

Training the Unemployed in France: Impact on
Unemployment Duration and Recurrence
PRELIMINARY VERSION

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March 1, 2006

Abstract

Econometric evaluations of public-sponsored training programs generally find little evidence of an impact of such policies on transition rates out of unemployment. We perform the first evaluation of training effects for the unemployed adults in France, exploiting a unique longitudinal dataset from the Unemployment Insurance System. Using the so-called 'timing-of-events' methodology to control for both observed and unobserved heterogeneity, we find that training does not accelerate the exit from unemployment, but has significant and positive effect on the duration of subsequent employment spells. Accounting for training duration, we find that longer training spells cause longer unemployment spells, but also longer employment spells, suggesting that training improve the matching process between jobseekers and firms.

JEL Code: J24, J41, J58.

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