

# **“What’s Happening to the World Income Distribution? The elephant chart revisited.”**

## **Documentation for Online Data Appendix**

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### **Input Data Files**

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Input Data Files 1 through 12 contain the mean consumption/income for each quantile of the country’s population in each year for which data is available.

1. LM Quantile Data – Original.dta  
This file contains the data used for the original elephant chart from Lakner and Milanovic’s [Worldwide Panel Income Distribution](#) dataset. Each country’s population is divided into deciles.
2. LM Quantile Data – 2011 PPP.dta  
This file contains the same countries and years as (1), but the decile mean incomes have been converted into 2011 PPP using the ICP PPP conversion factors for household consumption and CPIs from WDI.
3. LM Quantile Data – 2011 PPP, Adjusted.dta  
This file contains data from the same surveys as (2), but for surveys that were not conducted during a line-up year, the growth rates of income as recorded in national accounts have been used to adjust data from survey years to the line-up year. Further details on this adjustment are available in the paper.
4. PCN Quantile Data – Original.dta
5. This file contains survey data from the World Bank’s [PovcalNet](#). PovcalNet provides mean incomes in 2011 PPP for each percentile of the population when possible, and the smallest available quantile otherwise.
6. PCN Quantile Data – Deciles.dta  
This file contains the same PCN data as (4). However, to make this data comparable with the original LM data, the data has been transformed here into country deciles instead of the original mixed quantiles.
7. PCN Quantile Data – Adjusted.dta  
This file contains the PovcalNet data in its original quantiles, adjusted to the line-up year using the growth rates of income as recorded in the national accounts.
8. PCN Quantile Data – Deciles, Adjusted.dta  
This file contains the PovcalNet data in deciles as in (6), adjusted to the line-up year using the growth rates of income as recorded in the national accounts.
9. WIID Quantile Data – Original.dta

This file contains select surveys from UNU-WIDER's [World Income Inequality Database](#) that cover all ages, measure per capita income or consumption, and are not included in other sources.

10. WIID Quantile Data – Adjusted.dta

This file contains the same data as (9), adjusted to the line-up year using the growth rates of income as recorded in the national accounts.

11. Combined Quantile Data – Filled In.dta

This file contains data from (4) if available, filled in with additional country years from (2), then finally with data from (9). Then, quantile mean incomes are filled in for every year from 1991-2016 using the growth rates of income as recorded in the national accounts. Unlike previous files, data is filled in for all years instead of just the years that fall within a five-year window around a line-up year. Further details on this method are available in the paper.

12. Combined Quantile Data – Filled In, Deciles.dta

This file contains the data from (11), transformed into deciles instead of the available quantile size from the original data.

Input data files 13 and 14 contain different information.

13. WID Global GIC Data.dta

This file contains the growth rate of each global percentile calculated from the replication data for WID's 2018 [World Inequality Report](#).

14. Survey Means and National Accounts Means.dta

This file contains survey mean income or consumption from PovcalNet net and national accounts mean consumption (specifically, household final consumption expenditure) from WDI.

## Do Files

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1. Updating Elephant Chart.do

This file produces all figures in the main text and all tables in Appendix A.

2. Comparing Survey Means and National Account Means.do

This file produces Figure B2 in Appendix B.

Contact [bseidel@brookings.edu](mailto:bseidel@brookings.edu) with further questions.