

The Electoral Results for Incumbents (ERI) Data Base

This file contains all relevant information regarding the creation, methodology and sources of the electoral results for incumbents (ERI) data base. Printed copies of all original sources of information are available upon request. Digital copies of the original data sets can be obtained from <http://comp.uark.edu/~fmendez/data>

Sources of information:

1. The World Bank's Data Set for Political Institutions (DPI); Dataset of Political Institutions (DPI) introduced by Beck et al. (2001)
2. Political Dataset of the Americas (managed by the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University in collaboration with the Organization of American States)
3. The database for European political parties and elections. "*Parties and Elections in Europe*" includes a database about parliamentary elections in the European countries since 1945 and additional information about the political parties and the acting political leaders. The private website (<http://www.parties-and-elections.de>) was established by *Wolfram Nordsieck* in 1997.
4. The World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI 2006).

Variable definition and methodology: Each data point corresponds to a democratic election

- **cname:** country name
- **id:** country identification number
- **Syst:** Dummy variable. Syst =0 for countries with presidential systems. Syst=2 for countries with parliamentary systems. Syst=1 for countries with mixed presidential system. This classification matches that provided in the DPI
- **eyear:** year when general elections took place. For countries with presidential systems, *eyear* contains those years when executive elections were held (starting from 1984). For countries with parliamentary systems, *eyear* contains those years when legislative elections were held (starting from 1984). This information was obtained from either the DPI, the EDSA, the EPD, or a combination of them. The three sources of data usually agree on the dates, but small corrections sometimes are required.
- **emonth:** month of the year when elections took place.
- **peyr:** year when the previous general elections took place.

- **pemonth:** month of the year when previous elections took place
- **cycle:** number of months that spanned between elections. This number is presented in years, so that a 4.25, for example, represents for years and 3 months
- **growth:** Average annual growth rate of GDP per-capita between the year in which the incumbent took office and the year of the elections. This variable is constructed by using the “GDP per capita growth (annual %)”, from the WDI.
- **infl:** Average annual change in consumer prices between the year in which the incumbent took office and the year of the elections. This variable is constructed by using the “Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)”, from the WDI.
- **unempl:** Average annual rate of unemployment between the year in which the incumbent took office and the year of the elections. This variable is constructed by using the “Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)”, from the WDI
- **vinc:** percentage of valid votes received by the incumbent party. For countries with $syst=0$, this number corresponds to the votes received by the party that holds the executive office. For countries with $syst=2$, this number corresponds to the votes received by the largest party in government.
- **vincp:** percentage of valid votes received by the incumbent party in the previous election (that resulted in this party gaining control of the executive or, in the case of $syst=2$, that resulted in this party becoming the largest party in government)
- **vchg:** Decrease in voters support. $vchg = vincp - vinc$
- **yp:** number of years that the incumbent party has been in power. For countries with $syst=0$, this number corresponds to the number of years for which the incumbent party has hold the executive office. For countries with $syst=2$, this number corresponds to number of years for which the incumbent party has been the largest party in government.
- **ideoinc:** Dichotomous variable that describes the ideological affiliation of the incumbent party. Following the DPI, political parties are classified as R= right, L= left and C=center.
- **seats:** number of government seats in parliament (held at the time of the elections) divided by total seats. This corresponds to the variable “majority” in the DPI data set for both parliamentary and presidential systems.
- **govfrac:** This variable corresponds to the government fractionalization measure of the DPI dataset. By definition, this variable has a value of zero for governments in presidential systems

- **cpi:** This is the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) corresponding to the electoral year; or say, at the time the incumbent competes for office. The CPI was obtained directly from Transparency International.
- **pci:** Increase in corruption perceptions as measured by the change in the cpi index.

Please send any questions or comments to fmendez@uark.edu