

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Robot Hubs in U.S. Manufacturing Establishments](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31062>

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Tweet: Evidence from investment in robots suggests robots are complementary to production workers and their adaptation is concentrated in hubs. @erikbryn @CathyBuffington @ngoldschlag @jmirandal

Summary: We present results on the distribution of robots in U.S. manufacturing by establishment characteristics and geography using new establishment-level data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of Manufacturers for reference year 2018. This is the first establishment-level analysis of the use of robots in U.S. manufacturing, leveraging data on approximately 35,000 establishments. We find that establishments with robots tend to be larger, have higher earnings per worker, have a larger share of production workers, and spend more on capital expenditures, including IT, than establishments without robots. We also find that the distribution of robots is highly skewed across locations, even after accounting for the different mix of industry and manufacturing employment across locations. Some locations, which we call Robot Hubs, have far more robots than one would expect after accounting for industry mix.

Primary Topic: Investment

Topics: Academic paper, Data, Investment

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