

LIVING STANDARDS IN MUNICIPALITIES WITH LOW URBANIZATION LEVEL: RESIDENTS' INCOME AND PURCHASING POWER

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Abstract

This article analyses residents' income and purchasing power in municipalities with low urbanization level. Residents' income is one of the most important determinants of living standards. Lithuania has 36 municipalities, where people living in rural areas account for more than half the local population. In many of these municipalities the agriculture takes very important place as economic activity. The paper analyses the differences of wage, old age pensions and social allowances between municipalities of low level of urbanization. Also there is a different set of consumer prices and purchasing power differences among municipalities.

Keywords: wage, old age pensions, social allowances, living standards, municipalities of low urbanization level, purchasing power.

Introduction

Residents' income is one of the most important determinants of living standards. A human with sufficient income is able to fulfil his physical and social needs, it also gives an inner freedom and makes feel respectable in the society. On the contrary – lack of income enforces to limit even in the most important needs, causing emotional discomfort, constrained decision-making. Size and structure of residents' income depends on the specific of economic activities, residential area, individual characteristics and achievements.

Lithuania has 36 municipalities, where people living in rural areas account for more than half the local population. In many of these municipalities the agriculture takes very important place as economic activity. However, the added value in agriculture is significantly lower than in other economic activities and income is less.

Research problem, novelty and relevance. The specific feature of residents' income structure in municipalities with low urbanization level is the relatively high part of pensions and social benefits which shows that the local population is mostly of the retirement age, and labour income is insufficient to ensure the livelihood. Thus, in the municipalities with low urbanization level the living standards are relatively lower and people are more likely to become poor because of

the lower income.

However, the income analyse is not enough for more comprehensive assessment of the living standards. The formation of different prices of goods and services in municipalities is happening because of different economic activity, income differences and remoteness from cities. People from various social groups getting different income are able to afford different amount of goods and services because of the different price levels in municipalities. This is the purchasing power of residents which represents the satisfactory level of private consumption of goods and services.

Most of Lithuanian researchers writing about matters of living standards yet rarely analyse the territorial differences of living standards, and the territorial analysis generally is limited in the analysis of social economical indicators. To reduce the mentioned lack of analysis in researches of living standards the differences of residents' income and purchasing power in Lithuania municipalities with low urbanization level are analysed in this work.

The described scientific challenges promote to single out **the object of the research** which is the municipalities with low urbanization level.

The aim of the research – to analyse the differences of residents' income structure and size in municipalities with low urbanization level. The following **tasks** helped to implement the purpose:

1. To analyse the amount differences of average monthly gross wages, hourly wages, retirement pensions and social allowances between municipalities with low urbanization level.

2. To identify differences of residents' purchasing power in municipalities with low urbanization level (according to amount of wages and retirement pensions).

The methods of the research: statistic analysis, literature analysis, comparative geographical, graphical, analysis - synthesis. The statistical data of 2008 published by Lithuania Statistics Department and State Social Fund Management are analysed in this work.

The theoretical framework of living standard

The economical, social, political relationships and geographical environment together composes the living standards. Anyway the personal needs related with physical, emotional and social personality development caused by specific of living area of residents are important for the researches as well. Most of authors providing the definition of living standards specifies it broader or more narrowly. The living standards are the category describing the material well-being of the population, sourcing of material and cultural benefits, satisfying of physical and spiritual needs (Johnston, 2004). The researches of living standards are being executed by various specialists in the world and Lithuania. There are many of authors who have researched the living standards in economic, sociological and other aspects (Sen, 1989; Antonides, Raaij, 1998; Grosh, Glewwe, 1995; Mansvelt, 2008; Жеребин, Романов, 2002 and other). The living standards of Lithuania in the territorial aspect are exhaustively researched in Verkulevičiūtė's doctoral dissertation (2009), Gataūlinas (2009) executes the researches of living standard from the subjective and objective point. Territorial dependence of agricultural income and production on social – economic and environmental factors in Lithuania analyse Verkulevičiūtė and Bučienė (2009).

Marczynska – Witczak (1998) analyses the change in living conditions in 49 administrative units of Poland, Czapiewski (2005) analyze the living conditions of rural population in relation to functional structure of parishes in Poland. Vengrienė (1992, 1998), Šileika, Blažienė (2000) and other have researched the importance of income for living standards. Urbanskienė, Clotey, Jakštys (2000) have researched the consumption and needs of residents. The author argues that consumers' purchasing decisions (and the consumption as well) are influenced by his personal characteristics (age, marital status, occupation type, economic status (income), lifestyle, personality type and opinion of himself (Urbanskienė et al, 2000).

There are lots of researches of living standards in villages. Lithuania applied methodology of OECD, the country's counties according to the level of urbanization divide into urban counties (the rural population makes up 28%), balanced counties (the rural population is 28 - 40%) and rural counties (where rural population accounts for more than 40%) (Čapliskas, Michailovaitė, 2003). By dividing Lithuanian municipalities into the rural, semi-rural and urban groups and estimating their attraction, efforts to identify the factors that influence the attraction of a rural area as a place of residence have been made in research of Vidickienė and Melnikienė (2008).

Krivickienė (2006) analysed living standard in Lithuania's rural areas. The distribution of economic

resources (income) between the rural population and the social security in terms of government social security system are discussed by Vitunskienė (1999). The quality of life in the international, national and local level are analysed and the significant differences among the economic and social development in rural of Lithuania are identified by Vitunskienė et al. (2007) in their later works. Adamonienė (2004) analyses the employment problems of residents in villages. The author believes that even if conducting a subsistence economy in a small plot of land the tendency has appeared that the healthier and more comfortable living conditions are achieved when living in village and work in a city.

The impact of food prices on consumption was analysed by **Andreyeva, Long, Brownell (2010)**.

Meanwhile, there are not so many researches on differences of prices and purchasing power between municipalities in Lithuania. Therefore, it is expected that this study will provide the opportunity to highlight these differences and territorial patterns.

Research results of residents' income and purchasing power in municipalities with low urbanization level

1. The main residents' income

Wage. The wage is one of the most important sources of residents' income. Income from agricultural activities generates bigger part of income source in municipalities with low urbanization level comparing with municipalities with high urbanization level. In 2000-2007 the average monthly gross wage in Lithuania has increased 2.22 times. The growth of wage indicates the improvement of living conditions. Under the data of Lithuania Statistics Department the average monthly wage has increased fastest in Vilnius and Kaunas district municipalities, that means that the living standards have increased there (because of the affection of these major cities) as well as in some municipalities established in 2000, such as Kalvarija, Pagėgiai, Rietavas, Kazlų Rūda. This is one of the factors underlying the establishment of these independent administrative units and promoting the searches and scientific basis for the establishment of new municipalities. The increase of the average wage of residents in Pakruojis district municipality is incredibly high because there are no major urban industrial or service facilities, which would create high added value products or services. The increase of average gross wage in Kėdainiai district municipality can be attributed to the employment of residents in the industry, also influenced by the proximity of large cities. The border situation and lack of economic facilities in developing high added value products are the main reasons why

the municipalities with these features specify the relatively slow wage growth. The average monthly gross wage in Ignalina, Kupiškis, Zarasai, Biržai, Anykščiai, Lazdijai and Varėna district municipalities has increased 1.84-2.10 times in 2000 – 2008.

The average monthly gross wage in all municipalities with low urbanization level is below the national average (in 2008 – Lt 2152). The average gross wage in municipalities with low urbanization level has varied from Lt 1528 (in Radviliškis district) to Lt 2092 (in Klaipėda district) in 2008. This composed 71.0-97.2 % of the national average wage. By comparison,

the average gross salary of Vilnius city municipality was 118 % of the national average. The lowest salaries are in the municipalities where the agriculture takes an important role in economic activities and where is small diversity of other activities, few enterprises and the production creating low added value. Extremely difficult situation is in the municipalities where the soils are less productive, so people are forced to engage in other activities (Zarasai, Šilalė, Šalčininkai, Širvintos and other). It was found that the highest gross wages are in the municipalities with low urbanization level where it was growing fastest in 2000-2008.

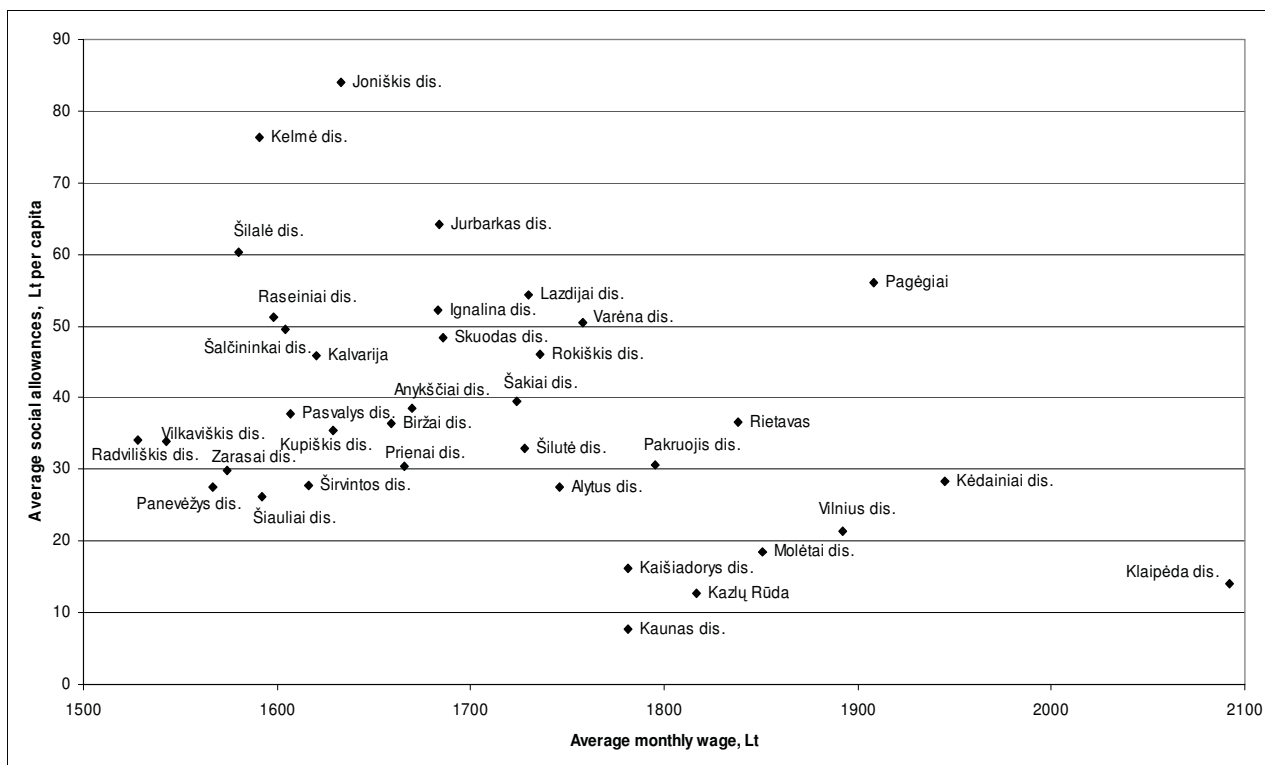


Figure 1. Average gross monthly earnings in 2008 (Lt) and average social allowances in 2008 (Lt per capita)

Sources: Vidutinis mėnesinis bruto darbo užmokestis 2008. Statistikos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės; Socialinė pašalpa 2008. Statistikos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės.

The average hourly gross wage in all municipalities with low urbanization level was below the national average in 2008 (from 8.07 to 11.54 Lt per hour). Nearly in two-thirds of these municipalities in which the average hourly wage was below 9.00 Lt per hour. The lowest hourly wages are in the economically weakest mostly cross-border municipalities (Zarasai district, Kalvarija, Šilalė district, Vilkaviškis district). The proximity of large cities has relatively greater impact on hourly wages: they were increasing due to the created more jobs and higher wages in the adjoining (Vilnius, Klaipėda districts). However, there are some municipalities located far from the country's central regions and large cities (Pagėgiai, Rietavas) in which

the hourly wage is close to the national average and in comparison with other municipalities with low urbanization level is relatively high (above 10 Lt per hour). However, this wage rate was still lower than the hourly wage of residents in highest wage municipalities such as Mažeikiai district and Visaginas (14.01 Lt per hour and 12.27 Lt per hour). There are some assumptions to say that the wages in Visaginas municipality will tend to decline after the closure of the nuclear power plant. However, given the fact that the high wages in these municipalities are affected by the specific of economic activities of major objects located in the cities, it can be assumed that the average wage in villages of these municipalities is similar to other muni-

icipalities with low urbanization level or even lower because of low-productive soils and scarce economic business objects.

Social allowances. The size of social allowance (per resident person) in most municipalities with low urbanization level is higher than the average of the republic (in 2008 – 23.4 Lt). But even among the municipalities with low urbanization level the size of social benefits is very different (it varies 10.9 times). In 2008 only six of the municipalities with low urbanization level received social security benefits average lower than in the republic. The municipalities of three biggest districts (Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda) also Kaišiadorys, Molėtai districts and Kazlų Rūda municipality occurred in to this group. And municipalities of other big cities districts (Šiauliai, Alytus and Panevėžys district) give relatively less funding per one resident by comparing with the rest of municipalities with low urbanization level. This is related to the proximity of the cities themselves – many residents are employed in enterprises and institutions of cities to prevent unemployment, which is one of the main reasons for promoting the need of social support. In nine municipalities with low urbanization level where is the largest part of social allowances recipients the amount of average social allowances is twice above the national average and in Kelmė and Joniškis districts – more than three times (3.3 and 3.6 times accordingly).

Thus, the rise of unemployment rate is significant in social allowances increase. In 2008 there was positive correlation between unemployment and size of social allowances ($R = 0.622$).

It would be natural if in case of decrease of the wage amount the average size of social allowances in municipalities will increase accordingly. However, it is not. In 2008 there was found a weak negative correlation between the average size of social allowances and the average gross wage ($R = -0.38$) (Fig. 1).

Thus, the social allowances are not only caused by wage rates, but also by other factors: the unemployment rate, social status of the population, age structure, local financial resources available for social benefits.

Retirement pensions. The pensioners, accounting one third of all the Lithuanian population and the research of those social groups' living standards from the territorial point of view also requires attention and evaluation. The retirement pensions have been growing while the economy was growing in Lithuania: since 2003 the average retirement pension rate has increased 2.26 times. The retirement pensions are the type of income which amount is highly depended on government decisions, that's why the territorial differentiation of pension size in Lithuania is not as great as other types of income.

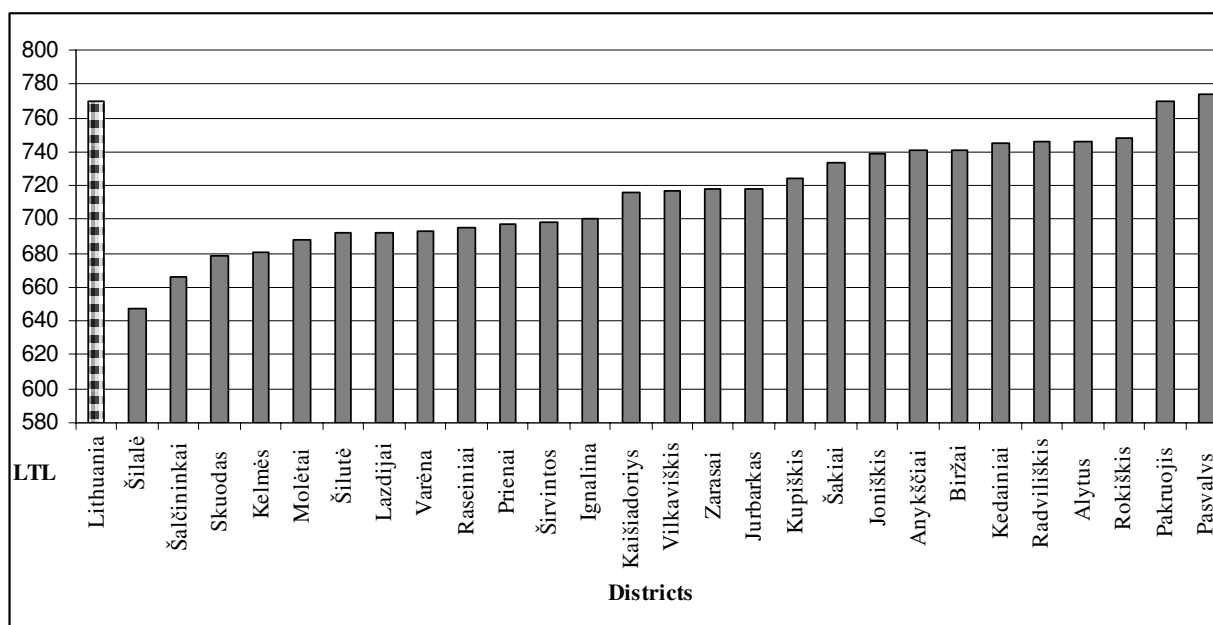


Figure 2. Size of old – age pension in municipalities of low urbanization level in 2008 (Lt)

Source: Valstybinio socialinio fondo valdyba prie Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos. (2008). Valstybinis socialinis draudimas: statistiniai duomenys 2008 m. Vilnius: UAB Lodvila, 32 – 33.

In 2008 the retirement pension was higher (0.6 %) than the national average retirement pension only in Pasvalys district municipality of all municipa-

lities with low urbanization level (except the large urban areas and municipalities that were established in 2000) (Fig. 2). Thus, the small size of retirement

pension, which is one of the most important income sources of residents in municipalities with low urbanization level, is also an index of low living standard. In 2008 the resident in Šilalė district municipality received retirement pensions that were 18.8 % lower than the national average and was the lowest in Lithuania. The consistent of territorial distribution of retirement pensions' amount has appeared: the average rate of retirement pensions is relatively higher in the municipalities with larger industry enterprises or where the agriculture is an important activity because of the productive soils.

Thus, there are no very extensive territorial differences of retirement pension's rate. In the municipalities where the amount of retirement pension is lower than the average residents in retirement age gets the additional (even small) incomes from agriculture, they also produce some products for their own use what allows them to reduce poverty.

However, whatever the dominative residents' incomes are it is not enough to be confined to their analysis. The information how much and what kind of goods the residents are able to buy for a certain amount of income describes the living standards more specifically. Therefore, in the next section there will be analysed the distribution of income and relative price level between certain municipalities with low urbanization level.

2. The comparison of prices and income amounts

Compared with the average national prices between the municipalities with low urbanization level the largest differences are in price level of bread flour - based, potatoes, apples, as well as utilities - hot and cold water and centralised heating. However very small differences are among the prices of excisable goods – granulated sugar, Lithuanian beer, gasoline, diesel fuel in municipalities (to 2-3 %, compared with the national average). However, there should be mentioned that in individual cases where prices are significantly higher or lower than the republic average. In 2008 in Kelmė district municipality the apples were 12.9 % more expensive than the national average, in Rokiškis district municipality the price of bread based on rye flour was 20.1 % higher than the average of the republic. Hot and cold water in some municipalities with low urbanization level were also much more expensive than Lithuania' average (22 % and more). In the municipality where residents pay the highest price for centralized heat supply (Kelmė district) the prices for these service is 31.3 % higher than the national average. Meanwhile the cheapest potatoes in Rokiškis district municipality contained 90 % of the country average price and apples in Ignalina – 88.1 % national average. The residents in Varėna district municipality were paying for cold water 16.3 % less than the average of the republic.

Table 1

Food products and services that residents of municipalities were available to buy for their hourly wage in 2008

Food products and services	Lithuania	Varėna dis.	Kėdainiai dis.	Šilutė dis.	Rokiškis dis.	Kelmė dis.	Ignalina dis.
Bread flour-basis, kg	3.15	2.53	2.53	2.08	2.06	2.32	2.62
Pork bones, kg	1.09	0.87	0.97	0.88	0.87	0.80	0.89
Milk 2.5 % fat, l	5.14	3.91	4.51	4.32	4.17	3.85	3.82
Apples, kg	3.94	2.99	3.76	3.19	3.13	2.61	3.33
Potatoes, kg	8.26	6.59	6.86	5.89	7.25	6.06	6.31
Cold water, m ³	5.70	5.35	4.04	4.30	4.66	4.03	4.77
Hot water, m ³	0.92	0.66	0.59	0.68	0.72	0.60	0.66
Centralized heating kWh	72.31	53.53	62.56	50.39	57.13	41.29	66.46
Gasoline A-95, l	2.78	2.78	3.06	2.79	2.80	2.65	3.55
Diesel fuel, l	2.69	2.69	2.96	2.70	2.71	2.57	3.44

0.87 – min. value; 0.97 – max value.

Sources: Vidutinis valandinis bruto darbo užmokestis 2008. Statistikos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės; Maisto ir ne maisto prekių vidutinės mažmeninės kainos 2008. Statistikos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės.

From the available data published by the Lithuania Statistics Department calculating the total amount of prices of main food products and services it would appear that one of the most “expensive” Varėna district and Kėdainiai district municipalities, and one of the “cheapest” – Ignalina district municipality, although the prices of chicken and potatoes in this district were

the highest in Lithuania in 2008.

How many people can buy goods and services for a certain period of time earned (received) the amount of money? The residents of Kėdainiai district municipality for the gross hourly wage can buy more than average amount of pork, milk and apples, Rokiškis district municipalities – potato, and Ignalina residents

– rye flour based bread, petrol and diesel. The residents of Kelmė district for hourly wage could buy the minimum amount of goods and services (pork, apples, hot and cold water, centralised heating, gasoline and diesel fuel) comparing with the national average. This is due to low wages of residents and higher prices of

goods and services than elsewhere. For the hourly wage Rokiškis district municipality residents can buy the smallest amount of bread, Ignalina district municipality residents can buy the smallest amount of milk, and Šilutė district municipality residents can buy the smallest amount of potatoes (Table 1).

Table 2

The amount of food products and services that residents of some municipalities were available to buy for their retirement pension monthly in 2008

Food products and services	Lithuania	Varėna dis.	Kėdainiai dis.	Šilutė dis.	Rokiškis dis.	Kelmė dis.	Ignalina dis.
Bread flour-basis, kg	209.71	192.92	188.60	158.46	168.48	182.60	212.22
Pork bones, kg	72.54	66.34	71.84	67.36	70.90	63.12	72.50
Milk 2.5 % fat, l	342.07	297.25	335.57	329.74	341.57	302.70	309.87
Apples, kg	261.79	227.83	280.06	243.82	256.18	205.14	270.39
Potatoes, kg	549.76	501.88	510.25	449.65	593.68	476.28	511.18
Cold water, m ³	379.14	407.41	300.39	328.18	381.65	316.78	386.91
Hot water, m ³	60.89	50.48	43.98	52.26	58.53	47.04	53.42
Centralized heating kWh	4810.38	4074.12	4656.00	3847.00	4675.25	3243.24	5387.00

158.46 – min value; *212.22* – max value.

Sources: Maisto ir ne maisto prekių vidutinės mažmeninės kainos 2008. Statistikos departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės; Valstybinio socialinio fondo valdyba prie Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos. (2008). Valstybinis socialinis draudimas: statistiniai duomenys 2008 m. Vilnius: UAB Lodvila, 32 – 33.

Due to the relatively lower prices and higher retirement pensions the pensioners in Ignalina district municipality may purchase more bread, pork, in Rokiškis municipality – more milk and potatoes, and in Kėdainiai district – more apples. However, because of the relatively higher prices and reduced pensions Varėna district municipality pensioners are able to buy less milk and apples, in Šilutė district municipality – less amount of bread and potatoes, in Kelmė district municipality – pork, compared with other local residents. The cold and hot water is relatively more expensive for pensioners in Kėdainiai district, and the centralised heating – for local pensioners in Kelmė district (Table 2).

In summarising the whole information it can be said that the residents of Kelmė district municipality have one of the lowest purchasing power (estimated according to salary level) and the residents of Kėdainiai district and Ignalina district municipalities have one of the highest purchasing power. Any clear leader municipality is not revealed according to the average of retirement pension, taking into account the purchasing power.

Because of the lack of statistical data the research has revealed only a fraction of the residents' purchasing power population in accordance to the territorial aspect. More detailed analysis requires specific surveys of prices in all municipalities; such studies would allow to see the entire picture of the purchasing power in Lithuania and to highlight the territorial differences between the localities.

Conclusions

1. The average hourly wage in 2008 was lower than the national average in all municipalities with low urbanization level. The average gross salary of municipalities with low urbanization level accounted for 71.0 to 97.2 % of the national average wage. The lowest wages are in the municipalities where the agriculture takes an important role of economic activities and the diversity of other activities is small, the number of enterprises is sparse, creating a low added value production and the soil is unproductive. The highest gross wages are in the municipalities with low urbanization level where it was growing faster in 2000-2008.
2. The amount of social allowances is twice higher than national average in the municipalities with low urbanization level where the biggest part of allowance receivers is and in Kelmė and Joniškis districts it is more than three times higher than national average. The growth of unemployment level has a significant effect to the increase of social allowance: there is a positive correlation between the unemployment and amount of social allowance.
3. Since 2003 the average retirement pension rate has increased 2.26 times. Only the retirement pension in Pasvalys district municipality was higher than the national average of all municipalities with low urbanization level in 2008 (0.6 %). Those municipalities which operate or previously operated more industry or agriculture because of

the higher productivity of soils have the relatively higher average of retirement pension rate than the national average.

4. One of the most “expensive” municipalities is Varenė district and Kėdainiai district municipalities, and one of the “cheapest” – Ignalina district municipality. The residents of Kelmė district municipality have one of the lowest purchasing power (estimated according to salary level) and the residents of Kėdainiai district and Ignalina district municipalities have one of the highest purchasing power. Any clear leader municipality is not revealed according to the average of retirement pension, taking into account the purchasing power.

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Gyvenimo lygis žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybėse: gyventojų pajamos ir perkamoji galia

Santrauka

Lietuvoje yra 36 savivaldybės, kurių kaimuose gyvenantys žmonės sudaro daugiau negu pusę tų savivaldybių gyventojų. Daugelyje šių savivaldybių labai svarbią vietą ekonominėje veikloje sudaro žemės ūkis. Tačiau žemės ūkyje sukuriama pridėtinė vertė yra gerokai mažesnė, nei kitose ekonominėse veiklose, o gaunamos pajamos - žemesnės.

Dėl nevienodos ekonominės veiklos, gyventojų pajamų skirtumo, nutolimo nuo miestų, savivaldybėse formuojasi skirtingos prekių ir paslaugų kainos. Įvairių socialinių grupių nevienodas pajamas gaunantys žmonės dėl savivaldybėse esančio skirtingo kainų lygio gali įsigyti skirtingą prekių ir paslaugų kiekį. Tai yra gyventojų perkamoji galia, kuri parodo asmeninio vartojimo prekių ir paslaugų patenkinimo lygį. Šio tyrimo tikslas – analizuoti žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybių gyventojų pajamų struktūros bei dydžio skirtumus, įvertinant jų perkamąją galią.

Vidutinis mėnesinis bruto darbo užmokestis žemo urbanizacijos lygio 2008 m. savivaldybėse sudarė 71,0 – 97,2 % šalies darbo užmokesčio vidurkio. Žemiausi darbo užmokesčiai tose savivaldybėse, kurių ekonominėse veiklose svarbią reikšmę užima žemės ūkis, o kitų veiklos rūšių įvairovė nedidelė, negausus įmonių skaičius, mažą pridėtinę vertę kurianti gamyba, nenašūs dirvožemiai. Mėnesinis bruto darbo užmokestis 2000 – 2008 m. sparčiausiai augo tose žemo urbanizacijos lygios savivaldybėse, kuriose jis yra aukščiausias.

Visose žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybėse vidutinis valandinis darbo užmokestis 2008 m. buvo mažesnis už šalies vidurkį (nuo 8,07 Lt/val iki 11,54 Lt/val.). Beveik du trečdalius sudarė savivaldybės, kuriose vidutinis valandinis darbo užmokestis nesiekė 9,00 Lt/val. Pats žemiausias valandinis darbo užmokestis yra ekonomiškai silpnesnėse daugiausiai pasienio savivaldybėse (Zarasų r., Kalvarijos, Šilalės r., Vilkaviškio r.). Didžiųjų miestų artumas turi įtakos santykinai didesniai valandiniam darbo užmokesčiui, nes greta jų esančiose savivaldybėse yra sukuriama daugiau darbo vietų, įvairesnė ekonominė veikla (Vilniaus, Klaipėdos rajonai).

Žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybėse, kuriose yra didžiausia socialinių pašalpų gavėjų dalis, socialinių pašalpų dydis daugiau kaip du kartus viršija šalies vidurkį, o Kelmės r. ir Joniškio r. – daugiau nei tris kartus. Nedarbo lygio augimas turi didelės įtakos socialinės pašalpos didėjimui, tarp nedarbo lygio ir socialinės pašalpos dydžio buvo vidutinė teigiama koreliacija. Būtų dėsninga, kad mažėjant darbo užmokesčio dydžiui, vidutinės socialinės pašalpos dydis savivaldybėse atitinkamai didėtų. Tačiau taip nėra. 2008 m. nustatyta silpna neigiama priklausomybė tarp vidutinės socialinės pašalpos dydžio ir vidutinio bruto darbo užmokesčio ($R = -0,38$).

Nuo 2003 m. vidutinės senatvės pensijos dydis išaugo 2,26 karto. Iš visų žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybių 2008 m. tik Pasvalio r. savivaldybėje senatvės pensija buvo aukštesnė už vidutinę šalies senatvės pensiją (0,6%). Tose savivaldybėse, kur veikia ar anksčiau veikė didesnės pramonės įmonės ar žemės ūkis dėl dirvožemių aukštesnio našumo yra svarbi ekonominė veikla, vidutinis senatvės pensijų dydis yra santykinai aukštesnis.

Įvertinus vartotojų kainų skirtumus žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybėse, vienos iš „brangiausių“ yra Varėnos r. ir Kėdainių r. savivaldybės, o viena „pigiausių“ – Ignalinos r. savivaldybė. Vieną iš žemiausių perkamąją galią (įvertintą pagal darbo užmokesčio dydį), turi Kelmės r. savivaldybės gyventojai, o vieną iš aukščiausių – Kėdainių ir Ignalinos r. savivaldybių gyventojai. Pagal vidutinį senatvės pensijos dydį, įvertinant perkamąją galią, aiški savivaldybė lyderė neišryškėja.

Dėl statistinių duomenų trūkumo tyrimas atskleidžia tik dalį gyventojų perkamosios galios teritorinių aspektų. Detalesnei analizei reikia atlikti specialius kainų tyrimus visose savivaldybėse, Toks tyrimas leistų pamatyti visą gyventojų perkamosios galios vaizdą Lietuvoje ir išryškinti teritorinius skirtumus tarp savivaldybių.

Pagrindiniai žodžiai: darbo užmokestis, senatvės pensijos, socialinės pašalpos, gyvenimo lygis, žemo urbanizacijos lygio savivaldybės, perkamoji galia.