

Task Overview

Chicago Booth Full-Time Research Professional Application

Instructions

- Time: Spend no more than 4 hours on this task
- Data: We have extracted data from the Survey of Consumer Finances, 1989-2016 with year, survey weight, demographic characteristics, income, housing assets, total assets, housing debt, and total debt. Wealth is defined as assets minus debt. All variables have already been rescaled into 2016 \$. Use the CSV file posted [here](#). No additional data is needed.

Questions

1. Please summarize key trends in median wealth over the last 30 years by race and education using plots and in writing.
2. Repeat your analysis for just housing wealth for black and white households.
3. Many households are not homeowners and so your analysis for the prior question includes many zeros for housing wealth. Let's dig deeper by focusing just on homeowners age 25 or older. Please summarize trends in for black and white households for both housing and non-housing wealth. Which group had the largest loss in housing wealth, where 2007 is defined as the base period? Please answer this question both in dollar terms and in proportional terms.
4. Many potential channels have been identified for explaining the wealth gaps by race documented in question 1. These include differences in access to financial markets, segregation, discrimination, family networks, neighborhood characteristics, and barriers to human capital accumulation. Please pick at least two hypotheses (they do not need to be included in the list above) and explain what evidence you might want to assemble to test the importance of these channels.

Output

- Please provide a short note in `.pdf` format that concisely answers these questions. Please be sure to include a few graphs and/or tables to support your conclusions. Please provide the code that you used to produce these figures and/or tables.
- We do not have a preference for what language the code is written in.
- You should feel free to use whatever techniques you want. However, note that sometimes a simple graph can do more for an argument than all the estimators in the world.
- When you are done, please upload the task [here](#)