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Distribution of income or consumption

	Survey year	Gini index	Percentage share of income or consumption						
			Lowest 10%	Lowest 20%	Second 20%	Third 20%	Fourth 20%	Highest 20%	Highest 10%
Afghanistan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Albania	2004 ^a	31.1	3.4	8.2	12.6	17.0	22.6	39.5	24.4
Algeria	1995 ^a	35.3	2.8	7.0	11.6	16.1	22.7	42.6	26.8
Angola		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Argentina ^b	2004 ^c	51.3	0.9	3.1	7.6	12.8	21.1	55.4	38.2
Armenia	2003 ^a	33.8	3.6	8.5	12.3	15.7	20.6	42.8	29.0
Australia	1994 ^c	35.2	2.0	5.9	12.0	17.2	23.6	41.3	25.4
Austria	2000 ^c	29.1	3.3	8.6	13.3	17.4	22.9	37.8	23.0
Azerbaijan	2001 ^a	36.5	3.1	7.4	11.5	15.3	21.2	44.5	29.5
Bangladesh	2000 ^a	33.4	3.7	8.6	12.1	15.6	21.0	42.7	27.9
Belarus	2002 ^a	29.7	3.4	8.5	13.2	17.3	22.7	38.3	23.5
Belgium	2000 ^c	33.0	3.4	8.5	13.0	16.3	20.8	41.4	28.1
Benin	2003 ^a	36.5	3.1	7.4	11.3	15.4	21.5	44.5	29.0
Bolivia	2002 ^c	60.1	0.3	1.5	5.9	10.9	18.7	63.0	47.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2001 ^a	26.2	3.9	9.5	14.2	17.9	22.6	35.8	21.4
Botswana	1993 ^a	60.5	1.2	3.2	6.0	9.7	16.0	65.1	51.0
Brazil	2004 ^c	57.0	0.9	2.8	6.4	11.0	18.7	61.1	44.8
Bulgaria	2003 ^a	29.2	3.4	8.7	13.7	17.2	22.1	38.3	23.9
Burkina Faso	2003 ^a	39.5	2.8	6.9	10.9	14.5	20.5	47.2	32.2
Burundi	1998 ^a	42.4	1.7	5.1	10.3	15.1	21.5	48.0	32.8
Cambodia	2004 ^a	41.7	2.9	6.8	10.2	13.7	19.6	49.6	34.8
Cameroon	2001 ^a	44.6	2.3	5.6	9.3	13.7	20.4	50.9	35.4
Canada	2000 ^c	32.6	2.6	7.2	12.7	17.2	23.0	39.9	24.8
Central African Republic	1993 ^a	61.3	0.7	2.0	4.9	9.6	18.5	65.0	47.7
Chad		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chile	2003 ^c	54.9	1.4	3.8	7.3	11.1	17.8	60.0	45.0
China	2004 ^c	46.9	1.6	4.3	8.5	13.7	21.7	51.9	34.9
Hong Kong, China	1996 ^c	43.4	2.0	5.3	9.4	13.9	20.7	50.7	34.9
Colombia	2003 ^c	58.6	0.74	2.48	6.20	10.60	18.05	62.67	46.90
Congo, Dem. Rep.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congo, Rep.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Costa Rica	2003 ^c	49.8	1.0	3.5	8.2	13.1	21.2	54.1	37.4
Côte d'Ivoire	2002 ^a	44.6	2.0	5.2	9.1	13.7	21.3	50.7	34.0
Croatia	2001 ^a	29.0	3.4	8.3	12.8	16.8	22.6	39.6	24.5
Cuba		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	1996 ^c	25.4	4.3	10.3	14.5	17.7	21.7	35.9	22.4
Denmark	1997 ^c	24.7	2.6	8.3	14.7	18.2	22.9	35.8	21.3
Dominican Republic	2004 ^c	51.6	1.4	4.0	7.8	12.1	19.3	56.7	41.1
Ecuador	1998 ^c	53.6	0.9	3.3	7.5	11.7	19.4	58.0	41.6
Egypt, Arab Rep.	1999–2000 ^a	34.4	3.7	8.6	12.1	15.4	20.4	43.6	29.5
El Salvador	2002 ^c	52.4	0.7	2.7	7.5	12.8	21.2	55.9	38.8
Eritrea		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia	2003 ^a	35.8	2.5	6.7	11.8	16.3	22.4	42.8	27.6
Ethiopia	1999–2000 ^a	30.0	3.9	9.1	13.2	16.8	21.5	39.4	25.5
Finland	2000 ^c	26.9	4.0	9.6	14.1	17.5	22.1	36.7	22.6
France	1995 ^c	32.7	2.8	7.2	12.6	17.2	22.8	40.2	25.1
Gabon		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gambia, The	1998 ^a	50.2	1.8	4.8	8.7	12.8	20.3	53.4	37.0
Georgia	2003 ^a	40.4	2.0	5.6	10.5	15.3	22.3	46.4	30.3
Germany	2000 ^c	28.3	3.2	8.5	13.7	17.8	23.1	36.9	22.1
Ghana	1998–99 ^a	40.8	2.1	5.6	10.1	14.9	22.9	46.6	30.0
Greece	2000 ^c	34.3	2.5	6.7	11.9	16.8	23.0	41.5	26.0
Guatemala	2002 ^c	55.1	0.9	2.9	7.0	11.6	19.0	59.5	43.4
Guinea	2003 ^a	38.6	2.9	7.0	10.8	14.7	21.4	46.1	30.7
Guinea-Bissau	1993 ^a	47.0	2.1	5.2	8.8	13.1	19.4	53.4	39.3
Haiti	2001 ^c	59.2	0.7	2.4	6.2	10.4	17.7	63.4	47.7

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PEOPLE

	Survey year	Gini index	Percentage share of income or consumption						
			Lowest 10%	Lowest 20%	Second 20%	Third 20%	Fourth 20%	Highest 20%	Highest 10%
Honduras	2003 ^c	53.8	1.2	3.4	7.1	11.6	19.6	58.3	42.2
Hungary	2002 ^a	26.9	4.0	9.5	13.9	17.6	22.4	36.5	22.2
India	2004–05 ^a	36.8	3.6	8.1	11.3	14.9	20.4	45.3	31.1
Indonesia	2002 ^a	34.3	3.6	8.4	11.9	15.4	21.0	43.3	28.5
Iran, Islamic Rep.	1998 ^a	43.0	2.0	5.1	9.4	14.1	21.5	49.9	33.7
Iraq		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	2000 ^c	34.3	2.9	7.4	12.3	16.3	21.9	42.0	27.2
Israel	2001 ^c	39.2	2.1	5.7	10.5	15.9	23.0	44.9	28.8
Italy	2000 ^c	36.0	2.3	6.5	12.0	16.8	22.8	42.0	26.8
Jamaica	2004 ^a	45.5	2.1	5.3	9.2	13.2	20.6	51.6	35.8
Japan	1993 ^c	24.9	4.8	10.6	14.2	17.6	22.0	35.7	21.7
Jordan	2002–03 ^a	38.8	2.7	6.7	10.8	14.9	21.3	46.3	30.6
Kazakhstan	2003 ^a	33.9	3.0	7.4	11.9	16.4	22.8	41.5	25.9
Kenya	1997 ^a	42.5	2.5	6.0	9.8	14.3	20.8	49.1	33.9
Korea, Dem. Rep.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.	1998 ^c	31.6	2.9	7.9	13.6	18.0	23.1	37.5	22.5
Kuwait		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kyrgyz Republic	2003 ^a	30.3	3.8	8.9	12.8	16.4	22.5	39.4	24.3
Lao PDR	2002 ^a	34.6	3.4	8.1	11.9	15.6	21.1	43.3	28.5
Latvia	2003 ^a	37.7	2.5	6.6	11.2	15.5	22.0	44.7	29.1
Lebanon		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	1995 ^a	63.2	0.5	1.5	4.3	8.9	18.8	66.5	48.3
Liberia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Libya		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lithuania	2003 ^a	36.0	2.7	6.8	11.6	16.0	22.3	43.2	27.7
Macedonia, FYR	2003 ^a	39.0	2.4	6.1	10.8	15.5	22.2	45.5	29.6
Madagascar	2001 ^a	47.5	1.9	4.9	8.5	12.7	20.4	53.5	36.6
Malawi	2004–05 ^a	39.0	2.9	7.0	10.8	14.8	20.7	46.6	31.8
Malaysia	1997 ^c	49.2	1.7	4.4	8.1	12.9	20.3	54.3	38.4
Mali	2001 ^a	40.1	2.4	6.1	10.2	14.7	22.2	46.6	30.2
Mauritania	2000 ^a	39.0	2.5	6.2	10.6	15.2	22.3	45.7	29.5
Mauritius		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	2004 ^a	46.1	1.6	4.3	8.3	12.6	19.7	55.1	39.4
Moldova	2003 ^a	33.2	3.2	7.8	12.2	16.5	22.1	41.4	26.4
Mongolia	2002 ^a	32.8	3.0	7.5	12.2	16.8	23.1	40.5	24.6
Morocco	1998–99 ^a	39.5	2.6	6.5	10.6	14.8	21.3	46.6	30.9
Mozambique	2002–03 ^a	47.3	2.1	5.4	9.3	13.0	18.7	53.6	39.4
Myanmar		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Namibia	1993 ^c	74.3	0.5	1.4	3.0	5.4	11.5	78.7	64.5
Nepal	2003–04 ^a	47.2	2.6	6.0	9.0	12.4	18.0	54.6	40.6
Netherlands	1999 ^c	30.9	2.5	7.6	13.2	17.2	23.3	38.7	22.9
New Zealand	1997 ^c	36.2	2.2	6.4	11.4	15.8	22.6	43.8	27.8
Nicaragua	2001 ^a	43.1	2.2	5.6	9.8	14.2	21.1	49.3	33.8
Niger	1995 ^a	50.5	0.8	2.6	7.1	13.9	23.1	53.3	35.4
Nigeria	2003 ^a	43.7	1.9	5.0	9.6	14.5	21.7	49.2	33.2
Norway	2000 ^c	25.8	3.9	9.6	14.0	17.2	22.0	37.2	23.4
Oman		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pakistan	2002 ^a	30.6	4.0	9.3	13.0	16.3	21.1	40.3	26.3
Panama	2003 ^c	56.1	0.7	2.5	6.6	11.4	19.6	59.9	43.0
Papua New Guinea	1996 ^a	50.9	1.7	4.5	7.9	11.9	19.2	56.5	40.5
Paraguay	2003 ^c	58.4	0.7	2.4	6.3	10.8	18.6	61.9	46.1
Peru	2003 ^c	52.0	1.3	3.7	7.7	12.2	19.7	56.7	40.9
Philippines	2003 ^a	44.5	2.2	5.4	9.1	13.6	21.3	50.6	34.2
Poland	2002 ^a	34.5	3.1	7.5	11.9	16.1	22.2	42.2	27.0
Portugal	1997 ^c	38.5	2.0	5.8	11.0	15.5	21.9	45.9	29.8
Puerto Rico	



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Distribution of income or consumption

	Survey year	Gini index	Percentage share of income or consumption						
			Lowest 10%	Lowest 20%	Second 20%	Third 20%	Fourth 20%	Highest 20%	Highest 10%
Romania	2003 ^a	31.0	3.3	8.1	12.9	17.1	22.7	39.2	24.4
Russian Federation	2002 ^a	39.9	2.4	6.1	10.5	14.9	21.8	46.6	30.6
Rwanda	2000 ^a	46.8	2.1	5.3	9.1	13.2	19.4	53.0	38.2
Saudi Arabia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	2001 ^a	41.3	2.7	6.6	10.3	14.2	20.6	48.4	33.4
Serbia and Montenegro	2003 ^a	30.0	3.4	8.3	13.0	17.3	23.0	38.4	23.4
Sierra Leone	1989 ^a	62.9	0.5	1.1	2.0	9.8	23.7	63.4	43.6
Singapore	1998 ^c	42.5	1.9	5.0	9.4	14.6	22.0	49.0	32.8
Slovak Republic	1996 ^c	25.8	3.1	8.8	14.9	18.7	22.8	34.8	20.9
Slovenia	1998 ^a	28.4	3.6	9.1	14.2	18.1	22.9	35.7	21.4
Somalia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	2000 ^a	57.8	1.4	3.5	6.3	10.0	18.0	62.2	44.7
Spain	2000 ^c	34.7	2.6	7.0	12.1	16.4	22.5	42.0	26.6
Sri Lanka	2002 ^a	40.2	3.0	7.0	10.5	14.2	20.4	48.0	32.7
Sudan		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swaziland	2000-01 ^c	50.4	1.6	4.3	8.2	12.3	18.9	56.3	40.7
Sweden	2000 ^c	25.0	3.6	9.1	14.0	17.6	22.7	36.6	22.2
Switzerland	2000 ^c	33.7	2.9	7.6	12.2	16.3	22.6	41.3	25.9
Syrian Arab Republic		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tajikistan	2003 ^a	32.6	3.3	7.9	12.3	16.5	22.4	40.8	25.6
Tanzania	2000-01 ^a	34.6	2.9	7.3	12.0	16.1	22.3	42.4	26.9
Thailand	2002 ^a	42.0	2.7	6.3	9.9	14.0	20.8	49.0	33.4
Togo		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trinidad and Tobago	1992 ^c	38.9	2.2	5.9	10.8	15.3	23.1	44.9	28.8
Tunisia	2000 ^a	39.8	2.3	6.0	10.3	14.8	21.7	47.3	31.5
Turkey	2003 ^a	43.6	2.0	5.3	9.7	14.2	21.0	49.7	34.1
Turkmenistan	1998 ^a	40.8	2.6	6.1	10.2	14.7	21.5	47.5	31.7
Uganda	2002 ^a	45.7	2.3	5.7	9.4	13.2	19.1	52.5	37.7
Ukraine	2003 ^a	28.1	3.9	9.2	13.6	17.3	22.4	37.5	23.0
United Arab Emirates		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	1999 ^c	36.0	2.1	6.1	11.4	16.0	22.5	44.0	28.5
United States	2000 ^c	40.8	1.9	5.4	10.7	15.7	22.4	45.8	29.9
Uruguay ^b	2003 ^c	44.9	1.9	5.0	9.1	14.0	21.5	50.5	34.0
Uzbekistan	2003 ^a	36.8	2.8	7.2	11.7	15.4	21.0	44.7	29.6
Venezuela, RB	2003 ^c	48.2	0.7	3.3	8.7	13.9	22.0	52.1	35.2
Vietnam	2004 ^a	34.4	4.2	9.0	11.4	14.7	20.5	44.3	28.8
West Bank and Gaza		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	1998 ^a	33.4	3.0	7.4	12.2	16.7	22.5	41.2	25.9
Zambia	2004 ^a	50.8	1.2	3.6	7.9	12.6	20.8	55.1	38.8
Zimbabwe	1995-96 ^a	50.1	1.8	4.6	8.1	12.2	19.3	55.7	40.3

a. Refers to expenditure shares by percentiles of population, ranked by per capita expenditure. b. Urban data. c. Refers to income shares by percentiles of population, ranked by per capita income.

About the data

Inequality in the distribution of income is reflected in the percentage shares of income or consumption accruing to portions of the population ranked by income or consumption levels. The portions ranked lowest by personal income receive the smallest shares of total income. The Gini index provides a convenient summary measure of the degree of inequality. Data on the distribution of income or consumption come from nationally representative household surveys. Where the original data from the household survey were available, they have been used to directly calculate the income or consumption shares by quintile. Otherwise, shares have been estimated from the best available grouped data.

For most countries the income distribution indicators are based on the same data used to derive the \$1 and \$2 a day poverty estimates in table 2.6. This table contains additional countries for which poverty estimates are not provided in table 2.6, either because no reasonable purchasing power parity estimates are available or because the international poverty lines are not relevant for high-income economies.

The distribution data have been adjusted for household size, providing a more consistent measure of per capita income or consumption. No adjustment has been made for spatial differences in cost of living within countries, because the data needed for such calculations are generally unavailable. For further details on the estimation method for low- and middle-income economies, see Ravallion and Chen (1996).

Because the underlying household surveys differ in method and type of data collected, the distribution data are not strictly comparable across countries. These problems are diminishing as survey methods improve and become more standardized, but achieving strict comparability is still impossible (see *About the data* for table 2.6).

Two sources of noncomparability should be noted in particular. First, the surveys can differ in many respects, including whether they use income or consumption expenditure as the living standard indicator. The distribution of income is typically more unequal than the distribution of consumption. In addition, the definitions of income used differ more often among surveys. Consumption is usually a much better welfare indicator, particularly in developing countries. Second, households differ in size (number of members) and in the extent of income sharing among members. And individuals differ in age and consumption needs. Differences among

countries in these respects may bias comparisons of distribution.

World Bank staff have made an effort to ensure that the data are as comparable as possible. Whenever possible, consumption has been used rather than income. Income distribution and Gini indexes for high-income countries are calculated directly from the Luxembourg Income Study database, using an estimation method consistent with that applied for developing countries.

Definitions

• **Survey year** is the year in which the underlying data were collected. • **Gini index** measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual. The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line. Thus a Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. • **Percentage share of income or consumption** is the share of total income or consumption that accrues to subgroups of population indicated by deciles or quintiles. Percentage shares by quintile may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

Data sources

Data on distribution are compiled by the World Bank's Development Research Group using primary household survey data obtained from government statistical agencies and World Bank country departments. Data for high-income economies are estimated from the Luxembourg Income Study database.