

THEMATIC ISSUE ON "LABOUR MARKET: ANALYSIS, TRENDS AND NEW SCENARIOS - EDITORIAL"

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The analysis of the labour market has always played an important role in the international scientific debate because of its economic relevance and its social impact and importance.

In particular, in the last two decades in Italy there has been a growing interest in the labour market and all its related aspects, driven by three main issues:

- the new labour market regulations that, since the end of the twentieth century, have changed its functioning and introduced flexibility in the Italian labour market;
- the financial and economic crises that are still occurring today and that have deeply affected the EU and the Italian labour market because of the subsequent long economic recessions and/or widespread unemployment in most regions;
- the technological and digital revolution, together with globalisation and environmental issues, which are constantly evolving the labour market, with new forms of employment and emerging companies,

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and the increasingly widespread use of online recruitment methods.

In this panorama, as expected, the analysis of the labour market is not easy and many questions arise from statistical and economic issues, both methodological and data-driven, and from various social aspects, both ethical and educational.

This thematic issue therefore aims to contribute to the scientific discussion by proposing original papers that cover many of the issues related to the labour market, ranging from statistical methods for labour force analysis to job demand and supply matching, and to employment, unemployment and transitions as driven by labour force policies to education, training and human capital.

This thematic issue brings together nine original papers. It is published in two volumes.

The first volume contains four papers which can be summarised as follows:

- the first paper, by Varriale R., Filipponi D., Garnier-Villarreal M. and Pavlopoulos D., analyses the effect of measurement error on mobility between different types of employment in Italy, using a hidden Markov model with two independent indicators for the employment categories under consideration, i.e. permanent, temporary, self-employed, not employed;
- the second paper, by Menini T., focuses on the professional work of the manager and, in particular, the author identifies a possible new approach to managerial behaviour that can define this professional figure and a first idea of an "open manager" leading to a horizontal and participatory organisation of power;
- the third paper, by Ciaschini C. and Salvati L., examines the spatial regimes and short-term changes of a gross unemployment rate, taken as a representative proxy for the overall performance of 610 local labour markets in Italy, and the authors identify, through a purely exploratory approach, the socio-economic factors that have better characterised the labour market dynamics during the period considered;
- the fourth paper, by Vassallo E., analyses the labour performance in the 610 Italian local labour systems in terms of the activity rate,

the employment rate and the unemployment rate, applying a benefit-of doubt approach in a DEA-type model to obtain a score of "labour performance" and, in particular, the author proposes a composite indicator to synthesise the three above-mentioned rates, based on a robust non-parametric approach of the order m DEA frontiers.

The second volume contains five papers, which may be briefly summarised as follows

- the first paper, by Kahlawi A., Grassini L. and Buzzigoli L., analyses the recent dynamics of the demand for ICT skills in Italy, using online job advertisements, by means of a skill change index at the regional level;
- the second paper, by Marini C. and Nicolardi V., highlights the difficulties arising from the unsatisfactory availability of dynamic databases for analysing the dynamics of the Italian labour force, as a result of the long phase of labour market reform that started at the beginning of the 21st century, and through a graphic-matrix approach the authors show how non-disclosed administrative data, in addition to official statistical data, could support the analysis;
- the third paper, by Leombruni R., proposes a conceptual map of what data are in the field of empirical economic research in order to clarify what are the conditions and possible strategies to fully exploit their opportunities, especially in the case of big data of administrative origin and, in particular, the author discusses the case of labour market research based on social security data;
- the fourth paper, by Barzizza E., Biasetton N., Ceccato R., Fedeli M. and Tino C., examines engineering students' perceptions of the labour market and career planning, where data have been collected through a questionnaire addressed to engineering students, and the authors apply appropriate machine learning models to examine the relationship between students' perceptions of the labour market and career planning and various factors;
- finally, the paper by Maiorino S., Rappelli F. and Giubileo F. examines the employment of people with disabilities through targeted placement services in the Lombardy region, and the

authors show, using administrative data, that there has been an improvement in the probability of finding a job and in the probability of being hired with a permanent contract over the period considered for those registered on the targeted placement lists.

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The Guest Editors

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