New Poverty Lines for Brazil: An Analysis Based on the Household Budget Surveys (POF) from 2002-03 and 2008-09

Abstract
New estimates of poverty lines in Brazil are provided based on consumption data from the 2008-2009 Household Budget Survey (POF). A consistent methodology – with imputations for measurement error and durable goods services – is presented for the estimation of three lines: a food (extreme) poverty line, and lower and upper poverty lines adjusted for non-food items. While only 2.1% and 10.7% of the population were considered extremely poor and poor according to the administrative lines used for Bolsa Família, 5.5%, 14.7% and 36.2% were identified as poor based on the poverty lines estimated here. Implications for public policy are discussed.

Keywords: Poverty; Poverty Lines; Household Budget Survey (POF); Brazil.
JEL classification: I3