

Financial Inclusion Research

Related Datasets, Key Economists & Similar Researchers

Based on: Demircuc-Kunt, Klapper, Singer, Ansar & Hess — The Global Findex Database 2017: Measuring Financial Inclusion and the Fintech Revolution. *World Bank Publications, 2018.*

1

[DATA]

1

Global Findex Database

World Bank | 2011–2025

The world's most comprehensive dataset on how adults save, borrow, make payments, and manage financial risk. Published every three years since 2011, with rounds in 2014, 2017, 2021, and 2025. The 2025 edition introduced a Digital Connectivity Tracker. Covers 140+ economies, 150,000+ respondents per round.

[Access the Global Findex Database](#)

2

IMF Financial Access Survey (FAS)

IMF | Supply-side | 192 Economies

An annual supply-side database compiled from financial authorities covering 192 economies with 121 data series spanning 2004–2023. Tracks access points and usage of financial services, normalized by adult population, land area, and GDP.

[Access the IMF Financial Access Survey](#)

3

FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households

FDIC | USA | Annual

A US-focused demand-side survey covering access, savings, retirement, and economic fragility. Shows that unbanked rates are significantly higher among low-income adults (17% earning under \$25,000 vs. 1% for those earning \$50,000–\$99,999).

[Access the FDIC Survey](#)

4

World Bank DataBank — Global Findex

World Bank | Country-level Indicators

Provides over 800 country-level indicators of financial inclusion disaggregated by gender, age, education, income, and rural residence across more than 150 economies.

[Access World Bank DataBank](#)

5

CGAP / FinDev Gateway**CGAP | Multi-source Aggregator**

Aggregates financial inclusion indicators and research from multiple sources. Widely used by development practitioners and policymakers to benchmark financial access across regions.

[Access CGAP Financial Inclusion Data](#)

6

IMF Fintech Transaction Data**IMF | 84 Countries | 2012–2020**

Used in empirical studies covering 84 countries, measuring fintech transaction volumes (excluding cryptocurrency) as a share of GDP alongside Findex financial inclusion indicators.

[IMF Working Paper on Fintech and Inclusion](#)

1

[PEOPLE]

1 Core Global Findex Team (World Bank)

WB

Asli Demirguc-Kunt**World Bank / Center for Global Development | Lead Author**

Lead author of the Global Findex series. One of the most cited economists in financial development and banking regulation. Formerly Director of Research and Chief Economist, Europe and Central Asia at the World Bank. Author of 100+ publications.

[World Bank Profile](#) [Google Scholar](#) [CGD Profile](#) [Personal Website](#)

WB

Leora Klapper**World Bank Development Research Group | Co-Creator of Findex**

Founder of the Global Findex database and Lead Economist at the World Bank. Research covers household finance, SME access to credit, digital payments, and entrepreneurship. Previously worked at the Federal Reserve System and Salomon Smith Barney.

[World Bank Profile](#) [Google Scholar](#) [ResearchGate](#) [IDEAS/RePEC](#)

WB

Dorothe Singer**World Bank | Co-Author**

Co-author of the 2017 and subsequent Findex editions. Research focuses on gender gaps in financial access and the barriers faced by women in using formal financial services.

[IDEAS/RePEC Profile](#) [ResearchGate](#)

WB**Saniya Ansar and Jake Hess****World Bank Global Findex Team | Co-Authors (2017 Edition)**

Co-authors of the 2017 Findex report. Contributed to data analysis and the fintech module examining mobile phone and internet-based financial transactions. Both continued contributing to the 2021 Findex edition.

[Saniya Ansar — ResearchGate](#) [Jake Hess — World Bank Open Knowledge](#)

10 Other Prominent Researchers**RES****Thorsten Beck****CEPR / City University London**

Foundational work on fintech and financial inclusion. Published extensively through ADBI and CEPR on bank competition, SME finance, and digital financial services. Co-authored the landmark 2020 IMF survey of financial inclusion literature.

[CEPR Profile](#) [Google Scholar](#)

RES**Serhan Cevik****International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

Studies the empirical relationship between fintech transaction volumes and financial inclusion across developing countries. His 2024 IMF working paper examines whether fintech's promise of financial inclusion has been fulfilled.

[IMF Author Page](#) [IMF Working Paper 2024](#)

RES**Emily Williams****Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**

Works on fintech, financial inclusion, and the future of finance with a focus on unbanked populations in the United States. Research examines overdraft fees, digital lending, and demographic patterns in financial exclusion.

[Boston Fed Profile](#)

RES**Asongu and Le Roux****African Governance and Development Institute**

Active researchers on gender gaps and fintech in emerging economies, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa. Examine how digital financial tools can reduce inequality and expand women's economic participation.

[Simplice Asongu — ResearchGate](#) [IDEAS/RePEC](#)

RES**Koomson et al.****Various African Universities**

Research on mobile money and savings behaviour for microenterprises. Evidence shows mobile money has greater positive impact on savings when complemented by formal bank accounts, especially for poor women.

[Isaac Koomson — ResearchGate](#)

1**[INDEX]****1 Core Data Builders (Closest to Klapper's Work)****CB****Maria Soledad Martinez Peria****World Bank / IMF**

Co-authored the landmark 2007 study with Beck and Demirguc-Kunt on access to and use of banking services across countries — one of the foundational papers in financial inclusion measurement. One of the most cited collaborators in the Findex ecosystem.

[IMF Profile](#) [IDEAS/RePEC](#)

CB**Stijn Claessens****Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**

Currently Head of Financial Stability Policy at the BIS, formerly Lead Economist at the World Bank for 14 years. His work with Rojas-Suarez proposes a decision tree framework using country-specific data and cross-country benchmarks to diagnose financial inclusion problems and direct policy interventions.

[BIS Profile](#) [Google Scholar](#)

CB**Robert Cull****World Bank Development Research Group**

Close collaborator on the original Findex database, acknowledged in Klapper and Demirguc-Kunt's foundational 2012 paper on measuring financial inclusion. Works extensively on microfinance and banking access across developing countries.

[World Bank Profile](#) [IDEAS/RePEC](#)

CB**Patrick Honohan****Trinity College Dublin / World Bank (former)**

Key contributor to the financial inclusion measurement agenda. Known for early work estimating household access to finance using cross-country data and for advancing the concept of banking the unbanked.

[Trinity College Profile](#) [IDEAS/RePEC](#)

1IMF-Based Index Builders**IMF****Goran Amidzic, Alexander Massara and Andre Mialou****International Monetary Fund**

Authors of the 2014 IMF Working Paper (WP/14/36) that developed a new composite financial inclusion index — one of the first systematic attempts to build a multidimensional measurement framework at the IMF, covering penetration, availability, and usage dimensions.

[IMF Working Paper WP/14/36](#)

IMF**Era Dabla-Norris****International Monetary Fund**

Led IMF research on financial inclusion measurement across Latin America and contributed to the broader IMF framework for measuring regional financial inclusion gaps. Also worked on the links between financial inclusion and inequality.

[IMF Author Page](#)

1Composite Index Researchers**IDX****Satya Chakravarty and Rupayan Pal****Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), India**

Developed an axiomatic approach to measuring financial inclusion, providing the theoretical foundations for constructing composite financial inclusion indexes. Widely cited in the index-building literature for their rigorous mathematical framework.

[IGIDR Profile — Rupayan Pal](#)

1 Major Financial Inclusion Index Initiatives

Index / Database	Institution	Key People / Notes
Global Findex	World Bank	Klapper, Demirguc-Kunt, Singer — demand-side, 140+ economies
Financial Access Survey (FAS)	IMF	Massara, Mialou, Amidzic — supply-side, 192 economies, annual
Global Financial Inclusion Index	Principal Financial / CEBR	Proprietary model across 42 markets; 3 pillars: govt, financial system, employer
FinScope Surveys	FinMark Trust	National-level demand-side surveys across Africa and Asia
Financial Inclusion Insights (FII)	InterMedia	Survey-based with mobile money focus in key emerging markets

Compiled from World Bank, IMF, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, BIS, and related academic sources. All profile links are clickable. For latest Findex data: worldbank.org/en/publication/globalfindex