October 29, 2009

Encourage EDA to send us data, schedule a conference call for next week to go through it

April and employment specialization

* Employment by industry by county—University of Minnesota, from BLS 2002
* Probably will not change all that much over a 10 year period of time
* Used 21 industries from NAICS
* Issues: numbers don’t add up
  + Some zeroes, missing values, or not disclosed because you can’t track one value to one employer
  + Have to create NEC category that is “everyone else” so that numbers add up
  + Need same number of industries for all categories—balanced panel
  + What about self-employment? Is that in here?
* Calculated Krugman and Herfindahl indices
  + Herfindahl—absolute measure of specialization
    - Ideal of equal industry shares
  + Krugman—relative index
    - Comparing a particular county to everyone else
    - When you’re comparing a county to everyone else, need to weight the big guys more than the little guys
    - Interaction term between specialization and size

Libby

* PCPI
  + Check to see that I got same PCPI that they got
  + Do my computations of the data look like that from BEA?
  + What is the growth overall?
  + What’s the growth for each county? What’s the slowest county? What’s the fastest? Percentiles? Look for weird things.
  + Where are they? Next to each other?
  + Code people by their fastness and slowness, make a map, use some colors
  + Weird FIPs codes—what should I do?
* Educational attainment
  + ACS only has counties over 20,000, so we can’t use it
  + Use Census, be okay with 2000
  + NGHIS
  + Make sure it’s all covered, that it adds to one
  + Fraction with less than HS (12-)—may not use it because there’s almost no variation
  + Fraction with secondary (12)
  + Fraction with more than secondary (12+)
* Correlation, scatter plot, etc. to see how these things go together

Geography

* Miles of highways, road density, main roads
* Do we want to measure how people get around within a county or from county to county?
* Chris Winters: Use county seats instead of centroids
* Fay: use centroids because of Western states
* Other papers use centroids, so we are as well. But we should encourage further research that does other things. Footnote it.
* Not going to use road distance, can’t find time.
* Problems:
  + Can’t delete information in GIS
  + Can’t move things from Excel to GIS
* Spillovers
  + Had trouble getting distances to decay—farther counties were having more weight
  + 1 – the weight?
  + 1 / distance squared as a weight?
  + Continguity or distance?
  + Rings?
  + All things we should talk about as next steps!

For next week:

* Tables of summary statistics
* Do files from everyone