

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Measuring and Predicting “New Work” in the United States: The Role of Local Factors and Global Shocks](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w32526>

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Tweet: [The density of four-year colleges in 1980 is the most important single predictor of a region's employment growth in high-skilled cognitive analytical “new job” categories between 1980 and 2010. @giov_peri @Gueyon_Kim](#)

Summary: Our “new work” measure exploits the evolution of lists of job titles [from] US government agencies. Text analysis transforms job titles into multidimensional vectors: for each job title, we calculate the vector-distance from all titles existing in the previous period and consider the most similar title (minimum distance). If this value is above a threshold parameter, we classify the added job title as “new.” We document the importance of the initial local share of college-educated and log population density as the two most significant predictors of [employment growth in] “new work” across [Commuting Zones] CZs and decades. We analyze how exposure to global shocks and the presence of local factors correlate with the emergence of “new work” across commuting zones between 1980 and 2010. To investigate the effect of the local supply of human capital on the creation of “new work,” we use the historical presence and density of 4-year college institutions in the CZ. The importance of the initial local share of college-educated and log population density [are] the two most significant predictors of “new work” across CZs and decades. High manufacturing share in 1980 also strongly (but with a negative sign) predicts “new work.”

Related Articles: [The World's Rust Belts: The Heterogeneous Effects of Deindustrialization on 1,993 Cities in Six Countries](#) and [The Economics of Inequality in High-Wage Economies](#)

Primary Topic: Growth

Topics: Academic paper, College, Database, Education, GDP, Growth, Very Important, Workforce

PDF File

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