

The Regional Inequality of Mexican Productive Articulation: A Spatial Input-Output Perspective

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Regional inequalities in Mexico have increased since implementing structural adjustment programs and trade liberalization, limiting economic development. The poor performance of the export-led growth model underscores the need for an industrial policy. This paper seeks to answer the following question: What is the magnitude of the regional inequality footprint generated by how the Mexican productive structure is articulated? The research aims to contribute to the design of a regional-focused productive development policy that does not perpetuate inequalities.

The regional inequality footprint in Mexico's productive articulation is estimated using the hypothetical extraction method (Dietzenbacher & Lahr, 2013) and the spatial Gini Index (Rey & Smith, 2013). Various studies have analyzed sectoral and regional productive articulation in Mexico through input-output analysis (Morales-López, 2023; Ayala, Chapa & Treviño, 2015; Dávila, 2015). Additionally, other studies have examined the dynamics of regional economic inequalities with a spatial focus (Valdivia, 2008; Quintana-Romero & Salas, 2023). At the international level, this research aligns with studies exploring the relationship between productive structures and the generation of inequalities (Duan et al., 2022; Alsamawi et al., 2017; Duarte et al., 2022). To the best of the author's knowledge, this work is the first to estimate the degree of regional inequality linked to the articulation pattern of Mexico's productive structure.

The results reveal intra and interregional inequalities, the concentration of productive activity in states with the most significant metropolitan areas, and the presence of spatial externalities in the national productive structure. Technology-intensive manufacturing and service industries contribute significantly to regional inequality at the sector level, while fostering resource-processing manufacturing and its supporting primary sectors may help narrow regional disparities among federal entities.