

# Testing the relationship between Vocational Secondary Schooling and Economic Performance

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Theoretically, vocational education is acknowledged to be important for growth, absorptive capacity, innovation and technological diffusion. Yet empirically, little is known about the contribution of vocational education to macroeconomic performance. This paper makes use of a newly constructed dataset of vocational secondary schooling for 129 countries from 1950-2010. By replicating and building upon four classical cross-country analyses, this paper systematically and comprehensively tests whether secondary vocational education contributes to economic performance and how it interacts with other variables known to be important for economic growth and technological change. We find that vocational secondary schooling is consistently related to economic performance. The relationship between vocational secondary schooling and economic growth changes with proximity to the frontier and countries have to be relatively closer to the frontier to see positive growth effects from additional vocation secondary schooling.