



The Relationship Between Income and Wealth Inequality: Evidence from the New OECD Wealth Distribution Database

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This note describes the distribution of household wealth for 18 OECD countries, using the newly released OECD Wealth Distribution Database that has been collected based on a set of commonly agreed conventions and classifications. The new data show that household wealth is much more unequally distributed than household income, due to the very high levels of concentration at the top of the wealth distribution. On average, across countries, the 10% wealthiest households hold half of total wealth, the next wealthiest 50% hold almost the other half, while the 60% least wealthy households own little over 13%. There appears to be a high degree of correlation between wealth and income at the microeconomic level for both rich and poor households, as well as some evidence of a positive cross-country correlation between income and wealth inequalities.