

The job prospects of apprentices in East and West Germany – A cohort study using German administrative data

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This paper examines the job prospects of five cohorts of (former) apprentices after finishing vocational training. We use data from the *Stichprobe der Integrierten Erwerbsbiographien* (IEBS, see HUMMEL ET AL. (2005) for further information), a 2.2 % sample of the German labour force built from process-generated labour market data to answer the following two research questions:

- 1. Are there any differences in the probability of finding a job after vocational training between East and West Germany and do these differences persist over time?**

To answer this question we use five cohorts of apprentices finishing vocational training in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 respectively. Comparisons between East and West Germany are done using Logit estimates of the probability of being employed after the end of vocational training. In a second step, a decomposition technique for Logit models, similar to the well-known Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition, (cf. FAIRLIE 1999, 2005) is used to assess the part of the differences in employment probabilities that can be attributed to differences in the observed characteristics of the apprentices.

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2. Are there any differences in the stability / duration of the first job after vocational training?

Here, we estimate survival functions for different types of occupations for the five years after the successful transition into first employment. Formal tests are used to determine whether the survival functions are equal across East and West Germany.

Bibliography

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