

IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Offshoring Trends and the Geography of Jobs

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This paper investigates the impact of recent offshoring trends on domestic jobs in Britain in the light of its spatial heterogeneity across labour market segments characterized by different industry specializations. By looking at variations in the intensity of outward flows across industries as a proxy for differences in the exposure to relocations threats, this study sheds new light on the spatial implications linked to this process. The results suggest that in the short run offshoring has generated significant job losses in routine occupations in places that have been more exposed to the relocation of production activities. In the long run, however, efficiency gains linked to the reorganization of production at a larger geographical scale have stimulated compensating mechanisms operating through job creation in non-routine occupations. Although our results provide weak support for claims against offshoring, they also highlight the emergence of relevant distributional consequences at the spatial and individual level, which envisage new challenges for public policy.

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