

The Effect of Internal Migration on the Regional Economic Growth of China

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The level of economic development in various regions of China is unbalanced. In the past 30 years, the eastern region, represented by the three major urban agglomerations of "Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei", "Yangtze River Delta" and "Pearl River Delta", has been leading the economy in central-western region due to policy preference and resource endowment advantages. With the deepening of urbanization and industrialization, the differences between urban and rural areas, eastern and central-western regions, the developed and underdeveloped regions, have become more and more obvious. The capital, technology and labor force are constantly shifting to more attractive regions.

The impact of demographic structure changes caused by internal migration on economic growth is far more rapid and obvious than that of liberal childbirth policies. It is very important to study this kind of effect on the economic growth.

In China, the most obvious internal migration is the concentration of the population to national central cities and provincial central cities. This depends on the strong talent attractiveness of the central cities and the fact that the non-traditional developed regions or provinces have also begun to implement the strategy of regional central cities (or strong capital cities).

Empirical analysis shows that in traditional economically developed regions, internal migration does not significantly change the degree of population aggregation, while it still has a positive effect on regional economic growth. However, in provinces and regions that implement the strategy of strong provincial central city or capital cities, the internal migration leads to population aggregation, which is consistent with economic aggregation. Population aggregation has a positive effect on regional economic growth, but it also leads to the unbalanced development of provincial economic growth and excessive centralization.

In terms of impact mechanism, the effect of internal migration on economic growth in traditionally developed regions mainly comes from the optimization of population structure brought about by strict talent strategies. And the economic growth effect of population agglomeration in non-traditionally developed areas comes from the urbanization level, age structure, and industrial upgrading of core cities.

References

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