

Publication

Are Training Programs More Effective When Unemployment is High?

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 2157183

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Year 2009

Title Are Training Programs More Effective When Unemployment is High?

Journal Journal of Labor Economics

Volume 27

Number 4

Pages / Article-Number 653-692

We estimate shortrun, mediumrun, and longrun individual labor market effects of training programs for the unemployed by following program participation on a monthly basis over a 10year period. Since analyzing the effectiveness of training over such a long period is impossible with experimental data, we use an administrative database compiled for evaluating German training programs. Based on matching estimation adapted to address the various issues that arise in this particular context, we find a clear positive relation between the effectiveness of the programs and the unemployment rate over time.

Publisher UNIV CHICAGO PRESS

ISSN/ISBN 0734-306X ; 1537-5307

URL <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/644976>

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/49407/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1086/644976

ISI-Number WOS:000271021800005

Document type (ISI) ArticleProceedings Paper