

Summary

Water Tariff Reform: Comparative Analysis

Friedman A.A.

This paper proposes a way to formalize and compare different scenarios of transition to efficient water tariffs in a framework of representative agent model with two sources of water supply: groundwater with fixed stock and natural water inflow, and surface water that serves as a backstop technology. Two ways of reforming water tariffs are proposed: gradual increase in tariff (called liberalization) and multipart pricing with first block sold at pre-reform low tariff and additional water purchased at free market price (called rationing). Under rationing the amount of water offered at regulated price gradually diminishes. The analysis demonstrates that if both reforms are of the same time period length, rationing is preferred over liberalization from the social welfare point of view.

Rival Regressions: Criteria and Selection Procedures

Ershov E.B.

In the article a new approach to regression models selection [diagnostics] is presented. It covers the case of fixed sample and predefined set of potential factors/exogenous variables. By using conventional criteria it is possible to select alternative models with subsets of exogenous variables, for which the normality condition of residuals is not rejected. The *harmonicity* condition, based on a generalization of Hellwig's coincidence concept, is then applied to these models. Nonexistence of simultaneously rival, and harmonical regressions with normal residuals (*RHN*-regressions), given the sample and the set of exogenous variables, signifies presence of data outliers [atypical observations] in the sample. A class of *regression trimming* procedures to test for outliers and adjust them so to apply the *RHN*-regression selection procedures is proposed. Examples of application of the proposed procedures are based on the data samples borrowed from classical sources on regression analysis.

Consumer Behavior Evolution Analysis in Russia during 2000–2005

Penikas H.I.

The paper aims at researching the consumer behavior evolution of different household groups. The paper provides a detailed comparison of two opposite approaches to homogenous consumer groups identification. The first approach deals with the segmentation based on socio-economic characteristics. Meanwhile the second considers the consumer choice made by the household. The comparison highlights the advantages of the second approach as it brings more robust and less dispersed groups in terms of consumer behavior. The mentioned advantages are traced when analysis the evolution of budget coefficients and the income elasticity of demand of different groups.

Firm-Level Empirical Surveys: Tools and Practice**Dolgopyatova T.G.**

The fourth and conclusive topic of the lecture course «Firm-level Empirical Surveys: Tools and Practice» is presented in this issue. The topic «Empirical studies of Russian enterprises behavior: subject-matters and methods» includes two lectures and describes emergence and development of applied empirical studies of Russian enterprises behavior in 1990–2000th and ways of improvement methodology for collecting and analyzing data. Examples of implemented research project illustrating the history of development firm-level surveys are considered. In conclusion of the course we return to discussion of the key issue of quality of empirical information and means of its improvement. Besides, special recommendation for organization of seminars and check of students' learning are presented.