The Economic Impact of Human Capital in Information Systems

Emergent Research Forum papers

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Abstract

The growth of information technologies and a workforce capable of leveraging their capabilities have brought about heightened promises of the economic impact from technology. Increasingly, these promises reside in human capital, referring to highly educated and skilled workers with sufficient innovative acumen to bring about increases in economic output and productivity. In this study, the author used industry and occupational data on metropolitan regions in the U.S. from 2005 to 2013 to assess the economic impact of human capital in information systems. The results show moderate but significant relationships between human capital and economic performance. The study contributes to the literature on the technology- and innovation-driven economy, as well as supports policy work in generating sustainable regional economic growth. It also serves as an impetus for future research on modeling economic performance from technology assets and human capital.

Keywords

Human capital, knowledge workers, information technology, knowledge economy, high tech workers, technology workforce.