

# Exposure to Automation and the decline of Routine Employment across European Regions

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## Abstract

In this paper, I analyze the decline of routine employment over the last decade across 174 European regional units. I show that the phenomenon – crucially related to employment polarization – has been steady over time but unevenly distributed over space. By adopting a standard shift-share decomposition method, I find that the total reduction is entirely accounted for within-regions contractions. Further, shifts in regional-level industry composition explain around 40% of the within-regions component. By means of OLS and 2SLS models, I also show that about a fifth of the contraction explained by exposure to automation can be attributed to the between-industry channel.

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