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Job search and tightness during the COVID-19 crisis: Empirical evidence from Sweden and France, joint with Lena Hensvik (Uppsala) and Thomas Le Barbanchon (Bocconi)

Abstract: We use administrative data from Public Employment Service to document the evolution of the number of vacancies posted by employers and the number of clicks on vacancies by job seekers as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds. We show that, in both countries, both the number of clicks and vacancies plummet, but that the labour-market tightness initially increases. Using Swedish data, we also show that job seekers update the direction of their search to target vacancies in occupations that are relatively less impacted by the crisis.