

## **Heritage Tourism and Economic Development: An Input-Output Analysis for Minas Gerais, Brazil**

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Considered one of the first Brazilian architectonic and cultural movements, the baroque style of Minas Gerais is a fundamental piece of the Brazilian identity. After efforts to value and promote it, the style has become one of the main Brazilian touristic products, symbolized by UNESCO's classification of sites in the cities of Ouro Preto, Congonhas, and Diamantina as World Cultural Heritage. Thus, tourism in baroque regions in Minas Gerais is nowadays an important part of the local economies. This article proposes to analyze the importance of tourism characteristic activities (TCAs) in these regions. To do so, we used the Brazilian 2018 I-O table and employment and export data to build a regionalized I-O for these regions under the Interregional Input Output Adjustment System (IIOAS) framework. This allows us to analyze the impacts of a hypothetical extraction of the TCAs through both interregional and intraregional lenses. Our results showed that the TCAs have a variable weight in local economies, ranging from 0.75 percent to 65 percent of the cities' Gross Value of Added (GVA) and averaging at 10 percent. Comparing the impacts of a simultaneous extraction with those of local extractions region by region, it was possible to identify as well that tourism activities have a relatively bigger impact on the local economies rather than on a regional scale, which points out to a modest interdependence in the supply chain of the baroque cities' touristic sector. In addition to providing an analysis of the tourism industry in the local economy of Minas Gerais which can further aid policy making, we also contribute to the literature by creating a novel regionalized setting with hypothetical extraction of a cross-sector industry, which was possible by estimating TCAs' shares in the I-O matrix sectors.