# Analysis of the impact of distribution policie on poverty rates in Algeria A standard study during the period 2000-2016

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**Summary:** The objective of the study is to analyze and measure the impact of distribution policies on poverty rates in Algeria during the period 2000-2016. Therefore, the study included a number of variables: average wages, housing support, support for families, support for the Moudjahidine and pensioners, support for the disabled, health support and consumption. The study showed that the variables of average wages and support for the disabled are the most important determinants of poverty. When we find that support for families, support for Mujahideen and pensioners and the consumer price, are less specific to poverty rates.

**key words:** Poverty, Public Distribution Policy, Social Transfers, Average Wages, CPI. **Jel Classification Codes**: C52,I38, P36.

## **I- Introduction:**

The phenomenon of poverty is no longer a static phenomenon, as it was in the past, but it has become a moving event that is constantly changing, especially under international circumstances characterized by globalization. This phenomenon is hampering the development process and has a great impact on its economic and social aspects. The aggravation of this phenomenon is due to several reasons that are a strong driver for the continuation and of this phenomenon and have implications on the economic development.

In this sense, states seek to eradicate this phenomenon, and Algeria, like other countries, has adopted multifaceted policies and levels in the face of the phenomenon of poverty, and this since independence to this day. As a whole, these policies and strategies aim at influencing the various variables that determine the extent or depth of poverty. Poverty reduction policies and strategies include both economic policies and social policies, including access policies (eg, in-kind and cash transfers), price policy set (As in the case of policies that directly subsidize food commodities), the wage and labor market policies (such as exchange rates, interest rates, credit policies and agrarian reform). Based on the above, the following problem can be raised: What is the effect of the distribution policy on the poverty rates in Algeria during the period 2000-2016?

To answer the main question, we ask the following sub-questions:

- What is poverty and what is the concept of distributive policies?
- What is the problem of poverty in Algeria?
- What is the impact of the distribution policy on poverty in Algeria during the period 2000-2016?

#### I-1-The hypotheses of the study:

- \* The first hypothesis: There are different relationships of strength and direction and significant significance between poverty and the variables explained and influential.
- \* The second hypothesis: There are different relationships of strength and direction and significant significance between the variables interpreted among them.
- \* The third hypothesis: In the case of verifying the validity of the previous two hypotheses, a regression model with explanatory, predictive and meaningful significance can be found.

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I–2–**The objectives of the study**: Distribution policy is one of the most important channels that can reduce the severity of this phenomenon, but the theoretical description of this effect is not enough to give a clear and accurate vision of the contribution of the variables of distribution policy in the alleviation of poverty phenomenon in Algeria. It is possible to measure the impact of distribution policy on the phenomenon of poverty in Algeria during the period 2000-2016.

## I-3- The theoretical framework of the variables of the study:

## 1. The concept of poverty:

.11.Monetary povertyor income poverty:Deprivation is surely about 'essential' needs that are unmet. Thismay be due to a lack of money resources — but it need not be (sinceadequate resources may be misspent). Poverty, on the other hand, must refer to a lack of the money necessary to meet those needs<sup>1</sup>.

alsoThis poverty represents a state or level of low well-being that is usually measured by income or consumption expenditure translated intomonetary value<sup>2</sup>; and income poverty is divided into two parts<sup>3</sup>:

- \*Absolute poverty: when people lack basic necessities for survival. It quantifies the number of people below the poverty line and is independent of place and time.
- \*Relative poverty: when people's way of life and income is much worse than the general standard of living. It classifies people as poor not by comparing them with a fixed poverty line, but by comparing them with others in the population under consideration.
- **1.2. Human poverty:** The UN has defined poverty as: a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income butalso on access to services<sup>4</sup>.
- **1.3. Multidimensional poverty:** in 1995, the United Nations concluded that: 'Poverty hasvarious manifestations, including lack of incomeand productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainablelivelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basicservices; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is alsocharacterized by a lack of participation in decision-makingand in civil, social and cultural life<sup>5</sup>."

## 2. The concept of distributive public policy:

It is the general policy concerning the allocation and distribution of funds, commodities, needs and values, and the provision of opportunities to individuals and groups within the society<sup>6</sup>, as in the case of the distribution of necessities of goods, services and rules to the vast majority of people. Many of these services and values are divided into small parts that the individual acquires once he obtains any of these services and values. This is done by dividing labor into specialized units and in accordance with specific procedures, codified practices through a system of administrative authority and open channels of communication. This distribution creates situations that in turn help to save their lives and ensure their well-being and include:

- \* The decision maker allocates funds, goods, services and privileges to citizens.
- \* Economic reform (agricultural and industrial ...).
- \* Restructuring of public administration, service and productivity.
- \* Strengthening local producers.
- \* Poverty eradication.

#### I-4-Analysis of the variables of the study:

## 1. The reality of poverty in Algeria:

Before broaching the reality of poverty in Algeria, we define poverty in Algeria, as the Economic and Social Council has defined it as "the situation of individuals or group of individuals, lacking in available resources, low social status and exclusion from the material and cultural lifestyle<sup>7</sup>.

In the first seminar on combating poverty and exclusion in Algeria in October 2000, poverty was defined as insufficient food consumption in quantity and quality\*, in addition to inadequate basic social needs (housing, education, health, clothing) At least when it comes to the upper poverty limit, as well as its coverage of the physical aspect, is associated with some non-physical aspects.

There is a definition of the Ministry of Labor and National Solidarity (MESN) for the poor as being in the category that has no cash income as the category of the 100% disabled, and the people who do not work (without work or unemployed). But this definition remains incomplete<sup>8</sup>.

However, the global definition of poverty is based on the definition of the World Bank and that of UNDP, which is based on income poverty (revenue, income), which must take into account the caloric minimum obtained by the individual, but the UNDP not only considers low income in the definition of poverty, but adds other needs such as medical treatment and other services (education, work, clothing, etc.)<sup>9</sup>.

#### 1.1. The reality of monetary poverty in Algeria:

Using the food poverty line (SA), the absolute poverty rate reached 3.6% in Algeria in 1988. Using the lower poverty line (SPG), it is clear that the poverty rate in 1988 was 8.1%. These ratios are due to the economic crisis of 1986and the resulting economic and social effects, the decline in national and individual income and the increase in the unemployment rate.

However, these percentages rose significantly in 1995 to 5.7% for extreme poverty and 14.1% for the general poverty line. This is because 1995 was the year of the introduction of structural adjustment policies, which had a special economic and social impact after the implementation of privatization policies which led to the demobilization of thousands of workers, in addition to the abolition of subsidies on some consumer products and the freezing of wages and the state control of the expenditures of economic and social infrastructure ... etc. As a result of these conditions, the poverty rate at this stage reached more than 28% in 1997, and 20% in 1998<sup>10</sup>.

In 2000, the rate of extreme poverty dropped to 3.1% and the general poverty line reached 12.1% <sup>11</sup>. This was due to the improvement of the economic indicators of Algeria from the growth of the national product, which was reflected in the per capita income. In addition, the government adopted many economic and social programs to reduce poverty rates.

The improvement of the economic situation of Algeria at the beginning of the new millennium led to the trend of poverty rates in Algeria to decline, and the ratio reached 5% in 2013<sup>12</sup>, the following table(1) shows this.

## 1.2. The reality of human poverty in Algeria:

While human development indicators measure the average level of the three dimensions which are: longevity, health, education, and the possibilities of establishing a decent standard of living, the human poverty index in turn measures the various shortcomings observed in these dimensions. Despite improvements in human development indicators, Algeria ranked 51th place according to the human poverty index in 2011, and the following table(2) illustrates this.

Table(2) shows that the human poverty index declined from 22.98% in 2000 to 13.69% in 2011, due to the improvement in its indicators of 13:

- Decrease in the percentage of the probability of dying before the age of forty from 12.13% in 1995 to 6.1% in 2011, and this improvement is due genetically to the improvement of living conditions and medical progress, as well as the effective role of prevention programs for disease control, as it may be due to lower infant mortality and improved life expectancy at birth.
- The illiteracy rate over 15 years and over increased from 33.40% in 1999 to 19.5% in 2011, due to the activity of literacy programs.
- Decline of the population deprived of drinking water from 16.93% in 1998 to 5% in 2011, see the improvement of housing conditions, where more than 78.2% of households living dwellings were linked to the network of drinking water and 71.2% of households live hostels were linked to The disinfection network.
- The proportion of underweight children under 5 fell from 6% in 2000 to 3.1% in 2011. Overall, the human poverty rate remained high, due to the high illiteracy rate of 19.5 per cent in 2011, in addition to the underweight percentage of children under 5 years of age.

#### 1.3. The reality of multidimensional poverty in Algeria:

According to the National Multi-Indicator National Survey of 2014, 1.65% of the population lacks several things in Algeria (1% in urban areas and 2.7% in rural areas).

The poverty rate, which represents the average rate of deprivation suffered by people in multidimensional poverty, was 36.07% (34.88% in urban areas and 38.42% in rural areas).

The multidimensional poverty index, which represents the part of the poor population, multidimensional poor population, is 0.006 (of which 0.003 in urban areas and 0.011 in rural areas). The comparison of these results with the results published in the national report on human development for the years 2009-2010 that are based on the multi-indicator survey of (2006)

showed an improvement in the poverty index of 1.74% and its intensity, estimated at 42.09% (36.53% in urban areas and 42.84% in rural areas)<sup>14</sup>. and the followingfigure (1) illustrates this.

## 2. The reality of distribution politics in Algeria:

#### 2.1 .Analysis of social transfers:

Social transfers in Algeria are based on financial allocations from the state budget, to finance free health and education for all Algerians regardless of their income, as well as low-priced housing. On the other hand, support for basic foodstuffs (bread, oil, sugar, flour and milk), as well as subsidies for electricity, gas and transportation, as well as other subsidies such as support for the disabled and Moudjahidine and the following table(3) illustrates this.

Table 3 shows that the volume of social transfers in Algeria increased from 262400 million dinars in 2000 to 1630771 million dinars in 2017. Between 2000 and 2017, more than 25% of social transfers were allocated to support families, which included the support of families compensations, the support of education, the support of prices of basic materials (cereals, milk, sugar and natural oil), and the support of electricity, gas and water. Approximately 20% of remittances are devoted to health support, more than 18% are for housing support, and 37% are for pension support, mujahidin and the disabled.

Overall, these huge sums reflect the interest of the Algerian government in achieving the improvement of the standard of living of the citizen and the eradication of poverty.

## 2.2. Analysis of commodity price index in Algeria:

Since the focus is on the effect of price changes on consumers' purchasing power, the National Bureau of Statistics uses the consumer price index to measure price developments for certain goods and services representing the consumption of individuals, in other words, the amount to be paid up or down in order to obtain the same goods and services compared to a given time. Consumption prices were characterized by an increase during 2000-2016, and the following figure(2)shows this. figure 2 shows that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) went from 102.6 in 2002 to 195.3 in 2016, due to the rise in inflation over this period, compared to 6.4 % in 2016 and 1.43% in 2002. This increase is due to the increase in prices of goods and services during this period.

## 2.3. Average wages in Algeria:

The average wages in Algeria have increased, due to the Government's desire to improve the standard of living of the Algerian individual. The following table (4) illustrates this.

Table 4 shows that the average wage in Algeria increased from 14313 DZ in 2000 to 39900 DZ in 2017. According to an investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2016, the oil sector (production and fuel services) and the financial sector (banks and insurance) give the best wages: The average wage level reaches 100,500 DZ /month in the oil sector and 59.200 DZ in finance (banks and insurance). This is explained by the fact that many companies in the oil sector employ certificate holders and have easy payment of wages to their employees (special wage system). On the contrary, building sector wages remain the lowest in the wage structure with an average monthly rate of 29.900 DZ / month. The employees of the majority of these companies are implementing agents, which contributed to the weak average wage of this sector.

#### **II– Methods and Materials:**

# The Standard Study "Measuring the Impact of Distribution Policies on Poverty Rates in Algeria during the Period 2000-2016".

The applied study aims to measure the impact of distribution policy in Algeria on the phenomenon of poverty during the period 2000-2016. For this purpose, the applied study covers the following aspects:

#### II–1The variables of the applied study:

Poverty, like other social phenomena, is affected by many variables, and we have limited the variables that are likely to have an impact on poverty as follows:

#### 1. The variables of this study:

Y: Poor people as a *percentage of total* households in Algerian society. We relied on monetary poverty only.

#### 2. Independent variables:

We have tried to limit the explained variables in the following:

• C: Averagewages,

- log: Housing support,
- fam: Family support;
- LM: Support Mujahideen and pensioners.
- HAND: Disabled support,
- LS: Health support,
- LFL: Consumption price.

#### 3. Period of time covered by the study:

The study covers the period from 2000 to 2016, based on the Human Development Reports issued by the World Bank, and the reports of the Algerian Ministry of Finance.

## II-2The statistical test of the hypotheses of the applied study:

The researcher carried out a simple correlation analysis on the independent and dependent variables of the study in order to ascertain the existence of correlation different in power and direction with significant significance among them, as well as the existence of different relationships between the strength and direction between the explained variables. The researcher conducted a simple correlation analysis between the study variables and found the following results:

#### III- Results and discussion:

## 1. Building the proposed model using the Stepwise Regression

## - Equation of dependent variable (Y):

The following figure (3) illustrates this.

After inserting the dependent variables related to the dependent variable and estimating the parameters of the model, it has taken the following form:

y= 25.378-0.000215W- 4.07HAND+e  
(20.35) (-2.21) (-2.97)  
n=17 
$$R^2$$
=0.91  $\sum e^2 t$ =30.68

The values between brackets represent the value t, Y: the proportion of the poor of the total population, c: the average wage.

HAND: Disabled Support, E: Represents random error.

## 2. Statistical evaluation of the model:

Statistically, the formula of the model appears to be successful and supports this trend:

- The value of the coefficient of determination =  $R^2$  0.914, meaning that the model used represents 91.4% of the relationship between the poverty rate and the explanatory variables, represented by the average wage, as well as the amounts of social transfers allocated to the disabled.

#### - Fisher's Test:

We notice that the actual value 74.83 = Fc and compared with the table value at a significant level of 5%, we find: Prob (F-statistic) = 0.0000, meaning that the probability of error is less than 5%, which indicates that the representation equation is good and that the value of the coefficient of selection obtained is objective and valid for use as a measure to estimate the effectiveness of the regression equation representation of the relationship between the poverty rate and the explanatory variables.

- Student's Test:We notice that:

$$t_{\widehat{\theta}} = 2.56 \cdot t_{\widehat{B}} = 2.98 \cdot t_{\widehat{\alpha}} = 4.31 \cdot t_c = 3.8$$

and compared with the table value, the probability of error in the estimation of these coefficients is less than 5%. This indicates the non-random nature of these capabilities and that these estimations are objective and have statistical significance.

#### - Durbin Watson's Test:

From the outputs of Eviews Program, we notice that  $d_c = 1.93$  and compared with the table value  $d_{l_{\pm}} 1.015$ ,  $d_u = 1.536$  at a significant level of 5%, and the number of views n=17 and the number of

independent variables k=2, we find that  $d_l$  belongs to the domain [1.536, 1.015], that means the non-selection area, so we use Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test to ensure that there is or not a self-association of errors and the following figure (4) illustrates this.

Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test shows the absence of self-correlation of errors, where statistic FC = 1.39 which is statistically insignificant at 5% (ProbF-statistic = 0.28) shows that there is no self-association of errors, so the model is acceptable.

This estimated model achieves the statistical significance of all transactions, and does not have the problem of self-correlation of errors, which leads in principle to acceptance of the model and move to the second phase of tests, which deals with the extent of conformity to economic theory.

#### 3. Economic evaluation of the model:

Economically, the formula of the model seems successful, and this is supported by:

- The negative threshold C= 25.35, which represents the poverty rate, in the absence of wages and the absence of social transfers, and the consumer price index, which we consider to be a significant value that reflect our view of the rate of poverty under the current conditions experienced by Algeria down to the current levels of oil prices as the major contributor to the composition of GDP.

The previous results indicate that there is an impact on average wages and social transfers related to support for the disabled. The results obtained from the standard study can be analyzed as follows:

- The results showed that the wage coefficient was based on the economic theory, ie, it had a negative impact on the poverty ratio. In other words, the increase in the average wage led to the reduction of the poverty rate. It is clear that the increase in these transfers by 10% leads to a reduction of poverty by 0.000215%.
- In terms of the reference coefficient of social transfers faced by the disabled, they correspond to the economic theory, which has a negative impact on the poverty rate. In other words, the increase in these transfers leads to a reduction in poverty. This situation can be explained by the fact that these transfers have contributed to reducing the percentage of poverty index. This model shows that the increase of these transfers by 1 million dinars leads to a reduction of poverty by 4.07 %.
- When building a model to measure the impact of distribution policy on the phenomenon of poverty in Algeria, depending on the poverty rate, it was found that the poverty rate is determined by only two variables: the average wage and the social transfers allocated to the disabled.

# **IV-Conclusion:**

Through our study, we noticed the following:

- -There are some reliable economic and social indicators that can be used to judge poverty in Algeria.
- -The rates of monetary poverty and human poverty were high in Algeria during the period 1988 1995 due to the decline in oil prices, the transition to a market economy and the application of economic reform policies. These conditions led Algeria to adopt programs and reforms, and adopted a number of policies, including distribution policy through the policy of wages and social transfers, which coincided at the beginning of the millennium with the rise in oil prices. This made the Algerian state rely heavily on increasing the average wages, and to increase the volume of social transfers, while working more to control inflation as one of the important mechanisms in the fight against poverty.
- In constructing a model to measure the impact of the distribution policy on the phenomenon of poverty in Algeria, depending on the percentage of monetary poverty, it was found that the rate of monetary poverty is determined by the average wages and the volume of support directed towards the disabled.

## - Appendices:

Table 1: Development of poverty rates in Algeria for the period 1988-2015

Table	Table 1: Development of poverty rates in Algeria for the period 1988-2015												
Statement	1988	1995	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2010	2012	2013	2014
Poverty rate	8.1	14.1	12.1	8.5	8	6.8	5.7	5.6	5	8	5	5	5

**Source:** -CNES, Office of the Commissioner for Planning and Prospects, 2007.

- Data of the Algerian Ministry of Solidarity, 2014.

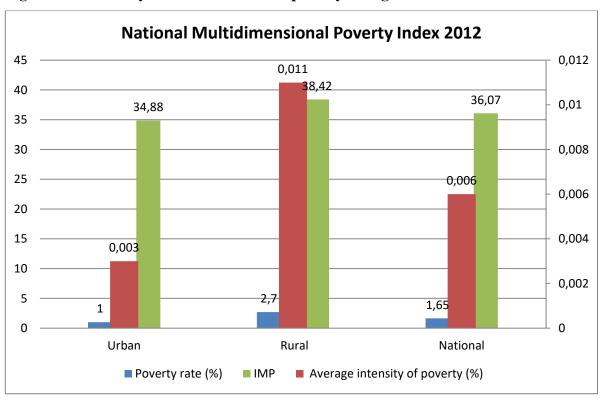
Table 2: Development of the human poverty index and its components in Algeria during the period 1998-2011

pc110u 1//0-2011										
The years	1998	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percentage of human poverty index		22.98	18.50	16.60	18.95	18.23	17.16	15.41	14.72	13.69
Percentage of probability of dying before age 40	8.58	7.84	6.39	6.39	6.03	5.83	5.71	6.5	6.3	6.10
Percentage of illiteracy rate for 15 years and over	-	32.80	20.00	23.70	27.2	26.16	24.60	22.00	21	19.5
Percentage of population deprived of drinking water	16.93	1.10	5.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Percentage of children underweight less than 5 years		6.00	3.50	3.50	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.1	3.1	3.1

Source: CNES Report, 2008.

- The results of 2009.2010.2011 were calculated by the researcher based on the data of the World Bank for the years 2009.2010.2011.

Figure 1: The reality of multidimensional poverty in Algeria:



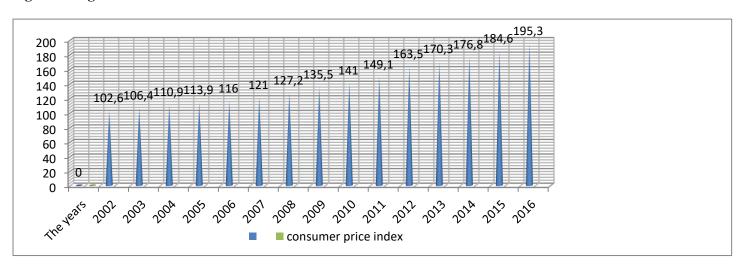
Source: Report of the National Economic and Social Council (2016), United Nations Development Program, The Status of Youth in Sustainable Development in Algeria, P 67.

Table 3: Structure of social transfers in Algeria during the period 2000-2017.

	Unit: 1 million DZ								Z	
The years	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2017
Support housing	67750	76680	81030	147720	285780	324517	461709	255192	471294	304930
Support families	47330	76930	109459	136900	402005	318630	423243	422140	444480	413482
Family	25102	38041	40084		40501	44429	41405	42478	42717	41585
Compensation										
Education support	17728	28489	33708	51000	75055	87603	90186	103012	114425	116861
Support prices of cereals, milk and oil	-	-	1	7000	102049	96151	215630	213693	224499	189929
Support for electricity, gas and water	4500	10400	23667		184400	90447	76022	62957	62839	65107
Support pensions	19450	41560	76690	71250	115740	144030	249950	252097	243513	236789
Health support	33290	49980	63400	67410	115730	199275	364852	320478	321343	330186
Support Mujahideen	60420	78060	75660	81680	108280	124050	156925	180557	197719	197859
Supportingdisabled people	34160	44460	46420	91410	100510	128758	211821	178659	163221	147525
Total conversions	026240	346500	428000	733270	1164000	1239260	1868500	1609123	1841570	1630771
Transfersfrom a budget	6.98	9.26		20	23.84	26.6	24.1	21.0	23.1	23.7
Transfers / Gross domesticproduct	6.36	8.06	9.63	8.61	10.59	10.3	11.5	9.3	10.5	8.4

**Source:** Algerian Ministry of Finance.2018, https://www.mfdgi.gov.dz/index.php/ar

Figure 2: Algeria Consumer Price Index for 2000-2016



Source: National Office of Statistics. 2017. http://www.ons.dz/-Indices-.html

Table 4: Average wages in Algeria during the period 2000-2017

		0	0	0		0 1							
The years	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017
Averagew													
ages"DZ	14313	16344	16395	16903	23336	25049	26900	29400	31800	36100	37800	39200	39900

source: National Office of Statistics. 2018. http://www.ons.dz/-Statistiques-Sociales-.html

Figure 3: Equation of dependent variable (Y):

Dependent Variable: POV Method: Least Squares Date: 06/10/18 Time: 13:00 Sample: 2000 2016 Included observations: 17

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	25.37753	1.246580	20.35773	0.0000
W HAND	-0.000215 -4.07E-05	9.70E-05 1.37E-05	-2.218653 -2.971785	0.0435 0.0101
R-squared	0.914467	Mean depend	dent var	15.41941
Adjusted R-squared	0.902248	S.D. depende	4.735455	
S.E. of regression	1.480557	Akaike info cr	3.781499	
Sum squared resid	30.68869	Schwarz crite	rion	3.928537
Log likelihood	-29.14274	Hannan-Quin	3.796115	
F-statistic	74.83951	Durbin-Watso	1.404203	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Source: Calculated by the author using Eviews7 using Eviews 10.

Figure 4: Self-correlation test errors for model BIP using Breusch-Godfrey (LM Test).

Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:

F-statistic	1.392498 Prob. F(2,12)	0.2859
Obs*R-squared	3.202228 Prob. Chi-Squa	re(2) 0.2017

Test Equation:

Dependent Variable: RESID Method: Least Squares Date: 06/10/18 Time: 13:01 Sample: 2000 2016 Included observations: 17

Presample missing value lagged residuals set to zero.

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C W HAND RESID(-1) RESID(-2)	-0.007007 1.30E-05 -2.98E-06 0.259869 -0.435684	1.223107 0.000100 1.48E-05 0.292601 0.296086	-0.005729 0.129833 -0.200810 0.888134 -1.471479	0.9955 0.8988 0.8442 0.3919 0.1669
R-squared Adjusted R-squared S.E. of regression Sum squared resid Log likelihood F-statistic Prob(F-statistic)	0.188366 -0.082178 1.440717 24.90797 -27.36874 0.696249 0.608948	Mean depend S.D. depende Akaike info cr Schwarz crite Hannan-Quin Durbin-Watso	ent var iterion rion in criter.	3.93E-15 1.384934 3.808087 4.053150 3.832447 1.937707

Source: Calculated by the author using Eviews 7 using Eviews 10.

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