

Variable Description for Replication

Abv.	Names	Description
<i>ttnz</i>	Tax-and-Transfer	The share of GDP allocated to social-security benefits, social-assistance grants, and unfunded welfare and pension payments by general government (<i>Source</i> : OECD, National Accounts)
<i>vidnewf</i>	Median Voter	Median voter ideological position (<i>Source</i> : Budge et al. 2001, Kim and Fording 1998)
<i>gidnewf</i>	Government	Government Ideological Position (<i>Source</i> : Budge et al. 2001, Kim and Fording 1998)
<i>ue</i>	Unemployment	Unemployment rate (<i>Source</i> : OECD, National Accounts; Economic Outlook and Reference Supplement; and Labour Force Statistics)
<i>pop65</i>	Age distribution	Pension-age (65+) share of the population (<i>Source</i> : UN, Demographic Yearbook)
<i>cpi</i>	Inflation	Consumer-price inflation (<i>Source</i> : IMF, International Financial Statistics)
<i>y</i>	Wealth	The natural log of real GDP per capita(<i>Source</i> : Penn World Tables)
<i>open</i>	Trade openness	Imports plus exports share of GDP (<i>Source</i> : IMF, International Financial Statistics)
<i>ctax</i>	Central-tax share	Central government's share of general government revenues (<i>Source</i> : OECD, National Accounts)
<i>itax</i>	Indirect-tax share	Indirect tax share of general government revenues (<i>Source</i> : OECD, National Accounts)
<i>ttax</i>	Total-tax share	Total tax share of general government revenues (<i>Source</i> : OECD, National Accounts)
<i>uden</i>	Union density	Union's share of labor force (<i>Source</i> : Golden et al. 1995)
<i>ele</i>	Election year	Value of 1 (in year t) if an election takes place in the next year $t + 1$ (<i>Source</i> : Franzese 2002)
<i>hr</i>	Government hazard rate	The inverse of the incumbent government's actual duration (<i>Source</i> : Franzese 2002)
<i>sdrw</i>	Income skew variability	Five-year, centered, moving standard deviation of RW (<i>Source</i> : Franzese 2002)
<i>vp</i>	Voter participation	Turn out rate in the lower-house national elections. Interpolated by four-year moving average (<i>Source</i> : Franzese 2002)
<i>rw</i>	Income skew	Relative wage position of manufacturing workers to the GDP per capita. Normalized by GINI indexes. US-86 equals 1 (<i>Source</i> : Franzese 2002)
<i>ttnz17a</i>	Welfare spending trend	Average $T\&T$ in other countries in the sample year. (<i>Source</i> : Franzese 2002)
<i>prf</i>	PR	Proportional representation electoral system
<i>pocatholic</i>	Catholic	Catholic share of population (<i>Source</i> : Wilensky 2002)

Note: The original data set is provided by Franzese. We thank for Robert Franzese for making his data publicly available at <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~franzese>. To Franzese's countries we are able to add New Zealand, drawing on the similar sources and measures. For the variables in his data set, source refers to the source of original data collected by him. We add the remaining variables.