Special Session on Minimum Wage Research

Philipp vom Berge (FDZ), Michael Oberfichtner (FBC1), and Matthias Umkehrer (FDZ)

Dustmann / Lindner / Schönberg / Umkehrer / vom Berge: Reallocation and Minimum Wages: Evidence From Germany
We estimate the effect of the new minimum wage (MW) on the German labor market. The employment effect of the MW was limited although it pushed up wages. However, the lack of employment responses masks structural shifts in the economy. In response to the MW small firms were more likely to shut down while large firms expanded their employment.

Bossler / Oberfichtner / Schnabel: Labor demand adjustments in course of a changing minimum wage: A survey experiment
We conduct a survey experiment in which we randomly assign different MW levels to plants and analyze the effect on personnel managers’ employment expectations. While a MW decrease would barely foster employment, disemployment effects of MW rises differ by the bite of the minimum wage at a plant, its size, and industrial relations.

Umkehrer / vom Berge: Evaluating the Minimum-Wage Exemption of the Long-Term Unemployed in Germany
We analyze labor market effects of the exemption of long-term unemployed jobseekers from Germany’s national MW. While the MW raises wages of both formerly short-term and long-term unemployed job entrants alike, we don’t find a relative decline in hiring probability or job stability.