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A MODEL OF THE KEYNESIAN THEORY FOR PORTUGAL

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ABSTRACT

With this work we try to present a model for Portugal based on the Keynesian theory. We built the model taking into account the Verdoorn Law, with the alternative specifications of (1)Kaldor (1966), for the five Portuguese regions (NUTS II) and from 1986 to 1994. We had in mind, yet in this work, the alternative interpretation of (2)Rowthorn (1975) of the Verdoorn's Law for the same regions and periods. The results of this work will be complemented with estimates of these relationships to other sectors of the economy than the industry (primary and services sector) and for the total economy of each region.

Keywords: Keynesian theory; linear models; Portuguese regions.

1. INTRODUCTION

(3)Verdoorn (1949) was the first author to reveal the importance of the positive relationship between the growth of labor productivity and output growth, arguing that the causality is from output to productivity, thus assuming that labor productivity is endogenous. An important finding of the empirical relationship is the elasticity of labor productivity with respect to output that according to Verdoorn is approximately 0.45 on average, external limits between 0.41 and 0.57. This author also found that the relationship between productivity growth and output growth reflects a kind of production technology and the existence of increasing returns to scale, which contradicts the hypothesis of neoclassical constant returns to scale, or decreasing, and absolute convergence Regional.

Kaldor rediscovered this law in 1966 and since then Verdoorn's Law has been tested in several ways, using specifications, samples and different periods. However, the conclusions drawn differ, some of them rejecting the Law of Verdoorn and other supporting its validity. (4)Kaldor (1966, 1967) in his attempt to explain the causes of the low rate of growth in the UK, reconsidering and empirically investigating Verdoorn's Law, found that there is a strong positive relationship between the growth of labor productivity (p) and output (q), i.e. $p = f(q)$. Or alternatively between employment growth (e) and the growth of output, i.e. $e = f(q)$.

Another interpretation of Verdoorn's Law, as an alternative to the Kaldor, is presented by (5)Rowthorn (1975, 1979). Rowthorn argues that the most appropriate specification of Verdoorn's Law is the ratio of growth of output (q) and the growth of labor productivity (p) with employment growth (e), i.e., $q = f(e)$ and $p = f(e)$, respectively (as noted above, the exogenous variable in this case is employment). On the other hand, Rowthorn believes that the empirical work of Kaldor (1966) for the period 1953-54 to 1963-64 and the (6)Cripps and Tarling (1973) for the period 1951 to 1965 that confirm Kaldor's Law, not can be accepted since they are based on small samples of countries, where extreme cases end up like Japan have great influence on overall results.

It should be noted, finally, that several authors have developed a body of work in order to test the Verdoorn's Law in a regional context, including (7)Leon-Ledesma (1998).

2. ALTERNATIVE SPECIFICATIONS OF VERDOORN'S LAW

The hypothesis of increasing returns to scale in industry was initially tested by Kaldor (1966) using the following relations:

$$p_i = a + bq_i, \text{ Verdoorn law (1)}$$

$$e_i = c + dq_i, \text{ Kaldor law (2)}$$

where p_i , q_i and e_i are the growth rates of labor productivity, output and employment in the industrial sector in the economy i .

On the other hand, the mathematical form of Rowthorn specification is as follows:

$$p_i = \lambda_1 + \varepsilon_1 e_i, \text{ first equation of Rowthorn (3)}$$

$$q_i = \lambda_2 + \varepsilon_2 e_i, \text{ second equation of Rowthorn (4)}$$

where $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ e $\varepsilon_2 = (1 + \varepsilon_1)$, because $p_i = q_i - e_i$. In other words, $q_i - e_i = \lambda_1 + \varepsilon_1 e_i$, $q_i = \lambda_1 + e_i + \varepsilon_1 e_i$, so, $q_i = \lambda_1 + (1 + \varepsilon_1) e_i$.

Rowthorn estimated these equations for the same OECD countries considered by Kaldor (1966), with the exception of Japan, and for the same period and found that ε_2 was not statistically different from unity and therefore ε_1 was not statistically different from zero. This author thus confirmed the hypothesis of constant returns to scale in manufacturing in the developed countries of the OECD. (8)Thirlwall (1980) criticized these results, considering that the Rowthorn interpretation of Verdoorn's Law is static, since it assumes that the Verdoorn coefficient depends solely on the partial elasticity of output with respect to employment.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

Considering the variables on the models of Kaldor and Rowthorn presented previously and the availability of statistical information, we used the following data disaggregated at regional level. Annual data for the period 1986 to 1994 corresponding to the five regions of mainland Portugal (NUTS II) for the different economic sectors and the total economy of these regions. These data were obtained from Eurostat (Eurostat Regio of Statistics 2000).

4. THE LINEAR MODEL

The Verdoorn's equation is the most satisfactory in terms of statistical significance of the coefficient obtained and the degree of explanation in the various estimations. There is, therefore, that productivity is endogenous and generated by the growth of regional and sectoral output.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In the estimates made for each of the economic sectors in the first period (1986-1994), it appears that the industry is the largest that has increasing returns to scale, followed by agriculture and service sector.

The Verdoorn's equation is the most satisfactory in terms of statistical significance of the coefficient obtained and the degree of explanation in the various estimations.

6. REFERENCES

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