

Distribution of poverty and inequality indices for various groups in Greece using the bootstrap technique

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Abstract

The present work estimates poverty and inequality indices in various groups that are known to have high contributions to poverty and inequality, such as farmers, pensioners and families with 3 or more children. Using the bootstrap technique, we estimate confidence intervals for these indices and examine if the decrease of poverty and inequality during the years 1998/99 and 2004/05 in these groups is statistically significant or within the boundary of the confidence interval.

For the purpose of the study, we use household income data from the last two Household Budget Surveys (HBS) which cover the entire population of Greece conducted in 1998/99 and 2004/05 by the National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG). In regard to the methodological issues, we chose the individual as the unit of analysis and the “family equivalence scales” used by Eurostat.

Keywords: poverty, inequality.

JEL Classification: D31, I32

1. Introduction

During the last decades the concern for poverty and inequality increased. Many empirical studies used different indices to show the magnitude and the intensity of poverty and inequality and some of them explored the structure of poverty and inequality by decomposing them for various socio-economic groups. Most studies conclude that poverty and inequality decreased in Greece during the last decades, and others show that the overall inequality arise mainly from inequalities “within” the various socio-economic groups

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