4380-4859
Spain	EU-SILC, 3 year averages for 2008-2009-2010	TL2, 19 regions	113-1558
Sweden	Income Distribution Survey, 2011 reference income	TL2, 8 regions	630 -
Switzerland	EU-SILC, 2011 wave (2010 reference income)	TL2, 7 regions	266-1856
Turkey	Turkish SILC, 2011 reference income	NUTS1, 12	610 -
United Kingdom	Households Below Average Income, average for 2010-	TL2, 12 regions	938-3842
United States	Current Population Survey, average for 2010-2012	TL2, 50 regions	2169-20056