

Guide to the Billionaires Characteristics Database: Files and Variables

Billionaires1996-2014.dta

Includes the full range of billionaire data from 1996 through September 2015. For the book *Rich People Poor Countries*, the data used run from 1996–2014, but the data were updated through September 2015 for the working paper.

Billionaires-2001and2014detail.dta

Includes data for 1996, 2001, and 2014, and the variables categorizing billionaires by how their wealth was made and information on the companies associated with billionaire wealth. For the book, data from 2001 and 2014 are used, but the data were updated to include 1996 for the working paper.

Billionaires-1996,2001and2014updated.xlsx

An updated version of the file Billionaires-2001and2014detail.dta, which includes the sources used to gather data on individuals and sources of wealth. Sources have been updated to reflect the latest information available for each billionaire.

The folder “Do files to create book figures”

Includes the STATA code used to produce every table and figure found in the book *Rich People Poor Countries*. A separate file exists for each chapter in the book. Additionally, this folder includes the data behind figures created in Excel in a file titled “Rich People Poor Countries Excel-created figures”.

The folder “Do files to create Working Paper figures”

Contains the code used to produce every table and figure in the working paper. Data used for the map figures can be found on [Tableau](#).

The folder “Additional data for book figures”

Provides the additional data outside of the Billionaires Characteristics Database used to create figures in the book.

Variables

Variables are defined on next page.

To Reproduce Tables and Figures Using STATA:

Place Billionaires-2001and2014detail.dta, Billionaires1996-2014.dta and all the files in “Additional data for book figures” in the same location. Set the central directory (Stata command `cd “file location”`) to that location in STATA, and all code in the do files will run with no modification.

Variables in billionaire characteristics database

Variable name	Description	Available years	Source
name	name of individual or family on the billionaires list	1996–2015	Forbes
rank	rank of individual on the billionaires list, by year	1996–2015	Forbes
citizenship	billionaire country of citizenship	1996–2015	Forbes
countrycode	3-digit ISO country code, which corresponds to billionaire's citizenship	1996–2015	
networthusbillion	net worth of billionaire, current US dollars	1996–2015	Forbes
selfmade	binary variable that is 0 for inherited billionaires and 1 for self-made billionaires	1996, 2001, 2014	
typeofwealth	categorical variable that divides billionaires into inherited, self-made founders, self-made executives, politically connected/resource-related, and self-made finance	1996, 2001, 2014	
age	billionaire age	2002–15	Forbes
industry	industry labels based on Kaplan and Rauh (2013)	1996–2015	
IndustryAggregates	broad industry categories	1996–2015	author's calculations
region	categorical variable that divides billionaires into regions based on country of citizenship	1996–2015	author's calculations
north	equals 0 for emerging markets and 1 for advanced economies	1996–2015	author's calculations
political connection	equals 1 where the billionaire is linked to a politician, privatized company, or questionable license (justification given in notes variables)	1996, 2001, 2014	
founder	equals 1 where relationship to company is founder	1996, 2001, 2014	
generationofinheritance	categorical variable that divides inherited billionaires by generation	1996, 2001, 2014	
sector	sector of billionaire company	1996, 2001, 2014	
company	company primarily associated with billionaire's wealth	1996, 2001, 2014	
company type	indicates whether the company was new, acquired, or privatized when the billionaire or family members were first associated with it	1996, 2001, 2014	

Variables in billionaire characteristics database (*continued*)

Variable name	Description	Available years	Source
relationshipstocompany	describes the billionaire's relationship to the company primarily responsible for their wealth, such as founder, executive, relation, or shareholder	1996, 2001, 2014	
founding date	founding date of company associated with the billionaire's wealth	1996, 2001, 2014	
gdpcurrentus	by country GDP, current US dollars	1996–2015	World Bank World Development Indicators
deflator1996	deflator for US economy, using 2009 as base year adjusted to 1996 baseline	1996–2015	author's calculations using data from Federal Reserve, St. Louis
realnetworth	real net worth of billionaires, 1996 US dollars	1996–2015	author's calculations
realbillionaires	equals 1 where billionaire wealth is at least \$1 billion in 1996 dollar terms	1996–2015	author's calculations
sourceofwealth	Forbes-reported source of billionaire wealth	2011–15	Forbes
notes	extra information about individual billionaires	1996, 2001, 2014	
sources variables (source-source4)	record of web pages used to compile information on individuals	1996, 2001, 2014	