

Vertical specialization: the comparison of Mexico and China economies from the Input-Output perspective

Topic: Vertical specialization and outsourcing II

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The objective of this work is to perform a comparison between the economic structures of Mexico and China, through their Vertical Specialization (VS) patterns. The analysis is for years 1995, 2003 and 2011.

In order to make the comparison of the economic structures it used the Coefficient of Le Masne (a measurement of similarity through distances). To compare vertical especialization matrices it used the Coefficients Kendall and Spearman (coefficients that measure the rank correlation amongst variables).

Also, to identify to the most influential sectors of each country, we employed the theory of graphs in order to assess each one of the VS matrices.

The results indicate a tendency through time that increases the difference of the economic structure between Mexico and China. In the same period of time, China undergoes more changes than Mexico.

The Vertical Specialization has grown for Mexico, that is to say, depends more on the imports compared with the economy of China. The level of VS is higher for Mexico than China. In 2011, for every dollar Mexico exported, imported 30 cents, while China imported 23 cents.

For the case of Mexico, graphical representation shows that in 2011 the size of the economic clusters decreased compared to 1995. In the case of China, the size of the economic clusters increased, there are more defined clusters and it has a more linked economic situation compared to Mexico.