

Social Benefits, Economic Security and Growth in Europe

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This article examines to what extent social benefits contribute to ensure an important share of populations' economic security, specifically protecting citizens from the risk of not having an income sufficient enough to stay above the poverty threshold. To this end, this article presents the 'decommodified security ratio', a tool aggregating the guaranties supplied by a social state to its population. They are called 'decommodified' because they are mainly independent of the market. The assessment of all the resources and the economic securities in 20 European countries discriminates four major types of contributions by which social benefits lead to populations' economic security. Positive correlations are observed in these European countries between, on the one hand, social benefits and securities independent of the market and, on the other hand, better levels of productivity and standards of living, contributing to explain the diversity of their growth rates.

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