

Data Appendix

We hereby provide additional information about the data used throughout the present contribution, their various sources, and the manipulation we had to enact in order to include them into our analyses.

Welfare Data

All the information about the structure and size of social insurance benefits in our sample comes from the Comparative Welfare Entitlements Dataset (CWED). This database collects systematic data on social insurance programs in 33 countries and 42 years¹, and covers all the 16 countries involved in our analysis.

Electoral Data

District-level electoral data have been sourced from various websites. The two main sources are the official online archives of each country's governmental electoral department² and Manuel Álvarez-Rivera's Election Resources on the Internet³ website⁴. Data about Japan are taken from Chuo University's Faculty of Policy Studies (years from 1980 to 2003) and Professor's Ko Maeda webpage⁵ (years 2004-2005). Finally, United Kingdom and United States data are provided, respectively, by the Politics Resources⁶ website and the Constituency –Level Elections Archive (CLEA)⁷.

Unemployment Data

Information regarding yearly unemployment rates at the subnational level come from the OECD databases on regional labor markets, and are at either the NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level. When combining these data with those on electoral outcomes, we try to implement the best matching on a district-year basis. Here, best means the one tracking more closely the correspondence between electoral and administrative units for a given country in a specific year. Therefore, mainly depending on data availability and the size of electoral districts, we alternatively employ both NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 unemployment rates. In particular, we use NUTS 2 unemployment rates for the following countries and periods: Austria 1990-2011, Belgium 1983-2011, Finland 1991-2007, France 1986-1987, Germany 1990-2011, Italy 1983-1992 and 2006-2011, Norway 1983-2011, Portugal 1991-2011, Spain 1982-2011, Sweden 1991-1999, Switzerland 1991-2007, United Kingdom 1983-1998, and United States 1980-1989.

We instead use NUTS 3 unemployment rates for: Canada 1990-2011, Denmark 1990-2011, France 1983-1985 and 1988-2011, Italy 1994-2005, Japan 1980-2005, Sweden 2000-2011, United Kingdom 1999-2011, and United States 1990-2011.

¹ From 1970 to 2011, although in our analysis we only use data for the period 1980-2011.

² This source covers the following countries and periods: Belgium 1983-1994, Canada 1990-2011, Finland 1991-2007, France 1983-1985 and 1988-2011, Germany 1990-2011, Italy 1983-2011, Portugal 1991-2011, Spain 1982-2011, Sweden 1991-2011, and Switzerland 1991-2007.

³ This source covers the following countries and periods: Austria 1990-2011, Belgium 1995-2011, Denmark 1990-2011 (district magnitudes taken from the official website of the Danish bureau of statistics), and Norway 1993-2011.

⁴ <http://electionresources.org/>

⁵ <http://politicalscience.unt.edu/~maeda/>

⁶ <http://www.politicsresources.net/area/uk/edates.htm>

⁷ <http://www.electiondataarchive.org/>

Although in most of the cases we have that an administrative district for which data on unemployment are available spans one or more electoral districts, in a few occasions we have unemployment information on a more disaggregate level than necessary (i.e. only at the NUTS 3 level, with no data at the NUTS 2 one). This is the case, namely, for Belgium from 1983 to 1999, Norway in 1996, and Switzerland from 1990 to 1999. However, since the OECD dataset on regional unemployment does also contain information about the population living in each statistical unit every year, we exploit this to compute weighted averages of unemployment rates at the relevant level, so that they track the size of the electoral districts and allow for an optimal matching.

Finally, an additional challenge is put forward by North-American countries (Canada and the United States), for which the size and location of specific single-member districts prevents from univocally matching them with NUTS 3 statistical units. Notably, for the United States, such difficulty is also a direct consequence of the frequent re-districting that characterizes this polity. In cases in which a multi-member district spans portions of different NUTS 3 units, we manually assign it to the unit that encompasses the largest part of the electoral district. This is done by visually inspecting electoral districts' maps from the 2013 Congressional Districts National Atlas.

Country-Year Covariates

The variable "check," which measures the checks on the executive is from the Database of Political Institutions (2017). The additional country-year variables that serve as controls in our analysis are all drawn from official OECD statistics.

Table A.1: Data Availability and Electoral Systems

Country	Available Years	Electoral System
Austria	1994-2011	Proportional
Belgium	1984-2011	Proportional
Canada	1991-2011	Majoritarian
Denmark	1995-2011	Proportional
Finland	1992-2007	Proportional
France	1984-2011	Majoritarian 1984-85 Proportional 1986-87 Majoritarian 1988-2011
Germany	1992-2011	Majoritarian (*)
Italy	1984-2006 2009-2011	Proportional 1984-93 Majoritarian 1994-2005 Proportional 2006; 2009-11
Japan	1981-2005	Proportional 1981-95 Majoritarian 1996-2005
Norway	1994-2011	Proportional
Portugal	1992-2011	Proportional
Spain	1988-2011	Proportional
Sweden	1992-2011	Proportional
Switzerland	1992-2007	Proportional
United Kingdom	1984-2011	Majoritarian
United States	1981-2011	Majoritarian

Available years refer to the maximum number of observations available for each country for the regressions at equations 8 and 9 in the paper. (*) For the classification of the electoral system in Germany see footnote 6 in the text.

Table A.2: Results on Unemployment Benefit Generosity (using the Strict Measure)

VARIABLES	Replacement Family			Replacement Single			Generosity		
	Full sample	U _{Swing} > U _{Safe}	U _{Swing} < U _{Safe}	Full sample	U _{Swing} > U _{Safe}	U _{Swing} < U _{Safe}	Full sample	U _{Swing} > U _{Safe}	U _{Swing} < U _{Safe}
Δ UR * Majoritarian	0.013** (0.004)	0.019*** (0.003)	-0.019 (0.012)	0.011*** (0.002)	0.013*** (0.003)	0.004 (0.015)	0.043 (0.034)	0.122*** (0.039)	-0.155 (0.127)
Observations	350	173	177	350	173	177	356	179	177
R-squared	0.978	0.982	0.982	0.987	0.989	0.990	0.990	0.993	0.991
Country-Year Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Country FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the country level; * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; *** significant at 1% level; All specifications control for the lag of the dependent variable and for a set of country-year covariates. These include the electoral system, the difference in the employment rate between swing and safe districts, the unemployment rate at the national level, the log of per capita GDP, the number of checks on the executive and the share of population in working age and older than 65. Countries in sample: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Table A.3: Results on Unemployment Benefit Generosity (using the Median Measure)

VARIABLES	Replacement Family			Replacement Single			Generosity		
	Full sample	U _{Swing} > U _{Safe}	U _{Swing} < U _{Safe}	Full sample	U _{Swing} > U _{Safe}	U _{Swing} < U _{Safe}	Full sample	U _{Swing} > U _{Safe}	U _{Swing} < U _{Safe}
Δ UR* Majoritarian	0.009** (0.004)	0.014*** (0.003)	0.002 (0.003)	0.007*** (0.002)	0.006 (0.004)	0.003 (0.004)	0.044* (0.022)	0.075 (0.053)	-0.003 (0.065)
Observations	350	172	178	350	172	178	356	176	180
R-squared	0.978	0.981	0.986	0.987	0.990	0.991	0.991	0.992	0.992
Country-Year Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Country FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the country level; * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; *** significant at 1% level; All specifications control for the lag of the dependent variable and for a set of country-year covariates. These include the electoral system, the difference in the employment rate between swing and safe districts, the unemployment rate at the national level, the log of per capita GDP, the number of checks on the executive and the share of population in working age and older than 65. Countries in sample: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Table A.4: Results on Unemployment Benefit Generosity -- Elasticities (using the Strict Measure)

VARIABLES	Log Replacement Family			Log Replacement Single			Log Generosity		
	<i>Full Sample</i>	<i>U_{Swing} > U_{safe}</i>	<i>U_{Swing} < U_{safe}</i>	<i>Full Sample</i>	<i>U_{Swing} > U_{safe}</i>	<i>U_{Swing} < U_{safe}</i>	<i>Full Sample</i>	<i>U_{Swing} > U_{safe}</i>	<i>U_{Swing} < U_{safe}</i>
Majoritarian	0.037 (0.040)	0.022 (0.080)	-0.088* (0.048)	-0.084 (0.128)	-0.100 (0.276)	-0.008 (0.060)	0.025 (0.029)	0.165* (0.085)	-0.012 (0.052)
Unemployment Swing	0.022 (0.032)	0.017 (0.038)	0.062 (0.044)	-0.040 (0.043)	-0.148 (0.114)	-0.006 (0.082)	-0.016 (0.017)	-0.053 (0.037)	0.031 (0.037)
Unemployment Safe	0.005 (0.037)	-0.010 (0.054)	-0.028 (0.055)	0.040 (0.064)	0.104 (0.131)	0.015 (0.091)	0.012 (0.017)	-0.003 (0.043)	-0.038 (0.044)
Maj * Unemp Swing	0.176 (0.145)	0.342*** (0.075)	-0.189 (0.158)	0.297 (0.164)	0.317* (0.177)	0.106 (0.261)	0.091* (0.052)	0.168*** (0.054)	-0.106 (0.172)
Maj * Unemp Safe	-0.182 (0.142)	-0.372*** (0.075)	0.202 (0.143)	-0.266* (0.149)	-0.353 (0.290)	-0.104 (0.266)	-0.095* (0.047)	-0.234*** (0.075)	0.132 (0.159)
Observations	337	173	164	337	173	164	343	179	164
R-squared Country-Year Controls	0.969	0.970	0.986	0.956	0.945	0.996	0.992	0.993	0.994
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Country FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the country level * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; *** significant at 1% level All specifications control for the lag of the dependent variable and for the lag of a set of country-year covariates. These include the unemployment rate at the national level, per capita GDP, the share of population in working age and older than 65, and the number of checks on the executive. Countries in sample: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Table A.5: Results on Unemployment Benefit Generosity -- Elasticities (using the Median Measure)

VARIABLES	Log Replacement Family			Log Replacement Single			Log Generosity		
	<i>Full Sample</i>	<i>U_{Swing} > U_{safe}</i>	<i>U_{Swing} < U_{safe}</i>	<i>Full Sample</i>	<i>U_{Swing} > U_{safe}</i>	<i>U_{Swing} < U_{safe}</i>	<i>Full Sample</i>	<i>U_{Swing} > U_{safe}</i>	<i>U_{Swing} < U_{safe}</i>
Majoritarian	0.011 (0.049)	-0.020 (0.067)	-0.048 (0.079)	-0.135 (0.156)	-0.075 (0.265)	0.032 (0.092)	0.014 (0.029)	0.101 (0.085)	0.008 (0.058)
Unemployment Swing	0.055 (0.064)	0.149 (0.140)	-0.013 (0.017)	0.096 (0.112)	0.329 (0.414)	-0.060 (0.057)	-0.001 (0.023)	0.041 (0.068)	-0.020 (0.030)
Unemployment Safe	-0.020 (0.066)	-0.016 (0.104)	0.022 (0.032)	-0.112 (0.143)	-0.203 (0.323)	0.036 (0.074)	-0.003 (0.025)	-0.042 (0.054)	0.032 (0.034)
Maj * Unemp Swing	0.109 (0.070)	0.276** (0.109)	0.004 (0.083)	0.120 (0.081)	0.066 (0.406)	0.068 (0.111)	0.060* (0.028)	0.076 (0.061)	0.030 (0.072)
Maj * Unemp Safe	-0.098 (0.068)	-0.308** (0.109)	-0.016 (0.061)	-0.062 (0.105)	-0.110 (0.288)	-0.085 (0.112)	-0.057** (0.025)	-0.121** (0.046)	-0.028 (0.075)
Observations	337	172	165	337	172	165	343	176	167
R-squared	0.969	0.973	0.989	0.956	0.950	0.996	0.992	0.993	0.996
Country-Year Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Country FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Standard errors in parentheses are clustered at the country level * significant at 10% level; ** significant at 5% level; *** significant at 1% level
 All specifications control for the lag of the dependent variable and for the lag of a set of country-year covariates. These include the unemployment rate at the national level, per capita GDP, the share of population in working age and older than 65, and the number of checks on the executive. Countries in sample: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.