

INCOME STRATIFICATION OF THE URBAN POPULATION IN POLAND

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Abstract

Income stratification of urban population in Poland is a proposal of a new methodological approach in Statistics Poland to the study of personal incomes at the local level. It was designed to be in line with the modern paradigm of statistical data collection, which stipulates that instead of burdening respondents with the obligation of completing multiple questionnaires, national statistical institutions should make the widest possible use of information contained in administrative registers. One of the basic variables describing the populations standard of living is income. Personal income earned by individuals enables them to meet their various needs. Because Statistics Poland processes and publishes income data (especially for households) from sample surveys, the resulting statistics are usually available only at the level of province or even higher levels of spatial aggregation, which are of little use to researchers interested in conducting more detailed socio-economic analyses. The lack of data for lower levels of spatial aggregation is particularly aggravating precisely because the variation in personal incomes becomes evident mainly at these lower levels. So far, official statistics, especially concerning cities and inner-city areas, have not included information about the characteristics describing the level of and variation in personal incomes. The presentation covers a general description of the methodology applied to obtain income stratification of urban population in Poland, including the review of the literature on measures of income, methods of classification and spatial analysis and finally selected statistics about the level and variation in the distribution of incomes earned by inhabitants of Polish towns and cities. Selected results of the study are shown in the form of choropleth maps and tables.

Keywords: income stratification, personal income tax register, cities and inner-cities areas.

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