

Gini index

d01bcfd2-3862-4a61-a750-d5d9dc03debf

Report generated on: September 11, 2026

Project type: timeseries

:

Metadata information

Information on metadata

Document title

Metadata for Gini index

Document ID

META_WB_WDI_SI_POV_GINI

Metadata producers

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Development Economics Data Group	DECDG	World Bank

Version

1.1.1

Version notes

Updated metadata ID for consistency with indicator code.

Version date

2026-05-06

Indicator description

Title statement

Indicator code

WB_WDI_SI_POV_GINI

Indicator name

Gini index

Alternate identifiers

Type	Identifier	Database	Notes
DCS code	SI.POV.GINI	DCS	Identifier in DCS database

Database ID

WB_WDI

Database name

World Development Indicators (WDI)

Language

Name	Code
English	EN

Version date

2026-04-08

Description

Definition

Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, 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 or household. 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.

Definition references

Source	URL
Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Bank	https://datanalytics.worldbank.org/PIP-Methodology/

Development relevance

The World Bank Group's vision of promoting shared prosperity includes a measure that tracks the number of economies with high inequality, defined as those with a Gini index greater than 0.4

Measurement unit

%

Dimensions

Label	Description
Year	
Geographic area	Country/economy, country group, region

Periodicity

Annual

Topics

ID	Label	Parent ID	Vocabulary
	Poverty: Income distribution		WDI topics
P3	Prosperity		WB Practice Groups
P3_000004	Poverty	P3	Data360 Topic L1
P3_000019	Inequality and Shared Prosperity	P3_000004	Data360 Topic L2

Notes

Note
The World Bank's internationally comparable poverty monitoring database now draws on income or detailed consumption data from more than 2000 household surveys across 169 countries. See the Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP) for details (www.pip.worldbank.org).

Links

Type	Description	URL
WDI API	Data in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/si.pov.gini?date=1963:2022&format=json
WDI API	Data in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/si.pov.gini?date=1963:2022
WDI API	Metadata in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/si.pov.gini/metadata?format=json
WDI API	Metadata in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/si.pov.gini/metadata

Quality

Limitations

Gini coefficients are not unique. It is possible for two different Lorenz curves to give rise to the same Gini coefficient. Furthermore it is possible for the Gini coefficient of a developing country to rise (due to increasing inequality of income) while the number of people in absolute poverty decreases. This is because the Gini coefficient measures relative, not absolute, wealth.

Another limitation of the Gini coefficient is that it is not additive across groups, i.e. the total Gini of a society is not equal to the sum of the Gini's for its sub-groups. Thus, country-level Gini coefficients cannot be aggregated into regional or global Gini's, although a Gini coefficient can be computed for the aggregate.

Because the underlying household surveys differ in methods and types of welfare measures collected, data are not strictly comparable across countries or even across years within a country. Two sources of non-comparability should be noted for distributions of income 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. Wherever possible, consumption has been used rather than income. Income distribution and Gini indexes for high-income economies are calculated directly from the Luxembourg Income Study database, using an estimation method consistent with that applied for developing countries.

Concepts and methods

Statistical concept

The Gini index is the average of all pairwise absolute differences between individual consumption or income, normalized by twice the mean. More intuitively, the Gini index is the average share of mean consumption or income that needs to be transferred between two randomly selected individuals to achieve equality. A Gini index of 1 represents perfect inequality, in which total consumption or income goes to one individual. A Gini index of 0 indicates represents perfect equality, in which all individuals have the same level of consumption or income.

Methodology

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. A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual. Thus a Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

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 calculate the income or consumption shares by quintile. Otherwise, shares have been estimated from the best available grouped data.

The distribution data have been adjusted for household size, providing a more consistent measure of per capita income or consumption.

The year reflects the year in which the underlying household survey data were collected or, when the data collection period bridged two calendar years, the year data collection started.

Aggregation method

NA

Geographic and time coverage

Time coverage

Start	End
1963	2024

Economies

Name	Code
Angola	AGO
Albania	ALB
United Arab Emirates	ARE
Argentina	ARG
Armenia	ARM
Australia	AUS
Austria	AUT
Azerbaijan	AZE
Belgium	BEL
Benin	BEN
Bangladesh	BGD
Burkina Faso	BFA
Burundi	BDI
Bulgaria	BGR
Belarus	BLR
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Belize	BLZ
Bolivia	BOL
Brazil	BRA
Barbados	BRB
Bhutan	BTN
Botswana	BWA
Canada	CAN
Central African Republic	CAF
Switzerland	CHE
Chile	CHL
Cameroon	CMR
China	CHN
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV
Congo, Rep.	COG
Congo, Dem. Rep.	COD
Colombia	COL
Comoros	COM
Costa Rica	CRI
Cabo Verde	CPV
Cyprus	CYP
Czechia	CZE
Germany	DEU
Djibouti	DJI
Dominican Republic	DOM

Denmark	DNK
Algeria	DZA
Ecuador	ECU
Egypt, Arab Rep.	EGY
Estonia	EST
Ethiopia	ETH
Spain	ESP
Finland	FIN
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	FSM
France	FRA
Gabon	GAB
United Kingdom	GBR
Guinea	GIN
Ghana	GHA
Gambia, The	GMB
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ
Greece	GRC
Grenada	GRD
Guyana	GUY
Guatemala	GTM
Honduras	HND
Fiji	FJI
Croatia	HRV
Hungary	HUN
Haiti	HTI
Georgia	GEO
Indonesia	IDN
India	IND
Jamaica	JAM
Guinea-Bissau	GNB
Ireland	IRL
Iran, Islamic Rep.	IRN
Kenya	KEN
Iceland	ISL
Italy	ITA
Jordan	JOR
Japan	JPN
Kazakhstan	KAZ
Kyrgyz Republic	KGZ
Kiribati	KIR
Lebanon	LBN
Korea, Rep.	KOR

Lao PDR	LAO
Liberia	LBR
St. Lucia	LCA
Sri Lanka	LKA
Lithuania	LTU
Iraq	IRQ
Lesotho	LSO
Israel	ISR
Luxembourg	LUX
Latvia	LVA
Moldova	MDA
Morocco	MAR
Maldives	MDV
Madagascar	MDG
Mexico	MEX
Mali	MLI
Myanmar	MMR
Mongolia	MNG
Malta	MLT
Montenegro	MNE
Malawi	MWI
Malaysia	MYS
Mozambique	MOZ
Mauritania	MRT
Namibia	NAM
Mauritius	MUS
Nepal	NPL
Norway	NOR
Netherlands	NLD
Niger	NER
Nigeria	NGA
Nicaragua	NIC
Nauru	NRU
Panama	PAN
Philippines	PHL
Pakistan	PAK
Peru	PER
West Bank and Gaza	PSE
Poland	POL
Paraguay	PRY
Marshall Islands	MHL
Portugal	PRT

North Macedonia	MKD
Romania	ROU
Russian Federation	RUS
Rwanda	RWA
Sierra Leone	SLE
Qatar	QAT
Sudan	SDN
Senegal	SEN
El Salvador	SLV
Solomon Islands	SLB
Suriname	SUR
Slovak Republic	SVK
São Tomé and Príncipe	STP
South Sudan	SSD
Slovenia	SVN
Serbia	SRB
Sweden	SWE
Eswatini	SWZ
Chad	TCD
Seychelles	SYC
Togo	TGO
Syrian Arab Republic	SYR
Thailand	THA
Turkmenistan	TKM
Tonga	TON
Papua New Guinea	PNG
Tajikistan	TJK
Tunisia	TUN
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
Türkiye	TUR
Timor-Leste	TLS
Uganda	UGA
Uruguay	URY
Ukraine	UKR
United States	USA
Tuvalu	TUV
Tanzania	TZA
Vietnam	VNM
Venezuela, RB	VEN
Samoa	WSM
Vanuatu	VUT
Uzbekistan	UZB

Yemen, Rep.	YEM
Kosovo	XKX
South Africa	ZAF
Zambia	ZMB
Zimbabwe	ZWE

Access and use

License

Name	URL
CC BY-4.0	https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Confidentiality status

PU

API documentation

Description	URL
Developer Information webpage (detailed documentation of the WDI API)	https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/topics/125589-developer-information

Sources and citation

Authoring entity

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Christoph Lakner	World Bank	clakner@worldbank.org	https://pip.worldbank.org/home

Sources of data

Sources of data

Title

World Bank, Poverty and Inequality Platform. Data are based on primary household survey data obtained from government statistical agencies and World Bank country departments. Data for high-income economies are mostly from the Luxembourg Income Study database. For more information and methodology, please see <http://pip.worldbank.org>.

Author (Organization)

World Bank (WB)

Electronic location or identifier

<http://pip.worldbank.org>

Notes

Data are based on primary household survey data obtained from government statistical agencies and World Bank country departments. Data for high-income economies are mostly from the Luxembourg Income Study database.

Tags

Tags

Tag	Tag group
WB_WDI	feature-dataset-profile
P3	overview-country-profile-pillar
AGO	overview-country-profile-country
ALB	overview-country-profile-country
ARE	overview-country-profile-country
ARG	overview-country-profile-country
ARM	overview-country-profile-country
AUS	overview-country-profile-country
AUT	overview-country-profile-country
AZE	overview-country-profile-country
BDI	overview-country-profile-country
BEL	overview-country-profile-country
BEN	overview-country-profile-country
BFA	overview-country-profile-country
BGD	overview-country-profile-country
BGR	overview-country-profile-country
BIH	overview-country-profile-country
BLR	overview-country-profile-country
BLZ	overview-country-profile-country
BOL	overview-country-profile-country
BRA	overview-country-profile-country
BTN	overview-country-profile-country
BWA	overview-country-profile-country
CAF	overview-country-profile-country
CAN	overview-country-profile-country
CHE	overview-country-profile-country
CHL	overview-country-profile-country
CHN	overview-country-profile-country
CIV	overview-country-profile-country
CMR	overview-country-profile-country
COD	overview-country-profile-country
COG	overview-country-profile-country
COL	overview-country-profile-country
COM	overview-country-profile-country
CPV	overview-country-profile-country
CRI	overview-country-profile-country
CYP	overview-country-profile-country

CZE	overview-country-profile-country
DEU	overview-country-profile-country
DJI	overview-country-profile-country
DNK	overview-country-profile-country
DOM	overview-country-profile-country
DZA	overview-country-profile-country
ECU	overview-country-profile-country
EGY	overview-country-profile-country
ESP	overview-country-profile-country
EST	overview-country-profile-country
ETH	overview-country-profile-country
FIN	overview-country-profile-country
FJI	overview-country-profile-country
FRA	overview-country-profile-country
FSM	overview-country-profile-country
GAB	overview-country-profile-country
GBR	overview-country-profile-country
GEO	overview-country-profile-country
GHA	overview-country-profile-country
GIN	overview-country-profile-country
GMB	overview-country-profile-country
GNB	overview-country-profile-country
GRC	overview-country-profile-country
GTM	overview-country-profile-country
GUY	overview-country-profile-country
HND	overview-country-profile-country
HRV	overview-country-profile-country
HTI	overview-country-profile-country
HUN	overview-country-profile-country
IDN	overview-country-profile-country
IND	overview-country-profile-country
IRL	overview-country-profile-country
IRN	overview-country-profile-country
IRQ	overview-country-profile-country
ISL	overview-country-profile-country
ISR	overview-country-profile-country
ITA	overview-country-profile-country
JAM	overview-country-profile-country
JOR	overview-country-profile-country
JPN	overview-country-profile-country
KAZ	overview-country-profile-country
KEN	overview-country-profile-country

KGZ	overview-country-profile-country
KIR	overview-country-profile-country
KOR	overview-country-profile-country
LAO	overview-country-profile-country
LBN	overview-country-profile-country
LBR	overview-country-profile-country
LCA	overview-country-profile-country
LKA	overview-country-profile-country
LSO	overview-country-profile-country
LTU	overview-country-profile-country
LUX	overview-country-profile-country
LVA	overview-country-profile-country
MAR	overview-country-profile-country
MDA	overview-country-profile-country
MDG	overview-country-profile-country
MDV	overview-country-profile-country
MEX	overview-country-profile-country
MHL	overview-country-profile-country
MKD	overview-country-profile-country
MLI	overview-country-profile-country
MLT	overview-country-profile-country
MMR	overview-country-profile-country
MNE	overview-country-profile-country
MNG	overview-country-profile-country
MOZ	overview-country-profile-country
MRT	overview-country-profile-country
MUS	overview-country-profile-country
MWI	overview-country-profile-country
MYS	overview-country-profile-country
NAM	overview-country-profile-country
NER	overview-country-profile-country
NGA	overview-country-profile-country
NIC	overview-country-profile-country
NLD	overview-country-profile-country
NOR	overview-country-profile-country
NPL	overview-country-profile-country
NRU	overview-country-profile-country
PAK	overview-country-profile-country
PAN	overview-country-profile-country
PER	overview-country-profile-country
PHL	overview-country-profile-country
PNG	overview-country-profile-country

POL	overview-country-profile-country
PRT	overview-country-profile-country
PRY	overview-country-profile-country
PSE	overview-country-profile-country
ROU	overview-country-profile-country
RUS	overview-country-profile-country
RWA	overview-country-profile-country
SDN	overview-country-profile-country
SEN	overview-country-profile-country
SLB	overview-country-profile-country
SLE	overview-country-profile-country
SLV	overview-country-profile-country
SRB	overview-country-profile-country
SSD	overview-country-profile-country
STP	overview-country-profile-country
SUR	overview-country-profile-country
SVK	overview-country-profile-country
SVN	overview-country-profile-country
SWE	overview-country-profile-country
SWZ	overview-country-profile-country
SYC	overview-country-profile-country
SYR	overview-country-profile-country
TCD	overview-country-profile-country
TGO	overview-country-profile-country
THA	overview-country-profile-country
TJK	overview-country-profile-country
TKM	overview-country-profile-country
TLS	overview-country-profile-country
TON	overview-country-profile-country
TTO	overview-country-profile-country
TUN	overview-country-profile-country
TUR	overview-country-profile-country
TUV	overview-country-profile-country
TZA	overview-country-profile-country
UGA	overview-country-profile-country
UKR	overview-country-profile-country
URY	overview-country-profile-country
USA	overview-country-profile-country
UZB	overview-country-profile-country
VEN	overview-country-profile-country
VNM	overview-country-profile-country
VUT	overview-country-profile-country

WSM	overview-country-profile-country
XKX	overview-country-profile-country
YEM	overview-country-profile-country
ZAF	overview-country-profile-country
ZMB	overview-country-profile-country
ZWE	overview-country-profile-country
P3_000004	feature-topic-profile
P3	feature-theme-profile
P3	feature-country-profile-pillar