
ABSTRACTS

Constructing a New Development Pattern to Better Promote Employment*Lai Desheng* • 2 •

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China will accelerate the process of constructing a new development pattern in order to enhance the level of economic development and form new advantages in international competition. The paper claims that the issue of employment is crucial in this process and it encounters both opportunity and challenge, as manifested by the increasing employment pressure, employment structural imbalance, and diverging employment quality. In order to achieve a fuller and higher-quality employment, it is necessary to strengthen the employment priority policy, adhere to the employment orientation in economic development, improve the quality and skills of workers, deepen the reform of the labor market allocation system and mechanism, strengthen employment support for key groups, and improve the employment indicator and statistical system.

Research on Improving the Mechanism for an Integrated Urban-Rural Development**During the 14th Five-Year Plan Period***Huang Yanfen Zhang Chao* • 12 •

Improving the mechanism for an integrated urban-rural development is a major strategic deployment made by the Fifth Plenum of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. This paper constructs an analysis framework for the mechanism of integrated urban-rural development by focusing on the land and labor markets, using the dual economic theory in the Chinese context. It concludes that the government's efforts to improve the integrated urban-rural development mechanism in recent years can be grouped into three types: returning rights to land, delivering rights to farmers, and promoting factor marketization through equal rights protection. It summarizes the main achievements of the market-oriented reform in urban and rural factor allocations of land and labor. It shows that the main challenges include the difficulty in promoting free flows of labor and equal exchange of land between rural and urban China, due to the identity-dependency of land rights and huge differences in land-right value. The paper proposes three suggestions on improving the urban-rural integrated development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, including unifying urban and rural land function, promoting equal labor rights, and ensuring equal element interests between urban and rural areas.

Research on Wealth Reserve and the Transformation of "Asset-based" Pension System*Zheng Bingwen* • 23 •

Combining the idea of "to consolidate social wealth reserves in response to the aging of the population" in the "National Medium and Long-term Plan for Actively Responding to Population Aging", the paper proposes to transform the pension system from a "debt-based" to an "asset-based" system. It interprets the concepts and policy implications of these two pension systems, and analyzes the external constraints involved. The paper argues that, according to Aaron's Conditions, China's biological return rate will decline before 2050. Four phases can be identified in the decline from 1978 to 2050, in which a debt-based pension system is only applicable in the first two phases. From the 14th Five-Year Plan to 2035, it will enter the third phase and be ready to transit from the debt-based to asset-based system, which necessitates a top-level design. From 2035 to 2050, it will enter the fourth phase, when the share of pension assets in GDP should reach the world average, and the imbalance between the large GDP and small pension should disappear. Finally, the paper analyzes the three uncertainties underlying the asset-based pension system construction.

Prevalence, Changing Trend of the Elderly Disability in China*Liao Shaohong Wang Guangzhou* • 38 •

Using the three waves of data from China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (2013, 2015, and 2018), com-

bined with the prediction of the elderly population, the paper estimates the size, structure, and disability situation of the elderly population by disability statuses from 2020 to 2050. It also decomposes the changing trend. The results show that, under the joint influences of declining age-specific disability probability (positive factor) and increasing extent of aging (negative factor), the prevalence of disability will decrease first and then increase in the studied period, and it changes between 9.28 percent and 11.15 percent. The change of disability prevalence can be roughly divided into three stages: slow decline from 2020 to 2031, slow rise from 2032 to 2041, and rapid rise from 2042 to 2050. The total number of disabled elderly people will increase from 24.852 million in 2020 to 54.723 million in 2050. In the first stage (2020 ~ 2031), the negative effect of aging has not been fully revealed. Although the number of the severely and extremely severely disabled elderly continues to increase, which is expected to increase from 7.168 million in 2020 to 10.458 million in 2031, the increase rate is low in this stage. Therefore, this period could be an important strategic opportunity period for China to cope with population aging.

Study on the Health Difference of Working Hours of the Floating Population in Digital Economy

Qi Yudong Liu Cuihua · 50 ·

Based on the data of China's Labor Force Dynamic Survey, this paper analyzes the influence of working hours on the health of floating population and decomposes the health difference. It explores the intermediary mechanism of working hours on health. The study finds that working hours significantly deteriorate the health status of overtime workers. Working hours significantly exaggerate the differences in self-rated health, mental health and BMI index between normal workers and overtime workers. The working hours make greater differences in self-rated health and mental health for females than for males. Compared with other health dimensions, the differences in BMI index for males and self-rated health for females were more explainable by observable factors. For the floating population, the largest difference in self-rated health and mental health was in the western areas, while the largest difference in the BMI was in the eastern areas. The overall health difference between regular workers and overtime workers enlarges over time among the floating population, and the health difference explained by observable factors declines for mental health and BMI. Exercise time and sleep condition mediate the effect of working hours on health, and it is heterogeneous among different working groups.

Research on the Changing Spatial Gravity of China's Population, Economy, and Industry Center:

Based on the Provincial Data from 1978 to 2019

Zhang Jianwu and Others · 64 ·

Based on the data of 31 provinces in China from 1978 to 2019, this paper uses the "gravity center" method to analyze the spatial changes of China's population, economy, and industry center, and it outlines the track of 8 specific industries' gravity centers in longitude and latitude dimensions. The results show that: (1) since 2010, the gravity centers of population, economy, and industry have all shifted toward southwest, but the situation of their overall agglomeration in the southeast coast has not changed. (2) Compared with the economy and industry gravity centers, the population gravity center in China has changed little, and the inter-region development is still unbalanced. The gap between the east and the west is attributed largely to the primary industry, and the gap between the north and the south is caused by the tertiary industry. (3) From the perspective of sub-sectors, the internal differences in the primary industry are caused by agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery. The internal differences in the secondary industry are caused by industry. The east-west differences in the tertiary industry are dominated by the financial industry and real estate industry, and the north-south differences are mainly resulted from wholesale and retail industry. It is important to give full play to the comparative advantages of each region, allocate resources and relocate industries rationally, and promote coordinated regional development.

The Influence of Subway Development on Urban Population Scale and Spatial Distribution

Xiao Ting · 79 ·

Using the unbalanced panel data of 26 cities in China that have subways by the end of 2018, the paper analyzes the

impact of subway operation on the size and spatial distribution of urban population in China. By constructing the spatial distribution index of population and controlling for the endogeneity, the research finds that: (1) the expansion of subway scale has little effect on urban population growth, and cannot be regarded as the cause of urban population expansion. (2) The subway makes the urban population more dispersed, and the extension of the subway makes the urban built-up area expand. (3) The extension of the subway has significantly increased passenger flows, but not urban population. The increase in passenger flows mainly comes from the substitution of the subway for other modes of transportation. The paper concludes that the decision to build a subway should be made by considering traffic demand and operating revenue, rather than to attract more migrants and thus expand the size of the city. Although the subway does not help to expand the size of a city, it is of great significance to alleviate the urban disease of big cities, improve the overall operation efficiency, and to achieve high-quality economic development.

Income Redistribution and the Income Gap among the Elderly

Jia Hanrui and Others • 91 •

Using the China Household Income Project (CHIP) data from 2002 to 2018, the paper proposes an approach to decompose the income contribution of different family members within a family. It analyzes the impact of intra-family income redistribution on the income gap among the elderly. The study finds that: (1) the intra-family income redistribution reduces the personal income gap among the elderly by about 20%, and the impact is stronger in rural areas. (2) Children contribute the most to reduce the income gap among the elderly, and grandchildren squeeze out the shared income that the elderly receive from family members. (3) Due to the significant gender difference in pensions, the shared income between spouses is relatively high. It is the main form of intra-family income redistribution for the elderly not living with children. (4) The elderly in the low-income group are more dependent on their children, and the elderly in the high-income group have a higher degree of shared income between spouses. The paper stresses the importance of “family” in the income distribution among the elderly and calls for policies supporting family old-age support.

Digital Technological Change, Wage Increase and Firm Relocation

Wei Xiaohai and Others • 104 •

This paper uses the micro-survey data of firms in Guangdong province to investigate how the application of digital technology affects the firms' relocation intentions. The results show that: (1) the intention of relocation increases along with wage increase, which confirms that the labour cost is an important consideration in firms' relocation decision. (2) Firms apply digital technology for intelligent production, mainly by substituting traditional production modes to reduce labor employment and improve the efficiency of matching in labor market, which is to alleviate the impact of rising wages on costs. It reduces the likelihood to relocate, and forms a “digital dividend” that promotes enterprise upgrading. (3) In private and export firms, the effect of digital technology application on the relocation motivation is especially remarkable for high labor cost firms. The paper provides relative policy recommendations.

A Review on the Determinants of Labor Migration in China

Yao Xianguo and Others • 117 •

This paper summarizes the new features of labor migration and its policy evolutions in China in the 21st century, and it reviews on the factors affecting individual migration decisions. Although various factors are relevant in individuals' migration decision, existing studies focus on the constraining effect of land tenure in the origin, the attracting effect of income factor in the destination, and the bridging effect of migration network between origin and destination. In recent 10 years, the inclusive development of rural-urban reconciliation and regional balance has weakened the “push” and “pull” effects between origin and destination places, and the high-quality development stage has transformed the migration mode from one-way migration of low-skilled workers to two-way mobilities of highly qualified talents. Therefore, migration policy has shifted from the focus of restricting migration to promoting unobstructed and orderly migration, which will bring challenges of labor migration in the future. The paper points out directions for future research on labor migration in China from perspectives of the reality and key issues.