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Assessment of the Families with Children Financial Situation in the Regions of Russia

Introduction

There are time-compressed events at a certain age of a child associated with high spending, which can be very sensitive to the household budget. Such events include the birth of a child, the collection of a first grader for school, graduation from school and the transition to adulthood.

The assessment of the economic situation of families with children is mainly based on annual data from the budgets of the various types of households with children. An additional tool for understanding the families with children financial situation is to measure the cost and relative cost of spending on a child at certain stages of the family life cycle (when they expect a significant increase in expenses).

Motivation

Absolute indicators of living (e.g. cost of living) are commonly used to determine poverty thresholds for households with children. We propose to take the relative principle - the share of expenditures on high-cost sets of goods in certain periods of the family life cycle.

This can form the basis for indexing benefits and payments associated with the events in question, as well as for assessing the relative level of spending on kits for families with children to determine their financial situation.

Data & Methods

Forming kits based on Federal State Statistics Service new data on average consumer prices for selected children's goods.

Data on the household income, expenditure and consumption, financial situation of families from the Sample Survey of Household Budgets (47.8 thousand households quarterly).

Newborn kit



First grader kit



Share of kits costs in monthly household cash income per person, 2020, %

	Newborn kit	First grader kit
1 child	140,2	118
2 children	167	140,5
3+ children	244,7	205,9

Further steps

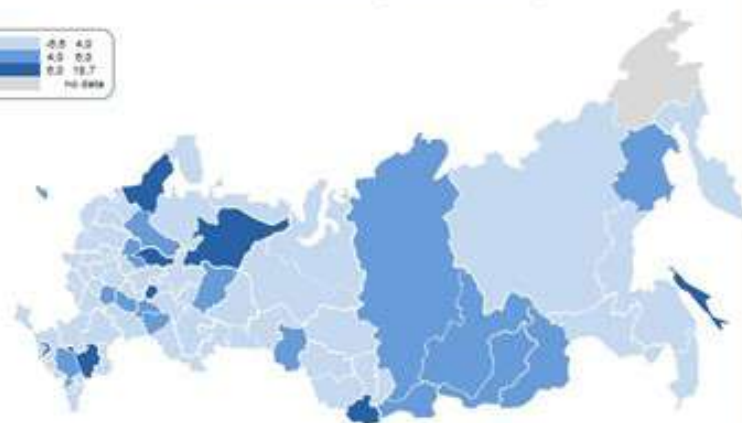
- Price dynamics over a longer period.
- Determine the share of spending on kits in the household budget, above which we can consider families to be poor.

Results

In 2020 the inflation rate for non-food products in Russia was 4.79



Change in prices for goods in a newborn kit compared to non-food inflation, 2020/2019, %



Change in prices for goods in a first grader set compared to non-food inflation, 2020/2019, %

- The cost of kits varies significantly between regions.

The increase in prices for kit



General inflation

Non-food inflation

Regions

67/85

46/85



General inflation

Non-food inflation

54/85

15/85

- The share of kits in household income varies depending on the number of children.
- Currently, state payments to families with children of a certain age cover from a third to a half of the cost of newborn and first-grader kits.

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