

Veneto Worker History Files

M. Valentini – m.valentini@unive.it

The longitudinal Veneto Worker History (VWH) panel built at the department of Economics of the University of Venice on the ground of the Social Security administrative data of the Italian Social Security System (Inps). It refers to the entire population of employers and workers in an Italian region, Veneto. The database covers each single plant and each single individual employed in the private sector (employers are classified according to the three-digit ATECO 1981 standard classification; no state and local government, with few exceptions) except for farm workers and people receiving no salary. The period covered by the dataset is 1975-2001.

Inps data include register-based information on all establishments and employees that have been hired by those establishments for at least one day during the period of observation, independent of the workers place of residence. The entire working life for all employees that have worked at least one day in Veneto, has been reconstructed, considering the occupational spells out of Veneto as well. The unit of observation is the employer-day; such information is used to build a monthly history of the working life of each employee. Employers are identified by their identification number, which changes if ownership, in a strict sense, changes. This has been amended and any time more than 50% of all employees are taken over by the new legal employer, the employment spell is said to be continuing. Similarly, if there are short breaks in the employment spell, as long as the worker continues at the old employer, his spell is considered uninterrupted. A 'cleaned' social security archive has been used. The engagements/separations and the creations/destructions that are due to a change in the unit that pays the social security contribution not matched by a corresponding change of the working population assessed at the establishment level are defined as 'spurious' and have been deleted. This has led to a reduction of 9% of total engagements and separations in manufacturing. This procedure is common practice among people working with social security data.

Data include all individual employment spells with an employer, of whatever duration, and this probably results in a lot of very short spells. Although short spells characterize the average job, they are concentrated at workers young age, while long spells characterize the mature worker current experience. We keep all employment size in our data set, because our territory is characterized by a multitude of very small units (establishments with ≤ 5 employee account for almost 12% of the total manufacturing employment).

Veneto labour market has been characterized, since a decade, by almost full employment and by a positive rate of job creation in manufacturing, before a negative national rate. It is a dynamic territory based on manufacturing, with a large population of small firms; the average establishment size is 12 employees.

Structure of Main Archives			
WORKER ARCHIVE		JOB ARCHIVE	FIRM ARCHIVE
Archive information		Archive information	Archive information
Primary key: worker code	→	Primary key 1: Worker code; Primary key 2: Firm code	→ Primary key: Firm code
Gender		Year of work	Firm's name
Birth date (GGMMAA)		Month of work (twelve bits, 1=work)	Activity description
Birth place		Weeks of work	Address
Nationality		Days of work	Sector code (ATECO)
Address		Place of work	Establishment date
		Gross wage	Cessation date
		Qualif. (blue collar, apprentices...)	Artisan firm (YES=1)
		Contract	Area code
		Level	
		Total week if part-time	

