

Financial Security of Middle Class Families in Poland Over 2006-2009

Maria Piotrowska (Wroclaw University of Economics, Poland)

The purpose of the paper is to create a measurement, a Middle- Class Financial-Security Index, to investigate the level of financial security experienced by middle-class families in Poland in 2009-2008 and 2007-2006. The source of data is the 2006-2009 Polish Household Budget Survey. The findings show that between 2007 and 2009 the fraction of economically insecure households declined from 22% to 18% while the percent of households who enjoyed economic security increased from 6% to 9%. In both years the majority of middle-class families (73%) were between these two groups. Such households were not at immediate and high risk for falling out of the middle class but they still experienced lack of the solid foundations for safeguarding their financial security. The level of financial assets is a crucial factor for security of middle-class households. Housing expenses were not a factor that threatened households' security both in 2009 and 2007. In 2009 and 2007, more or less half a middle-class families experienced the budget problem.

Keywords: financial security, middle class, assets, housing expenses, budget