

Figure 2. Distribution of the work force in Ecuador Amazon towns, by economic sector (percent).

ployment than in the other Amazon towns. Proximity to Colombia and the demands of pioneer farmers in the towns's frontier hinterland have made the commercial sector particularly progressive. Sustained development in the older settlement of Puyo is undoubtedly related to the combination of comparatively strong manufacturing and public service that brings revenue into the town. Principal manu-

facturing activities include wood processing, clothing, food processing, distilleries, metal working, printing, and automobile repair. Typical wood products are boards made from compressed wood chips, parquet flooring, furniture, boxes for packaging naranjilla fruit, and carved balsa ornaments destined for tourists in Quito and Guayaquil. Unlike Puyo and Nueva Loja, the smaller towns of Coca and Tena do not have a sub-specialization in manufacturing or commerce. As a result, they exhibit a more marked dependence on employment in the public sector.

The census information used to elaborate Figure 2 has been condensed in Figure 3 to facilitate comparison of mean values for the four Amazon towns to other Ecuadorean cities. Commerce, transport, and finance have been combined into a broader commercial sector, while manufacturing and construction together represent a more comprehensive manufacturing class. The primary sector has been eliminated from analysis to restrict comparison to urban-based economic sectors.

The structure of non-primary employment in primate and secondary cities is very similar to that of the nation as a whole. The

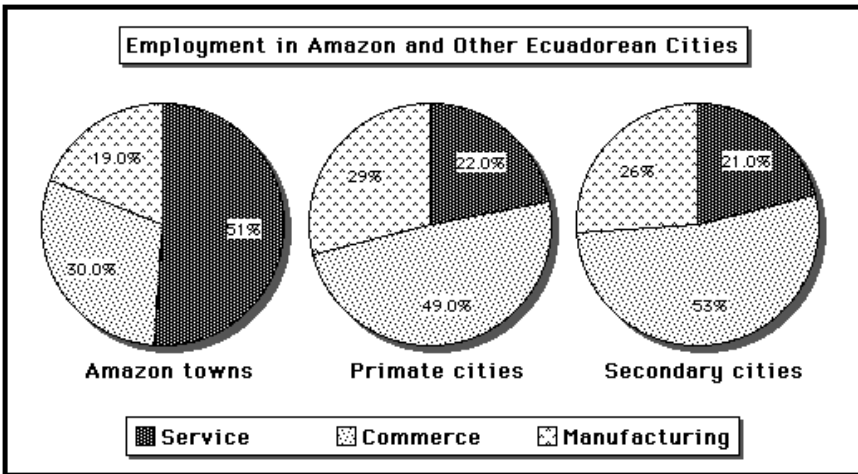


Figure 3. Employment in Amazon and other Ecuadorean cities.

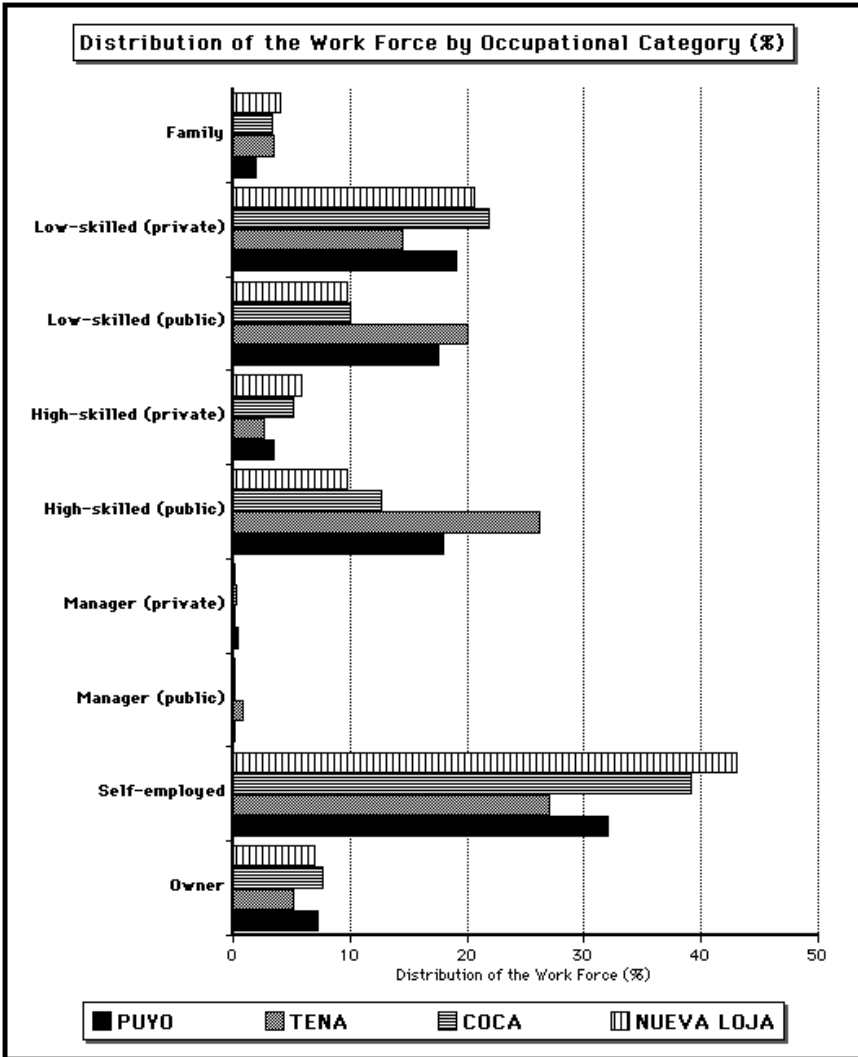


Figure 4. Distribution of the work force in Ecuador Amazon towns, by occupational category (percent).

On the other hand, public service employment clearly has an unusually strong role in Amazon towns. Census information for the nation at large indicates that jobs in the private sector outnumber those in the public sector by 2:1. In contrast, public and private sec-

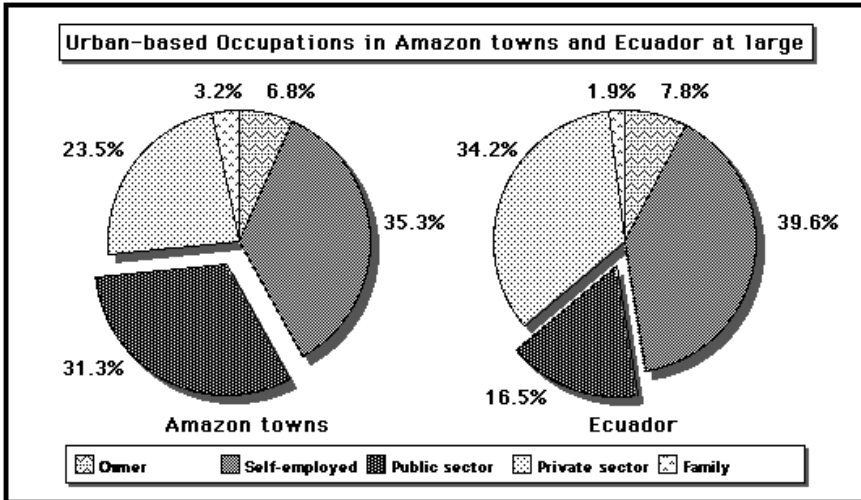


Figure 5. Urban-based occupations in Amazon towns and Ecuador at large.

Establishments in Ecuador Amazon Towns

In order to gain further insight into the employment structure of Amazon towns, a field survey of establishments was conducted in Nueva Loja and Puyo in the summer of 1993. The survey tallies (listed in Table 3) subsequently were compressed into six general economic sectors and graphed as shown on Figure 6. In an independent unpublished study, Cruz et al. (1993) derived counts of establishments from municipal archives in Tena and Coca. These tallies were extracted from that report, classified and incorporated into Figure 6.

The field surveys confirm the predominant roles of service, commerce, and manufacturing in Nueva Loja and Puyo. Construction, transportation and finance appear to be even less significant when they are assessed by number of establishments instead of census employment data. Counts of establishments also attribute much more importance to commerce while they downplay the contribution of the service sector. Indeed, commerce accounts for over two-thirds of the establishments in both towns. An obvious reason for the diminished stature of service on Figure 6 is that service establishments in

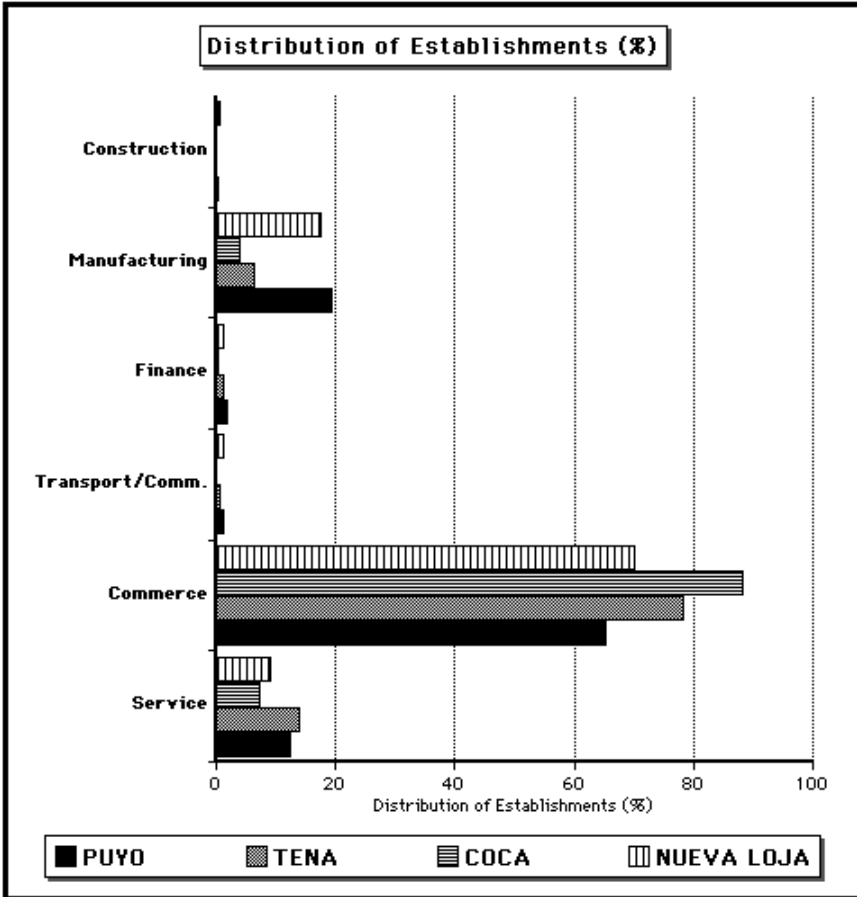


Figure 6. Distribution of establishments in Ecuador Amazon boom towns (percent).

the Oriente (hospitals, schools, government offices) have more full-time employees per unit than commercial establishments (stores, bars, restaurants). Puyo is a small town, but its City Hall employs more than 60 people and an additional 43 inhabitants work for the Pastaza Planning Council. Low frequency values assigned to construction and transport in Figure 6 also can be partially attributed to the fact that building companies and fleets of vehicles have several employees per enterprise.

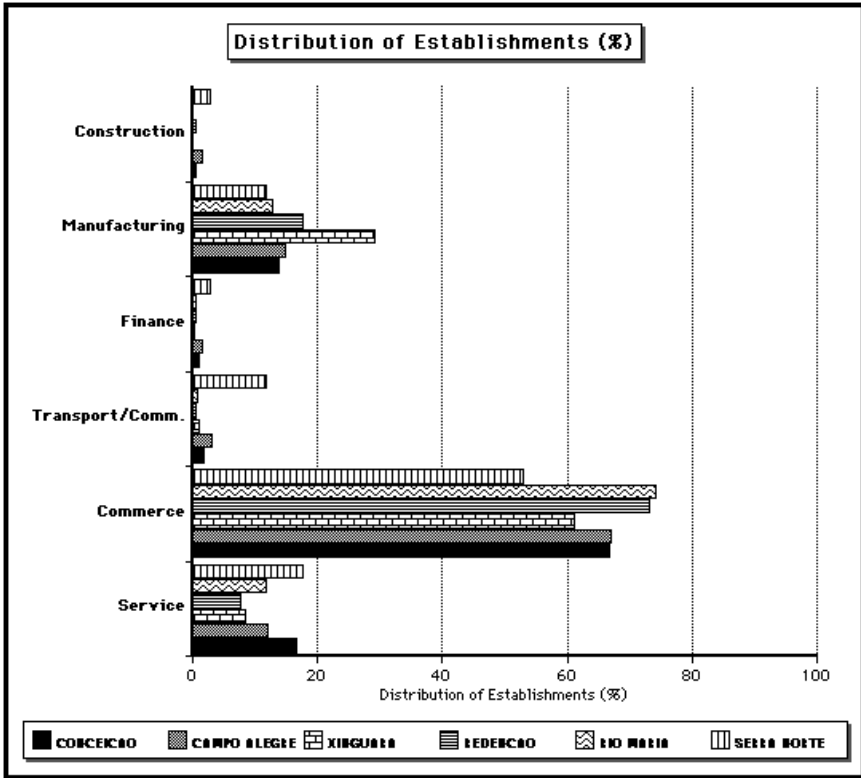


Figure 8: Distribution of establishments in Brazil Amazon boom towns (percent).

tion of the planned mining town of Serra Norte, which was comparatively well endowed with bus and air connections for a small town of 5,000. Development of the manufacturing and service sectors is similar in both regions. The unusually abundant manufacturing establishments in Xinguara were related to the temporarily dynamic lumber industry, which subsequently collapsed as the agricultural frontier was pushed deeper into the rain forest and the local supply of wood was sharply diminished (Godfrey 1990).

Table 4 indicates the mean distribution of establishments by economic sector. The functional similarity of Brazilian and Ecuadorean