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Title of paper: Measuring Economic Insecurity in Argentina.

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Remark: I will apply for financial support.

Abstract

The main objective of this document is to assess the level of economic insecurity and its determinants in Argentina from 1974 to 2007. Argentina is a relevant case because of the persistence of high income instability, recurrent rises in unemployment and periods of high inflation. Besides, the incidence of precarious employment (basically unstable jobs) also grew. As a result households have faced periods of elevated income uncertainty and risk. Previous studies have pointed to the interactions between labour market and well-being (see references). However, patterns of family formation and dissolution and other demographic aspects have not received adequate consideration.

This paper focuses on the importance of demographic factors in explaining variations in economic insecurity. The contribution to economic insecurity of demographic and labour market factors are analyzed in different macroeconomic contexts during the last three decades.

Different quantitative procedures are employed to measure this phenomenon from longitudinal information coming from the regular household survey of Argentina

(Permanent Household Survey –PHS–). Dynamic pseudo-panels are also considered. The PHS carried out by the National Statistical Office (INDEC) collects information especially on labour market and demographic variables. Its rotating panel sample allows drawing flow data from it, i.e. a selected household is interviewed in four successive moments or waves. Consequently, by comparing the situation of an individual in a given wave to that of the same person in the following one it is possible to assess if he/she has experienced changes in diverse variables.

This paper identifies for the first time the relative importance of labour market, macroeconomic factors and demographic factors in explaining economic insecurity in Argentina.

References

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