

SEAN BASSLER

E-mail: Bassl009@umn.edu

Cell: 509-999-0078

URL: www.seanbassler.com

4-101 Hanson Hall
1925 Fourth Street South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Placement Director: Loukas Karabarounis
Placement Director: Timothy Kehoe
Placement Coordinator: Wesley Peterson

mneconplacedir@umn.edu 612-625-7504
mneconplacedir@umn.edu 612-625-1589
mneconjm@umn.edu 612-625-6859

Education

University of Minnesota

Ph.D. Economics, 2018 to 2024 (expected)

Seattle University

BS in Mathematics, Minor in Economics, 2017

Fields

Macro Labor

References

Professor Anmol Bhandari
University of Minnesota
bhandari@umn.edu
(612) 624-2816

Professor Kjetil Storesletten
University of Minnesota
kstoresl@umn.edu
(612) 624-6084

Dr. Todd Schoellman
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
todd.schoellman@gmail.com

Dr. Abigail Wozniak
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
abigailwozniak@gmail.com

Research

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Research Analyst for Abigail Wozniak, 2021-present

Teaching

Instructor, Economic Development, University of Minnesota, 2021
Instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics, University of Minnesota, 2021
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics, University of Minnesota, 2020
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics, University of Minnesota, 2018-2019

Job Market Paper

“The Effect of Healthcare Costs on Low-Skill Domestic Outsourcing”

Between 1975 and 2012, the share of low-skill workers that are domestically outsourced increased by approximately ten percentage points in the US. This development coincided with three trends: rising medical care prices, rising income, and rising demand for high-skill labor. I explore the relationship between these secular changes using a general equilibrium model. The key ingredient is anti-discrimination regulation from the US tax code, which forces firms to offer the same health plans to all their employees. I find that an increase in the price of medical care, income, or the demand for high-skill labor increases the cost of the health plans high-skill employees want. Then, the anti-discrimination constraints increase the relative cost of low-skill employees, which increases low-skill domestic outsourcing. Using cross-sectional industry data, I find empirical support for this mechanism and I calibrate the model. With the calibrated model, I find that the rising price of medical care interacting with the anti-discrimination constraints is responsible for 25 percent of the increase in low-skill domestic outsourcing between 1975 and 2012. Conversely, rising income and rising demand for high-skill labor had a minimal impact on the trend. These results suggest that the rising price of medical care is one of the drivers of the increase in low-skill domestic outsourcing in the US.

Software Skills

Stata, Julia, R, SAS, Excel

Seminars & Conferences

SED Annual Meeting, Cartagena, Columbia, 2023
Midwestern Macroeconomic Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina, 2023

Honors & Awards

Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau, 2022-present
Distinguished Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, 2019

Working Papers

“A Shock by Any Other Name? Reconsidering the Impacts of Local Demand Shocks?” with Kevin Rinz and Abigail Wozniak

Over the last decade, research on labor market adjustment following local demand shocks has expanded to explore a wide variety of measured shocks. However, the worker adjustments observed in response to these shocks - such as migration, labor force participation, and wages - are not always consistent across studies. We create a harmonized set of annual commuting zone-level shocks following the major approaches in the literature to investigate these differences. As one might expect, shocks of different types exhibit different geographic and temporal patterns and are generally weakly correlated with each other. We find they also generate different employment and migration responses, with trade-related shocks showing little response on either margin while more general Bartik-style shocks are associated with economically meaningful changes in both employment and migration.

“The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Part-Time Jobs and Self-Employment” with Joseph Pedtke

We measure the effect of Medicaid eligibility on the share of low-income workers in part-time jobs and self-employment. Workers in these positions commonly lack access to subsidized health plans through their employers. However, Medicaid expansion gave many low-income workers access to publicly subsidized health plans, potentially making these positions more favorable. Our identification strategy is the difference-in-difference design from Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021), which compares labor market outcomes for workers in states that expanded Medicaid against those that did not. We focus on a sample of low-income workers that were not eligible for Medicaid before the expansion: childless, non-disabled adults in states without confounding state-level policies. Using American Community Survey data, we find that Medicaid expansion had a statistically insignificant effect on the share of our sample in part-time jobs or self-employment. We conclude that Medicaid Expansion had a negligible impact on both labor market outcomes for low-income workers.