

Researchers, Affiliations, and Biases in the Military Expenditures–Growth Nexus Literature

Abstract: The impact of military expenditure on economic growth has been studied for decades, yet there is still no consensus on the subject. 172 empirical papers written by 293 authors between 2000 and 2025 are analysed in this paper, and the impact of military expenditures on economic growth is examined. Then, an attempt is made to verify hypotheses about the existence of systemic biases in published results resulting from the characteristics of researchers, their countries of origin, and the institutions to which they are affiliated. The estimation results provide only weak evidence for the existence of any such biases in the literature. Research results showing a negative impact of military expenditures on economic growth are published more often by researchers from English-speaking countries, while the impact is argued to be positive by researchers from countries that are more democratic, have lower levels of academic freedom or are involved in armed conflicts. It has been argued by single-country studies significantly more often than cross-country studies that military expenditures have a positive impact on growth.