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# Welcome Home in a Crisis: Effects of Return Migration on the Non-migrants' Wages and Employment

Ricardo Hausmann<sup>\*</sup> and Ljubica Nedelkoska<sup>†</sup>

## Abstract

The recent economic depression in Greece hit the population of Albanian migrants in Greece particularly hard, spurring a wave of return migration which increased the Albanian labor force by 5 percent in less than four years, between 2011 and 2014. We study how this return migration affected the employment chances and earnings of Albanians who never migrated. We find positive effects on the wages of low-skilled non-migrants and overall positive effects on employment. The gains partially offset the sharp drop in remittances in the observed period. An important part of the employment gains are concentrated in the agricultural sector, where most return migrants engage in self-employment and entrepreneurship. Businesses run by return migrants seem to pull Albanians from non-participation, unemployment and subsistence agriculture into commercial agriculture.

Keywords: Return migration; wages and employment of non-migrants

JEL codes: J21, J23, J24, J31, J61

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