Abstract:
The objective of the present article is to explore responses to survey questions concerning subjects' perceptions as to what people in various occupations do and should earn. The data come from an ongoing Polish panel study (POLPAN) and cover the period 1988-2003. The analysis is concerned with trends, if any, in consensus in the responses and the evaluation of fairness of the earnings. As for the former, individual assessments of the earnings turn out to be fairly consistent with one another. Interestingly, there is much more consensus on assessments of occupational earnings than on assessments of occupational prestige, as reported by other studies. Moreover, this consistency in regard to evaluation of earnings was increasing in the period under analysis. As regards fairness, low-status occupations tend to be perceived as increasingly underrewarded and high-status occupations as increasingly overrewarded. Recommendations as to future research on this topic are given in the closing section.