

How Did Shocks on Gender Composition Affect Regional Economic Activities in Japan?

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Abstract

The Second Sino-Japanese War and World War II caused a decline in the sex ratio in Japan from 1937 to 1945, with this decline being uneven across regions, independent of economic factors. This paper focuses on the regional economy, particularly on the industrial structure within the manufacturing sector, to investigate the adjustments made in response to this decrease in the sex ratio. The results of the analysis qualitatively support the Rybczynski effect, confirming the expansion of female-intensive industries and the contraction of non-female-intensive industries in regions with larger declines in the male population. Quantitatively, however, the effect was relatively modest.

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