

DOSSIER “PRODUCTIVE RESTRUCTURING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT”

PRESENTATION

Paraná State presents a constant transformation of its productive structure. Recent transformations include the food complexes restructuring and the advance in the durable consumer goods and capital goods sectors. It is also worth mentioning that the State has become an export corridor for Mercosur partner countries. In this context, understanding the productive structure of a given region and what are the ongoing transformations makes it possible to evaluate public policies and endogenous factors that contribute to territorial development.

The objective of this Dossier is to deal with some aspects that, directly or indirectly, help the development, boost production and reduce disparities in Paraná. To establish an interface between the elements that contribute to regional development, it was assumed that the different industrial segments of Paraná are part of different dynamics in the national and international economic scenario. Thus, in Paraná there are both productive activities integrated to the logic of global value chains and activities more focused on the domestic market.

As an analysis timeframe, the themes brought by the authors examine the transformation in the recent period, especially in the post-financial crisis period of 2008, that is, a period of crises and economic slowdown. With the analysis strategy, the articles that comprise this Dossier use different spatial approaches. The themes brought by the authors can be divided into different blocks, as follows.

In a first block, in the first article, the goal is to contextualize the deceleration of the deconcentration process in the productive structure, at the national level and in its regional effects, and then, to demonstrate that the regions that presented greater dynamism, even if still anchored in the production of products of low technological intensity, began to establish new forms of articulation with other markets. For Paraná, the research findings indicate that the sectors most integrated into the domestic market were the ones that suffered the most from the economic slowdown. As an effect, the entire spatial geography was modified in relation to the productive base and the jobs generation in Paraná. In turn, some sectors, such as non-durable consumer goods, especially the food sector, in the meat segment, have used the opportunities open in the international market.

In a second block, the analysis was focused on traditional sectors, integrated with the global value chains logic, which benefited from the recent economic conjuncture. In this context, themes such as irrigation and rural credit emerge as elements of analysis that have the potential to boost Paraná agricultural sector. In the article on irrigation, besides highlighting the importance of water resources, the author evaluates which municipalities in Paraná have advanced in the irrigated areas expansion and which crops have benefited from this expansion. It can be seen an expansion of the irrigated area,

with the predominance of fertigation in the Northern region of the State and expansion of irrigation in Cascavel and Castro regions. In this study it was also possible to map the potentially irrigable regions and the water demand for irrigable agriculture.

In turn, in the article on rural credit, the objective of the authors is to evaluate the heterogeneity of the rural credit in the State of Paraná. As a result, two important agglomerations in the State are identified in the analyzed period. Among the research findings, we highlight the possible contribution that financial cooperatives may have in the allocation of rural credit in the western region of Paraná.

In a third block, growth-boosting elements are presented in different sectors of Paraná economy. Opening the section, the following article evaluates the convergence of electricity consumption among the municipalities of Paraná. In this context, there is a trend of electricity consumption equalization, verifying whether the growth rate in the poorest regions exceeds the growth rate observed in the richest regions of State. With this, the electricity consumption standard can be used as a *proxy* for economic convergence between the municipalities of Paraná. The research findings confirm the existing convergence in the electricity consumption in the municipalities of Paraná.

Sequentially, there is a study on the competitiveness of Brazilian commercial aviation, in which there is the tax reduction impact over the ICMS incident on fuels used in this modal transport and its effects on regional development. It should be mentioned that taxation has an important impact on regional development. Whereas it is taxation which impacts an important mode of transport, the effects are multiplied.

The last article, in turn, examines the efficiency in allocating resources to education. Through the Data Envelopment Analysis, it was possible to demonstrate that, on average, rural schools were more efficient than urban schools in the two years under analysis. In addition, the mesoregions more located to the center and south of the State tended to have higher efficiency averages, and the eastern mesoregions tended to be less efficient.

Finally, this Dossier fulfills its objectives, to the extent that, when dealing with the Paraná experience of development and the structural dynamics of the grain production chain, seeks to understand the transformations in important productive sectors for the economy of Paraná. When dealing with topics such as irrigated agriculture, rural credit, or exemption from aviation fuels, he tries to understand how these elements boost production in the main production chains. And, when presenting the convergence themes in electricity consumption and public schools' efficiency, the aim is to propose alternative measures that highlight changes in regional disparities.

Good reading!

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