

# Research Assistantship - Data Collection

Federico Vicentini

01/05/2023

## DATA COLLECTION

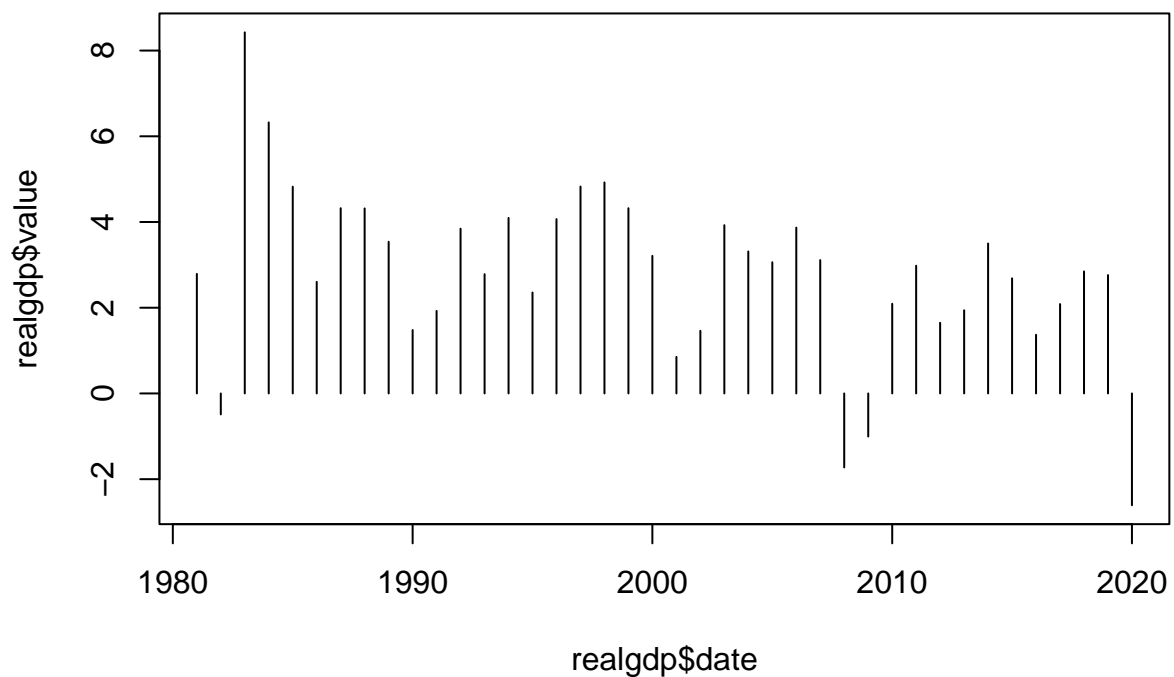
### Real GDP Data

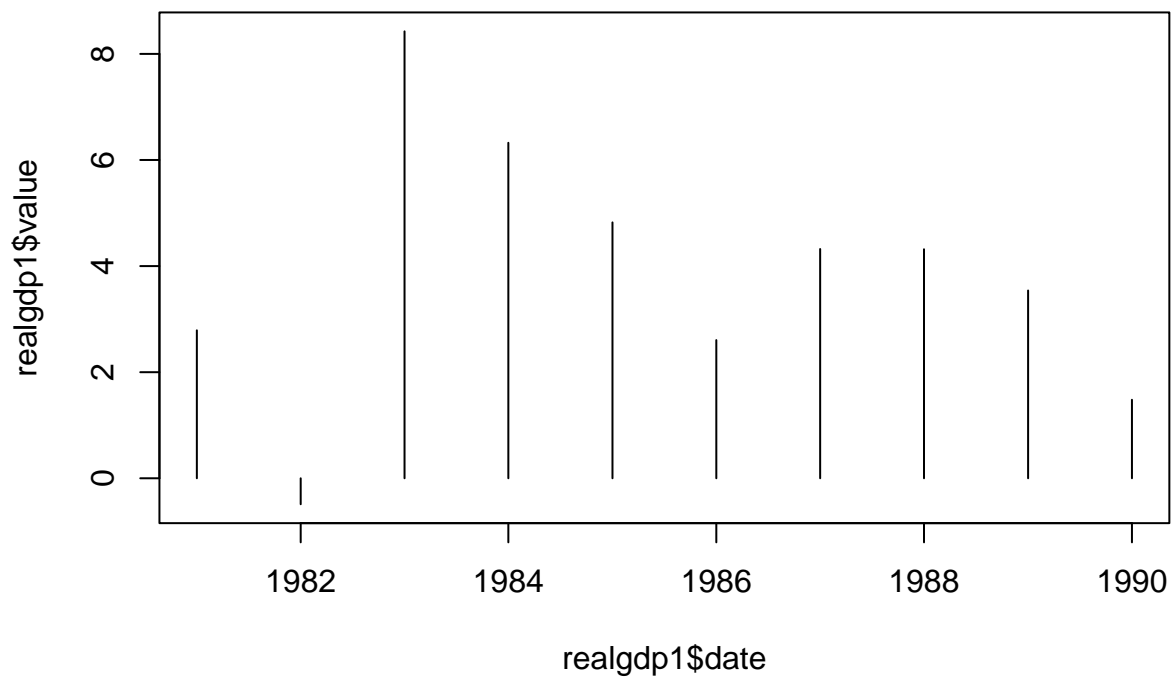
In this first part, we download nominal GDP data and GDP deflator data from 1980 to 2020 and then we divide it into the 2 section (1980s and 2010s) in order to calculate means and thus compare it to the data we got in the TTD Presentation.

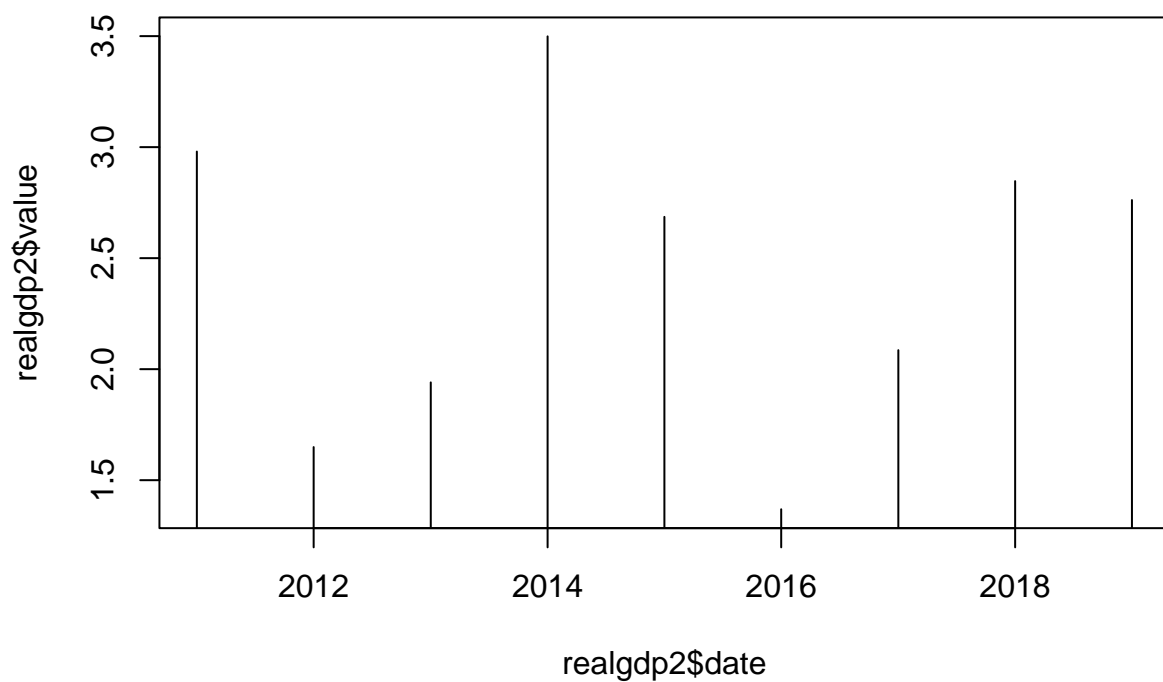
```
## [1] 2.816635
```

```
## [1] 3.813955
```

```
## [1] 2.424288
```



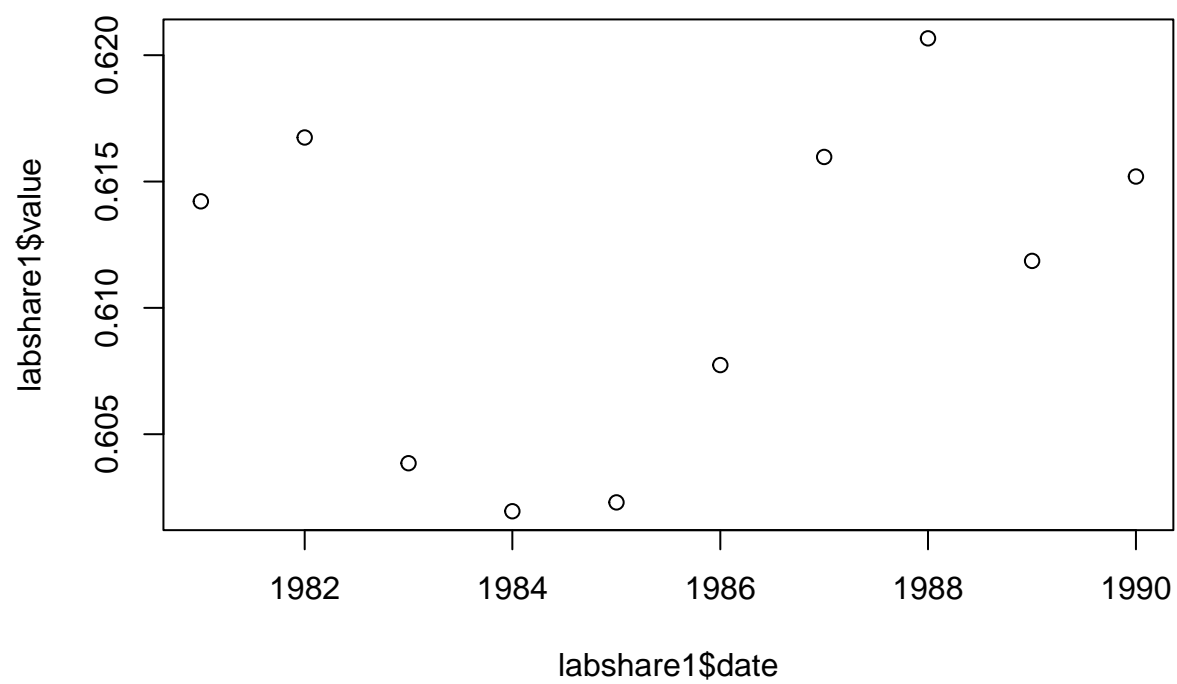


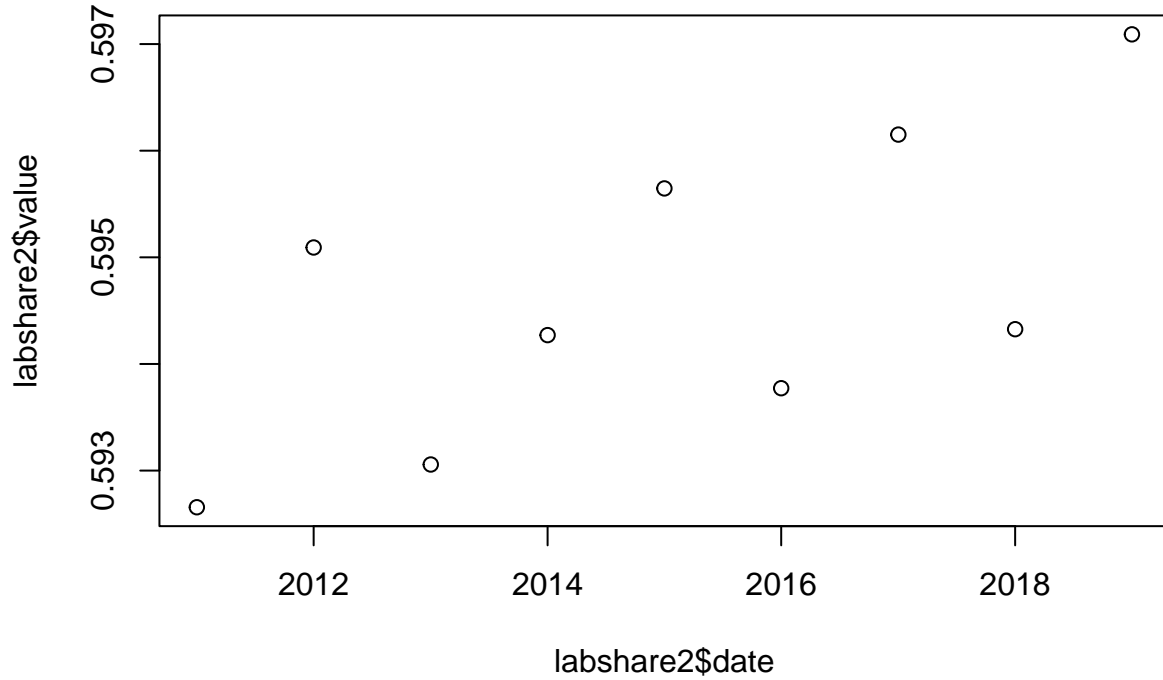


## Labor Share of Output

### “Naive” Labor Share (LS1)

First attempt here is to download the laborshare timeseries from fred. You can see from the values of the plots that the level of the labor share is underestimated if we use LS1. In fact, this approach neglects some important aspects, such as the role of self-employed workers and correction to value added in the forms of indirect taxes and consumption of fixed capital.





### Guerriero Index

This is precisely why we tried to replicate the laborshare measure provided by {Guerriero (2019)}, defined as:

$$LS6 = \frac{\text{compensation of employees} * \left( \frac{\text{workforce} - \text{employers}}{\text{employees}} \right)}{\text{value added} - \text{ind. taxes} - \text{fixed cap. cons.}}$$

Data is retrieved from Ilostat R package API and (United Nations System of National Accounts (2023))

For lack of available data on the structure of the labor force in the US prior to the introduction of the ICSE93 standard, we will use LS5 instead of the LS6 index, defined as:

$$LS6 = \frac{\text{compensation of employees} * \left( \frac{\text{workforce}}{\text{employees}} \right)}{\text{value added} - \text{ind. taxes} - \text{fixed cap. cons.}}$$

Below you can find also an example of the result we would get by trying to compute LS6 too.

Note: since (Guerriero (2019)) says that “Data on the composition of the workforce is not always available for every year. When absent, it is assumed to be the same as in the previous year (Gollin 2002). This is a realistic assumption (Askenazy 2003), given that the composition of the workforce is relatively constant over time.”, and since we have data on the composition of the workforce from 1994 onward, we will assume that in years preceding 1994, workforce composition is the same. Below, you can find a plot of workforce/employees for 1994 onward, where you can see that the figure is pretty stable. However, instead of taking 1994 value

and projecting backward, I found it better to make an average for the period 1994-2000 and then project that figure backward.

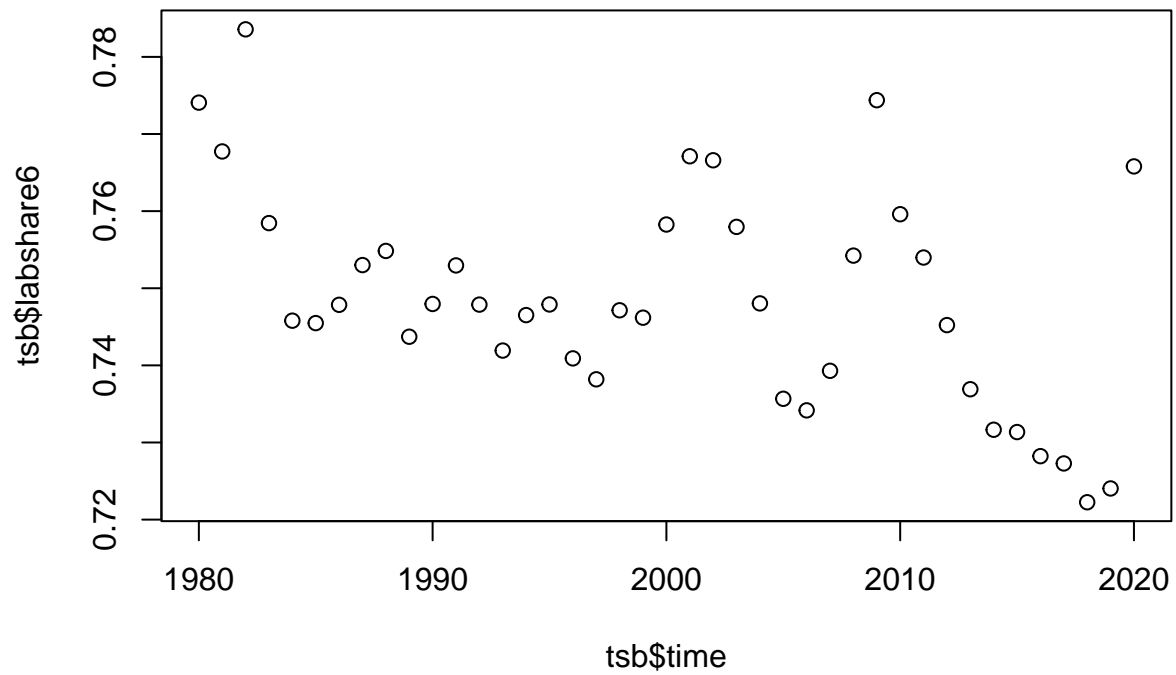
Note2: since there are 2 different time series for SNA data, coming from two different accounting standards (SNA93 and SNA08), we tried 2 approaches. First, we tried to find a conversion factor between those 2 standards (using first lags in order not to have spurious regressions), but this approach leads to a big jump in the data around the cutoff year. Thus, the second method was just to keep the newer standard for years after 1995, and the old one for years prior. This is probably what Guerriero (2019) did in the paper, since the results look similar (albeit different since we use LS5 and not LS6). This is the method I selected in the end.



## Labor Share of Output (LS5)



## Labor Share of Output (LS6)



```
## [1] 81.74022
```

```
## [1] 75.4841
```

```
## [1] 78.03572
```

```
## [1] 73.34359
```

```
## [1] 0.8033114
```

```
## [1] 0.7539834
```

```
## [1] -3.704498
```

```
## [1] -2.14051
```

**Labor Share from Autor et al.**

Another attempt at constructing a measure of the labor share of output comes from Autor et al. (2020))



## References

- Autor, David, David Dorn, Lawrence F. Katz, Christina Patterson, and John Van Reenen. 2020. “The Fall of the Labor Share and the Rise of Superstar Firms.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 135 (2): 645–709. <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjaa004>.
- Guerriero, Marta. 2019. “The Labor Share of Income Around the World: Evidence from a Panel Dataset.” *ADBI Working Papers*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3358006>.
- United Nations System of National Accounts. 2023. “UN - SNA.” [http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=SNA&f=group\\_code%3a401](http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=SNA&f=group_code%3a401).