

Poverty level as a social indicator of the state of economic security in modern Russia: present calculation methodology, dynamics and regional differentiation

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Abstract

The subject/topic. The paper reviews the present methods of calculating the level of poverty in Russia, as well as the dynamics of this indicator in the time and interregional context. **Goals/objectives.** The goal of the research is to study existing approaches to calculating the level of poverty in Russia, identify their features and limitations, as well as analyze the dynamics of the level of poverty in Russia as a whole and for different regions. **Methodology.** The research used methods of theoretical analysis and synthesis, classification, methods of induction and deduction, comparison, historical approach, etc. **Results.** The research reveals the limitations of the existing methodology for calculating the level of poverty in Russia, based on the concept of absolute poverty. The applied methodology does not fully take into account changes in the structure of consumer spending of the population. The legally fixed composition of the food part of the consumer basket significantly deviates from the recommendations for rational nutrition standards. The level of absolute poverty in Russia is noticeably lower than the level of relative poverty and is strongly differentiated by different regions and Federal districts. **Conclusions/relevance.** In addition to the currently calculated indicators of absolute poverty, it is necessary to conduct a systematic calculation of the level of so-called «relative poverty». The adjustment of the already existing methods of calculating poverty should also be exercised in terms of the structure of the consumer basket recommended by the Ministry of health the rational norms of food consumption, as well as more accurately account for changes in the dynamics of prices for individual groups of goods and services and the changing consumption patterns of the population. **Application.** The results of the study can be used as a basis for developing a system of targeted measures at the federal, regional and/or local levels aimed at sustainable reduction of poverty in Russia as a whole, as well as in individual regions and groups of regions to meet the national goal of the Russian Federation to reduce the poverty level by 2 times by 2024, as outlined in the «may decree» of the President of the Russian Federation in 2018.

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Keywords: *poverty, living wage, consumer basket, relative poverty, inequality, Gini coefficient, Russian regions*

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