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Jordanian Beliefs in Al-Karak Governorate about the Causes and Determinants of Poverty: Field Study

Husein Al-Othman

Abstract

The goals of this study are to identify respondents beliefs about the causes of poverty in Karak Governorate, determine the impact of socio-demographic and economic variables on those beliefs, and to apply the exploratory factor analysis on the causes of poverty . To achieve these goals, face –to- face structured interviews are used to collect the data (562 respondents), descriptive statistics (percentages), and analytical statistics (exploratory factor analysis, Pearson correlation, and forward stepwise regression) are used to analyze the data set. The results of the exploratory factor analyses reveal that there are three factors of poverty causes: structural factors, individualistic factors, and fatalistic factors. In general, the descriptive analyses indicated that respondents believe that structural factors are the most important in explaining poverty.. Then, fatalistic explanation is second, and individualistic explanation is the third. On the other hand, forward stepwise regression analyses reveal that there is a statistically significant relationship between household poverty status and respondents beliefs about the structural causes of poverty. Also, the statistical analyses show that there are statistically significant relationship between level of education, subjective social class, household poverty status, place of residence, and respondents beliefs about individualistic causes of poverty. Finally, the reveal that there are statistically significant relationship between level of education, household poverty status, place of residence, and respondents beliefs about fatalistic causes of poverty.

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Flexibility of Tax Structure Under its Theory Stages (Comparative Study)

Amro Hisham Al-Omari

Abstract

The tax structure of a country may be regarded as a reflection of its economic structure. It is affected by the country's level of economic and social progress., from that perspective, the tax structure, may serve as an instrument to depict the main characteristics of an economy and its level of development. More specifically, the flexibility of the tax structure particularly when relying on local resources to finance development, is an important symptom of economic development. This study aims to apply quantitative methods in the comparative analysis of the tax structure and the degree of its flexibility in three countries Egypt, Iran and the United Kingdom.

Performance, Technical Progress and Investment in Tunisian Manufacturing Firms: Evidence from Firm-Level Panel Data

Riadh Ben Jelili*

Abstract

In order to contribute to the understanding of some of the microeconomic forces driving overall growth performance in Tunisia, this paper aims to develop an econometric analysis of firm performance determinants. For this purpose, and unlike the conventional methods where the analysis of firm performance has been done using conventional financial ratios, frontier methodology is adopted to measure firm performance relative to best practice frontiers consisting of other firms in the industry. Such measures summarize firm performance in a single statistic that controls for differences among firms in a sophisticated multidimensional framework that has its roots in economic theory. A panel of 265 firms in manufacturing industry, drawn from the Annual Firm Survey carried out by the National Statistics Institute of Tunisia (1984-1994), with detailed information on output and input factors and firm ownership is used to estimate a translog stochastic production function for the period 1984-94. By adopting the time-varying inefficiency model developed by Battese and Coelli (1995), the paper seeks to identify the determinants of technical inefficiency for each of the six manufacturing sectors. This study also enables the examination of industry-level total factor productivity performance, and to investigate the relationship between technical efficiency change, openness and firm investment decision.

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Challenges and Opportunities of Liberalization in the GCC Banking Industry with Special Focus on Kuwait

Faten Yousef Jabsheh*
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Abstract

The financial services industry has been subject to dramatic changes over the past decades as a result of the widespread use of advanced information technology, deregulation and financial liberalization. This has reduced margins in traditional banking activities, leading banks to merge with other banks both at home and abroad. This paper reviews the main characteristics of the consolidation process in emerging markets, and evaluates the potential effects of foreign bank entry to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region in general; and to Kuwait in particular, in light of the GATS agreement. The empirical analysis in this paper is applied to the Kuwaiti banking sector and uses the mark-up estimation to determine the expected impact of competition in the event of trade liberalization. Results show that the financial sector in Kuwait has a significant mark-up on the local market, indicating that the existing conditions in market regulation have almost isolated Kuwaiti banks from external competition through legal and regulatory barriers. Additionally, restrictions on establishing new banks have depressed local competition and hindered the effectiveness of market forces in adjusting the banking industry.

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