

The determinants of time-related underemployment in South Africa

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Abstract

South Africa is faced with an increasing trend of underemployment in all industries. Data with a sample of 8,3 million working age population from Quarterly Labour Force Survey (Q3:2012) collected by Statistics South Africa was used. The study only includes working age population (15-64 years). There was women (52.2%) and 60,2% were people between the age of 15-35 years. The study utilizes categorical covariates such as age, gender, population group, field of study, highest completed level of education, marital status, and province, contract duration, contract type, sector, occupation, and industry.

The aim of the study was to find determinates of time-related underemployment. All variables were significantly associated with underemployment at the univariate case. The multivariate logistic regression analysis shows that gender, sector, geography type, level of education completed, industry and contract type are significantly associated with underemployment at 5% significance level. Women are 1.59 times more likely to be underemployed compared to men. People with less education are likely to be underemployed compared to people with higher education.

Keywords: contract type, education, gender, geography, industry, multivariate logistic regression