the present study focuses on the geographical context of the innovation sector by exploring the spatial distribution of groups of firms and establishments in Mexico. The application of local spatial statistics is intended to identify, quantify and locate agglomerations (spatial clusters) of these firms. Once identified, their level of relative specialization in terms of employment composition is calculated to determine the characteristics of each spatial cluster. The results suggest seven resulting ellipses of first-order hierarchical grouping, where the manufacture of motor vehicles exhibits the largest share of total employment in Ciudad Juarez, Monterrey, and Guanajuato-Queretaro. The spatial cluster located in the Federal District shows a higher proportion of employment in the pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing industry. For Tijuana the highest proportion of employment is found in audio and video equipment manufacturing, for Jalisco in semiconductors and other electronic components, and for Reynosa in communication equipment.

Keywords
innovation, spatial analysis, industrial clusters, industrial policy, local spatial statistics.