

Table 7.1. Inequality of labor income across time and space

Share of different groups in total labor income	Low inequality (≈ Scandinavia, 1970s-80s)	Medium inequality (≈ Europe 2010)	High inequality (≈ U.S. 2010)	Very high inequality (≈ U.S. 2030 ?)
The top 10% "Upper class"	20%	25%	35%	45%
<i>including: the top 1%</i> <i>("dominant class")</i>	5%	7%	12%	17%
<i>including: the next 9%</i> ("well to-do class")	15%	18%	23%	28%
The middle 40% "Middle class"	45%	45%	40%	35%
The bottom 50% "Lower class"	35%	30%	25%	20%
Corresponding Gini coefficient (synthetic inequality index)	0.19	0.26	0.36	0.46

In societies where labor income inequality is relatively low (such as in Scandinavian countries in the 1970s-1980s), the top 10% most well paid receive about 20% of total labor income, the bottom 50% least well paid about 35%, the middle 40% about 45%. The corresponding Gini index (a synthetic inequality index going from 0 to 1) is equal to 0.19. See technical appendix.