

US Distributional National Accounts: Codebook

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This document describes our Distributional National Accounts microfiles. This is a set of annual micro-files representative of the U.S. economy, where each line is a synthetic individual created by combining tax, survey, and national account data, and each column is a variable of the national accounts. There is one file per year since 1962 (except in 1963 and 1965 when there are no publicly available samples of individual income tax returns). These Distributional National Accounts micro-files are available online and structured as follows. The files are at the adult individual (aged 20 and above) level, so the sum of weights (variable `dweight`) adds up to the adult population, 226 million in 2010. The variable “`id`” identifies tax units, which makes it possible to compute statistics at the tax-unit level rather than adult level. The files also include socio-demographic information: age (restricted to three age categories, 20 to 44 years old, 45 to 64, and above 65), gender, marital status, and number of dependent children.

The Distributional National Accounts microfiles are constructed using as an input the publicly available synthetic tax return datasets created in Saez and Zucman (2018), posted here. These synthetic tax return datasets provide homogeneous synthetic annual files (since 1962) built using individual income tax data produced by the Statistics of Income Division of the IRS.

The external-use Distributional National Accounts micro-files we make available online do not exactly reproduce the results published in Piketty, Saez, and Zucman (2018) that were produced using more comprehensive internal-use tax data. However, we have checked that, for most series, the results from the external-use microfiles track the results from internal files closely.

The Distributional National Accounts micro-files contain the following variables each year:

1 Socio-demographic characteristics

- **id**: Tax unit ID
- **dweight**: Population weight $\times 100,000$
- **female**: Dummy for being female (PUF year 1969, 1974 and non-MFJ only, 2009 for all)
- **ageprim**: Imputed age of primary filer (husband if married)
- **agesec**: Imputed age of wife in married filers
- **age**: Imputed age
- **oldexm**: Dummy for primary filer being 65+
- **oldexf**: Dummy for secondary filer being 65+
- **old**: Aged 65+
- **oldmar**: Interaction of married and old

- **married:** Dummy for being married joint return (filing status)
- **second:** Dummy for being secondary earner
- **xkidspop:** Number of children (imputed to match population total j20)
- **filer:** Tax filer dummy

2 Core income and wealth series

- **fiinc:** Fiscal income (incl. capital gains) = $fiwag + fibus + firen + fiint + fidiv + fikgi$
- **fninc:** Fiscal income (excl. capital gains) = $fiwag + fibus + firen + fiint + fidiv$
- **fainc:** Personal factor income = $finc + fkinc$
- **finc:** Personal factor labor income = $flemp + flmil + flprl$
- **fkinc:** Personal factor capital income = $fkhou + fkequ + fkfix + fkbus + fkpen + fkdeb$
- **ptinc:** Personal pre-tax income = $plinc + pkinc$
- **plinc:** Personal pre-tax labor income = $finc + plcon + plbel$
- **pkinc:** Personal pre-tax capital income = $fkinc + pkpen + pkbek$
- **diinc:** Extended disposable income = $dicsh + inkindinc + colexp$
- **princ:** Factor national income (matching national income) = $fainc + govin + npinc$
- **peinc:** Pre-tax national income (matching national income) = $ptinc + govin + npinc + prisupen + invpen$
- **poinc:** Post-tax national income (matching national income) = $diinc + govin + npinc + prisupenprivate + invpen + prisupgov$
- **hweal:** Net personal wealth = $hwequ + hwfix + hwhou + hwbus + hwpen + hwdeb$

3 Detailed fiscal income series

- **fiwag:** Fiscal income, wages and pensions
- **fibus:** Fiscal income, business income
- **firen:** Fiscal income, rents
- **fiint:** Fiscal income, interest
- **fidiv:** Fiscal income, dividends
- **fikgi:** Fiscal income, capital gains

- **fnps**: Fiscal income (excl. KG), flat income for non-filers, matching PS shares
- **peninc**: total taxable pension income (=DB+DC+IRA withdrawals, but not Social Security)
- **schcinc**: schedule C net income
- **scorinc**: S corporation net income
- **partinc**: partnership net income
- **rentinc**: net rental income from Schedule E
- **estinc**: estate and trust net income
- **rylinc**: royalties net income
- **othinc**: other income in AGI

4 Detailed household wealth series

- **hwequ**: Equity assets (half prop. to divs, half to averaged KG)
- **hwequ_kg**: Equity assets (dividends + capital gains capitalized)
- **hwfix**: Currency, deposits, bonds and loans (heterogenous r)
- **hwfix_homo**: Currency, deposits, bonds & loans (homogeneous r)
- **hwhou**: Housing assets (heterogeneous property tax rate)
- **hwhou_homo**: Housing assets (homogeneous property tax rate)
- **hwbus**: Business assets
- **hwpen**: Pension and life-insurance assets
- **hwdeb**: Liabilities of households
- **hwealnokg**: Net personal wealth (KG not capitalized)
- **rental**: Tenant-occupied housing wealth, net of mortgage debt
- **rentalhome**: Gross tenant-occupied housing
- **rentalmort**: Mortgages on tenant-occupied houses
- **ownerhome**: Gross owner-occupied housing wealth
- **ownerhome_heter**: Gross owner-occupied housing wealth, heter. prop. tax
- **ownermort**: Mortgages on owner-occupied houses

- **housing**: Housing wealth, net of mortgage debt
- **partw**: Partnership wealth
- **soleprop**: Sole proprietorship wealth
- **scorw**: S-corporations equities
- **equity**: Equity assets (only div. capitalized)
- **taxbond**: Taxable fixed claims (interest generating), homogeneous interest rate
- **taxbond_r**: Taxable fixed claims (interest generating), heterogenous interest rate
- **muni**: Tax-exempt municipal bonds
- **currency**: Currency and non-interest bearing deposits
- **mmbondfund**: Money market and bond funds (dividend generating)
- **miscw**: Misc. assets (non-life insurance reserves and receivables, etc.)
- **nonmort**: Non-mortgage debt
- **hwfin**: Financial assets of households
- **hwnfa**: Non-financial assets of households

5 Detailed factor national income series

- **flemp**: Compensation of employees
- **flwag**: Taxable wages of filers + non-filers
- **flsup**: Supplements to taxable wages
- **waghealth**: Health insurance contributions
- **wagpen**: Pension contributions (employer + employee)
- **fmil**: Labor component of net mixed income
- **fmil_s**: Labor component of sole proprietorships income
- **fmil_p**: Labor component of partnership income
- **flprl**: Sales and excise taxes allocated to labor
- **fkhou**: Housing asset income
- **fkequ**: Equity asset income

- **fkequ_c**: Equity asset income (C corporations)
- **fkequ_s**: Equity asset income (S corporations)
- **fkfix**: Interest income
- **fkbus**: Business asset income
- **fkbus_p**: Business asset income (partnerships)
- **fkbus_s**: Business asset income (sole proprietorships)
- **fkpen**: Pension and insurance asset income
- **fkdeb**: Interest payments
- **fkhoumain**: Main housing asset income
- **fkhourent**: Rental housing asset income
- **fkmor**: Mortgage interest payments
- **fkmmo**: Non-mortgage interest payments
- **fkprk**: Sales and excise taxes allocated to capital

6 Detailed pre-tax national income series

- **ptnin**: Personal pre-tax income (narrow definition: pensions only)
- **plpbe**: Pension benefits (SS + non-SS)
- **plobe**: UI and DI benefits
- **plben**: Social insurance income (pensions + DI + UI)
- **ssinc_oa**: Social Security income (old age)
- **ssinc_di**: Social Security income (disability)
- **uiinc**: Unemployment insurance benefits
- **plpbl**: Labor share of pension benefits
- **plnin**: Personal pre-tax labor income (narrow definition: pensions only)
- **plcon**: (Minus) social contributions (pensions + DI + UI, employers + employees + self-employed)
- **plbel**: Labor component of social insurance income (pensions + DI + UI)

- **plpco**: (Minus) pension contributions (employer + employee + self-employed, SS + non-SS)
- **ploco**: (Minus) DI and UI contributions (employer + employee + self-employed)
- **pkpen**: (Minus) Investment income payable to pension funds (DB + DC + IRA, but excluding life insurance)
- **pkbek**: Capital share of social insurance income (pensions + DI + UI)
- **pkpbk**: Capital share of pension benefits
- **pknin**: Personal pre-tax capital income (narrow definition: pensions only)
- **govin**: (Minus) Net property income paid by gov. (allotted 50% prop. to taxes, 50% to non-Social Security transfers and public goods spending)
- **npinc**: Net primary income of non-profit institutions (prop. to disposable income)
- **prisupen**: Primary surplus (= contrib - distrib) of pension system
- **invpen**: Investment income payable to pension funds (DB + DC + IRA, but excluding life insurance)
- **prisupenprivate**: Primary surplus (= contrib - distrib) of private pension system (allotted prop. to wages)

7 Detailed post-tax national income series

- **dicsh**: Disposable cash income
- **tax**: Total taxes and social contributions paid
- **ditax**: Current personal taxes on income and wealth
- **ditaf**: Federal personal income tax (gross of refundable tax credits)
- **ditas**: State personal income tax
- **salestax**: Sales and excise taxes
- **corptax**: Corporate tax (prop. to wealth excl. housing)
- **estatetax**: Estate tax
- **proprestax**: Residential property tax
- **propbustax**: Business property tax (prop. to equity & business assets)
- **govcontrib**: Total contributions for government social insurance

- **ssuicontrib**: Contributions for government social insurance: pensions, UI, DI
- **othercontrib**: Contributions for government social insurance other than pension, UI, DI
- **ben**: Total benefits (cash + kind + coll, excl. pensions, UI, DI)
- **dicab**: Social assistance benefits in cash
- **dicred**: Refundable tax credits
- **difoo**: Food stamps (SNAP)
- **disup**: Supplemental security income
- **divet**: Veteran benefits
- **diwco**: Workers' compensation benefits
- **dicaa**: Other social assistance benefits in cash
- **tanfinc**: TANF / AFDC benefits
- **othben**: Other cash benefits (State and local benefits similar to SNAP, etc.)
- **medicare**: Medicare = capitation for 65+ individuals
- **medicaid**: Amount of medicaid benefits received by tax unit
- **otherkin**: Other in-kind transfers (pell grants + state schships + veterans' health care +
- **pell**: Pell grants received
- **vethealth**: Veteran in-kind health benefits
- **inkindinc**: Social transfers in kind
- **colexp**: Collective consumption expenditure
- **educ**: Education collective consumption expenditure
- **colexp2**: Collective consumption exp. (with lump sum educ.)
- **poinc2**: Post-tax national income (matching macro NI) (education lump sum)
- **prisupgov**: Government primary surplus (= taxes - benefits) (allocated 50% prop. to taxes, 50% prop. to non-Social Security transfers and public goods spending)