Abstract

This paper examines the changes in geographical patterns in Mexico’s manufacturing sector. Particular attention is paid to the transformations that occurred after the trade liberalization and the North American Trade Agreement (nafta) was signed. We use information on manufacturing Gross Domestic Product (gdp) (1970-2004) by state, reviewing state participations and densities. The figures reveal the existence of a process of dispersion of total manufacturing gdp in the long term. Although a greater geographical dispersion presented itself after the generalized liberalization program and following the signing of the nafta, the relocation of manufacturing was already underway before that. The states bordering the United States were the initial beneficiaries of this decentralization, but the Bajio region states have recently had the largest increases in regional shares of manufacturing gdp. However, it is uncertain whether a significant change has taken place in the regional dual structure.

Keywords

Regional disparities, manufacturing, economic geography, location, trade opening.