

Entrepreneurship and the Platform Economy: Evidence from U.S. Tax Returns

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The Topic

- ▶ Crucial issue: micro-entrepreneurship is overlooked but an important part of economic reality.
- ▶ Hence start with that number and the big picture numbers on turnover in entrepreneurship.
- ▶ What is 'flexible labour' in this context? Casual employment available on demand & limited practical constraints?

The Data

- ▶ How did platforms end up being identified so well in this data? This is a major asset. How many platforms are there?
- ▶ How should we think about the 3 millions workers and \$20 billion in revenue by 2020? This is a big element of the overall labour market, right?
- ▶ Room for a descriptive policy paper here if the data is as unique as it seems.

The Modelling

- ▶ Why did the roll-out happen as it did? Surely it was correlated with urban structure / density?
- ▶ Hence the concerns is trends, specifically, growth patterns favouring urban areas.
- ▶ Easy fix: cut urban density into bands and create non-parametric trend dummies. Also: normalise depvar by population.

Flexible Labour & Entrepreneurship

- ▶ The motivating hypothesis is financial constraints
- ▶ Can we see whether income volatility has fallen amongst this set of 3 millions workers over time?
- ▶ Can we identify entrepreneurship patterns for past cohorts of 'constrained entrepreneurs'?