Women’s Income in Norway 1970–2009

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Introduction

An empirical analysis of Norwegian women’s incomes: Their incomes relative to men’s incomes
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Shares of income
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Income by age groups
Data

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The 70s were also the years of the greatest change.
Structural changes

Table: Women by occupational status 1970 – 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>1982</th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Men 09</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner</td>
<td>17*</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>57*</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The impact on relative incomes is shown in figure 1
Figure 1: Women’s relative income 1970 – 2009
Comments

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About half of employed Norwegian women work part time. The majority are employed in the caring professions, and in public service. The labour market is strongly segregated by sex, but there is reason to believe that women are in typically female professions, and work part time, from choice.
Women and men have different sources of income, in particular, capital income mainly accrues to men.
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Women’s Income in Norway 1970–2009

Women’s and men’s share of income 2009 by income category
Income inequality

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Income inequality women 1970–2009
Income inequality women and men 1984–2009
Women’s Income in Norway 1970–2009

Income by age

The last graph is designed to show structural differences between men’s and women’s income profile by age.
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The last graph is designed to show structural differences between men’s and women’s income profile by age as well as the impact of child benefit. The blue line shows gross income + child benefit.
Women’s Income in Norway 1970–2009

Women’s and men’s income by age group 2009
The data

For 1970, 73, 76, 79: Income surveys of about 4000 households. Persons with no income not included. Basic computations carried out by statistics Norway. Author’s own computations for all other years. For 1982 and 1984 – 1992: Income surveys of a steadily increasing number of households, covering the whole population. Data provided by Norwegian Social Science Data Services. For 1993 – 2009: Register data for the whole population, provided by Statistics Norway with the permission of the Norwegian data protection official for research.
Inequality measure

The Generalised Entropy Measure:

\[
I(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha(\alpha - 1)} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_j \left( \frac{Y_j}{m} \right)^\alpha - 1 \right]
\]  

Here, \( Y_j \) stands for the income of person \( j \).

The version used here is with parameter \( \alpha = 0.5 \), which gives the same ordering as the more well known Gini coefficient.
Some references
