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ABSTRACT

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Race and the shifting burden of job displacement: 1982-93

Robert W. Fairlie

Professor of Economics, University of California, Santa Cruz

Lori G. Kletzer

Professor of Economics, University of California, Santa Cruz

The job displacement rate for blacks converged to that for whites from 1982 to 1993; over the 11-year period, the rate for workers in white-collar occupations, in which blacks were underrepresented, rose, while the rate for blue-collar workers, in which blacks were overrepresented, fell. In this article, a variation of a special decomposition technique is used to account for changes between blacks and whites over time in the burden of job displacement. The analysis reveals a number of factors that help explain the narrowing and subsequent reversal of the displacement rates over the 1980s and into the 1990s.

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