

Using ACS Data to Complete an Employment Shift-share Analysis and Location Quotient at the Municipal Level

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Many times local governments, are tasked to look at changes in employment patterns over a specific time period at a localized level , often where a comparative analysis is required. A Shift-share Analysis measures the movement (shift) of the local economy into faster or slower growth sectors and the community's larger or smaller portion (share) of the growth occurring in a given economic sector at the state or national level. This analysis can help identify industries where a regional economy has competitive advantages over the larger economy. A Shift-share analysis takes the change over time of an economic variable, such as employment, within industries of a regional economy, and divides that change into various components. Historically, a Shift-share Analysis of local employment has been done at the county or MSA levels, as that has been the most granular level of geography that annualized employment data by industry sector has been made available via Federal data sets such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis. This paper looks at how to complete a Shift-share analysis and Industry Cluster (Location Quotient) at the local level using ACS (American Community Survey), 2-digit industry NAICS employment data for the communities of Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon Oregon between the years of 2019 and 2022.

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