

LAS 815: Theories of (Latin American) Development

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Argentina: a case of export specialization?

a study of the composition of Argentine exports and its impact on economic growth.

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Argentina: a case of export specialization? A study of the composition of Argentine exports and its impact on economic growth

The purpose of this study will be to understand the effects of export specialization upon Latin American countries' levels of economic growth. I will focus on one country in particular, Argentina, while drawing lessons from the general literature and from both other countries of the region and other regions. The topic is extremely important since exports play a key role in Latin America's economic growth. On the macroeconomic level, exports generate revenues that are used to finance government expenditures; are a source of both foreign exchange inflow and accumulation of foreign reserves; encourage a positive balance of trade, current, and payment accounts; and are a source of demand for domestic goods. On the microeconomic level, exports help diversifying risk from volatile domestic markets; encourage economies of scale; and are a source of growth and consolidation for any company in a highly competitive domestic market.

Therefore I propose to study two questions: 1) What is the impact of export specialization on a country's economic growth? And, for the particular case under analysis 2) Has Argentina export specialized over the years?; if so, what is the overall impact on its levels of economic growth?.

Although my interest is to study the composition of the Argentine exports since the beginning of the ISI process (beginning of 1930's) - acknowledging that that was a period of crisis -, data is only available from the 1970's onwards. Thus, this study will analyse the evolution of this country's exports from the latter period mentioned until the present.

Data Sources

-Macroeconomic data for Argentina available through Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), World Bank (WB), National Institute of Census (INDEC)

-International Trade Data are available through World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Conclusion: there are adequate data to examine the proposed questions.

Annotated Bibliography

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