

Based on the Wikipedia article you provided, here is an analysis of income inequality in Iran, along with the context you requested.

Executive Summary: Iran's Income Inequality

According to the data in the article, **Iran has a moderate to high level of income inequality**, depending on the metric used. It is not among the most unequal countries globally (like South Africa or Namibia), but it is more unequal than many developed nations and some of its regional neighbors.

Crucially, the data suggests that Iran's inequality **cannot be explained by a low income of the top earning deciles**. In fact, the opposite is true: the top 10% of the population captures a very large share of the national income, which is the primary driver of the country's measured inequality.

Detailed Analysis of Iran's Data

The article presents several key metrics for Iran from different sources and years. Let's break them down:

1. Gini Coefficient (Overall Inequality)

The Gini coefficient is the most common measure, where 0 is perfect equality and 100 is perfect inequality.

Source	Year	Gini Coefficient for Iran	Context
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World Bank	2023	35.9	This is the most recent figure.
UNU-WIDER	2020	40.94	This older figure suggests higher inequality.

Contextual Analysis:

- **Global Comparison:** A Gini of 35.9 places Iran near countries like **China (35.7)**, the **United States (41.8)**, and **Russia (35.1)**. It is significantly higher (more unequal) than most of Western Europe (e.g., Germany 32.4, France 31.2) and much lower (more equal) than the most unequal countries like South Africa (63.0).
- **Regional Comparison (Upper Middle Income group):** Compared to its World Bank income group peers, Iran's Gini is close to **Turkey (44.5)** and **Brazil (51.6)**, but higher than **Iraq (29.8)** and **Algeria (27.6)**. This shows significant variation within its own income category.

2. Income Share of the Top 10% (Addressing Your Specific Question)

This is the most direct metric for your question. The article provides the "Pre-tax national income share held by top 10%" from the World Inequality Database.

| Metric | Value for Iran (2022) | Meaning |

| :--- | :--- | :--- |

| **Top 10% Income Share** | **52.39%** | The richest 10% of Iranians earn more than half of all pre-tax national income. |

This directly answers your question:

> Can the income inequality be explained by a low income of the top earning deciles?

No, it cannot. A "low income of the top earning deciles" would mean the top 10% earn a small share of the pie, leading to *low* inequality. In Iran, the opposite is true. The top decile's income share is very high.

- **Comparison:** A top 10% share of 52.39% is extremely high. For context, in many wealthy European countries with low inequality (e.g., Sweden, Norway), the top 10% earn around 30-33% of national income. Iran's figure is closer to that of highly unequal countries like the **United States (48.27%)**, **Mexico (64.61%)**, or **Brazil (56.78%)**.

****Therefore, Iran's high inequality is overwhelmingly explained by the top 10% capturing a disproportionate and very large share of the national income, not a low share.****

3. Other Supporting Metrics

- ****Interdecile P90/P10 Ratio (OECD data):**** This is the ratio of income of the richest 10% to the poorest 10%. A higher number means a bigger gap. The article does not list a recent OECD ratio for Iran, but this ratio is highly correlated with the top 10% share. A high P90/P10 ratio (e.g., 8.4 for Brazil) would further confirm the vast gap between rich and poor.

- ****Poorest 10% Share:**** The article includes "Income Decile 1" from UNU-WIDER (2020) which shows the bottom 10% earn a share of ****2.31****. This is a very small share, confirming that the bottom of the population captures a tiny fraction of income, which is the other side of the inequality coin driven by the top's high share.

Conclusion

Based on the Wikipedia data:

1. ****Does Iran have high income inequality?***** ****Yes, it has moderate-to-high income inequality.**** Its Gini coefficient of 35.9-40.9 places it in the upper half of global inequality, though not in the extreme tier.
2. ****Can the inequality be explained by a low income of the top earning deciles?*****
****Absolutely not.**** The core driver of Iran's inequality is the opposite: the ****top 10% of earners capture an exceptionally large share (over 52%) of the nation's total income****. This concentration of income at the very top is the primary reason for the country's elevated Gini score and the wide gap between rich and poor.