Who Becomes an Inventor? The Importance of Exposure to Innovation

Codebook for Online Data Tables

November 2017

Table 4a: Income Distributions of Inventors by Year and Age

This table presents key statistics on the distribution of inventors' income by calendar year and age for years 1999-2012 and ages 25-70.

We define an individual as an inventor if he or she is listed on a patent application between 2001 and 2012 or grant between 1996 and 2014 (see Section II.B of the paper).

We report statistics on three measures of income: total income, wage earnings, and non-wage income. Wage earnings is defined as the sum of earnings across all W-2 forms received by an individual in a given year. Non-wage income consists of self-employment income and capital income. Total income is the sum of wage earnings and non-wage income. Income is measured prior to the deduction of individual income taxes and employee-level payroll taxes. We measure all monetary variables in 2012 dollars, adjusting for inflation using the consumer price index (CPI-U). We round monetary values to the nearest $100.

There is one row in this table for each calendar year and age. Cells with less than 250 inventors are omitted.

Codebook for Table 4a – Income Distributions of Inventors by Year and Age

Variable	Description
year	Calendar year
age	Age
cohort	Year of birth
count	Number of inventors
total_inc_[stat]	Statistic [stat] of the distribution of inventors' total individual income [stat] is either: p[p] – percentile[p], for [p]= 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 99 mean - mean
w2_inc_[stat]	Statistic [stat] of the distribution of inventors' W-2 wage earnings
nw_inc_[stat]	Statistic [stat] of the distribution of inventors' non-wage individual income

Table 4b: Income Distributions of Highly-Cited Inventors by Age

This table presents key statistics on the distribution highly-cited inventors' income by age over years 1999-2012 for ages 25-70.

We define an individual as an inventor if he or she is listed on a patent application between 2001 and 2012 or grant between 1996 and 2014 (see Section II.B of the paper), and as a highly-cited inventor if he or she is among the 5% of inventors with the most patent citations by 2014 within his or her birth cohort.

We report statistics on three measures of income: total income, wage earnings, and non-wage income. Wage earnings is defined as the sum of earnings across all W-2 forms received by an individual in a given year. Non-wage income consists of self-employment income and capital income. Total income is the sum of wage earnings and non-wage income. Income is measured prior to the deduction of individual income taxes and employee-level payroll taxes. We measure all monetary variables in 2012 dollars, adjusting for inflation using the consumer price index (CPI-U). We round monetary values to the nearest $100.

There is one row in this table for each age. Cells with less than 250 highly-cited inventors are omitted.

Codebook for Table 4b – Income Distributions of Highly-Cited Inventors by Age

Variable	Description
age	Age
count	Number of inventors
total_inc_top5cit_[stat]	Statistic [stat] of the distribution of inventors' total individual income [stat] is either: p[p] – percentile[p], for [p]= 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 99 mean - mean
w2_inc_ top5cit_[stat]	Statistic [stat] of the distribution of inventors' W-2 wage earnings
nw_inc_ top5cit_[stat]	Statistic [stat] of the distribution of inventors' non-wage individual income