



Empirical Regional Economics, Economic Base Theory, Models and Applications, by Richard S. Conway Jr.

The book *Empirical Regional Economics, Economic Base Theory, Models and Applications*, by Richard S. Conway Jr., is a textbook introduction to the field of regional economics for juniors, seniors, and graduate students majoring in economics, business, and geography. The book covers a wide range of topics related to regional economics (such as regional economic growth, economic convergence, spatial econometrics, and regional policies and regional development), and is also addressed to anyone in the private or public sector who has an interest in gaining a better understanding of regional economic behavior and the practical methods of regional forecasting and analysis.

As evident by its title, the book emphasizes the use of empirical methods and data to understand regional economic dynamics, with a focus on applied research and practical application, the value of observation and testing, to explain regional economic behavior. One of its key themes regards the importance of understanding the forces that impact the economic growth and development of regions, highlighting the need for a multidisciplinary approach to regional economics. To this end, the active career of the author as a private economist in conjunction with his teaching academic experience and service as a board member in leading journals in regional science provided added value.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part, entitled “Regional Economic Base Theory”, presents the economic base theory of regional growth and the empirical evidence supporting it. The second part, entitled “Regional Economic Models and Applications”, covers the specification and application of four increasingly complex regional economic models: the economic base model, the input-output model, the inter-industry econometric model, and the structural time-series model. Lastly, the third part, entitled “Regional Economic Case Studies”, presents numerous regional economic case studies organized under seven thematic topics: U.S. and World Economy; Regional Economic Behavior and Welfare; Urban and Rural Economies; Economic Cycles; Economic Policy; Regional Housing Market; and Regional Forecasting.

The textbook *Empirical Regional Economics, Economic Base Theory, Models and Applications* may be somewhat technical, for readers without a background in economics or related fields, and perhaps more focused on the case of the United States, for the audience seeking more international examples. Overall, it is a valuable textbook suggested for regional scientists, as it provides a comprehensive empirical overview of regional economics, by (i) emphasizing the use of empirical methods and data towards the understanding of regional economics; (ii) providing insights into the modern aspects of regional economics and their policy implementation; and (iii) highlighting the importance of endogenous characteristics of regions towards economic growth and development.

Book Review by
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