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The case of young college graduates in Italy

by Sabrina Di Addario and Daniela Vuri

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MARKET SIZE. THE CASE OF YOUNG COLLEGE GRADUATES IN ITALY

by Sabrina Di Addario* and Daniela Vuri**

Abstract

We analyse empirically the effects of urbanization on Italian college graduates' work possibilities as entrepreneurs three years after graduation. We find that doubling the population density of the province of work reduces the chances of being an entrepreneur by 2-3 percentage points. This result holds after controlling for regional fixed effects and is robust to instrumenting urbanization. Provincial competition, urban amenities and disamenities, cost of labour, earning differentials between employees and self-employed workers, unemployment rates and value added per capita account for more than half of the negative urbanization penalty. Our result cannot be explained by the presence of negative differentials in returns to entrepreneurship between the most and the least densely populated areas either. In fact, as long as they succeed in entering the most densely populated markets, young entrepreneurs are able to reap the benefits of urbanization externalities: doubling the population density of the province of work increases entrepreneurs' net monthly earnings by 2-3 per cent.

JEL Classification: R12, J24, J21.

Keywords: labour market transitions; urbanization.

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1 Introduction

The literature on agglomeration has mainly studied the impact of urbanization economies (i.e. the externalities arising from the level of cities' economic activities as a whole but external to specific industries)¹ on firms rather than on entrepreneurs. According to the theory, urbanization externalities encourage firms to locate in the most densely populated markets where productivity is highest (see, for instance, Ciccone and Hall (1996), Ciccone (2002) and Moomaw, 1983), the expected quality of the employer-employee match is best (Helsley and Strange (1990), Kim, 1990), search costs per worker are lowest (Wheeler, 2001), and learning, the diffusion of technological spillovers and the acquisition of entrepreneurial capabilities are fastest (see Guiso and Schivardi (2007) and Rosenthal and Strange (2004) for a review of the literature). However, after a certain threshold congestion disexternalities prevail over agglomeration economies and some sort of selection into the densest markets is needed. Firms might be selected on the basis of their order of arrival (e.g. Helsley and Strange, 1990), productivity (as in Behrens and Robert-Nicoud, 2008), Darwinian selection (Melitz and Ottaviano, 2008), the extent they benefit from forward-backward linkages (Baldwin and Okubo, 2006), or simply on the basis of their sector (Henderson (1983), LaFountain, 2005).

In contrast with the majority of the agglomeration literature, we estimate urbanization effects on entrepreneurs rather than on firms or employees. In particular, we examine whether population density in the individual's province of work increases the probability of being an entrepreneur and/or creates urban differentials in the returns to entrepreneurship. While firm type (e.g. sector, size, etc.) is certainly a determinant of location, as some sectors depend more on scale, urban amenities and local endowment of natural resources than others, entrepreneurs' characteristics (e.g. ability, education, experience, age) may also matter.

To this end we use a unique data set provided by the Italian Institute of Statistics

¹ As opposed to localization economies, internal to each industry (Henderson, 1983).

(ISTAT), examining college-to-work transitions three years after graduation. Although university graduates represent just 11 per cent of Italian entrepreneurs, using this data source has the advantage of providing a homogeneous sample of individuals facing similar work choices (i.e. graduates at the same stage of the life-cycle). Moreover, focusing on graduates minimizes the probability of including 'out of necessity' entrepreneurs in our sample, since the individuals choosing self-employment because of a lack of outside options are generally the least educated workers (the 'ability-bias' hypothesis). Several studies have shown that the ability-bias can be quite important: in the US, for instance, up to 10 per cent of entrepreneurs become such because of a lack of suitable alternatives rather than in order to pursue an opportunity (see Poschke (2008), Lazear, 2005). Another advantage of our data set is that the limited mobility of labour in Italy reduces the likelihood that our urbanization estimates are biased by sorting into the most densely populated provinces (i.e. entrepreneurs with unobserved characteristics correlated to work choices moving into the most densely populated markets). Indeed, according to ISTAT (ISTAT, 2003) in Italy more than 80 per cent of individuals whose parents are living in the same municipality as them, about 7 per cent reside in a municipality within 16 kilometres of their parents, and only 8.2 per cent live abroad or at a distance greater than 50 kilometres. Apart from cultural reasons (see, for instance, Alesina *et al.*, 2010), the strong family ties in Italy are due to the lack of a good welfare system, leaving elderly care largely to offspring and child care to grandparents. However, entrepreneurs have further reasons to live close to their place of origin as they might be willing to exploit the local family networks to start their business (personal contacts and customer base). Michelacci and Silva (2007), for instance, show that in both Italy and the US entrepreneurs are more likely to obtain bank credit when the firm is local and that the probability of working in the province of birth is greater for entrepreneurs (whether or not start-ups) than for employees. This result is in line with Blanchflower (2000), who finds that in most OECD countries self-employed workers are less willing to move from their neighbourhood, town or region than

employees. In particular, of the 23 OECD country analysed in his paper Italy has the smallest number of self-employed individuals who are willing to move. In Italy mobility is surprisingly limited also among students, who are generally one of the most mobile segments of the population, even in the areas with low-quality universities (such as the South). Indeed, according to Brunello and Cappellari (2008) almost three-quarters of Southern students graduate in the South, and just 8 per cent (20 per cent) of them move to the North (Centre) in spite of the fact that individuals graduating from a Northern university earn higher employment-weighted wages than those graduating in the South.²

We define 'entrepreneurs' all the individuals who either describe themselves as such or as own-account workers and professionals during the interview (see Section 2 for further details). Contrary to the predictions of the literature on agglomeration, we find that, other things being equal, three years after graduation more college graduates are likely to start an activity of their own in the least densely populated provinces. In particular, doubling the population density in the province of work *reduces* the probability of being an entrepreneur by about 2-3 percentage points. This penalty persists after instrumenting urbanization with population density in 1921. We then investigate whether our findings can be explained by across-province differentials in competition, urban amenities and disamenities, labour costs, outside options, unemployment rates, and value added per capita. Our results indicate that overall these province characteristics account for more than half of the negative urbanization effect. Finally, we investigate whether the sign of our urbanization outcome can be explained by the presence of negative differentials in returns to entrepreneurship between the most and the least densely populated markets, similarly to Di Addario and Patacchini (2008) and de Blasio and Di Addario (2005), who find that the most highly educated employees earn relatively less in the urban or industrially agglomerated areas than elsewhere in Italy, in contrast with the least educated workers. In

² The authors ascribe the low student mobility to North-South cost differentials (university fees, rents, etc.), rather than to the existence of financial constraints. According to Makovec (2006), Southerners graduating in the North earn 25 per cent more than those who stay and 6 per cent more than those who move to the North after graduation.

fact, we find that returns to entrepreneurship *increase* with population density: doubling the province of work population density increases entrepreneurs' net monthly earnings by 2-3 per cent.

This last result, which is in line with the literature predicting that agglomeration externalities increase productivity in the most densely populated markets (for evidence on Italy see, for instance, Cingano and Schivardi (2004) and Guiso and Schivardi, forthcoming), poses an apparent puzzle: why is the likelihood of becoming an entrepreneur less in the densest provinces, given that returns to entrepreneurship increase with population density? A possible explanation of this puzzling result is that the least densely populated markets facilitate entrepreneurship by reducing the costs of setting up a firm. Indeed, we find that the presence of local banks, inversely correlated with population density, increases the likelihood of becoming entrepreneur three years after graduation, implying that entry costs are an important determinant in young graduates' work decisions. Conversely, we obtain that entry into the most densely populated markets is particularly difficult for young entrepreneurs, especially because of tougher competition.

The paper is organized as follows. The next section describes the data and provides descriptive statistics. Section 3 presents the econometric results and the robustness checks, Section 4 tests alternative hypotheses potentially explaining our results, Section 5 investigates whether there are earning differentials, and the last section concludes.

2 The data

The main data source of this paper is the Survey on the Early Career of College Graduates (SECCG, "Indagine sull'inserimento professionale dei laureati") conducted by ISTAT every three years. We analyse the individuals who graduated in 1995, 1998 and 2001, and interviewed, respectively, in 1998, 2001 and 2004. In the first semester of each survey year ISTAT extracts a random sample (about 16 per cent of the total) from the universe of the individuals graduating in that year, stratified on the basis of gender, faculty and

university. In the second semester ISTAT interviews the sampled individuals by phone, double-checking all answers with universities' administrative records. Among the Italian surveys currently available, the SECCG offers the most precise and detailed information on demographic characteristics, university attended, ability, family background, current employment and income of recently graduated individuals. The survey also collects information on the province of work, enabling us to compute the impact of urbanization on the probability of transition from university to entrepreneurship. To compute the urbanization variable, we merge our data set with the Census population density by year of interview and province of work (the finest disaggregation available in the survey). Our sample is distributed in all the 103 Italian provinces. We complement the data base with other variables at the provincial level drawn from various sources (described in the Appendix).

Our sample, consisting of 33,740 college graduates, has been obtained after excluding over 35 year-old individuals, foreigners, Italians working abroad, agricultural-sector workers and non-employed people. Moreover, we exclude individuals who were already employed in their current job before graduating because we intend to focus on work choices after graduation and the former might be a selected sample of the working population.

Seventeen per cent of our sampled individuals are entrepreneurs (Table 1). In addition to the individuals who identify themselves as such, our definition of entrepreneur includes professionals and excludes members of a family business, similarly to Michelacci and Silva (2007). Indeed, like entrepreneurs, own-account workers and professionals take decisions independently and are risk-bearing, since they are personally liable for their business activity. Conversely, family business members are often not involved in decision-making and do not necessarily share the risk with the firm owner. Unlike Michelacci and Silva, we exclude managers (as we do not have this piece of information) and craft workers, because in Italy, where the pressure of taxation and employees' contributions is high, the recorded information on this self-employment category might be measured incorrectly

because of the greater facility of tax evasion. Our definition also excludes quasi-employees with co.co.co (collaboration) contracts because they generally perform the same tasks as employees in spite of the fact that they are considered self-employed by ISTAT (because they have none of the guarantees of payroll employees).

To analyse the differences in the distribution of our variables between the most and the least densely populated markets we provide the descriptive statistics for the total sample, the individuals working in the top 10th percentile of Italian province population density distribution, and those employed in the rest of the country (Table 1). As expected, a larger share of entrepreneurs and employees works in the most densely populated areas than elsewhere (respectively, 16 and 71 per cent against 15 and 65 per cent in the least dense markets), while there is no difference in the spatial distribution of the other categories of self-employed workers. Moreover, monthly earnings from entrepreneurship are 10 per cent higher in the most densely populated provinces than in the rest of the country. The least densely populated provinces exhibit a slightly larger share of women and older people than the densest ones. Provinces also differ with respect to the type of school attended: students choose upper secondary schools (*liceo*) more frequently in the most densely populated areas, and technical or teacher-training schools in the least dense markets. University graduates obtain higher final grades, on average, in the least densely populated provinces, although a larger percentage of individuals graduate on time in the densest markets. The share of graduates who hold a Ph.D. does not vary across provinces of different density levels. In line with the literature, human capital intensity is positively correlated with population density: the share of individuals whose parents have a secondary education or a university degree is larger in the most densely populated provinces, while the share of parents with a primary or lower secondary school certificate is smaller. The densest markets also have a larger share of self-employed workers' offspring than others, suggesting that intergenerational persistence is positively correlated with population density.

With respect to the variables at the provincial level, urban disamenities (i.e. house prices) and competition (i.e. the share of self-employed workers in the individual’s sector) are greater in the most densely populated markets than in the rest of the country. In contrast, but in line with the literature, the share of local banks is negatively correlated with population density. In particular, 40 per cent (29 per cent) of the banks in the least (most) densely populated markets are local.

3 Results

3.1 Chances of being an entrepreneur

The descriptive statistics reported in Table 1 show that the fraction of recently graduated entrepreneurs is 1 percentage point higher in the most densely populated provinces than in the rest of the country, in line with the predictions of the agglomeration theory. In this section we test empirically whether this result holds after controlling for individual characteristics. In particular, we estimate the impact of population density on the likelihood of being an entrepreneur three years after graduation. We use a probit model and correct the standard errors for the possibility that the residuals are interdependent at the provincial level (33,740 observations distributed in three time periods over 103 provinces provide our estimations with sufficient degrees of freedom; see Card, 2001). Using repeated cross-sectional data we estimate the following equation on the sample of employed individuals:

$$Prob(Entrepr_{ijt} = 1) = \alpha + \Sigma\beta X_{ijt} + \delta DEN_{jt} + \gamma RFE_j + \lambda t + u_{ijt}, \quad (1)$$

where $Entrepr_{ijt}$ is a dummy variable equal to one if the individual i working in province j and interviewed at time t is an entrepreneur; DEN is the province of work

population density (our urbanization variable), X indicates the personal observable characteristics, t the year-of-interview dummies, and RFE the region-specific fixed effects, capturing, for instance, the impact of local taxes or the presence of natural advantages or amenities (see Ciccone (2002) and Rosenthal and Strange, 2003).

The first column of Table 2 shows our basic specification, including sex, age, education, civil status and number of siblings as individual characteristics. In the second column (2.2) we add the secondary school and faculty-group attended, because some types of training are more suitable for entrepreneurship than others. In column 2.3 we include the effect of intergenerational persistence with two dummy variables equal to one if the individual's father and/or mother are/were self-employed. We also add a proxy of family networks (equal to one if the individual found the job or started his/her activity through the help of relatives or friends, zero otherwise), which might facilitate access to entrepreneurship through personal and business contacts or customer base (Blanchflower, 2000). In the same specification we also control for parents' education level. In column 2.4 we add a few proxies for ability (mark obtained at university, a dummy for graduating with honours, and a variable equal to one if the student graduated on time) and two variables denoting whether the individual was working – occasionally or continuously – while studying. Finally, in specification 2.5 we add individuals' work experience (number of months worked) and sector of employment, because some industries require a larger amount of initial capital than others (see, for instance, Rajan and Zingales, 1998).

Results indicate that doubling the population density of the province of work lowers the chances of being entrepreneur by 2-3 percentage points. This result is stable across all the specifications (columns 2.1-2.5) and always significant at the 1 per cent statistical level.³

³ We also tested whether our results hold when measuring urbanization with the provincial density of graduates (rather than with overall population density). Indeed, it might be the case that graduates' productivity increases more with proximity to other highly educated workers than with vicinity to low-skilled people (see Rosenthal and Strange, 2008), because graduate entrepreneurs might have more to learn from nearby human capital. Nevertheless, the results of this exercise (available on request) remain unchanged with respect to those reported in Table 2. Thus, our findings are not sensitive to the choice of the population of reference.

When analysing some of the other covariates, we find that women are less likely to become entrepreneurs. In contrast, age and being married increase the chances of entrepreneurship, while having a Ph.D. does not have any effect. This result is not surprising because in Italy very few graduates enrol in and complete a Ph.D. three years after graduation (just 0.2 per cent of our sampled individuals). Having attended the science, chemistry, humanities and foreign language faculties reduces the likelihood of starting an activity of one's own, while attending the majority of the remaining faculties (e.g. engineering, architecture, agriculture, law) and vocational schools (specialized in industrial subjects) increases it. Most importantly, we find evidence of intergenerational persistence: having a self-employed father or mother increases the probability of becoming an entrepreneur. Moreover, the family network proxy increases the chances of entrepreneurship, as expected. In contrast, final marks and the honours dummy are non-significant, while having graduated on time is significantly positive. The non-significance of the former might be due to the fact that cognitive ability does not fully capture the capabilities required to become an entrepreneur (although many empirical papers proxy entrepreneurial ability just with education; e.g. Poschke (2008), Le (1999) and Calvo and Wellisz, 1980). Indeed, being an entrepreneur has probably more to do with being multifaceted (i.e. well-versed in various fields, able to perform a large number of different tasks and manage different people), efficient, and well-organized. According to the Jack-of-All-Trades entrepreneur hypothesis (see Lazear, 2005) entrepreneurship is favoured by a balanced mix of skills across various fields of expertise, which is innate rather than acquired at school (Silva, 2007). Conversely, being able to organize one's self so as to graduate on time is a quality better reflecting the capabilities required for working as an entrepreneur than marks, especially in the light of the fact that in Italy most people graduate with some delay (just 15 per cent of the sampled individuals graduated on time; Table 1).⁴

⁴ We are aware of the fact that the graduating-on-time effect might be affected by reverse causation (if the students wanting to be entrepreneurs finished university in a shorter time than the others), as

3.2 The potential endogeneity problem

Our estimates of urbanization are unbiased and consistent only under the hypothesis that we have not omitted any variable correlated to provincial population density. Conversely, if individuals' composition across markets of different density varied along unobservable dimensions that affected the probability of being an entrepreneur, the urbanization estimates in the previous section would be biased and inconsistent. In particular, the negative urbanization effect could be due (entirely or in part) to a larger endowment of people less capable of becoming entrepreneurs in the most densely populated markets for unobservable reasons, although this would be in contrast with the literature (e.g. Nocke, 2006).

In this section we deal with the potential endogeneity problem by instrumenting urbanization with pre-World War II population density (in 1921), similarly to Ciccone and Hall (1996), Rice, Patacchini and Venables (2006), Combes *et al.* (2008) and Guiso and Schivardi (forthcoming). Indeed, while the population density distribution has been stable over time, its 1921 pattern should have no direct effect on current entrepreneurship chances besides the indirect impact through current population density.

Results are reported in Table 3. Strikingly, we obtain the same outcome as before across all the columns (replicating Table 2's specifications), showing no evidence of a systematic bias in the OLS regressions, thus supporting our causal interpretation of urbanization.⁵ In particular, doubling the provincial population density reduces the probability of being an entrepreneur by 2-3 percentage points (at the 1 per cent statistical significance level).

Table 3 also reports the first-stage results of the instrument used, the pseudo R-squared statistic and a measure of instrument relevance. As expected, population density in 1921 is positive and significant (at the 1 per cent level) across all the columns. The partial

suggested by an anonymous referee. However, to the extent that occupational choices are made after graduation or towards the end of college, the graduating-on-time variable would not suffer from this problem. Nevertheless, our urbanization results are robust to excluding this variable from the regressions.

⁵ Note that other papers using Italian data find that OLS and IV urbanization estimates are very similar (e.g. Guiso and Schivardi (forthcoming) and Di Addario and Patacchini, 2008).

R-squared statistic, measuring the correlation between urbanization and the instruments after partialling out the effect of the other exogenous variables, has very high values (above 0.92). The first-stage F-statistic of the excluded instruments, a diagnostic tool to evaluate the seriousness of the finite-sample bias and instrument weakness (Bound, Jaeger and Baker, 1995), always rejects the null hypothesis that our instrument is equal to zero. Since the 2SLS and the probit estimation coefficients are very similar in size and the Hausman test can never reject the null hypothesis of no difference between them (results not reported but available upon request), in what follows we will refer to Table 2's results as to our main findings.

4 Potential explanations of the negative urbanization effect

We have showed that the probability of a college graduate becoming an entrepreneur three years after graduation decreases with provincial population density. This result holds after controlling for a wide variety of individual characteristics and regional fixed effects and it is robust to correcting for the potential endogeneity of urbanization. The lack of endogeneity is not too surprising in the light of the fact that geographical labour mobility is particularly low in Italy, especially among self-employed individuals (see Introduction). In this section we test whether the negative impact of urbanization persists after controlling for some characteristics of the province of work that might be correlated with population density (see Table 1). To investigate this possibility, we add the province characteristics described below (see the Appendix for further details) to our benchmark specification (reported in column 2.5). Since we assume that the provincial variables are exogenous, our approach is to be considered purely descriptive. Results are shown in Table 4.

First, we test whether the negative urbanization differential can be explained by the more intense competition of the densest markets (see Combes *et al.*, 2009), which might

discourage young people at the beginning of their career. Indeed, rivalry may lower firms' price-cost margins, thus requiring a level of efficiency that entrepreneurs can acquire only through experience. We measure competition with the share of the individual sector's self-employed workers in total self-employment (column 4.1). As expected, the greater is the rivalry the less likely it is that graduates will become entrepreneurs. Most importantly, controlling for competition reduces the size of the urbanization coefficient by almost a third (from -0.0216 in the benchmark specification, to -0.0151).

In the second specification (4.2) we test whether young graduates are particularly discouraged from starting their own business in the most densely populated provinces because land is more expensive, raising firms' fixed set-up costs. In the case of credit market imperfections, the increased difficulties of financing the extra initial investment necessary to cover the higher fixed costs in the most densely populated markets might be particularly constraining for young entrepreneurs. In the quality-of-life-framework (Roback, 1982) firms prefer locating in the most amenity-intensive markets as long as their utility from productive urban amenities (e.g. availability of infrastructures like airports, better-quality services, specialized schools, etc.) exceeds the disutility from congestion.⁶ Congestion may discourage more the young than the experienced entrepreneurs, because in saturated local markets received prices might be lower than elsewhere (Henderson, 1994), increasing the difficulties of starting-up. We measure urban disamenities with house prices per square metre. Introducing house prices reduces the urbanization effect (with respect to our benchmark) by just 8 per cent: doubling the province's population density reduces the probability of being entrepreneur by 2.0 percentage points.

Third, we test whether young graduates are encouraged to start their activity in the least densely populated markets because these are endowed with the amenities entrepreneurs most appreciate. For instance, entrepreneurs might prefer locating in the

⁶ However, if the amenities in the most densely populated markets were unproductive (e.g. higher number of cinemas and theatres, greater variety of shopping centres, wider offer of sport venues, etc.), entrepreneurs would unambiguously prefer locating in places with fewer amenities, where land prices are lower. In this case, only employees would prefer living in the most densely populated provinces.

provinces with a stronger culture of entrepreneurship (Glaeser, 2007), a higher social capital or a larger presence of local banks. In Italy, the most entrepreneurial areas, richer in social capital and civic endowment, coincide to a large extent with the municipalities that become republics in the Middle Ages (as opposed to the Southern monarchical regions), which are, indeed, small- and medium-sized (Putnam, 1993).⁷ Thus, in column 4.3 we include five proxies of social capital à la Putnam (1993): number of associations per 100,000 inhabitants, tradition of political autonomy, propensity to collective action, average voter turnout at all Italian referendums held between 1946 and 1989, and blood donation (as in Guiso, Sapienza and Zingales, 2004). We also add the share of provincial municipalities with a city sewer system and an index of welfare (inversely related to provincial population density), meant to capture the fact that entrepreneurs might prefer living in the least densely populated provinces because they offer a better quality of life. In this specification we also control for the share of local banks' branches in total bank branches, which is largest in the least dense markets. Indeed, accessing external financing might be particularly difficult for young entrepreneurs (despite being at a stage of life when they need to rely on it more), because banks judge their activity to be very risky (see Blanchflower and Oswald, 1998). We expect this variable to have a positive direct effect on entrepreneurship because local banks are thought to facilitate local entrepreneurs' start-up financing as they generally both have local owners and are specialized in providing credit locally (Farabullini and Gobbi, 2000). Column 4.3 shows that the individuals living in the provinces with a larger share of local banks have a higher probability of becoming entrepreneurs, as expected. The only other significantly positive amenity variable is the propensity to collective action. Overall, urban amenities explain one fifth of the urbanization effect: doubling population density reduces the chances of entrepreneurship by 1.8 percentage points.

Fourth, we test whether young graduates are discouraged from starting a business

⁷ As the author suggests, the current economic development of Italian provinces depends more on the civic endowment built in the Middle Ages than on their initial economic conditions, and causality runs from civics to economics rather than the reverse.

of their own in the most densely populated markets because, on average, they have to pay higher labour costs. To test this hypothesis we add the provincial average employee wage, and we find that it is not significant; the urbanization effect is the same as in the benchmark specification (column 4.4).

Fifth, we test whether the provinces with a higher population density discourage entrepreneurship because they offer a wider variety of outside options (e.g. working as employees in the public sector, in large firms, etc.). Indeed, the densest markets are generally endowed with a larger public sector than the least densely populated provinces and thus have a tendency to offer above all salaried-job opportunities, not encouraging young graduates to start entrepreneurial activities.⁸ Conversely, the least densely populated markets, where the offer of jobs in the public sector is more limited, might provide a greater incentive for entrepreneurship out of necessity. Thus, in this specification we control for the log of the ratio between average employee wages in the province and average earnings from entrepreneurship, to test whether or not in the densest market the difference between earnings from entrepreneurship and wages is sufficient to cover the risk of starting a business activity. However, this variable is non-significant and, not surprisingly, the urbanization effect is the same as in column 2.5 (specification 4.5).

Sixth, we test whether the negative urbanization differential persists after controlling for two proxies of local economic development: the provincial unemployment rate and value added per capita in 1994, similarly to Michelacci and Silva (2007).⁹ Indeed, people may decide to start an activity of their own out of necessity not only because of the limited variety of jobs offered, but also because of low chances of employment (especially in a context of low labour mobility). Thus, if the least densely populated provinces are also the poorest, our results could be driven by sample composition rather than by urbanization:

⁸ Along this line, Torrini (2005) shows that in OECD countries the larger the size of the public sector, the lower self-employment rates. According to the author, the public sector is likely to crowd out self-employment especially in the general administration (where entrepreneurship does not exist) or in education and health (where the government is typically more present).

⁹ Like the authors, we use value added in a year preceding the labour market entrance of the first wave of the sampled individuals (in 1995), because this enables us to capture the effect of an exogenous variation in local economic development on the probability of being an entrepreneur.

the greater likelihood of becoming entrepreneurs in the least densely populated markets could be due to a larger share of individuals lacking alternative opportunities. However, specification (4.6) shows that neither unemployment rates nor value added per capita are significant, implying that in Italy individuals do not generally choose entrepreneurship out of necessity, in line with Michelacci and Silva (2007). Thus, including the unemployment rate and value added per capita leaves the urbanization coefficient almost unchanged with respect to our benchmark specification (-0.0187).

Finally, in the last specification (4.7) we include all the provincial variables reported in columns 4.1-4.6. Results indicate that young entrepreneurs are discouraged from starting a business in the most competitive areas, while they are encouraged by social capital endowment in the least densely populated markets (in particular, by the presence of local banks and people's propensity to collective action). When considered jointly, these factors explain 55 per cent of the urbanization effect in the benchmark specification.

5 Returns to entrepreneurship

We have shown that the more densely populated is the market, the more young graduates are discouraged from becoming entrepreneurs. In this section we test whether this phenomenon can be explained by the existence of monetary disincentives to entrepreneurship growing with population density. Indeed, other studies on Italian employees find that graduates are less able than the least educated workers to reap the benefits from agglomeration externalities (whether urban or industrial). For instance, Di Addario and Patacchini (2008) obtain that employees with at least a university degree earn 0.4 – 0.5 per cent less each 100-inhabitant increase in the population of the local labour market of residence, even though overall average wages rise by 0.1 per cent. Similarly, according to de Blasio and Di Addario (2005) graduates' earnings from salaried work are 9 – 14 per cent lower in industrial districts (i.e. the local labour markets with a strong agglomeration of small- and medium-sized manufacturing firms) than elsewhere in the country. Conversely,

employees with primary education or less earn a premium over their counterparts outside industrial districts.

In fact, the descriptive statistics reported in Table 1 would not support the hypothesis of negative correlation between earnings from entrepreneurship and provincial population density because on average entrepreneurs earn about 10 per cent more in the most densely populated provinces than elsewhere (Table 1). Nevertheless, we examine whether this is still the case after controlling for individuals' characteristics. In particular, we estimate a standard Mincerian earning function (Mincer, 1958) by regressing the logarithm of entrepreneurs' monthly earnings on the individual characteristics reported in Table 2.

Results, shown in Table 5 (Panel A), indicate that, after controlling for individual characteristics, income from entrepreneurship increases with population density, in line with the predictions of the literature. In particular, the elasticity of young educated entrepreneurs' monthly earnings with respect to the province of work population density is 0.02-0.03. However, OLS estimates would be biased and inconsistent if there were omitted variables affecting both urbanization and entrepreneurs' earnings (see Section 3.2). Thus, we re-estimate the earning equation by 2SLS, instrumenting urbanization with the log of province population density in 1921. Results, shown in Table 5 (Panel B), confirm OLS findings.

The first-stage results, reported at the bottom of Table 5, indicate that the log of population density in 1921 is always positive and significant at the 1 per cent level across all the columns. The partial R-squared statistic is 0.90 and the F-statistic of the excluded instruments always rejects the null hypothesis that our instrument is equal to zero. Finally, the Hausman test fails to reject the null hypothesis of no difference between the 2SLS and the OLS coefficients (results available upon request).

Thus, our results indicate that, contrary to employees, entrepreneurs do benefit from urbanization externalities in monetary terms, at least to the extent that they succeed in opening an activity in the most densely populated markets.

6 Conclusions

In this paper we analyse empirically the effects of urbanization economies on the probability that young Italian graduates become entrepreneurs. We find that doubling the population density of the province of work lowers the probability of being an entrepreneur three years after graduation by 2-3 percentage points. This result holds after controlling for regional fixed effects and is robust to instrumenting urbanization with the log of province population density in 1921. Controlling for province competition, urban amenities and disamenities, average cost of labour, earning differentials between employees and self-employed workers, and local economic development eliminates more than half of the negative urbanization penalty.

We then test whether our results could be explained by the presence of negative differentials in returns to entrepreneurship between the most and the least densely populated markets. In fact, we find that urbanization *raises* entrepreneurs' income: the elasticity of their monthly earnings with respect to population density is 0.02-0.03. Thus, young entrepreneurs are able to reap the benefits from urbanization externalities, provided that they succeed in entering the most densely populated markets.

Our results are consistent with the entry cost theory: the locations with a higher share of entrepreneurs (i.e. the least densely populated ones) also exhibit lower individual earnings and thus productivity. In contrast, Guiso and Schivardi (forthcoming) obtain a positive correlation between the incidence of entrepreneurs (of any age and education level) and TFP, using firm data at the Italian local labour market level. While our findings are certainly valid for young and highly educated entrepreneurs, it would be interesting to establish whether wider individual data would also confirm our results for the most experienced and the least educated entrepreneurs, or whether urbanization externalities differ according to education and/or age. Moreover, while we have studied the effect of market density on the probability of being an entrepreneur independently of whether individuals work in the province of birth, Michelacci and Silva (2007) show

that entrepreneurs generally start their activity in the region of birth, independently of its population density. Future research could combine the two approaches to analyse if the effect of population density on entrepreneurial choices depends on whether the individual works or not in the province of birth.

Finally, our results are policy relevant. In 1995, for instance, the Italian Parliament passed a bill (L. 95/95) providing subsidies to young entrepreneurs (below 35 years old) residing in the least developed regions of Italy (i.e. the South), in rural areas or in zones in industrial decline (the European Commission's Objectives 1, 2 and 5b).¹⁰ This paper shows that young graduates are discouraged from starting their activity in the most densely populated provinces, in spite of the fact that they would gain a monetary premium there. It would thus be advisable to encourage the location of start-up firms in the densest rather than in the least densely populated markets, in order to enable young entrepreneurs, who presumably face greater difficulties than more experienced entrepreneurs, to benefit from urbanization externalities. The importance of graduates' entrepreneurship should not be undervalued because the youngest and most highly educated entrepreneurs might be more likely to introduce innovations than the oldest and least educated businessmen.

¹⁰ Of course, young entrepreneurs could still apply for subsidies provided by other laws (e.g. L. 215/92, L. 236/93, L. 608/95, L. 608/96, L. 135/97 and L. 448/98) tailored for specific groups (i.e. women, small firms, etc.). Law 95/95, specifically designed for young entrepreneurs, was previously financed in 1986 (L. 44/86), but was then circumscribed only to the South (although in 1994 it was extended to some of the least developed areas in the North). This bill provides both monetary and non-monetary incentives to locate in the most disadvantaged areas (i.e. subsidies or tax breaks, as well as technical assistance, tutoring and tailored training courses). Note that in order to test the effect of this law we would need data at the municipality level, while we only have them at the provincial level.

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not involve the responsibility of the Bank.

Appendix

Description of the provincial level variables

Share of self-employed workers in the individual's sector in province total self-employed workers. Source: ISTAT.

House prices per square metre (in 2004). Source: Consulente Immobiliare. The prices, provided by real-estate agents, are those actually paid in transactions. We average the prices collected in the town centres, suburbs and in-between areas to take into account house location. We also take into account the age of the building by averaging the prices of recently built and new houses.

Share of local bank branches in province total bank branches (in 2001). Source: Bank of Italy. Local banks are the banks whose average investment funds amount to less than 9 billion euros.

Tradition of political autonomy. Source: Isl-University of Parma. This is a dummy variable equal to one if the province has a long-standing tradition of political autonomy (zero if the province belonged to the Vatican State or was a monarchy before Italy's foundation).

Propensity to collective action. Source: Arrighetti, Lasagni and Serravalli (2001). This variable has been computed with a principal-component analysis on the basis of the following variables: the share of craft workers joining artisan associations in the number

of artisan firms put on the register in 1970; the ratio between the number of votes in the 1970 elections for the Provincial Board of Artisans and the number of artisans put on the register in 1970; the share of farms selling products to agricultural cooperatives in the number of farms in 1970; the ratio between the people joining buying associations and the number of trade licences in 1965; a dummy variable equal to one if the province has at least one joint-surety association on bank loans joining Artigianfidi that was founded before 1975 (and zero otherwise).

Average voter turnout at all Italian referendums held in the period 1946-1989. Source: Guiso *et al.*'s (2004) elaboration on data from the Italian Ministry of the Interior. The referendums held in the period considered were on the following subjects: choice between Monarchy and Republic (1946); divorce (1974); public financing to political parties (1978); anti-terrorism legislation and abortion (1981); cost-of-living index (1985); nuclear energy and hunting regulation (1987).

Number of blood bags donated in the province per 1 million AVIS inhabitants (in 1995). Source: AVIS (Italian Voluntary Blood Donor Association). Each bag contains 16 oz. of blood. In four provinces (Genova, Caserta, Avellino and Caltanissetta) the value is set to zero because they do not host AVIS and presumably have very few blood donations.

Average number of associations per 100,000 inhabitants (in 1985). Source: Isl-University of Parma. This variable has been computed by subtracting sports and other associations from the total. The municipal tourist board associations are instead included.

Share of provincial municipalities with a city sewer system. Source: ISTAT.

Welfare index. Source: *Il Sole 24 Ore*. The index, named Gross Domestic Welfare, is a combination of 8 variables at the provincial level: value added per inhabitant at current prices, life expectation at birth, enrolment rate at university, per capita expenditure on entertainment, participation in European elections in 2009, tons of CO_2 in real value added, number of thefts, burglaries, and murders per 100,000 inhabitants, number of voluntary work associations per 1,000 inhabitants.

Average employee wages. Source: ISTAT. This variable, obtained from the SECCG, is the average of graduate earnings (3 years after graduation) at the provincial level.

Employee-self-employed earning ratio. Source: ISTAT. This variable, obtained from the SECCG, is the ratio of average wages for employees and average earnings from entrepreneurship.

Unemployment rate. Source: ISTAT.

Value added in 1994. Source: ISTAT.

Population size in 1921. Source: ISTAT.

Table 1. Summary statistics

	All sample		Densest provinces		Rest of the country	
	<i>mean</i>	<i>st.dev</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>st.dev</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>st.dev</i>
employees***	0.67	0.47	0.71	0.45	0.65	0.48
entrepreneurs***	0.17	0.38	0.16	0.36	0.15	0.36
self-employed (except for entrepreneurs)	0.16	0.36	1100.42	436.29	1,000.75	455.19
monthly wage from entrepreneurship† ***	1,037.00	450.95	1,089.46	449.11	995.72	448.12
<i>Personal characteristics:</i>						
female***	0.50	0.50	0.49	0.50	0.51	0.50
married***	0.19	0.39	0.17	0.38	0.20	0.40
age***	29.57	2.01	29.42	1.94	29.65	2.03
Ph.D.	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.05
number of siblings*	1.25	0.88	1.23	0.86	1.26	0.89
<i>School characteristics:</i>						
Liceo***	0.64	0.48	0.69	0.46	0.61	0.49
teachers' training school***	0.05	0.21	0.03	0.18	0.05	0.23
technical school***	0.28	0.45	0.25	0.43	0.30	0.46
vocational school	0.03	0.17	0.03	0.17	0.03	0.18
<i>Type of degree:</i>						
chemistry-pharmaceutical***	0.07	0.25	0.05	0.23	0.08	0.27
biology and geology***	0.05	0.22	0.04	0.20	0.05	0.23
science***	0.06	0.24	0.07	0.25	0.06	0.24
medicine***	0.04	0.20	0.03	0.18	0.04	0.21
engineering***	0.19	0.40	0.22	0.41	0.19	0.39
architecture	0.05	0.22	0.05	0.22	0.05	0.21
agriculture***	0.03	0.16	0.02	0.14	0.03	0.17
economics and statistics***	0.19	0.39	0.22	0.41	0.18	0.38
political and social science ***	0.06	0.24	0.07	0.26	0.05	0.22
law***	0.08	0.27	0.07	0.26	0.08	0.27
humanities***	0.07	0.25	0.06	0.23	0.07	0.26
foreign languages***	0.05	0.22	0.05	0.21	0.05	0.23
teaching***	0.03	0.17	0.02	0.14	0.03	0.18
psychology**	0.03	0.16	0.03	0.17	0.03	0.16
<i>Father's education</i>						
primary education***	0.17	0.38	0.13	0.34	0.20	0.40
lower secondary school***	0.24	0.43	0.22	0.42	0.26	0.44
upper secondary school***	0.36	0.48	0.39	0.49	0.34	0.47
university degree***	0.22	0.41	0.25	0.43	0.20	0.40
<i>Mother's education</i>						
primary education***	0.23	0.42	0.18	0.38	0.26	0.44
lower secondary school***	0.27	0.45	0.26	0.44	0.28	0.45
upper secondary school***	0.35	0.48	0.38	0.49	0.33	0.47
university degree***	0.15	0.35	0.17	0.38	0.13	0.34
<i>Parents' occupational status</i>						
self-employed father***	0.08	0.27	0.08	0.28	0.07	0.26
self-employed mother***	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.11	0.01	0.09
<i>Ability proxies:</i>						
final mark at university***	103.01	7.04	102.81	7.30	103.18	6.84
honours	0.21	0.40	0.21	0.41	0.20	0.40
graduated on time***	0.15	0.36	0.16	0.37	0.15	0.35
<i>While studying:</i>						
worked occasionally ***	0.51	0.50	0.54	0.50	0.51	0.50
worked continuously***	0.08	0.27	0.09	0.28	0.07	0.26
never worked***	0.41	0.49	0.38	0.48	0.43	0.49
family network***	0.68	0.46	0.60	0.49	0.72	0.45

Table 1. Summary statistics (ctd.)

	All sample		Densest provinces		Rest of the country	
	mean	st.dev	mean	st.dev	mean	st.dev
<i>Sector of work</i>						
chemical sector**	0.07	0.25	0.06	0.24	0.07	0.25
machinery***	0.04	0.19	0.06	0.24	0.03	0.16
construction***	0.07	0.26	0.08	0.28	0.07	0.25
other industrial sectors***	0.18	0.38	0.19	0.39	0.17	0.37
trade and hotels***	0.07	0.26	0.11	0.31	0.05	0.23
transportation, tours, postal services and telecommunications***	0.10	0.30	0.07	0.26	0.11	0.32
credit and insurance***	0.10	0.30	0.08	0.27	0.11	0.31
other professional and consulting activities***	0.09	0.29	0.08	0.27	0.09	0.29
IT and similar activities	0.06	0.23	0.05	0.23	0.06	0.23
education and training	0.05	0.22	0.05	0.23	0.05	0.22
health and social services***	0.07	0.26	0.06	0.24	0.08	0.27
public administration***	0.03	0.16	0.02	0.13	0.03	0.17
other social services	0.08	0.27	0.08	0.27	0.08	0.27
experience in months***	23.61	11.97	23.95	11.95	23.61	11.97
1998***	0.27	0.44	0.25	0.43	0.28	0.45
2001***	0.36	0.48	0.36	0.48	0.33	0.47
2004	0.37	0.48	0.37	0.48	0.37	0.48
<i>Characteristics of the province of work:‡</i>						
population density***	2.43	3.30	8.97	7.24	1.65	0.82
unemployment rate	9.20	7.42	7.05	6.79	9.45	7.49
value added (in 1994)	20.69	8.20	23.72	5.68	20.33	8.40
share of self-employed workers in the individual's sector***	0.15	0.02	0.18	0.02	0.15	0.02
house prices per square metre***	3,896.44	1,259.61	4,858.33	1,883.30	3,781.43	1,124.02
share of local bank branches in total branches*	0.39	0.19	0.29	0.15	0.40	0.19
tradition of political autonomy	0.49	0.50	0.55	0.52	0.48	0.50
collective action propensity	-0.01	1.00	0.40	0.91	-0.06	1.00
blood donation	28.39	21.33	29.57	21.63	28.25	21.41
number of associations per 100,000 inhabitants (in 1985)	30.47	20.86	31.96	15.32	30.29	21.49
welfare index	105.05	30.76	105.99	27.68	104.93	31.25
voter turnover at 1946-1989 referendums*	80.14	8.27	84.30	7.77	79.64	8.23
share of municipalities with city sewer system	98.30	7.05	96.43	9.89	98.52	6.67
employee-self-employed earning ratio (in log)	1.01	0.02	1.00	0.01	1.01	0.02
average wages of employees (in log)	1.87	0.06	1.88	0.05	1.87	0.06
TOTAL	33,740		14,806		18,934	

Note: Computed on employed individuals. Variables denoted with * (**) [***] indicate that the difference between the most densely populated provinces and the rest of the country is statistically significant at the 10 (5) [1] per cent level. The provinces in the top 10th percentile of the population density distribution (i.e. having more than 383,437 inhabitants per square kilometre), defined as the densest provinces, are Naples, Milan, Trieste, Rome, Varese, Prato, Rimini, Genoa, Como, Padova and Lecco. † Computed on 4,533 individuals (i.e. the entrepreneurs). ‡ Provincial characteristics have been computed on the universe of provinces. * Per 100 inhabitants per square kilometre. See the Appendix for a detailed description of the provincial variables.

Table 2: Urbanization effect on the probability of being entrepreneur (marginal effects)

	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
population density (in log)	-0.0300*** (0.0041)	-0.0261*** (0.0034)	-0.0273*** (0.0035)	-0.0213*** (0.0035)	-0.0216*** (0.0032)
female	-0.0661*** (0.0064)	-0.0611*** (0.0034)	-0.0591*** (0.0035)	-0.0578*** (0.0033)	-0.0577*** (0.0032)
married	0.003 (0.0057)	0.0122** (0.0050)	0.0123** (0.0051)	0.0127** (0.0050)	0.0148*** (0.0045)
age	-0.0699*** (0.0212)	-0.0466** (0.0198)	-0.0389** (0.0197)	-0.0356* (0.0189)	-0.0297* (0.0152)
age squared	0.0013*** (0.0003)	0.0008** (0.0003)	0.0007** (0.0003)	0.0007** (0.0003)	0.0005** (0.0003)
Ph.D.	-0.0054 (0.0406)	-0.0385 (0.0307)	-0.0354 (0.0317)	-0.0383 (0.0299)	-0.0125 (0.0302)
number of siblings	0.0015 (0.0023)	-0.0001 (0.0023)	-0.0009 (0.0023)	0.0033 (0.0022)	0.0018 (0.0022)
<i>School characteristics: liceo omitted</i>					
teachers' training school		-0.0399*** (0.0103)	-0.0327*** (0.0110)	-0.0334*** (0.0109)	-0.0168* (0.0101)
technical school		-0.007 (0.0049)	0.0038 (0.0048)	0.0018 (0.0049)	-0.0031 (0.0044)
vocational school		0.0114 (0.0104)	0.0240** (0.0114)	0.0197* (0.0115)	0.0209** (0.0105)
<i>Father's education: primary education omitted</i>					
lower secondary school			0.0069 (0.0069)	0.0068 (0.0067)	0.0108* (0.0064)
upper secondary school			0.0051 (0.0077)	0.0035 (0.0076)	0.0071 (0.0069)
university degree			0.0242** (0.0106)	0.0205** (0.0096)	0.0143 (0.0087)
<i>Mother's education: primary education omitted</i>					
lower secondary school			0.0072 (0.0058)	0.0049 (0.0057)	0.0047 (0.0054)
upper secondary school			0.0144** (0.0066)	0.0133** (0.0066)	0.0098* (0.0055)
university degree			0.0081 (0.0086)	0.0086 (0.0085)	0.0069 (0.0082)
<i>Parents' occupational status</i>					
self-employed father			0.0934*** (0.0074)	0.0860*** (0.0073)	0.0559*** (0.0068)
self-employed mother			0.0377** (0.0188)	0.0368* (0.0192)	0.0194 (0.0160)
<i>Ability proxies:</i>					
final mark at university				0.0095 (0.0075)	-0.0007 (0.0062)
final mark at university squared				-0.0001 (0.0000)	0.0000 (0.0000)
honours				0.0051 (0.0056)	0.0027 (0.0050)
graduated on time				0.0130** (0.0051)	0.0115** (0.0045)
<i>While studying: never worked omitted</i>					
worked occasionally				-0.0184*** (0.0039)	-0.0169*** (0.0035)
worked continuously				-0.0067 (0.0065)	-0.0098* (0.0056)
family network				0.0766*** (0.0067)	0.0565*** (0.0041)
experience in months					0.0017*** (0.0002)
<i>Survey year</i>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<i>Region dummies</i>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<i>Type of degree</i>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<i>Sector of work</i>	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Observations	33,740	33,740	33,740	33,740	33,740

Note: White-robust standard errors adjusted for clustering at the provincial level are reported in parentheses. The type of degree categories include: chemistry-pharmaceutical, biology and geology, medicine, science, engineering, architecture, agriculture, political and social science, law, humanities, foreign languages, teaching, and psychology (economics and statistics omitted). The sector categories include: distribution services, hotels and restaurants; transport, travel and communication services; financial services; professional services (legal and architectural services, consultancies, market research, public opinion polling services, real-estate services, rental/leasing services, advertising and research and development); computer and related services; educational services; health related and social services; public administration; chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals; engineering industry, machinery and equipment; other industries; and construction (other public, social and personal services omitted). Omitted region: Piedmont. Symbols: The asterisk * (**) [***] indicates statistical significance at the 10 (5) [1] per cent level.

Table 3: Instrumental variables estimates of the urbanization effect on the probability of being entrepreneur

	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
population density (in log)	-0.0318*** (0.0041)	-0.0261*** (0.0036)	-0.0272*** (0.0036)	-0.0209*** (0.0039)	-0.0243*** (0.0037)
Instruments					
population density in 1921 (in log)	1.1895*** (0.0440)	1.1882*** (0.0438)	1.1880*** (0.0438)	1.1867*** (0.0437)	1.18461*** (0.0436)
<i>Partial R-squared of excluded instruments:</i>	<i>0.8999</i>	<i>0.8994</i>	<i>0.8991</i>	<i>0.8979</i>	<i>0.8970</i>
<i>Test of excluded instruments (F-test):</i>	<i>731.26</i>	<i>735.79</i>	<i>735.48</i>	<i>735.55</i>	<i>738.2400</i>
Observations	33,740	33,740	33,740	33,740	33,740

Note: White-robust standard errors adjusted for clustering at the provincial level are reported in parentheses. In columns (3.1)-(3.5) we control for the same covariates as in Table 2. The asterisk * (**) [***] indicates statistical significance at the 10 (5) [1] per cent level.

Table 4: Urbanization effect on the probability of being entrepreneur: testing alternative hypotheses (marginal effects)

	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7
population density (in log)	-0.0151*** (0.0028)	-0.0197*** (0.0035)	-0.0176*** (0.0029)	-0.0215*** (0.0032)	-0.0216*** (0.0032)	-0.0187*** (0.0037)	-0.0094** (0.0039)
share of self-employed workers in the individual's sector	-0.2979*** (0.0606)						-0.2909*** (0.0601)
house price per square metre†		-0.0023 (0.0022)					-0.0019 (0.0022)
share of local banks in total branches			0.0516** (0.0203)				0.0450** (0.0189)
tradition of political autonomy			0.0061 (0.0059)				0.0043 (0.0052)
collective action propensity			0.0139*** (0.0044)				0.0132*** (0.0047)
blood donation			0.0001 (0.0002)				0.0000 (0.0002)
no. of associations per 100,000 inhabitants (in 1985)			-0.0001 (0.0001)				-0.0001 (0.0001)
welfare index			-0.0002 (0.0001)				-0.0002 (0.0001)
voter turnover at 1946-1989 referendums			0.0012 (0.0010)				0.0016 (0.0010)
share of municipalities with city sewer system			0.0002 (0.0002)				0.0002 (0.0003)
average employees wages (in log)‡				-0.0214 (0.0384)			-0.0093 (0.0398)
employees/self-employed earning ratio (in log)‡					-0.071 (0.0800)		-0.0263 (0.0825)
unemployment rate						-0.0011 (0.0007)	-0.0008 (0.0008)
value added (in 1994)						-0.0004 (0.0003)	0.0001 (0.0003)
Observations	33,740	33,740	33,740	33,737	33,737	33,737	33,737

Note: White-robust standard errors adjusted for clustering at the provincial level are reported in parentheses. † Coefficient multiplied by 100. ‡ Averages computed by province and year. In all the columns we control for the same covariates as in specification (2.5) (Table 2). For a detailed explanation of the provincial variables, see the Appendix. The asterisk * (**) [***] indicates statistical significance at the 10 (5) [1] per cent level.

Table 5: Urbanization effect on log monthly earnings from entrepreneurship

	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6
PANEL A: OLS					
population density (in log)	0.0230** (0.0103)	0.0295*** (0.0105)	0.0275*** (0.0104)	0.0201* (0.0104)	0.0181* (0.0102)
PANEL B: IV					
density (in log)	0.0231** (0.0101)	0.0280*** (0.0098)	0.0260*** (0.0097)	0.0187* (0.0097)	0.0168* (0.0096)
First stage - Instruments					
Population density in 1921 (in log)	1.1796*** (0.0411)	1.1780*** (0.0408)	1.1775*** (0.0407)	1.1762*** (0.0407)	1.1764*** (0.0406)
<i>Partial R-squared of excluded instruments:</i>	<i>0.8976</i>	<i>0.8967</i>	<i>0.8964</i>	<i>0.8954</i>	<i>0.8953</i>
<i>Test of excluded instruments (F-test):</i>	<i>822.31</i>	<i>833.58</i>	<i>834.66</i>	<i>835.64</i>	<i>841.23</i>
Observations	4,533	4,533	4,533	4,533	4,533

Note: White-robust standard errors adjusted for clustering at the provincial level are reported in parentheses. OLS coefficients are marginal effects. In columns (5.1)-(5.5) we control for the same covariates as in Table 2. The asterisk * (**) [***] indicates statistical significance at the 10 (5) [1] per cent level.

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