Presentation: Job movements and commuter flows in urban areas in a period of economic decline

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Session: The increasing diversity of cities as a result of EU expansion and globalisation - An asset and a challenge

Abstract

Cities play a major role in regional economy, since they are centres of employment for a wider region. Until now, little attention has been paid to the effects of the 'demography' of firms - their establishments, their closures and their spatial movements - on changes in the spread of employment in cities and their wider regions or on changes in commuter flows coupled with these changes in employment spread.

The paper concentrates on these effects for seven cities, their larger urban conurbations and urban regions - all located in the Randstad conurbation in the Netherlands. The surrounding regions of the Randstad are also taken into account. The Randstad has been chosen for this analysis not only because this region contains the largest conurbations but also because it can be considered to be the driving force of the Dutch economy.

The analysis period covers the years 1999 up to and including 2005. From an economic viewpoint, this period can be considered for the most part as a period of economic decline. Although the beginning of this period can still be regarded as a period of economic boom, it was followed by a longer period of decline. At the end of that period the economy was slowly on the upswing again.

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