

How does labour mobility affect the performance of plants? The importance of relatedness and geographical proximity

Get access >

Ron Boschma, Rikard Eriksson, Urban Lindgren

Journal of Economic Geography, Volume 9, Issue 2, March 2009, Pages 169–190,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbn041>

Published: 17 October 2008 **Article history** ▼

Abstract

This article analyses the impact of skill portfolios and labour mobility on plant performance by means of a unique database that connects attributes of individuals to features of plants for the whole Swedish economy. We found that a portfolio of related competences at the plant level increases significantly productivity growth of plants, in contrast to plant portfolios consisting of either similar or unrelated competences. Based on the analysis of 101,093 job moves, we found that inflows of skills that are related to the existing knowledge base of the plant had a positive effect on plant performance, while the inflow of new employees with skills that are already present in the plant had a negative impact. Our analyses also show that geographical proximity influences the effect of different skill inflows. Inflows of unrelated skills only contribute positively to plant performance when these are recruited in the same region. Labour mobility across regions only has a positive effect on productivity growth of plants when this concerns new employees with related skills.

© The Author (2008). Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please email: journals.permissions@oxfordjournals.org

JEL: O18 - Urban, Rural, Regional, and Transportation Analysis; Housing; Infrastructure, R11 - Regional Economic Activity: Growth, Development, Environmental Issues, and Changes, R12 - Size and Spatial Distributions of Regional Economic Activity

Issue Section: [Articles](#)

You do not currently have access to this article.

Sign in

 [Get help with access](#)

Personal account

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD

[Sign in >](#)

[Register](#)

Institutional access



[Sign in through your institution](#)



[Sign in through your institution >](#)

[Sign in with a library card](#)

[Sign in with username/password](#)

[Recommend to your librarian](#)

Institutional account management

[Sign in as administrator](#)

Purchase

[Subscription prices and ordering for this journal](#)

[Purchasing options for books and journals across Oxford Academic](#)

Short-term Access

To purchase short-term access, please sign in to your personal account above.

Don't already have a personal account? [Register](#)

How does labour mobility affect the performance of plants? The importance of relatedness and geographical proximity - 24 Hours access

EUR €53.00

GBP £44.00

USD \$58.00

Rental

This article is also available for rental through DeepDyve.

