

COVID-19 and labour demand: Evidence from Russia

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Abstract

The study is aimed to consider the impact of the COVID-19 on the labour market in Russia. In particular, we analyze the labour demand and its dynamics before and during the crisis, and estimate how the pandemic has changed the monetary value of the skills that are demanded by employers. The study is based on the data from one of the largest job boards in Russia. The dataset includes vacancies posted online by companies from 2004 to April 2020. The set of requirements put in the job descriptions includes the following information: position name and description, employer name, date of publication, address of workplace, salary range and currency, required experience and skills, work schedule and professional area. Based on the information from the vacancies, we explore the demand for skills in the Russian labour market. The empirical part includes text mining techniques and two-step regression model. The results of the study can be used to develop policy decisions in the field of labour market and education in order to overcome the difficulties related to the pandemic and to make labour market more stable in the face of such shocks.

JEL Classification: C55, J21, J24, J26

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