

Top Wealth and Income: New Data, Methods, and Estimates for Germany

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Top wealth is under-represented in standard surveys preventing its reliable measurement. We show how this data gap can be filled convincingly, and provide an implementation for Germany: Our new subsample of the wealthy (SOEP-P) is fully integrated into the Socio-Economic Panel. Using new improved statistical methods, we estimate the tail index of the wealth distribution and wealth shares much more tightly. The integrated survey then enables us to study coherently and in detail the link with income, and to present a detailed covariate-based tableau of top wealth which emphasizes the roles of inheritances and entrepreneurship.