Workforce Investment Act Training for Older Workers: Toward a Better Understanding of Need and Successful Response in the Next Stages of the Economic Cycle

Ting Zhang, PhD
Jacob France Institute
Merrick School of Business
University of Baltimore
Email: tzhang@ubalt.edu
Phone: 410-837-6551
Percentage of Older Workers Increases

Percentage of Older (55+) Participants among WIA Program Exiters Increases

Older (55+) WIA Participants' Entered Employment Rate Decreases
Due to older workers’ special learning patterns and characteristics, it is therefore critical to deliver the appropriate level and mix of WIA services for older workers to continue working or return to work.

Hypotheses

• Some WIA training and related service combinations, as well as some industry sectors, can be identified to inform strategic decision-making about future allocation of WIA funds to serve older workers.

• WIA program success on behalf of older workers is sensitive to cyclical changes in labor market conditions.

Methodology

• innovative measure of unemployment rate,

• seemingly unrelated regression modeling,

• higher-order multiplicative interaction panel data model, with the control of serial and spatial autocorrelations.