Exploring the Relation between Immigrants and Native Workers: New Evidence using Firms, Occupations and Employment Flows

We analyze the extent to which immigrants affect Swedish employment. We find that a 10% increase in immigrant employment within a firm increases Swedish employment by 2.02% within the immigrant’s occupation, and by 0.35% in other occupations. We find that the majority of these employment increases are due to an increase in the prevalence of employer changes, or “Job-to-Job Flows”. Even though immigrants increase Swedish employment on average, we also find some displacement effects, particularly when the firm increases employment of low-paid immigrants and immigrants who had recently arrived in Sweden prior to employment. We find that our effects are larger when focusing on private firms, which is due to more labour market fluidity within these firms. We lastly evaluate these effects based on the nationality of the immigrant workers. We find small differences across nations, which we argue is due to differential selection effects across immigrants.

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I received my PhD in labor economics and econometrics from the University of Maryland in August 2016. I am currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Population Research at the National University of Singapore. My current research involves analyzing displaced workers, migration, and Medicaid expansion/contraction policies. I have used both “big data” administrative sources as well as public use data sources such as the Current Population Survey, American Community Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation. The primary programming languages I use are SAS and STATA.