

ZEPPELIN UNIVERSITY

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Bachelor Thesis

Another Chapter in the Dispatch Note of Automation

The Impact of Industrial Robots on the
Income Distribution in Germany

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Semester: Spring Term 2019

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Date: May 31, 2019

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Abstract

The effect of automation on the labour market has been a widely discussed topic for many centuries. However, only little empirical work exists for the German labour market and the effects of technology on the wage structure. Consequently, the question of the thesis is whether the raising income inequality within 326 regions in Germany from 1993 to 2014 can be partly attributed to the increased usage of industrial robots. Our empirical results are based on data from the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), the German Institute for Employment Research (IAB) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Summarised, our panel analysis reports mixed results which only vaguely suggest a positive effect between a region's exposure to robots and its level of income inequality. On this account, we highly recommend further research before overestimating the epistemic value of our results.

JEL-Classification: D31, E24, J31, O14, O15, O18.

Keywords: Robots, technological change, regional income inequality, Germany.