

Table 2. Wealth Inequality Trends in the United Kingdom, 1670 - 1989

Shares of aggregate marketable net worth

<u>England and Wales</u>				
	<u>Top 1% of households</u>	<u>Top 5% of adults</u>		
1670	48.9	84.6		
1700	39.3	81.9		
1740	43.6	86.9		
1810	54.9	85.3		
1875	61.1	84.0		
	<u>Top 1% of adults</u>	<u>Top 5% of adults</u>		
1911-13	69.0	87.0		
1923	60.9	82.0		
1924	59.9	81.5		
1925	61.0	82.1		
1926	57.3	79.9		
1927	59.8	81.3		
1928	57.0	79.6		
1929	55.5	78.9		
1930	57.9	79.2		
1936	54.2	77.4	<u>Top 1% of adults</u>	<u>Top 5% of adults</u>
1938	55.0	76.9	55.0	77.2
1950	47.2	74.3	47.2	74.4
1951	45.8	73.6	45.9	73.8
1952	43.0	70.2	42.9	70.3
1953	43.6	71.1	43.5	71.2
1954	45.3	71.8	45.3	72.0
1955	44.5	71.1	43.8	70.8
1956	44.5	71.3	44.0	71.1
1957	43.4	68.7	42.9	68.6
1958	41.4	67.8	40.9	67.7
1959	41.4	67.6	41.8	67.9
1960	33.9	59.4	34.4	60.0
1961	36.5	60.6	36.5	60.8
1962	31.4	54.8	31.9	55.4
1964	34.5	58.6	34.7	59.2
1965	33.0	58.1	33.3	58.7

	<u>Top 1%</u> <u>of adults</u>	<u>Top 5%</u> <u>of adults</u>	<u>Top 1%</u> <u>of adults</u>	<u>Top 5%</u> <u>of adults</u>
1976	21	38	13	26
1977	22	39	14	27
1978	20	37	13	26
1979	20	37	12	25
1980	19	36	11	24
1981	18	36	11	24
1982	18	36	11	24
1983	20	37	11	24
1984	18	35	10	23
1985	18	36	11	25
1986	18	36	11	24
1987	18	37	11	25
1988	17	38	10	26
1989	18	38	11	26

Sources and notes to Table 2:

The minimum age of independent adulthood varies in the estimates, as in society. For the pre-1900 estimates, this is assumed to be 20 years. Atkinson and Harrison assume that it dropped linearly from 23 years in 1923 to 20 years in 1953 and 18 years in 1973.

The sources are Lindert (1986) for 1688-1875; Atkinson and Harrison (1978, pp. 139, 159) for 1911/13 - 1972; and Central Statistical Office, Economic Trends, November 1991 for the United Kingdom 1976-1989.

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