

Paper Discussion No. 1

J. Möller (2010) The German labor market response in the world recession - demystifying a miracle. *Zeitschrift für ArbeitsmarktForschung*, 42(4), pp. 325-336.

General Overview

- 1.) What is the paper about? Why is the topic of interest?
 - 2.) What are the reasons for why the German labor market fared comparatively well in the recession?
 - 3.) What are the main conclusions?
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Detailed Questions

- 4.) What is the role of employment protection?
 - 5.) How do we see from table 1 that employment protection is not the main explanation for why the countries react differently to the recession?
 - 6.) Explain the content of table 2 and figure 4. What is the result?
 - 7.) The paper was written in 2009. It forecasts the increase in unemployment between 2008 and 2010 to amount to 0,75 million individuals (p. 330). What turned out to be the actual number? Choose appropriate definitions.
 - 8.) Explain briefly what are
 - working time accounts?
 - alliances for jobs?
 - short-time work schemes?
 - 9.) What is labor hoarding? Why are firms interested in labor hoarding in the recession despite its costs? What is the effect on productivity? What are possible disadvantages?
 - 10.) How is labor hoarding subsidized institutionally? Briefly sketch the legal framework for short-time work.
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Discussion

- 11.) Is the German labor market rather flexible or inflexible?