

TABLE 1

Description of variables in inventive class regressions, excluding occupation shares

(Descriptive statistics)

Variable name	Variable description	Source	Commuting zones	Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Patents	Utility patents awarded in commuting zone in years 2000–05 (geolocation based on awardee's or awardees' county of application)	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)	Rural	35.16	55.4	0	502.52
			Urban	1,825.01	4,910.38	6.03	5.18E+04
1975–80 patent stock	Utility patents awarded in commuting zone in years 1975–80 (geolocation based on awardee's/awardees' county of application)	USPTO	Rural	23.48	82.48	0	1,498.20
			Urban	747	1,910.28	2	1.66E+04
Human capital share	Percentage of working-age population (25–64 years) with at least a bachelor's degree	Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 4 (SF4)	Rural	16.01	5.51	7.6	44.07
			Urban	20.65	6.18	8.64	43.76
Population density	Commuting zone population divided by land area	Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, SF1	Rural	26.96	26.84	0.51	199.12
			Urban	207.25	466.13	6.5	7,164.24
Natural amenity rank	Mean Economic Research Service (ERS) natural amenity rank, a discrete, county-level, low-to-high amenity index (1–7) "constructed by combining six measures of climate, topography, and water area that reflect environmental qualities most people prefer" (Department of Agriculture 2016), weighted by population of counties in commuting zone	Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS), 1999	Rural	3.57	1.03	1.46	7
			Urban	3.66	1.08	1.22	7
Wage-rental ratio	Mean ratio of average monthly wage to average monthly rental rate, weighted by population of counties in commuting zone	Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, SF4	Rural	5.24	1.03	3.23	9.42
			Urban	4.21	0.54	2.89	6.18

Note(s):

Equation 1 additionally includes categorical controls for Census region and ERS Rural-Urban Continuum Code of the commuting zone's most urban county.

Source(s):

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1 and Summary File 4; Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, 1999.