**Data:**

Our main variable of interest in estimating the Gini index was the percent of the workforce belonging to a union in any specific state. We also attempted to control for other variables, including: the percent of the workforce under a collective bargaining agreement, population, GDP, minimum wage, personal income, size of the civilian labor force, the percent of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher, unemployment, and homeownership rate. We collected our data from the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS), from a Union Membership and Coverage Database utilizing the Current Population Survey (CPS), and from the Federal Reserve Economic Database (FRED). All the data collected ranges from the years 2006 through 2016. A description of our variables, as well as summary statistics can be found below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Description** |
| percent\_union\_members | % of workforce belonging to a union |
| percent\_collective | % of workforce belonging to a union |
| gini\_index | Gini Index measured from 0 - 1 |
| population | Population in thousands. Not seasonally adjusted |
| gdp\_in\_millions | Real GDP in millions of dollars |
| state\_min\_wage\_rate | State minimum wage rate in dollars per hour |
| per\_capital\_personal\_income | Per capita personal income. Measured in dollars |
| yearly\_avg\_clf | Yearly average civilian labor force |
| perc\_w\_bach\_deg\_or\_higher | Percent of population with a bachelor's degree or higher |
| yearly\_avg\_unemply\_rate | Yearly average unemployment rate in percent |
| homeownership\_rate | Homeownership rate in percent |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Mean** | **Standard Deviation** | **Minimum** | **Maximum** |
| percent\_union\_members | 10.728 | 5.387492903 | 1.6 | 25.2 |
| percent\_collective | 12.05527273 | 5.385831055 | 2.6 | 27.2 |
| gini\_index | 0.456355818 | 0.020278936 | 0.402 | 0.5138 |
| population | 6214.379733 | 6877.38364 | 522.667 | 39296.476 |
| gdp\_in\_millions | 319495.1329 | 391382.0226 | 26801.5 | 2500645.2 |
| state\_min\_wage\_rate | 7.096509091 | 1.085639913 | 2.65 | 10 |
| per\_capital\_personal\_income | 42281.82909 | 7525.351781 | 27907 | 69547 |
| yearly\_avg\_clf | 3087521.748 | 3363924.251 | 281246.8333 | 19093657.42 |
| perc\_w\_bach\_deg\_or\_higher | 28.12818182 | 4.974062631 | 16.5 | 42.7 |
| yearly\_avg\_unemply\_rate | 6.267227273 | 2.176720477 | 2.566666667 | 13.65833333 |
| homeownership\_rate | 68.37527273 | 5.100163166 | 51.5 | 79 |

There are variations in our data, both over time and by state. Below, figures 1a and 2a show variation in the average Gini index and average union membership over time. Variations are more prevalent and noticeable when examined on a state-by-state basis. Figures 1b and 2b show this variation by state.



