

EVALUATING EXPORT AND INDUSTRIAL RESILIENCE THROUGH SECTORAL EXPANSIONS AND CONTRACTIONS: an analysis of Italian provinces

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Export diversification has been long discussed as a strategy to limit the impact of external shocks and stabilize export levels. An established literature has focused in particular on the geographical diversification of exports, while a more recent debate concentrates on the role of economic complexity together with diversification as a strategy towards resilience in international trade. The paper looks at manufacturing exports and develops an indicator, which tracks provincial presence across exported sectors, as a proxy for their productive capabilities, in two periods: pre- (2017-2019), and post-crisis (2020-2021). On the one hand, this offers a complementary approach to resilience. On the other hand, the proposed indicator can be put into relation with more standard variables, such as province-level complexity or geographical diversification, to obtain a clear picture of Italian industrial panorama. From there, we derive policy implications which shall be helpful in orienting national- and regional-level industrial policy.