



“The Economic Impact of Special Economic Zones: Evidence from Chinese Municipalities” (in English)



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Abstract

How large are the benefits of Special Economic Zones and what are the channels of these benefits? To shed light on these questions, I collect a unique dataset of Chinese municipal economic statistics from 1978 to 2007 and use it to evaluate the impact of a Special Economic Zone experiment aimed at attracting foreign direct investment. Guided by a conceptual framework, I find the Special Economic Zone policy: 1) increases per capita foreign direct investment by 58%, mainly in the form of foreign-invested and export-oriented industrial enterprises; 2) does not reduce domestic investment and domestically owned capital stock and 3) increases total factor productivity growth rate by 0.6 percentage points. The results suggest that creating Special Economic Zones not only brings capital, but also more advanced technology, and provide important policy implications for many countries.

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Biography

Jin Wang is an assistant professor of Social Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She was educated at the Tsinghua University for her BA and MA in Economics before getting her PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has referred articles for journals including the Journal of Public Economics, the Journal of International Development, the Seoul Journal of Economics and the China Quarterly. Her research, which mostly has a policy focus, is mainly in the areas of Development Economics, Public Economics and Chinese Economy.

All are welcome