

# Investigating the Linkages between Industrial Policies and M&A Dynamics: Evidence from China

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**Obiettivi:** Mergers and acquisitions (M&As hereafter) have been widely examined in the economic and business literature under many perspectives. However, the industry-level view, specifically the relation between industrial policies and M&A waves at the sectoral level, has remained rather unexplored. This article contributes to filling this gap by empirically investigating the relation between selective industrial policies and M&A waves at the industry level in China. **Metodologia:** Referring to the four Five Year Plans covering the period 1996-2015, we explore whether being identified as an emerging sector in these plans generates positive or negative changes in the number of M&As. We reiterate the analysis according to the different types of M&As (vertical, horizontal or conglomerate) and the different natures of the acquirer (SOEs or private). **Risultati:** Our results suggest that policies can differentially affect M&A waves according to the type of M&A. Moreover, while private firms are more responsive to both horizontal and vertical integration in emerging sectors, SOEs are more prone to engage in vertical M&As. We discuss the possible rationales behind the different behaviors. **Implicazioni:** We also draw general policy implications on strategic industrial policy and market restructuring.