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Laboratoire de Recherche en Economie Quantitative du Développement



SÉMINAIRE DE RECHERCHE N° 14/09

Disentangling the Pattern of Geographic Concentration in Tunisian Manufacturing Industries

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**A 16H00 à la salle des Thèses "Tahar Ben Marzouka"
(FSEGT-Campus, Université de Tunis El Manar)**

Abstract:

In this paper, we examine the pattern of spatial concentration of manufacturing industries observed in Tunisia and explore the factors driving firms' location choices at the provincial level. We consider specialization and competition indicators as driving forces and also examine the extent to which location choice is related to Centre Business Districts. We estimate the effect of location variables on sector growth and productivity. Our results suggest that firms choose to locate in a specific governorate because of high local demand, which brings about transportation cost savings. Moreover, we find a concentration of activity in Greater Tunis where most growth in firms and employment is observed, while locating in littoral governorates enhances the productivity growth of governorate-industries.

Urbanization economies in Tunisia encourage the appearance of virtuous circles in the transmission of innovative ideas, so firms can benefit from the proximity of the other manufacturing units. Geographic concentration in Tunisian manufacturing industries is a kind of commercial relations between the sectors rather than the division and the exploitation of technological complementarities between sectors.

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