

Gendered Motivations of Economic Change in China, 2002-2017

Topic: Gender issues in Input-Output Analysis: New challenges and new perspectives - II

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Economic development affects genders differently through an economy's industrial structure. For example, in China, while the absolute number of employed men has risen, it has fallen for women. And, as in other nations, substantial gender employment gap exists, varying by sector and level of education achievement of workers. We use a structural decomposition approach to examine the proximate causes of employment change by gender in China. Besides using input mix, final demand mix, and the make-up of the basket of goods and services required by final demand as factors of employment change by gender, we also examine the apparent effects of educational achievement for Chinese workers by gender. Finally, we use the change in labor/output coefficients by industry to examine the effects of labor productivity. Thus, we can explore drivers of recent change in employment over time, gender, industries, and education levels. The main dataset for this analysis is a series of four Chinese national IO tables from 2002 to 2017. We aggregated to the IO tables to 19 industries, which ensured a match between employment and other economic information from China's statistic yearbook. Our results confirm that technological change and structural improvements in China have benefited the nation's female workers more than its male workers from 2007 to 2017. Also, we find that improved labor productivity has been particularly important in closing China's gender employment gap. Final demand (both its mix and structure) as well as the share of workers with a college education have also improved job growth. This is a first step in China for studying gendered employment using an input-output model.