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Resource shocks, employment, and gender: evidence from the collapse of the UK coal industry

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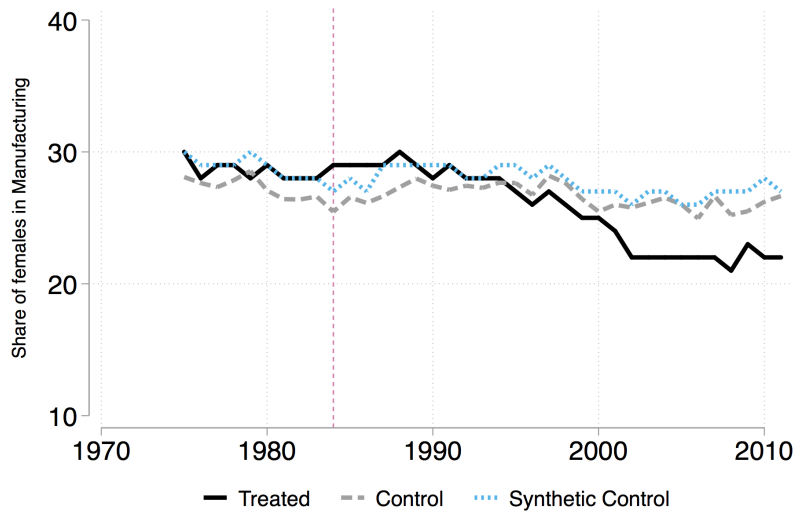


Highlights of "Resource shocks, employment, and gender: evidence from the collapse of the UK coal industry"

The closure of coal mines in the UK since 1984 freed mine workers and increased supply of men in manufacturing jobs. This shift in supply reduced male wages in manufacturing and, due to imperfect substitutability, decreased the demand for women in manufacturing. As a result, there was an absolute, and relative, decrease in female manufacturing employment.

Figure 1 suggests that between the 1970s and early 1980s the share of females in manufacturing remained stable. Following 1984, a negative trend appears in regions with closing coal mines, relative to the persistent evolution in both counterfactuals. This is prima facie evidence of the crowding out effect discussed above. The effects are sizeable and persist more than 20 years after mine closures.

Figure 1: Share of female manufacturing workers



Notes: The solid line is the share of females in manufacturing in the treated regions, i.e. regions with at least one active coal mine in 1975. The dashed line is the average share of females in the control region, i.e. regions without active coal mines in 1975. The dotted line is a synthetic counterfactual, i.e. a weighted average of the share of females in manufacturing in regions without a single active coal mine in 1975. The vertical dotted line indicates 1984.

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