Does Occupational Training by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Really Help Reemployment? Success Measured as Matching

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• Investigation of the efficacy of the retraining service provided through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program

• Motivated by an article in *The New Yorker* about a woman who was laid off from the Fruit of the Loom plant located in Harlingen, TX at the end of 2003.

> In the past five years, more than a thousand displaced manufacturing workers had been retrained as medical assistants or air-conditioning repairmen or computer-maintenance technicians. ... The state workforce commission had predicted that twenty-five medical-assistant jobs would open in Cameron County in 2003, but it would be difficult to secure one. In one class of laid-off textile workers alone, eighty-five people had been trained for the profession.

Questions and Methodology

1. Do TAA trainees become employed in occupations for which they are trained?

   I look at the match between Occupational Skill Training Code (OSTC) and Occupation Code of Employment (OCE).
   - **First-degree matching**: Identical O*Net code
   - **Second-degree matching**: Matching of ‘related occupations’

2. How does this matching affect the circumstances that One Stop Centers deal with locally?

   By merging TAPR and TAA petition data, I obtain more detailed location information for each participant.
   I use county-level economic data (job growth, unemployment rate, income level) for the local labor market situation.