

GINI and the Fallacy of Composition

Introduction:

The dispersion of income varies based upon regional, political and economic factors as well as the granularity of boundaries. Understanding the distribution of income has growth and governance implications for policy, particularly to the degree that concentrations affect growth potential. There are some surprising and perhaps counter-intuitive trends

GINI is an internationally recognized measure of income dispersion within a specified geographic area. Income inequality has also been a topical discussion in recent years and is a key measure of income dispersion.

Background

The Census Bureau publishes data sets which track the GINI index at different levels of geographic granularity including region, state, congressional district and metropolitan statistical area. This study analyzes the income dispersion within the United States using Census data and in particular, income data collected for the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau provides the following tool for acquiring data sets . . .

http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/guided_search.xhtml

Data:

This is an observational study of data collected by surveyors by the US Census Bureau. The presumption is that each observation is an independent event of objective fact. The Census Bureau's survey techniques rely sampling, so the initial data-set is based to a degree on statistical inference and imputed data.

Details1

All data used in this survey was sourced from the American Community Survey published by the US Census Bureau. 4 distinct datasets generated using the Census Bureau's utility. Except for the Regional data set all other data sets have more than 30 independent observations. It is therefore expected that a near normal sampling distribution applies to the data collected.

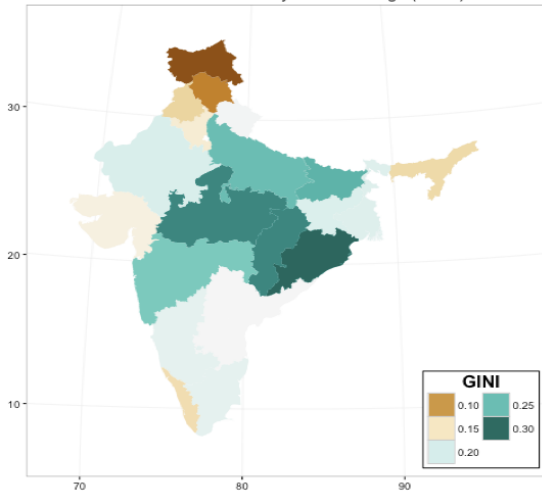
- * Gini Indices by Region
- * Gini Indices by State
- * Gini Indices by Congressional District
- * Gini Indices by Metropolitan Statistical Area

Details2

The following cases correspond to each geographic level data set above:

- * 4 Regions: Northeast, Midwest, South and West + US Overall
- * 50 States
- * 436 Congressional Districts
- * 916 Gini Indices by Metropolitan Statistical Area

India 2005 GINI Index by Province range (0 -> 1)



India 2004

US 2014 GINI Index by State range (0 -> 1)

