Continuation of the study: industrial employment in the Lacq basin

*Post-doctoral research*

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This research work is the continuation of a project requested and funded by the Lacq Conurbation. The aim was to create a database concerning employment in the Lacq basin from 1988 to the present and to use these data to analyze the evolution and structure of employment throughout this period. The initial project focused on industrial employment in the former Lacq conurbation, and the current project aims to complete the first analysis in two ways. First, the geographical area studied covers all 47 towns and villages in the new conurbation. To begin with, we will go over the analysis of industrial employment which covered only the 16 towns and villages of the former conurbation and add to it the new member communities. Only the broad outlines of the previous work will be used: evolution of total employment and evolution of sectoral employment in the Lacq basin (excluding agriculture). Second, the previous analysis of industrial employment is completed by the analysis of other sectors of activity: agriculture, business and services.

According to UNEDIC statistics, in 2012 in the Lacq basin, there were 9,359 jobs in the private sector\(^1\), compared with 8,974 in 1988. Consequently, between 1988 and 2010, 385 new jobs were created in the Lacq basin, which corresponds to an overall growth of approximately 4.3%. On average, 16 jobs were created every year, corresponding to an average annual growth of 0.2%.

The increase in employment in the Lacq basin is essentially due to the services sector that recorded 1,276 new jobs over this period. New jobs were also created in the business sector (201), whereas 1,092 jobs were lost in industry (15.9% of industrial jobs were eradicated between 1988 and 2010). The development of sectoral jobs also influences the structure of economic activities, since industry is losing impetus (62% in 2010 compared with 77% in 1988) to the benefit of services and business.

The services sector in the Lacq basin is represented essentially by real estate, transportation and administrative and support service activities, and jobs are concentrated particularly in the towns of Mourenx, Artix and Lacq. The business sector is represented essentially by the wholesale trade and concentrated essentially in Mourenx and Artix.
Agriculture is a sector covered in a separate analysis, as the data used are not the same. The analysis of all the other sectors is based on UNEDIC statistics whereas the analysis of employment in agriculture is based on statistics from the MSA, and the two types of statistics are not comparable. According to the MSA, between 2008 and 2012, 335 agricultural jobs were eradicated in the Lacq basin, particularly in the wine-growing sector (176 jobs lost) and in the cultivation of cereals and leguminous plants (94 jobs lost), both branches that represent a major part of agricultural employment. The main agricultural towns in the basin are Monein, Lucq de Béarn, Cardesse and Mont.

1. Definition of salaried employment in the private sector according to the UNEDIC: all employees covered by the unemployment insurance regime in the private industrial and trade sectors, to which they are obliged to subscribe and in the public industrial and trade sectors that have opted for direct subscription to the regime. Excluded from this are freelance workers, civil servants, State-dependent public industry and trade companies, local councils, public administrative establishments and the agricultural and para-agricultural sectors. The statistic includes all employees registered in the establishment at the end of the year, irrespective of their effective working hours (full-time and part-time) and their status (long-term or fixed-term contract, apprenticeships, subsidized contracts, etc.), whether they are present in the company on that date or on sick leave, annual leave, continuous training, partial unemployment or working a period of notice prior to dismissal.

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5 months.