# ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC POLICIES ON UNEMPLOYMENT: A BIBLIOMETRIC PERSPECTIVE

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the evolution and current state of research on economic policies and unemployment through a comprehensive bibliometric analysis to identify research patterns, influential contributions, and emerging trends. The investigation analyzes 867 publications from Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) databases (1966-2024) using ScientoPy for bibliometric analysis and VOSviewer for network visualization, encompassing publication patterns, citation analysis, institutional contributions, subject areas, and keyword analysis. Results reveal contrasting database dynamics, with WoS demonstrating growth (AGR: 3%, ADY: 30) despite fewer publications (379), while Scopus maintains broader coverage (488 publications) despite negative growth (AGR: -1%). Business and Economics emerges as the dominant discipline with 357 publications. The International Labour Review leads source of publications with 16 papers, while Gordon (1997) represents the most influential work with 326 citations. The study's reliance on Scopus and WoS databases creates potential Western-centric bias, particularly evident in the geographical concentration of European and Australian institutions. This analysis provides strategic insights for researchers and policymakers while highlighting opportunities for geographical diversity and interdisciplinary approaches, emphasizing the need to incorporate regional databases and emerging themes, especially in digital labor markets and post-pandemic employment patterns.

**Keywords:** bibliometric analysis, economic policy, Scopus, unemployment, Web of Science

## INTRODUCTION

Unemployment signifies a significant global issue that indicates and sustains economic instability. As a vital macroeconomic metric, unemployment trends provide essential insights into policies' efficacy

and economic systems' resilience. Nevertheless, the relationship between unemployment and economic policies is intricate, influenced by regional differences, sectoral characteristics, and unexpected external disruptions like health crises and geopolitical conflicts. Recent empirical research underscores the necessity for nuanced, context-dependent policy strategies to tackle unemployment challenges. Faberman et al. (2022) indicate that the pandemic has modified labor supply dynamics, particularly diminishing the willingness to work among specific demographics, especially those not participating in the labor force. This observation aligns with Gelain and Lopez (2024), who quantified that the decline has led to enduring labor market disparities, characterized by high job vacancies despite rising unemployment rates, indicating a mismatch between job availability and the skills or willingness of potential workers.

Although extensive, the unemployment and economic policy scholarship lacks a thorough bibliometric evaluation of its intellectual foundations and developmental trajectories. Bibliometric techniques effectively map research networks, identify seminal studies, and reveal significant knowledge deficits. Silalahi and Walsh (2023) document significant alterations in economics policy priorities, revealing that recent policy modifications have transformed traditional responses in labor markets. These findings frequently neglect critical interdisciplinary perspectives and regional disparities that could enhance the effectiveness of policies. The heterogeneity of labor markets further complicates the assessment of policy impacts. Ekong and Ekong (2022) present compelling evidence that shocks in worker reallocation induce asymmetric effects across sectors. Their analysis indicates that while a specific monetary policy may boost overall economic performance, its impacts on distinct sectors vary significantly, necessitating a more nuanced policy design that accounts for these disparities.

Recent studies increasingly underscore the importance of structural reforms in mitigating persistent unemployment. Matschke and Nie (2022) identify that nominal rigidities and informational frictions diminish labor market efficiency, highlighting the necessity for comprehensive structural adjustments. Their findings showed how rigidity may lead firms to opt for layoffs instead of wage reductions in response to declining revenues, thereby extending unemployment durations - the intricate relationship between regional disparities and policy effectiveness warrants scrutiny. Building on previous research, Trejo Nieto (2021) asserts that patterns of worker reallocation differ markedly, with regions exhibiting robust economic growth attracting a higher concentration of skilled labor, while lagging areas may suffer from brain drain, exacerbating existing inequalities. Recent studies have also emphasized the pivotal role of institutional frameworks in influencing the outcomes of reforms. These reforms entail more than mere technical modifications. They necessitate holistic approaches that consider sociopolitical aspects and the economic ramifications of alterations in labor regulations. In their research within the Spanish context, Cárdenas et al. (2020) argue that labor market reforms have enhanced price competitiveness, corporate profitability, and job creation through increased labor market flexibility.

In this context, bibliometric analysis serves to connect research and policy. By systematically mapping knowledge and identifying new research areas, scholarly focus can be directed to critical, underexplored topics at the nexus of technology and labor markets. The insights gained can enhance interdisciplinary collaboration, integrating diverse viewpoints on unemployment issues. To address these multifaceted challenges, this study employs comprehensive bibliometric methods to analyze academic literature on economic policies and unemployment. It focuses on six key research questions:

RQ1. What are the publication growth trends and patterns in economic policies and unemployment research across Scopus and Web of Science databases from 1966 to 2024?

RQ2. Which journals have demonstrated the highest productivity and impact in publishing research on economic policies and unemployment, as measured by publication metrics and citation impact?

RQ3. Who are the most influential authors, and what are their significant contributions to economic policies and unemployment research based on citation analysis?

RQ4. Which research institutions have made substantial contributions to economic policies and unemployment research, and how are these contributions geographically distributed?

RQ5. What are the dominant subject areas in economic policies and unemployment research, and how do they reflect the field's disciplinary composition?

RQ6. What are the key research themes and emerging trends in economic policies and unemployment research, as revealed through keyword network analysis?

This research integrates bibliometric insights with labor market trends to elucidate the influence of academic contributions on policy debates. It highlights the importance of multidisciplinary approaches in formulating effective strategies for the complex and evolving unemployment challenges.

## METHODOLOGY

**Materials and Methods**

This study utilizes a bibliometric methodology to examine the relationship between economic policies and unemployment rates within labor markets. The research employs advanced analytical tools, explicitly mapping analysis via VOSviewer and trend evaluation through ScientoPy. A diverse dataset is constructed by extracting pertinent publications from Scopus and WoS databases using defined search criteria. The dataset's formation is based on specific keyword combinations outlined in Table 1, which is crucial for identifying relevant literature. Data collection was conducted without temporal limitations, concluding on January 7, 2025, to ensure thorough coverage. The choice of Scopus and WoS databases is deliberate, given their prominence as leading bibliometric research sources in academic settings (Abdullah et al., 2023). These databases are characterized by extensive scholarly coverage, rigorous quality control, sophisticated metadata, advanced analytical features, and international representation (Pranckutė, 2021).

The research framework utilizes two analytical software tools: ScientoPy and VOSviewer, each fulfilling unique analytical roles. ScientoPy is a bibliometric analysis instrument that systematically assesses key research components, such as dominant themes, author contributions, geographic distributions, and significant publications (Abdullah, 2022). It provides transparent and reproducible analysis protocols as an open-source, Python-based tool. Its advanced pre-processing capabilities are particularly beneficial, effectively reducing biases in individual publications (Ruiz-Rosero et al., 2019). This pre-processing significantly enhances analysis quality by improving data accuracy, coherence, and representational validity within the extensive Scopus and WoS datasets. VOSviewer is employed to create detailed co-occurrence maps of authors' terms related to economic policies and unemployment for visualization and network examination. This method facilitates the systematic identification and analysis of research themes that have influenced global scholarly discourse on the implications of economic policy on unemployment (Abdullah, 2021).

**Table 1**

*Search Strategy for Extracting Data from the Web of Science and Scopus Databases*

| Database | Search Strategy | Records |
|---|---|---|
| Web of Science (WoS) | Topic: ("economic policy" OR "economic policies") AND "unemployment" | 383 |
| Scopus | Article title, Abstract & Keywords: ("economic policy" OR "economic policies") AND " unemployment" | 715 |

**Pre-processing of Retrieved Datasets**

The dataset underwent comprehensive pre-processing procedures using ScientoPy software to ensure data quality and eliminate redundancies while preserving essential bibliometric information. As shown in Table 2, the initial data collection yielded 1,098 raw entries. The document-type filtering criteria assessment resulted in no article exclusions, maintaining all 1,098 papers in the dataset. WoS contributed 383 entries (34.90%) to these initial publications, while Scopus provided 715 entries (65.10%). Further analysis identified 231 duplicate entries, constituting 21.00% of the original dataset. Among these duplicates, four papers (1.00%) were removed from WoS and 227 papers (31.70%) from Scopus. Among the duplicated documents, 158 papers (68.40%) showed divergent citation counts. Following the systematic elimination of duplicates, the final refined dataset comprised 867 unique publications, with 379 papers (43.70%) from WoS and 488 papers (56.30%) from Scopus. The resulting collection established a robust foundation for subsequent bibliometric analysis.

**Table 2**

*Information on Initial Data Analysis*

| Information | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Original data: | | |
| Loaded papers | 1098 | |
| Omitted papers by document type | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total papers after omitted papers removed | 1098 | |
| Loaded papers from WoS | 383 | 34.90% |
| Loaded papers from Scopus | 715 | 65.10% |
| | | |
| Duplicated removal results: | | |
| Duplicated papers found | 231 | 21.00% |
| Removed duplicated papers from WoS | 4 | 1.00% |
| Removed duplicated papers from Scopus | 227 | 31.70% |
| Duplicated documents with different cites by | 158 | 68.40% |
| Total papers after removing duplicates | 867 | |
| Papers from WoS | 379 | 43.70% |
| Papers from Scopus | 488 | 56.30% |

*Source: Author's figure (Generated via ScientoPy v2.1.3)*

**RESULTS**

The investigation's findings thoroughly respond to the research questions established in the methodology. The results are illustrated using graphical tools, ScientoPy and VOSviewer.

**Publication Growth Trends**

Figure 1 and Table 3 present the bibliometric analysis of research publications on economic policies and unemployment from 1966 to 2024. The analysis shows a total of 867 publications across both databases. Scopus contributed 488 publications, displaying an annual growth rate (AGR) of -1%, an average of 15.5 documents per year (ADY), and 6.4% of documents in the last years (PDLY). The Scopus publications achieved an h-index of 45. Web of Science (WoS) contained 379 publications, with an AGR of 3%, ADY of 30, and PDLY of 15.9%. The WoS publications recorded an h-index of 37. Figure 1 illustrates these publication trends over the studied period, showing the temporal distribution of documents across both databases.

**Figure 1**
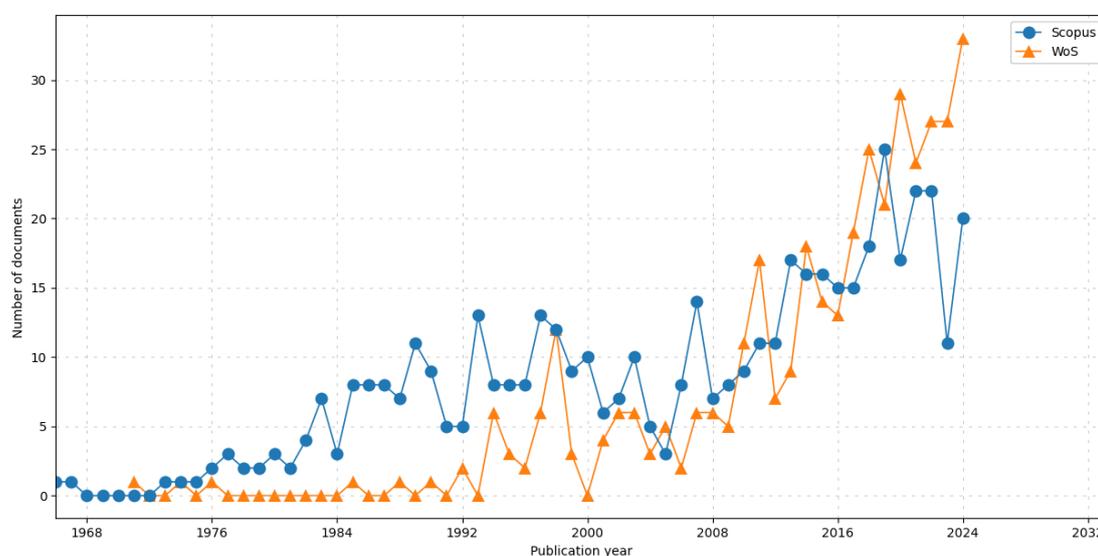*The Publication Growth Trends (Source: Author, using ScientoPy v2.1.3)*



**Table 3**
*Total Publication in Scopus and WoS Databases by AGR, ADY, PDLY, and h-index*

| Rank | Data Base | Total | AGR | ADY | PDLY | h-Index |
|------|-----------|-------|-----|-----|------|---------|
| 1 | Scopus | 488 | -1 | 15.5 | 6.4 | 45 |
| 2 | WoS | 379 | 3 | 30 | 15.9 | 37 |

*Source: Author's figure (Generated via ScientoPy v2.1.3)*

Note:   *AGR=Average growth rate, ADY=Average documents per year, PDLY=Percentage of documents in last years, h-index=standard scholarly metric in which the number of published papers, and the number of times their author is cited, is put into relation*

**Publications by Source Title**

Figure 2 and Table 4 show the bibliometric analysis of source titles in economic policies and unemployment research, identifying the top 10 contributing journals based on publication metrics. The International Labour Review leads with 16 publications and an h-index of 9, demonstrating an annual growth rate (AGR) of 0% and average documents per year (ADY) of 0.5, with a percentage of documents in the last year (PDLY) of 6.2%. The Oxford Review of Economic Policy follows with 13 publications, recording an h-index of 11. Applied Economics and Sustainability (Switzerland) share the third position with nine publications each, with the latter showing a higher h-index (7 compared to 4) and a positive AGR (0.5). For fifth and sixth ranking, Cambridge Journal of Economics and Economic Modelling contribute eight publications each, though with different impact metrics (h-indices of 6 and 3, respectively). The citation impact measured by the h-index ranges from 11 for the Oxford Review of Economic Policy to 3 for Economic Modelling.

**Figure 2**
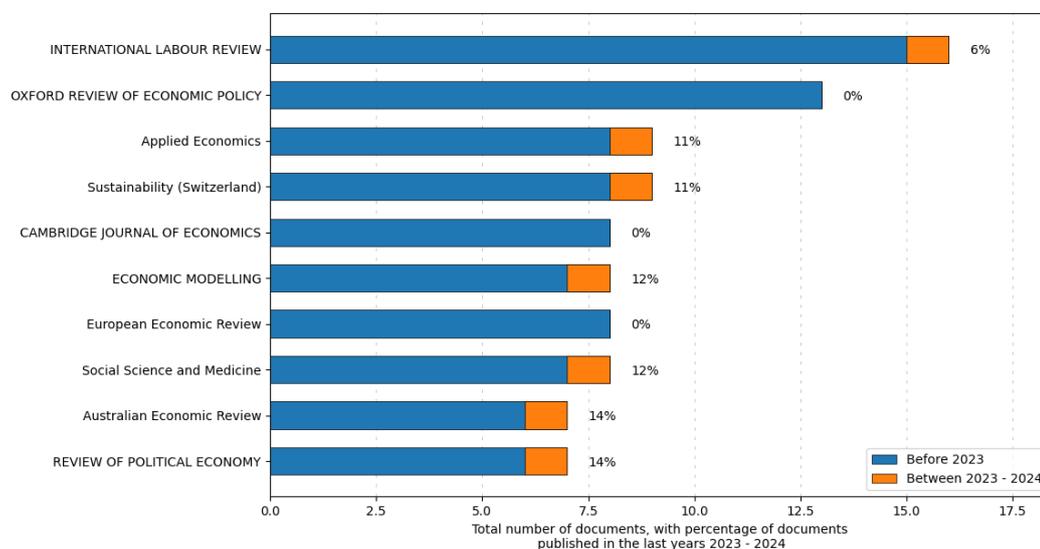*Publications by Source Title (Source: Author, using ScientoPy 2.1.3)*



**Table 4**
*Total Publication by Source Title: AGR, ADY, PDLY, and h-index*

| Rank | Source Title | Total | AGR | ADY | PDLY | h-Index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | International Labour Review | 16 | 0 | 0.5 | 6.2 | 9 |
| 2 | Oxford Review of Economic Policy | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 3 | Applied Economics | 9 | 0 | 0.5 | 11.1 | 4 |
| 4 | Sustainability (Switzerland) | 9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 11.1 | 7 |
| 5 | Cambridge Journal of Economics | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 6 | Economic Modelling | 8 | -0.5 | 0.5 | 12.5 | 3 |
| 7 | European Economic Review | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 8 | Social Science and Medicine | 8 | -1 | 0.5 | 12.5 | 6 |
| 9 | Australian Economic Review | 7 | 0 | 0.5 | 14.3 | 4 |
| 10 | Review of Political Economy | 7 | 0 | 0.5 | 14.3 | 5 |

*Source: Author's figure (Generated via ScientoPy v2.1.3)*

*Note:*   *AGR=Average growth rate, ADY=Average documents per year, PDLY=Percentage of documents in last years, h-index=standard scholarly metric in which the number of published papers, and the number of times their author is cited, is put into relation*

**Publications by Authors**

Table 5 shows the bibliometric analysis of influential authors in economic policies and unemployment research, identifying the field's top 10 most cited publications. Gordon (1997) leads with 326 citations for research on NAIRU and economic policy implications in the Journal of Economic Perspectives. Caggiano et al. (2017) and Alvarez (1991) share the second position with 246 citations each, studying economic policy uncertainty in the United States and government partisanship, respectively. Mains (2007) ranks fourth with 230 citations for research on neoliberalism and unemployment in Ethiopia, published in American Ethnologist. MacDonald (2011) follows with 183 citations for work on youth transitions and unemployment in the Journal of Sociology. The analysis reveals that five publications originate from the WoS database, while five are from Scopus. Most publications are categorized as articles, with one designated as an article and proceedings paper, demonstrating the predominance of scholarly articles in this research domain.

**Table 5**
*Publication by Authors*

| Rank | Authors | Title | Source Title | Cited by | Document Type | Source |
|------|---------|-------|--------------|----------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Gordon (1997) | The time-varying NAIRU and its implications for economic policy | Journal of Economic Perspectives | 326 | Article; Proceedings Paper | WoS |
| 2 | Caggiano et al. (2017) | Economic policy uncertainty and unemployment in the United States: A nonlinear approach | Economic Letters | 246 | Article | WoS |
| 3 | Alvarez et al. (1991) | Government Partisanship, Labor Organization, and Macroeconomic Performance | American Political Science Review | 246 | Article | Scopus |
| 4 | Mains (2007) | Neoliberal times: Progress, boredom, and shame among young men in urban Ethiopia | American Ethnologist | 230 | Article | Scopus |
| 5 | MacDonald (2011) | Youth transitions, unemployment and underemployment: Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose? | Journal of Sociology | 183 | Article | Scopus |
| 6 | Aliber (2003) | Chronic poverty in South Africa: | World Development | 171 | Article | Scopus |

| 7 | Hanley and Sikk (2016) | Incidence, causes and policies Economy, corruption or floating voters? Explaining the breakthroughs of anti-establishment reform parties in eastern Europe | Party Politics | 166 | Article | Scopus |
| 8 | D'Amuri and Marcucci (2017) | The predictive power of Google searches in forecasting US unemployment | International Journal of Forecasting | 154 | Article | WoS |
| 9 | Feldstein (1997) | The political economy of the European economic and monetary union: Political sources of an economic liability | Journal of Economic Perspectives | 150 | Article | WoS |
| 10 | Hailemariam et al. (2019) | Oil prices and economic policy uncertainty: Evidence from a nonparametric panel data model | Energy Economics | 149 | Article | WoS |

*Source: Author's figure (Generated via ScientoPy v2.1.3)*

## Publications by Institutions

Figure 3 and Table 6 illustrate the bibliometric analysis of institutional contributions to economic policies and unemployment research, highlighting the top 10 contributing institutions worldwide. The University of Valladolid, Spain, leads with five publications, showing an annual growth rate (AGR) of 0.5%, average documents per year (ADY) of 1.5, and percentage of documents in the last year (PDLY) of 60%. Four institutions share the second position with four publications each: Australian National University (Australia), University Cattolica Sacro Cuore (Italy), University of Melbourne (Australia), and University of Pretoria (South Africa), with h-indices ranging from 4 to 2. The remaining institutions each contributed three publications, including Curtin University (Australia), IZA (Germany), Monash University (Australia), Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), and University of Huelva (Spain), with the latter showing a positive AGR (0.5) and PDLY of 33.3%. The citation impact measured by h-index ranges from 4 for Australian National University and University of Pretoria to 2 for several institutions.

**Figure 3**

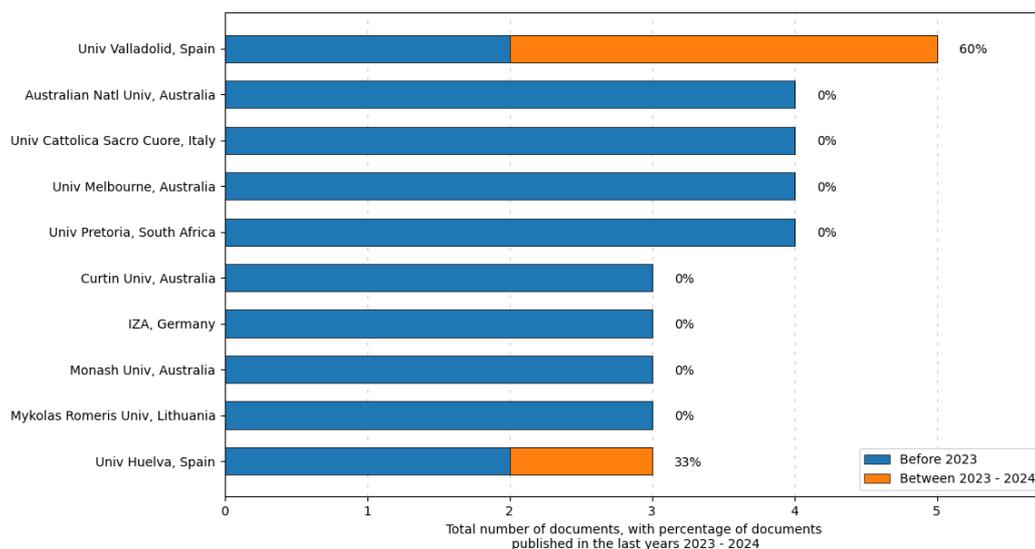*Publication by Institution (Source: Author, using ScientoPy 2.1.3)*



**Table 6**

*Publication by Institutions*

| Rank | Institution With Country | Total | AGR | ADY | PDLY | h-Index |
|:---:|---|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| 1 | University of Valladolid, Spain | 5 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 60 | 3 |
| 2 | Australian National University, Australia | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 3 | Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 4 | University of Melbourne, Australia | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 5 | University of Pretoria, South Africa | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 6 | Curtin University, Australia | 3 | -0.5 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 7 | IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Germany | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 8 | Monash University, Australia | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 9 | Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 | University of Huelva, Spain | 3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 33.3 | 2 |

*Source: Author's figure (Generated via ScientoPy v2.1.3)*

*Note:*  *AGR=Average growth rate, ADY=Average documents per year, PDLY=Percentage of documents in last years, h-index=standard scholarly metric in which the number of published papers, and the number of times their author is cited, is put into relation*

**Dominant Subject Areas**

Figure 4 and Table 7 display the bibliometric analysis of subject areas in economic policies and unemployment research, revealing the dominant fields and their publication patterns. Business and Economics emerges as the leading subject area with 357 publications, demonstrating an annual growth rate (AGR) of 1.5%, average documents per year (ADY) of 28.5, and percentage of documents in last years (PDLY) of 16%. Social Sciences - Other Topics follows with 26 publications (AGR: 1.5%, ADY: 2.5, PDLY: 19.2%), while Public Administration ranks third with 17 publications (AGR: 0.5%, ADY: 1.5, PDLY: 17.6%). Government and Law contributes 15 publications, and Sociology follows with 12

publications. The citation impact measured by the h-index ranges from 37 for Business and Economics to 4 for Social Issues and Area Studies, reflecting varying levels of scholarly influence across disciplines.

**Figure 4**
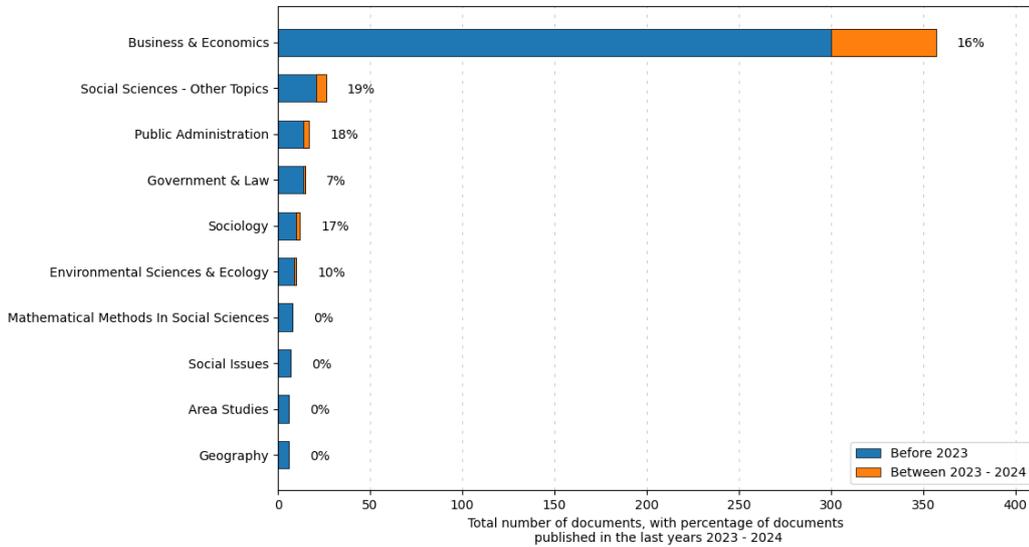*Publication by Subject Areas (Source: Author, using ScientoPy v2.1.3)*



**Table 7**
*Publication by Subject Areas*

| Rank | Subject | Total | AGR | ADY | PDLY | h-Index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Business & Economics | 357 | 1.5 | 28.5 | 16 | 37 |
| 2 | Social Sciences - Other Topics | 26 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 19.2 | 8 |
| 3 | Public Administration | 17 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 17.6 | 6 |
| 4 | Government & Law | 15 | 0 | 0.5 | 6.7 | 6 |
| 5 | Sociology | 12 | 0 | 1 | 16.7 | 8 |
| 6 | Environmental Sciences & Ecology | 10 | -0.5 | 0.5 | 10 | 6 |
| 7 | Mathematical Methods In Social Sciences | 8 | -0.5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 8 | Social Issues | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 9 | Area Studies | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 10 | Geography | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

*Source: Author's figure (Generated via ScientoPy v2.1.3)*

*Note:    AGR=Average growth rate, ADY=Average documents per year, PDLY=Percentage of documents in last years, h-index=standard scholarly metric in which the number of published papers, and the number of times their author is cited, is put into relation*
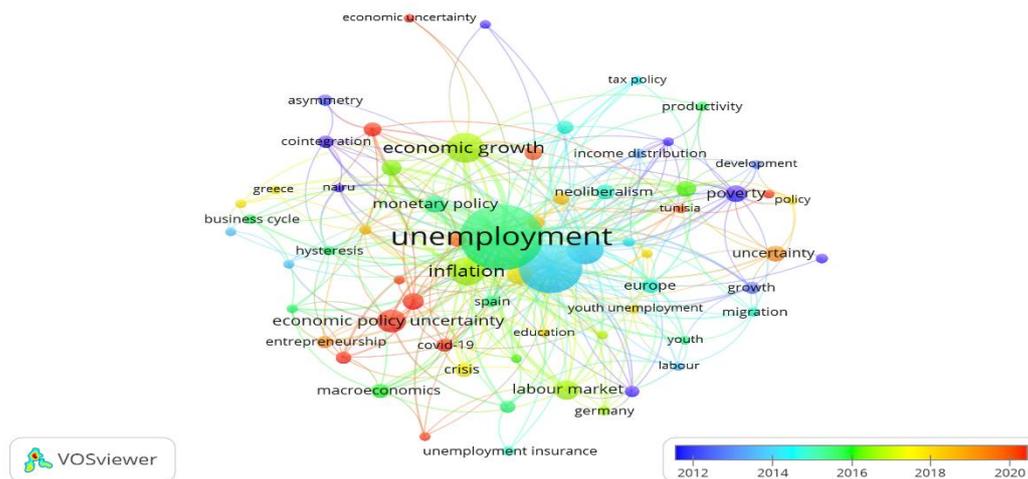
**Publications by Authors' Keywords and Emerging Trends**

Figure 5 visualizes the bibliometric analysis of authors' keywords and emerging trends in economic policies and unemployment research through network mapping. The network visualization reveals three significant clusters: economic policy-related terms (shown in red), including "fiscal policy," "monetary policy," and "economic growth"; unemployment-focused concepts (displayed in blue), encompassing "labor market," "employment," and "youth unemployment"; and methodological approaches (depicted

in green), featuring "panel data," "causality," and "time series analysis." The strongest connections appear between "economic policy" and "unemployment" as central nodes, with multiple bridging terms like "inflation," "economic crisis," and "labor market reforms" linking the clusters. The spatial distribution indicates that policy-oriented research dominates the field, while emerging themes around "digital economy," "sustainable development," and "COVID-19 impact" appear in the peripheral nodes, suggesting new research directions. This network analysis provides insights into established research streams and evolving field inquiry areas.

**Figure 5**

*The Overlay Visualisation of the Co-occurrence of Authors' Keywords (Source: Author, using ScientoPy v2.1.3)*



## DISCUSSION

**Interpretation of Findings**

The bibliometric analysis of economic policies and unemployment research reveals distinctive patterns and trends that warrant detailed examination. This section critically evaluates the primary findings while considering broader implications and limitations.

In addressing RQ1, the analysis shows contrasting publication patterns between databases, with WoS demonstrating growth (AGR: 3%) and higher average annual publications (ADY: 30) despite fewer total publications (379) compared to Scopus's negative growth (AGR: -1%) with lower output (ADY: 15.5) but more extensive total publications (488). The higher h-index in Scopus (45 versus 37 for WoS) indicates different dynamics in research impact. These variations highlight essential considerations about database coverage and indexing practices. The differences in PDLY values (WoS: 15.9%, Scopus: 6.4%) suggest distinct temporal patterns in research dissemination. This trend suggests a potential shift in publication preferences among researchers, possibly influenced by database-specific submission and indexing policies. The contrasting growth patterns between databases might indicate changing researcher preferences or evolving database coverage policies.

Regarding RQ2, the analysis of publication sources reveals significant patterns in research dissemination. The International Labour Review's leadership (16 publications), with a moderate h-index of 9, suggests balanced coverage of theoretical and practical aspects. The Oxford Review of Economic Policy's prominence (13 publications, h-index: 11) indicates strong policy orientation. The varying h-indices across journals (11 to 3) reflect diverse research impact levels. The modest PDLY values (International Labour Review: 6.2%, Sustainability: 11.1%) suggest historical depth rather than recent concentration. The presence of specialized and interdisciplinary journals, including new entries like Sustainability (Switzerland), indicates an evolving research scope and a growing recognition of unemployment's complex socio-environmental dimensions. The modest PDLY values across journals suggest a mature field with established publication venues, though this might also indicate potential barriers to emerging research perspectives.

The author analysis (RQ3) reveals evolving research priorities, with Gordon's (1997) work on NAIRU and economic policy implications leading with 326 citations, followed by contemporary studies on policy uncertainty (Caggiano et al., 2017) and institutional frameworks (Alvarez, 1991) with 246 citations each. The equal distribution between WoS and Scopus (five publications each) demonstrates balanced database representation. At the same time, the temporal spread of citations from 1991 to 2019 reflects the field's progression from theoretical frameworks to practical policy applications. The diversity in research themes among highly cited works, ranging from macroeconomic theory to regional unemployment challenges, indicates the field's expanding scope. However, database-specific indexing practices and regional research priorities may influence citation patterns.

The institutional analysis (RQ4) demonstrates a notable geographical concentration in research contributions, with the University of Valladolid (Spain) leading with five publications (AGR: 0.5%, PDLY: 60%), while four institutions - including Australian National University, University Cattolica Sacro Cuore, University of Melbourne, and University of Pretoria - share the second position with four publications each. The varying h-indices (ranging from 4 to 2) and the predominance of European and Australian institutions highlight significant disparities in research impact and regional representation, potentially reflecting the uneven distribution of research resources and funding capabilities across global academic institutions. This geographical imbalance, particularly the limited representation from developing economies and regions experiencing significant unemployment challenges, suggests a gap in context-specific research that could inform more effective local unemployment policies and interventions.

The subject area analysis (RQ5) reveals a significant disciplinary concentration, with Business and Economics dominating the field with 357 publications (AGR: 1.5%, ADY: 28.5, PDLY: 16%, h-index: 37), while emerging contributions from Social Sciences (26 publications, AGR: 1.5%, PDLY: 19.2%) and Public Administration (17 publications, AGR: 0.5%, PDLY: 17.6%) signal an expanding interdisciplinary scope. The substantial variation in h-indices across disciplines (ranging from 37 for Business and Economics to 4 for Social Issues and Area Studies) and citation patterns suggest different research maturity and impact levels, potentially indicating a historical bias toward economic perspectives in unemployment research. While reflecting the traditional economic foundation of unemployment studies, this disciplinary imbalance highlights the growing recognition of unemployment as a complex socio-economic phenomenon requiring diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, particularly evident in the recent growth of interdisciplinary publications and emerging research themes.

The keyword network analysis (RQ6) illuminates three distinct thematic clusters in the research landscape: economic policy-related terms (including fiscal policy, monetary policy, and economic growth), unemployment-focused concepts (encompassing labor market, employment, and youth unemployment), and methodological approaches (featuring panel data, causality, and time series analysis). The network visualization reveals strong interconnections between central nodes of "economic policy" and "unemployment," bridged by terms like "inflation," "economic crisis," and "labor market reforms." At the same time, emerging themes such as "digital economy," "sustainable development," and "COVID-19 impact" appear in peripheral positions. This structural arrangement of keywords indicates the field's traditional theoretical foundations and evolving nature. However, the peripheral positioning of contemporary themes suggests a potential lag in addressing modern labor market challenges, particularly in technological disruption, sustainability considerations, and post-pandemic employment dynamics. The network structure also reveals research gaps in emerging areas, indicating the need for more rapid integration of contemporary socio-economic factors and methodological innovations in unemployment research.

**Implications for Practice**

The bibliometric analysis yields significant practical implications for economic policy and unemployment research stakeholders. The strong representation of Business and Economics (357 publications) with high-impact metrics (h-index: 37) emphasizes the need for evidence-based economic policymaking. The emergence of interdisciplinary journals like Sustainability (Switzerland) and diverse subject areas suggests practitioners should adopt more holistic approaches. The analysis of institutional contributions reveals geographical concentrations, primarily in Europe and Australia, indicating opportunities for broader international collaboration and knowledge transfer. Practitioners should focus on developing evidence-based policies informed by high-impact research across different economic contexts while creating collaborative frameworks that leverage global expertise and consider local economic conditions. Implementing systematic evaluation protocols incorporating emerging methodological approaches and regular stakeholder engagement processes is crucial, particularly in underrepresented regions.

The keyword network analysis particularly highlights the need for practitioners to adapt to emerging trends, including technological disruption and sustainable economic practices. The diverse research themes identified suggest that effective policy implementation requires a multifaceted approach considering both traditional economic indicators and emerging socio-economic factors. Organizations should prioritize integrating digital economy considerations and sustainable development principles in their unemployment management strategies while maintaining flexibility to respond to evolving labor market dynamics.

**Limitations and Future Research Recommendations**

This bibliometric analysis presents several significant limitations that require consideration. The difference in publication counts between Scopus and WoS indicates potential biases in research representation. The focus on highly cited traditional economic journals neglects innovative research in newer platforms. The geographic bias in institutional analysis favors European and Australian entities, possibly excluding significant research from regions with high unemployment. Furthermore, the keyword analysis may not adequately reflect rapid changes in digital labor markets and post-pandemic employment trends.

Future research must mitigate these limitations by incorporating regional and specialized research databases and performing comparative policy effectiveness analyses across varied economic settings. Advanced methodologies are urgently required to accurately depict emerging labor market trends and assess technological disruptions in employment policies. Scholars should investigate the influence of sustainable development goals on unemployment policies and execute longitudinal studies of policy application in overlooked regions. Additionally, merging qualitative data with quantitative bibliometric analysis would yield a more comprehensive understanding of policy effectiveness across contexts. This holistic strategy would enhance the comprehension of existing gaps while providing substantial evidence for informed policy development and execution.

## CONCLUSION

This bibliometric analysis advances our understanding of economic policies and unemployment research by systematically examining publication trends, research impacts, and emerging themes. The study reveals evolving patterns in scholarly contributions and research focus areas by analyzing 867 publications from Scopus and WoS databases (1966-2024). The findings demonstrate contrasting database dynamics, with WoS showing stronger recent engagement (PDLY: 15.9%) despite fewer overall publications, while Scopus maintains broader historical coverage. The balanced representation of theoretical and applied research is evident in the leading journals, from the policy-focused International Labour Review to emerging outlets like Sustainability, indicating the field's expanding scope.

The research landscape exhibits clear disciplinary leadership from Business and Economics yet shows promising growth in interdisciplinary engagement through increasing Social Sciences and Public Administration contributions. The analysis identifies significant thematic clusters centered around economic policy formulation, unemployment dynamics, and methodological approaches while highlighting emerging research directions in digital economics and sustainable development. This evolution reflects the field's responsiveness to contemporary unemployment and economic policy challenges.

However, the study's findings reveal significant gaps, particularly in geographical representation and emerging topic coverage. These limitations suggest opportunities for more inclusive research approaches that incorporate diverse regional perspectives and contemporary issues such as digital labor markets and post-pandemic employment patterns. The field would benefit from expanded database coverage, increased attention to developing economies, and a greater focus on technological impacts on employment. This comprehensive analysis provides valuable guidance for future research directions while emphasizing the importance of diverse perspectives in addressing global unemployment challenges.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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