

Abstract

The thesis searches for driving forces behind structural changes of rural employment in the example of Czechia subject to changing rural paradigm and the related question of rural economic viability represented by the employment performance. The research elaborates on the territorial approaches which categorises regions according to their degree of rurality. In addition, the detailed classification is made according to the change of non-agricultural employment in the period 2001-2011 in order to identify dynamic regions which showed performance above national average (leading) and those which lacked behind (lagging). The observations prompt the question why is the performance differentiated. Therefore, the regionally differentiated impact of processes such as deagriculturisation, deindustrialisation and tertiarisation in the period 2001-2011 is analysed by the use of analysis of components (namely shift-share analysis) and multivariate analysis (namely factor and cluster analysis). The thesis aims to provide answers in particular by giving a thorough analysis of how the changing rural paradigm (and regional theories in wider context) conceptualise the driving forces behind employment development in rural areas. The added value is in the analysis of interrelations and correlations of chosen variables describing employment dynamics and viability of rural areas. The goal is to understand consequential order of events happening in rural areas (in terms of historical developments and development stimuli) and their possible relation to change and/or growth of employment. The thesis aims to overcome the practice of marginalisation of other than agricultural sectors and actors in rural development and contributes to discussion on the conceptualisation of rurality. The results could be then practically used for the rural development policy planning (e.g. in the emerging concept of SMART village). In addition, the thesis provides some tools for the policy evaluation.

Keywords: rural employment, rural development, rural entrepreneurship, rurality, territory, structural changes, Czechia, shift-share analysis, factor analysis, cluster analysis