Description Dataset Real Wages in North India, 1590s-1870s

(Read-me File)

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These files are underlying the publication “Poverty or Prosperity in Northern India? New Evidence on Real Wages, 1590s-1870s”, to be published in the *Economic History Review*.

There are multiple files in this package:

1. north\_india\_wages.dta

This constitutes the main datafile with all the wages gathered from a wide variety of sources.

1. data\_description\_north\_india\_wages.doc

Briefly describes all the variables included in 1.

1. india\_wage\_analysis.do

This do-file contains all the STATA code that were used to calculate the decadal wage series for the research article. Similarly, the code to create all the figures, as well as the regression analysis in the Supplementary File to the main research article can be found here.

1. unskilled\_decadal\_estimates\_stata.xlsx; skilled\_decadal\_estimates\_stata.xlsx; unskilled\_seasonal\_estimates\_stata.xlsx

These files contain the decadal wage figures obtained from the STATA output and were used in combination with File 5 to compute the real wage series (File 6).

1. price\_series\_north\_india.xlsx

This file contains the consumer baskets and price series for the three marco-regions of India as shown in the main article. We linearly interpolated the price series in the case of gaps of less than 10 years (all interpolations are clearly visible in the Excel-file), larger price gaps were imputed by calculating the relative weights of the various goods in the basket and adding those weights to the basket in case of missing data.

The price data were gathered from:

Allen, R.C., and R. Studer, ‘Prices and wages in India, 1595-1930’, Global price and income history: <http://gpih.ucdavis.edu>. Last version: September 2009.

Prices for textiles in Bombay and Calcutta were gathered from:

Bowen, H.V., *The business of empire. The East India Company and imperial Britain, 1756-1833* (Cambridge, 2005).

Chaudhuri, K.N., *The trading world* *of Asia and the English East India Company: 1660-1760* (Cambridge, 1978).

1. real\_wage\_calculations.xlsx

Combines the data from Files 4 and 5 to calculate subsistence ratios for working years of 250 and 360 days.

1. global\_comparisons.xlsx

This file uses the data from Files 4, 5 and 6 to compare the results for India with those on Europe. The European series on skilled and unskilled workers are from:

Allen, R. C., ‘The great divergence in European wages and prices from the middle ages to the First World War’, *Explorations in Economic History*, 38 (2001), pp. 411-447.

The European series on the gender wage gap are taken from:

Humphries, J. and Weisdorf, J. ‘The Wages of Women in England, 1260-1850’, *Journal of Economic History*, 75 (2015), pp. 405-447.

Pleijt, A. M. de, and Zanden, J. L. van, ‘Two worlds of female labour: gender wage inequality in western Europe, 1300-1800’, *EHES Working Papers in Economic History* 138 (2018).

1. data\_appendix.doc

This file is the supplementary file to the Poverty or Prosperity in Northern India? To be published on the website of *Economic History Review*.

1. Please e-mail Pim de Zwart ([pim.dezwart@wur.nl](mailto:pim.dezwart@wur.nl)) if you have further questions about these data. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)