Bulgaria

Sources:
Jain 1975
Wiedemann 1984, Table 3
Cornia 1994, Table 9
Rutkowski 1996, Table 4 p. 27 and the country tables in the Annex
Milanovic 1998, tables in the Appendices 2 and 4
World Bank Poverty during the Transition website 9/2000, Milanovic
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
Transmonee 2004
Statistical Yearbook

Surveys:
Census on Employment and Wages
Used by Rutkowski (1996). The same source is called Survey of Wages and Salaries by Transmonee (but it is in fact a census, not a sample survey). The census covers only the public sector. The number of earnings ranges provided in 1993 was 17. The income concept is gross monthly cash earnings before income tax deduction and social security contributions. Earnings include base pay and other cash payments, including premia (unhealthy or hazardous working conditions etc.), overtime payments, bonuses (profit-related payments) and performance based payments. Bonuses payments that are paid with less than monthly intervals are included with their monthly equivalent. The reference period is one month.

Household Budget Survey 1992, 1993, 1997
This survey is carried out by the National Statistical Institute. The reference period for incomes is one year. The survey is used by Cornia (1994), the Poverty during the Transition website and Milanovic (1998). In Cornia (1994), the Ginis are interpolated from grouped data from Household Budget Surveys using the procedure in Atkinson & Micklewright (1992). The income concept is extensive but Milanovic (1998) notes that it also includes superfluous items like withdrawals from saving accounts and money received from sales of assets. To get rid of these items, corrections were made on the grouped data in Milanovic (1998). The Poverty during the Transition website uses the Statistical Yearbook 1997 as the source.

Integrated Household Survey 1995, 1997, 2001
This survey is used by Deininger & Squire (2004). It is carried out by Gallup International in collaboration with the World Bank. The first BIHS was conducted in 1995 on a sample of approximately 2500 households. The second round was conducted in 1997 on the 1995 sample with a total of 2000 households re-interviewed. A stratified two-stage cluster design was adopted both in the 1995 and 2001 samples. In 1995, the sampling frame was based on the Census and in 2001 on pre-census listings of the 2001 Population Census. The questionnaires for the three years are almost identical and the aggregates constructed are made comparable over the years.

A draw back of the survey is that household consumption is collected in only one interview with a reference period of one month or one year. The detail is otherwise ok with some 75 food items included and a detailed list of non-food items. The consumption aggregate is defined as the monetary value of all food and non-food goods and services consumed by households. It includes all purchases as well as the value of home produced goods and the value of goods and services received in kind. Non-food goods cover clothing, cleaning, transport, utilities, health, entertainment, education and housing utilities. The consumption aggregate does not include imputed rents but includes the use value of durables in 1997.

The income concept is also comprehensive, but a problem of aggregation is apparently the reason behind the remarkable rise in the Gini coefficients over the years. Some income items seem accidentally to have been excluded in both 1997 and 2001. The included income items should in principle be wages and salaries, self-employment income (with a detailed questionnaire on both agricultural and non-agricultural incomes), transfers (private and state old age pensions, survivor and disability pensions, social pensions, social assistance, unemployment benefits and from 1997 on child allowance), rents, interests and other property income. In-kind incomes and home production should also be included in the aggregate.

Data from Transmonee

Earnings: The survey covers full time employers in the public sector. In 1990 the earnings are from July, in 1991 from December and in 1993 from October.

Income: The Household Budget Survey is used as the source (see above). The survey size reported is approx. 2500 (1% of all the households) from1989 to June 1994, and approx. 6100 (2%) since July 1994.