ECLAC identifies socioeconomic strata as “the first and most basic axis of inequality.”

In other words, although socioeconomic strata cannot explain all inequalities, any analysis that fails to examine social inequality will prove wanting.

This axis refers to the social structure and the position agents occupy within that structure.

Socioeconomic condition is heavily influenced by the economic and production matrix.

The disparities produced and reproduced under this production structure connect with the labour-market and social spheres and become interlinked with other axes comprising inequality such as gender, ethnic and racial relations and how they evolve over the course of life cycles and unequal territorial development, among other spheres.

### Axes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AXES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity and race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Territory</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Central elements of socioeconomic strata

The central elements of socioeconomic strata are the ways in which ownership is structured and how power, resources and productive assets are distributed. These are manifest in many different yet interconnected ways.

The data needed to probe these elements and analyse socioeconomic inequality are not readily available. One of the most clear-cut and easily measurable manifestations is income inequality.

For example, the fifth and highest income quintile in Latin America concentrates between 46% and 58% of total income, while the poorest (quintile I) receives a scant 3%–6% share.
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