

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788231703321
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Titolo	The Myth of Post-Reform Income Stagnation : : Evidence from Brazil and Mexico / / Irineu de Carvalho Filho, Marcos Chamon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : International Monetary Fund, , 2008
ISBN	1-4623-3864-X 1-4527-5008-4 1-4518-7055-8 1-282-84148-3 9786612841484
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (54 p.)
Collana	IMF Working Papers
Altri autori (Persone)	ChamonMarcos
Disciplina	339.20981
Soggetti	Income - Brazil - Econometric models Income - Mexico - Econometric models Consumer price indexes - Brazil - Econometric models Consumer price indexes - Mexico - Econometric models Macroeconomics Public Finance National Government Expenditures and Related Policies: General Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions Price Level Inflation Deflation Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics: Household Analysis: General Public finance & taxation Expenditure Personal income Consumer price indexes Public expenditure review Household consumption Expenditures, Public Income Price indexes Consumption Economics Brazil

Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	<p>Contents; I. Introduction; II. Empirical Methodology; III. Brazil; A. Background on Economic Policy Changes; B. Data; C. Results; D. Evidence from Durable Goods Ownership and Anthropometrics; E. Food Consumption in the 1970's; IV. Mexico; A. Background on Economic Policy Changes; B. Data; C. Results; D. Evidence from Durable Goods Ownership and Anthropometrics; V. Discussion and Conclusion; Text Tables; 1. Descriptive Statistics for Brazil; 2. Regression Results for Brazil, Full Sample; 3. Annual Bias Estimates for Brazil Across Different Methods and Samples</p> <p>4. Household Per Capita Expenditure and Net Income in Brazil 5. Anthropometric Measures for Children 0-60 Months Old in Brazil; 6. Brazil: Ownership of Durable Goods, and Sensitivity to Income; 7. Descriptive Statistics for Mexico; 8. Regression Results for Mexico, Pooled Sample; 9. Household Per Capita Expenditure and Net Income in Mexico: Headline And Corrected (in 2002 Pesos); 10. Anthropometric Measures for Children 0-60 Months Old in Mexico; 11. Mexico: Ownership for Durable Goods, and Sensitivity to Income; Text Figures; 1. Brazil: GDP Per Capita and Average Growth in Decade</p> <p>2. Mexico: GDP Per Capita and Average Growth in Decade 3. Changes in Relative Prices in Brazil; 4. Non-Parametric Estimates of Relationship between Food Shares and Household Expenditure in Brazil; 5A. Estimated Bias in Brazil in 1987/88-1995/96 as a Function of CPI-Measured Real Expenditure in 1995/96; 5B. Estimated Bias in Brazil 1995/96-2002/03 as a Function of CPI-Measured Real Expenditure in 2002/03; 6A. Distribution of Expenditure in Brazil Deflated by the CPI: 87/88, 95/96 and 02/03</p> <p>6B. Distribution of Expenditure in Brazil Deflated by the Estimated True Cost of Living Index: 97/88, 95/96 and 02/03 7A. Changes in Durable Goods Holdings in Brazil and Sensitivity to Income; 7B. Changes in Durable Goods Holdings in Brazil and Sensitivity to Income; 8. Evolution of the Food Budget Share in Brazil since in 1974/75-2002/03; 9. Changes in Relative Prices in Mexico; 10. Non-Parametric Estimates of Relationship Between Food Budget Shares And Household Expenditure in Mexico</p> <p>11A. Estimated Bias in Mexico in 1984-1998 as a Function of CPI-Measured Real Expenditure in 1998 and Distribution of the Latter 11B. Estimated Bias in Mexico in 1998-2006 as a Function of CPI-Measured Real Expenditure in 2006 and Distribution of the Latter; 12. Estimated Cumulative Bias in Mexico Since 1984 Across Different Methods and Samples; 13A. Distribution of CPI-Measured Real Expenditure in Mexico; 13B. Distribution of Expenditure in Mexico Deflated by the Estimated True Cost of Living Index; 14A. Changes in Durable Goods Holdings in Mexico and Sensitivity to Income</p> <p>14B. Changes in Durable Goods Holdings in Mexico and Sensitivity to Income</p>
Sommario/riassunto	Economic policies are often judged by a handful of statistics, some of which may be biased during periods of change. We estimate the income growth implied by the evolution of food demand and durable good ownership in post-reform Brazil and Mexico, and find that changes in consumption patterns are inconsistent with official estimates of near stagnant incomes. That is attributed to biases in the price deflator. The

estimated unmeasured income gains are higher for poorer households, implying marked reductions in "real" inequality. These findings challenge the conventional wisdom that post-reform income growth was low and did not benefit the poor.
