

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts are invited for papers from anyone with an interest in rural entrepreneurship; we encourage contributions from academics and practitioners alike. Please indicate which of the conference themes you think is/are most appropriate and limit your abstract to 400 words.

Your Details

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Please use the following headings: (boxes will expand as you type)

<p>Title: Comparing the Performance of Rural and Urban SMEs in the UK: A Propensity Score Matching Analysis</p>
<p>Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc)</p> <p>The evidence base relating to differences in performance between rural and urban enterprises remains underdeveloped. This paper provides a rural-urban analysis of responses to the UK Government’s Longitudinal Small Business Survey (LSBS), to examine the difference in performance and use of support services between rural and urban businesses.</p>
<p>Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable)</p> <p>Within the rural context, small business growth has previously been hampered by difficulties in separating out whether a rural location has a distinctive effect or whether variations in business performance reflect differences in size, sector, business registration and age of business. Therefore this analysis used Propensity Score Matching (PSM) to control for these and other profile variables, allowing for an assessment of rural effects on business performance. The analysis is based on 13,525 survey responses, for the year 2015, from across the UK and uses official rural-urban classifications.</p>
<p>Findings</p> <p>Results reveal that at the national level, when excluding businesses located in London, the performance and use of support by rural businesses are not significantly different from urban based firms. Overall, there is no evidence to suggest that rural businesses are inherently inferior.</p>
<p>Practical implications</p>
<p>Policy Implications (if applicable)</p> <p>Policies for enhancing business performance should be developed that fully recognise and support the contribution of small businesses in rural areas.</p>
<p>What is the originality/value of paper</p> <p>The study is novel in that it examines the differences in performance between rural and urban firms using a large cross-sectional survey of SMEs in the UK</p>

Please state if your paper is a:		
Refereed research paper	Practitioner Paper	<u>Presentation only</u>
Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship, farming and the natural environment		
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Rural Entrepreneurship		
<input type="checkbox"/> International dimensions of rural entrepreneurship		
<input type="checkbox"/> New approaches in rural theory, method and measurement		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opportunities and challenges for rural development		
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To apply to participate in the Early-Career research development seminar, PhD applicants must submit a short project description (max 4 pages) with name, project title, affiliation, outline of methodology(ies) and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. Post-doctoral researchers should submit a short description of their current research interest (max 1 page).