

The spatial patterns of the Bordeaux wine sector's role in rural areas

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Abstract

This study focuses on the spatial characteristics of the economic impact of a wine sector on rural and urban local areas. It is applied to the Bordeaux vineyard. A model associating a gravity analysis of indirect effect diffusion and a hierarchical urban system is used to analyse agriculture-industry linkages. Results indicate that the economic impact of winery activities are mainly concentrated in rural communities, even for high-order supplying, instead of being captured by urban cores. We show that the polarization of suppliers appears in rural communities, but this agglomerative process doesn't fit the classical urban hierarchy. It creates a functional system of wine-linked industries inside these rural areas.

Key words: Gravity model, rural areas, wine industry, economic impact.