

# Uncovering the Sources of Geographic Market Segmentation: Evidence from the EU and the US

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# Measuring market integration

## ▶ **Geographic market integration:**

- ▶ the unification of spatial units into larger interconnected markets
- ▶ typically happens through reductions in:
  - ▶ **within-country frictions** e.g. improvements in transport infrastructure
  - ▶ **cross-border frictions** e.g. reductions in variable or fixed trade frictions

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↳ EU Single Market Project aims for cross-border integration.

## ▶ Trade frictions are unobserved. **Two approaches:**

- ▶ between and within-country price differences: (Engel & Rogers, 1996; Goldberg & Knetter, 1997)
- ▶ between and within-country trade shares: (McCallum, 1995; Santamaria et al., 2020)



## Propose alternative approach

- ▶ **Contribution:** Detect cross-border market segmentation
  - ▶ by accounting for both price and availability differences
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- ▶ Cross-country **scanner data** to measure prices and product availability + **two-step approach:**

1. **Measurement:** estimate and decompose *regional cost-of-living differences*:

$$P^{kl} = \text{Price diff.}^{kl} + \text{Availability diff.}^{kl} + \text{Taste diff}^{kl}$$

2. **Identification:** design *spatial differencing strategy* to

- ▶ Isolate variation in between- and within-country variation in prices and availability
- ▶ Under certain conditions this variation maps to the presence of variable and fixed trade frictions.

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- 
- ▶ **Application:**
    - ▶ Detect cross-border market segmentation between EU countries
    - ▶ Compare that to potential cross-border market segmentation between US states.









# DATA AND REDUCED FORM-EVIDENCE





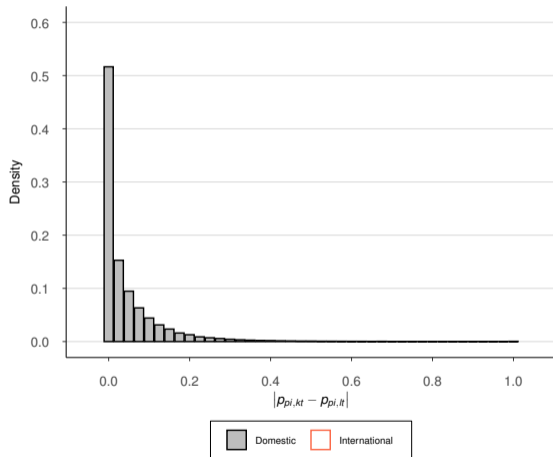


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(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

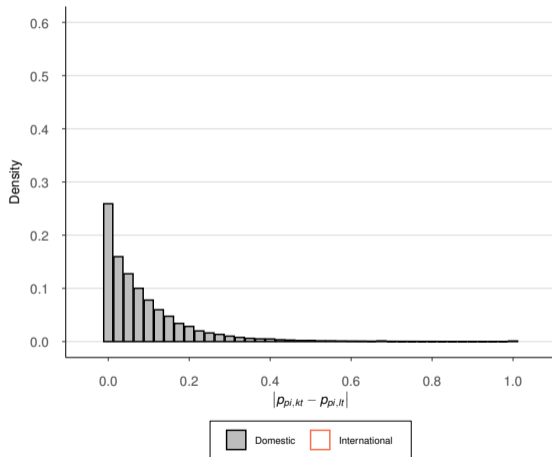


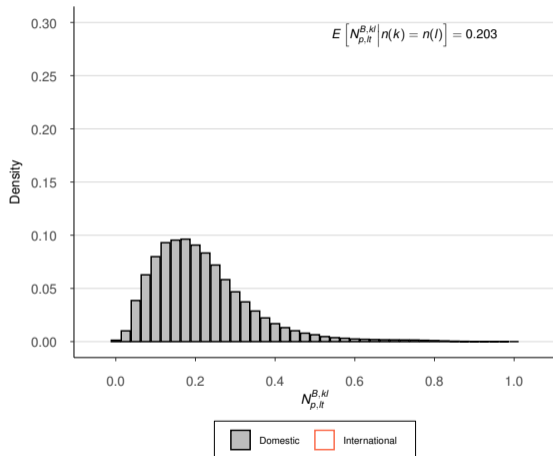
Figure 1: LOP deviations (transaction-weighted)



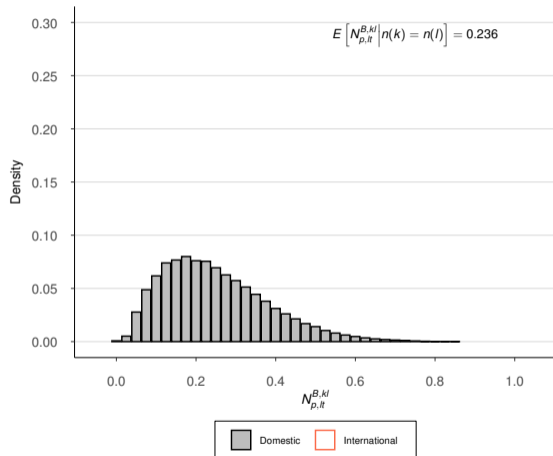
... but so are differences in product availability,  $1 - \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{B}_{p,lt}} \mathbb{1}(i \in \mathcal{B}_p^{kl})}{|\mathcal{B}_{p,lt}|}$

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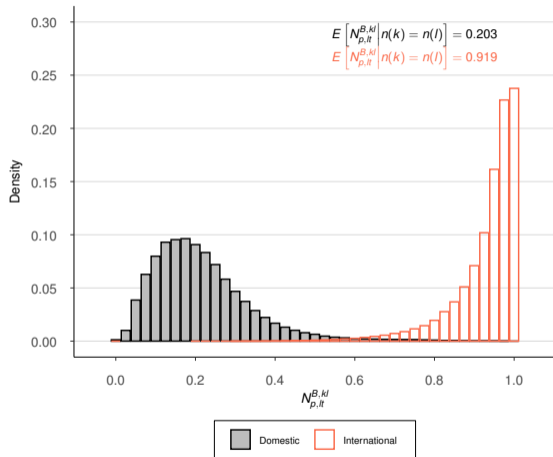
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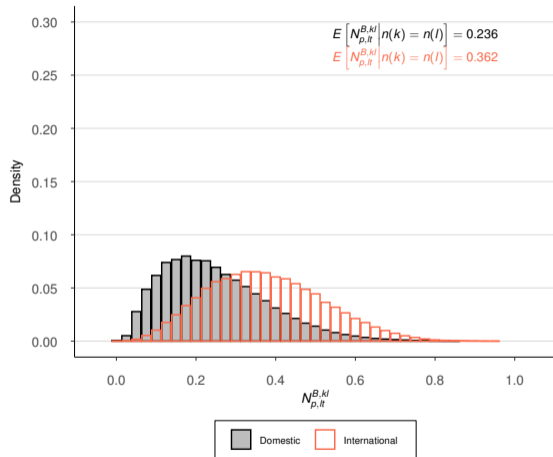
**Figure 2:** Differences in product availability: Variety-level (Numbers)

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**Figure 2:** Differences in product availability: Variety-level (Numbers)

# TWO-STEP APPROACH











## Step 2: Spatial differencing strategy - ▶ Market structure

Detecting cross-border segmentation requires controlling for domestic trade frictions.

▶ Scanner data does not have production location  $\implies$  domestic trade frictions are unobserved

$\hookrightarrow$  **Solution:** Compare absolute differences between international and domestic region pairs

## Step 2: Observed transport costs: “Simple differences”

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ Y^{kz}(1) - Y^{kz}(0) \mid B^{kz} = 1, \mathbf{X}^{kz} = \mathbf{x} \right] \quad \text{where } Y^{lz} = \begin{cases} Y^{kz}(1) & \text{if } B^{kz} = 1, \\ Y^{kz}(0) & \text{if } B^{kz} = 0, \end{cases}$$



## Step 2: Unobserved transport costs: “Differences in absolute value”

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left| Y^{kl}(1) \right| - \left| Y^{kl}(0) \right| \mid B^{kl} = 1, X^{kl} = 0 \right] \quad \text{where } Y^{kl} = \begin{cases} Y^{kl}(1) & \text{if } B^{kl} = 1, \\ Y^{kl}(0) & \text{if } B^{kl} = 0, \end{cases}$$



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## Step 2: Spatial differencing strategy - ▶ Market structure

Identifying cross-border market segmentation requires controlling for transport costs:

- ▶ With scanner data, transport costs are unobserved
- ▶ **Spatial strategy:** Compare absolute differences between international and domestic region pairs:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left| Y^{kl}(1) \right| - \left| Y^{kl}(0) \right| \mid B^{kl} = 1, \mathbf{X}^{kl} = 0 \right]$$

### Proposition (Detecting cross-border market segmentation)

Given

1. Preferences with infinite choke prices (e.g. CES)
2. No diseconomies of scale
3. Frictionless domestic entry

We have:

$$\tau_L \equiv \mathbb{E} \left[ \left| L_{p,t}^{kl}(1) \right| - \left| L_{p,t}^{kl}(0) \right| \mid B^{kl} = 1, \mathbf{X}^l = 0 \right] > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists \tau_{pfi,t} > 0$$
$$\tau_\Lambda \equiv \mathbb{E} \left[ \left| \Lambda_{p,t}^{kl}(1) \right| - \left| \Lambda_{p,t}^{kl}(0) \right| \mid B^{kl} = 1, \mathbf{X}^l = 0 \right] > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists F_{pf,t}^X, F_{pfi,t}^X > 0$$



# ESTIMATION RESULTS







# Detecting cross-border market segmentation

**Table 1:** Geographic market segmentation: Estimation results ( $\varepsilon = 0.10$ )

Y	$P_{p,t}^{kl}$	$T_{p,t}^{kl}$	$L_{p,t}^{kl}$	$\Lambda_{p,t}^{kl}$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
EUROPE				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.3787***	.3041***	.0967***	.2972***
	[.3548, .4114]	[.2866, .3276]	[.0953, .0977]	[.2768, .3259]
$\mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}_{p,t}^{kl}(0)]$	.26	.2372	.0125	.0427
Nr. treated	146	146	146	146
Nr. matched units	1	1	1	1
Nr. unique controls	81	81	81	81
Nr. obs	9,928	9,928	9,928	9,928
USA				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.0049*	.0092***	.0062***	.0145***
	[-.0008, .0098]	[.005, .0138]	[.0059, .0065]	[.0127, .0165]
$\mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}_{p,t}^{kl}(0)]$	.4168	.356	.0241	.0926
Nr. treated	601	601	601	601
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Nr. unique controls	98	98	98	98
Nr. obs	40,100	40,100	40,100	40,100

**Notes:** Block-bootstrapped standard errors on 50 iterations at the  $p < 0.1^*$ ,  $p < 0.05^{**}$  and  $p < 0.01^{***}$  levels.

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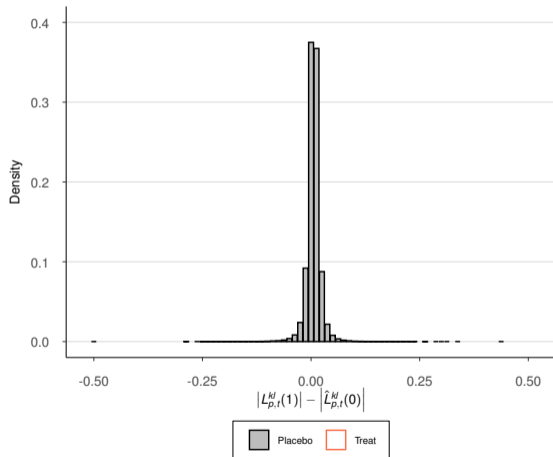
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# Placebo estimates - Price differences

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(b) United States of America

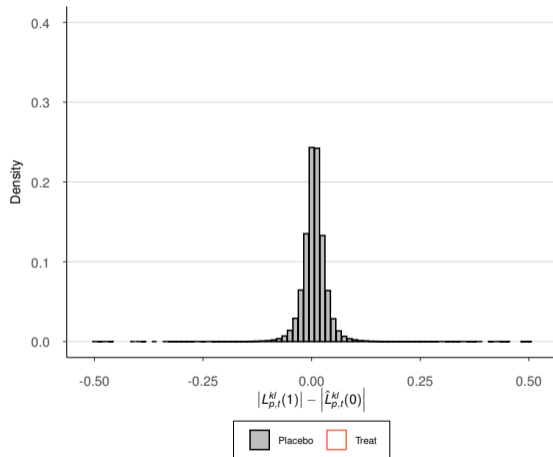
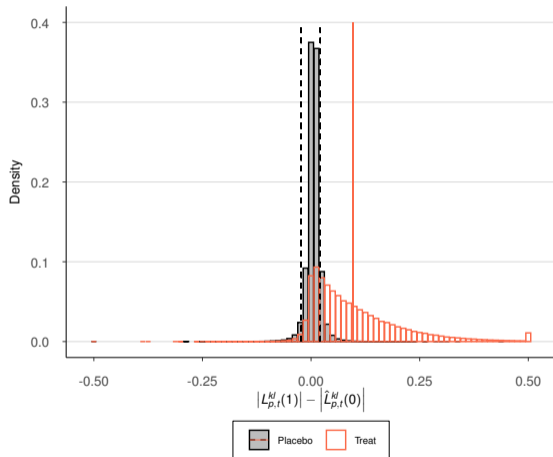


Figure 3: Price differences

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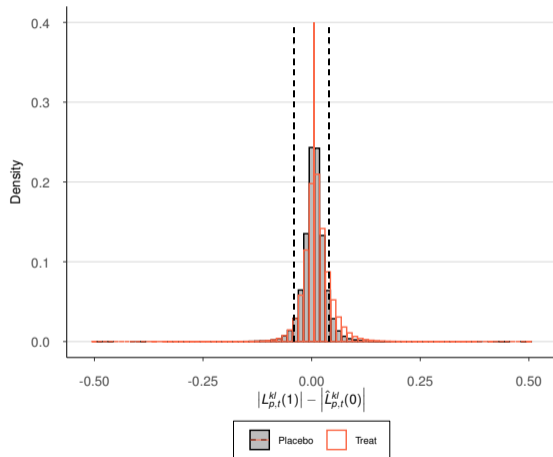
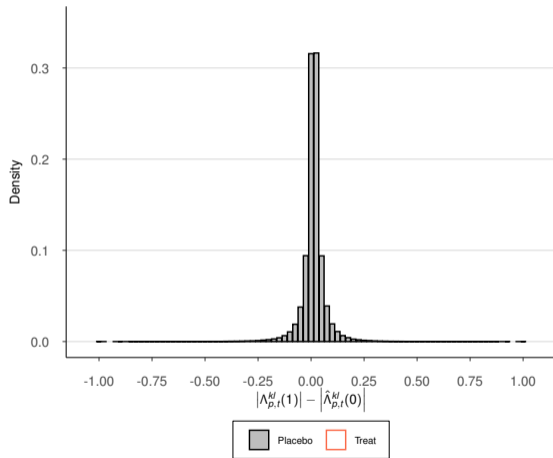


Figure 3: Price differences

# Placebo estimates - Product availability differences

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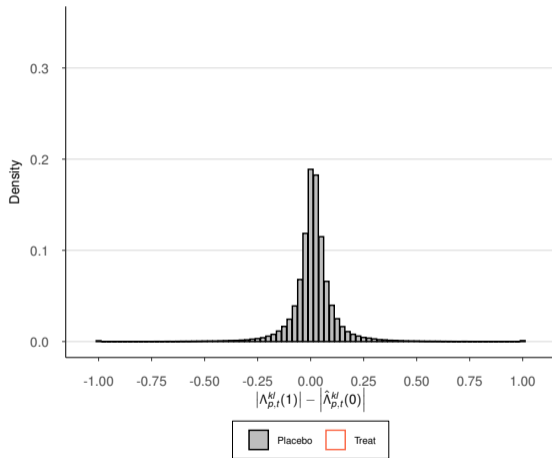
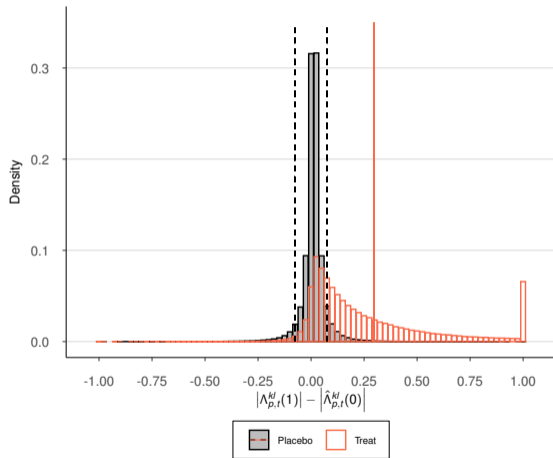


Figure 4: Differences in product availability

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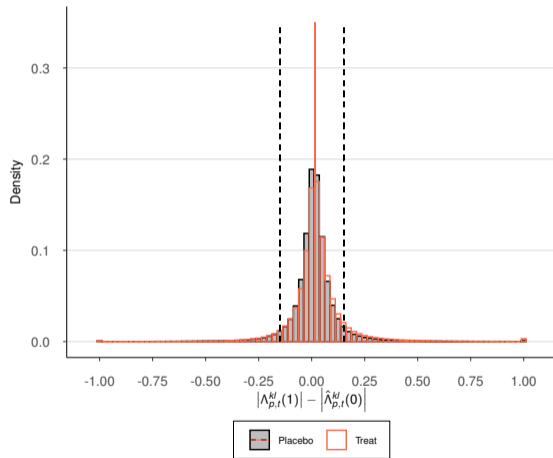


Figure 4: Differences in product availability

# CONCLUSION

# Conclusion

- ▶ Study **cross-border market segmentation** in final goods markets
- ▶ We propose an **alternative approach** in which
  - ▶ We account for both LOP deviations and choice set differences as manifestations of cross-border geographic market segmentation
  - ▶ We control for taste differences for common varieties
- ▶ Main findings:
  - ▶ **Controlling for taste differences** is quantitatively important
  - ▶ Cannot reject that **US states** are geographically integrated.
  - ▶ **European final goods markets** remain segmented across borders with most variation accounted for by differences in product availability



# APPENDIX

# Literature

- ▶ **Cost-of-living differences with CES:** Feenstra (1994); Broda & Weinstein (2006); Handbury & Weinstein (2015); Redding & Weinstein (2020); Feenstra et al. (2020); Argente et al. (2021); Cavallo et al. (2023)
  - ▶ *Literature:* Focus on differences over time, across countries or within countries
  - ▶ *This paper:* Combine differences across and within country  $\implies$  Cross-border market segmentation
- ▶ **LOP deviatons:** Engel & Rogers (1996), Gorodnichenko & Tesar (2009), ?, Cavallo et al. (2014) and Beck et al. (2020)
  - ▶ *Literature:* Focused on price differences for a small set of available varieties
  - ▶ *This paper:* Add differences in product availability
- ▶ **Border effects in Trade:** McCallum (1995), Anderson & Wincoop (2003), Helpman et al. (2008) and Santamaria et al. (2020)
  - ▶ *Literature:* Strong assumptions on demand and market structure to map trade shares to trade costs
  - ▶ *This paper:* Empirically separate geographic market segmentation from differences in consumer taste

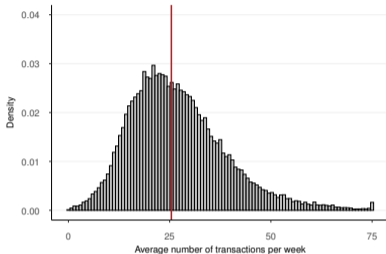
- ▶ **Household-level scanner data** at country-household-barcode-chain-time level:
  - ▶ Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands
  - ▶ Sample of households: ~ 3,500 - 22,500 households/year
  - ▶ Food and non-food FMGCs: 68 categories ~ 15% of CPI
  - ▶ Universe of stores
  - ▶ Data from 2010 to 2019
- ▶ **Firm identifiers** obtained from GS1
  - ▶ Link barcodes to unique GS1 firm IDs
  - ▶ Identify barcodes supplied by common firms across countries
- ▶ **Geographic data** from Eurostat GISCO, EEA and US Geological Survey
  - ▶ Link household ZIP codes to NUTS2 regions
  - ▶ > 80 NUTS2 region pairs.

# Comparability across countries - Transactions

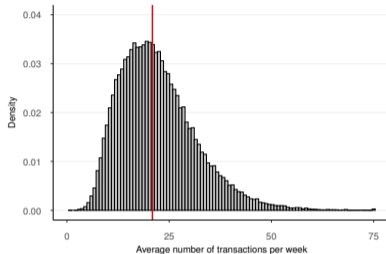
▶ Back

**Figure 5:** Purchases per week

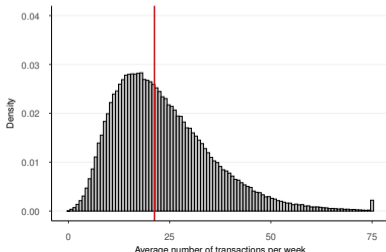
**(a)** Belgium



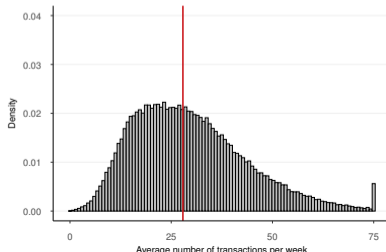
**(b)** France



**(c)** Germany



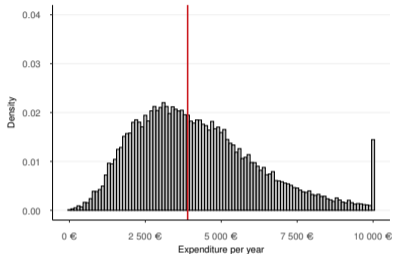
**(d)** The Netherlands



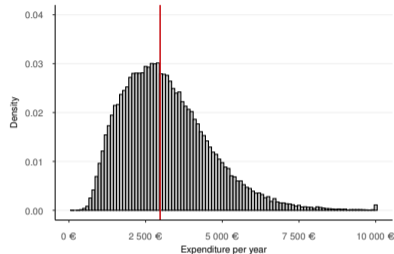
# Comparability across countries - Expenditure per year

**Figure 6:** Expenditure per year

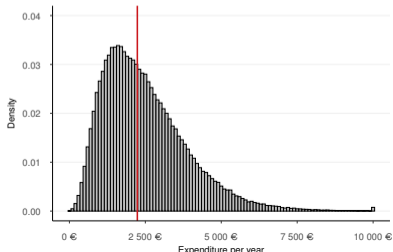
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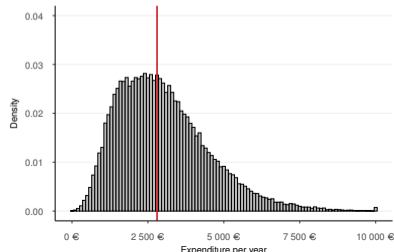
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# Comparability across countries - Firm size distribution

▶ Back

**Table 2:** Size Distribution by number of UPCs

Nr. UPCs	Belgium			France		
	Nr. Firms	Bin share	St dev. UPC sales	Nr. Firms	Bin share	St dev. UPC sales
1	174	1.47	1.36	65	0.76	1.63
2-5	126	3.90	1.42	57	2.84	1.65
6-10	33	3.78	1.50	22	3.59	1.67
11-20	23	6.69	1.54	19	6.56	1.67
21-50	15	14.34	1.62	21	16.69	1.70
51-100	7	19.47	1.68	9	19.17	1.68
≥ 100	7	56.50	1.83	9	56.50	1.74

Nr. UPCs	Germany			Netherlands		
	Nr. Firms	Bin share	St dev. UPC sales	Nr. Firms	Bin share	St dev. UPC sales
1	99	1.30	1.66	128	1.12	1.69
2-5	105	4.41	1.63	104	3.39	1.74
6-10	36	4.34	1.66	30	3.40	1.79
11-20	29	7.74	1.70	22	6.93	1.85
21-50	27	16.45	1.76	18	16.32	1.91
51-100	12	20.16	1.85	7	18.06	1.86
≥ 100	10	52.16	1.95	9	58.02	1.94







## Price differences are large ... - [▶ Back](#)

Three steps to compute a measure of LOP deviations:

1. Define the set of varieties,  $\mathcal{B}_{lt}$ , for region  $l$  at time  $t$ .
2. Define the set of common varieties,  $\mathcal{B}^{kl}$ , for regions  $k$  and  $l$ :

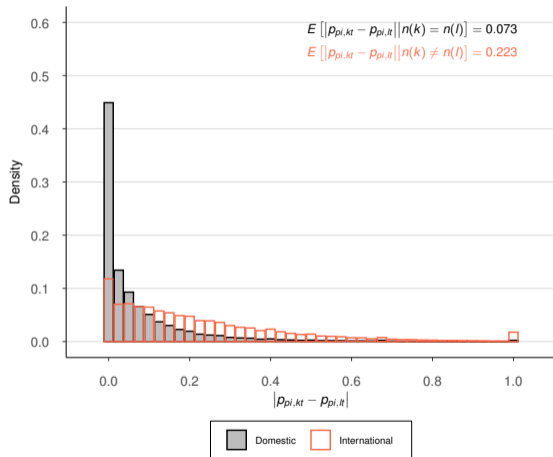
$$\mathcal{B}^{kl} \equiv \{i \mid \exists i \in \Omega_{lt} \cap \exists i \in \Omega_{kt}\}$$

3. Within region pair-time units, compute absolute LOP deviations:

$$|\rho_{pi,kt} - \rho_{pi,lt}|$$

# Price differences are large ... - [▶ Back](#)

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

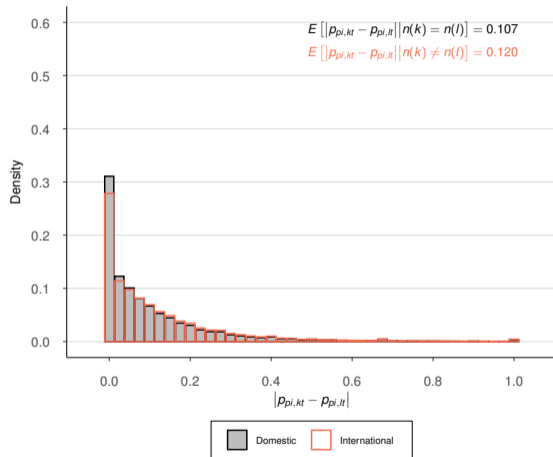
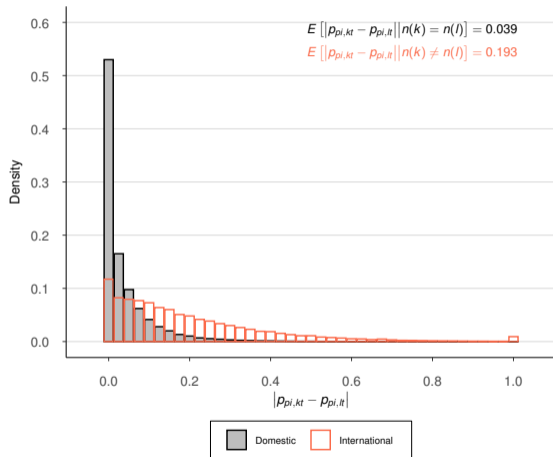


Figure 7: LOP deviations (Unweighted)

# Price differences are large ... - [▶ Back](#)

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

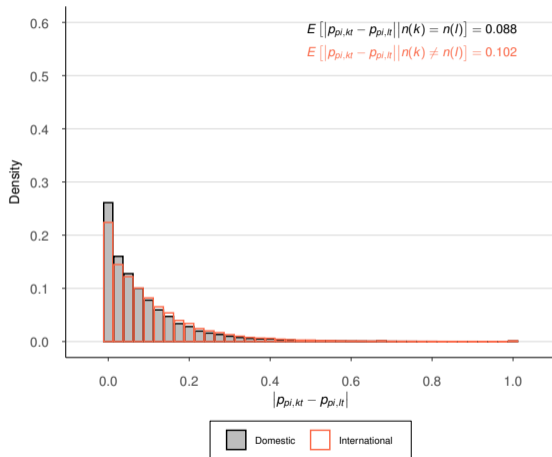
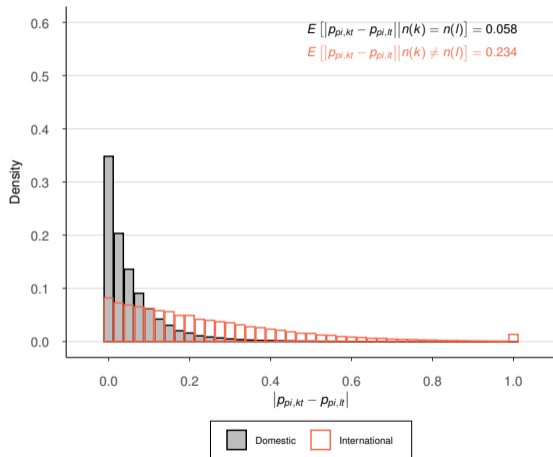


Figure 8: LOP deviations (Branded and Private label)

# Price differences are large ... - [▶ Back](#)

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

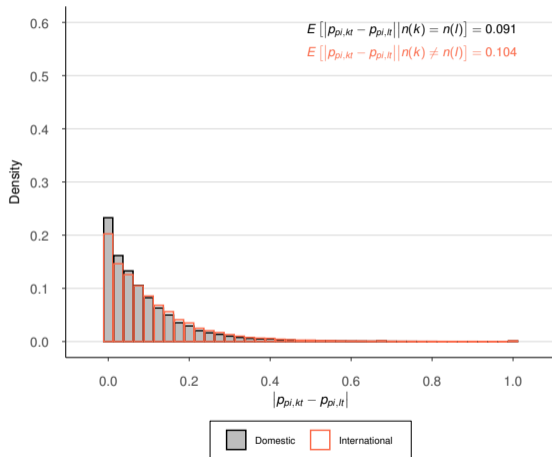
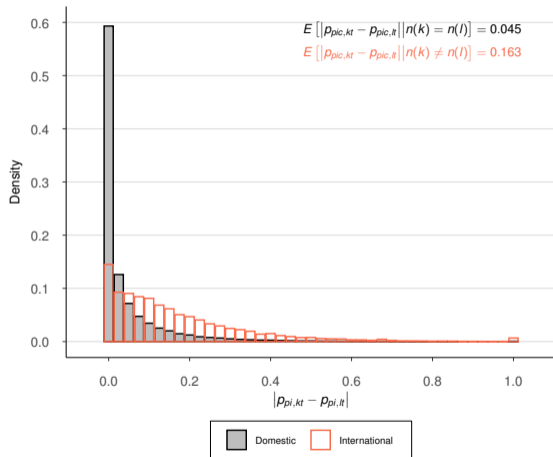


Figure 9: LOP deviations (Branded)

# Price differences are large ... - [▶ Back](#)

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

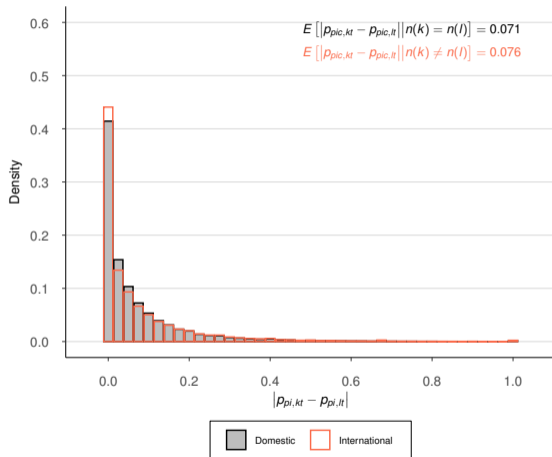


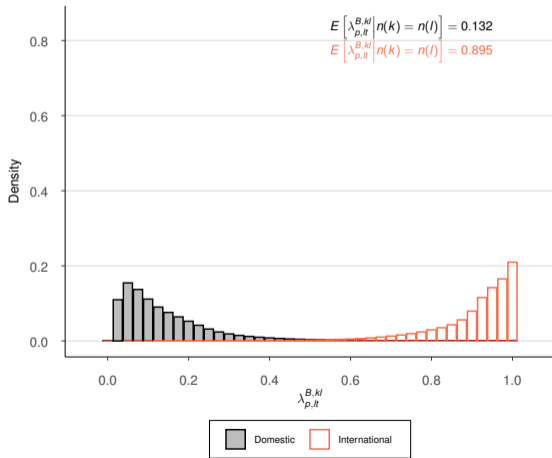
Figure 10: LOP deviations (Within chains)



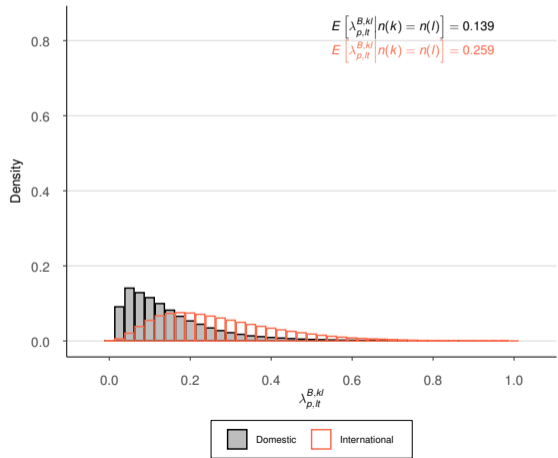
... but so are differences in product availability - 1 -  $\frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{B}_{p,lt}} E_{pfi,lt} \mathbb{1}(i \in \mathcal{B}_p^{p,kl})}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{B}_{p,lt}} E_{pfi,lt}}$

▶ Back

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

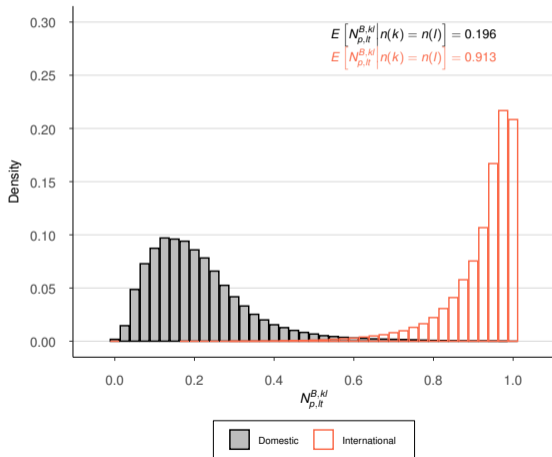


**Figure 11: Differences in product availability: Variety-level (Expenditure)**

... but so are differences in product availability -  $1 - \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{B}_{p,t}} \mathbb{1}(i \in \mathcal{B}_p^{kl})}{|\mathcal{B}_{p,t}|}$  -

▶ Back

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

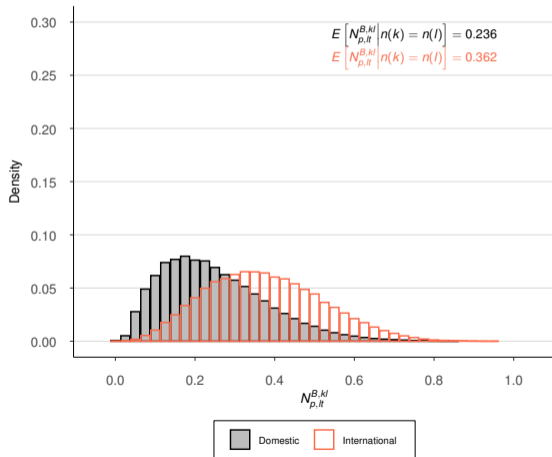


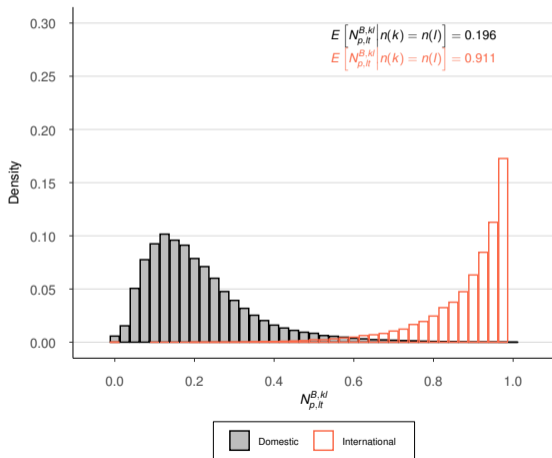
Figure 12: Product availability differences: Variety-level (Numbers) - Branded and Private label



... but so are differences in product availability -  $1 - \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{B}_{p,t}} \mathbb{1}(i \in \mathcal{B}_p^{kl})}{|\mathcal{B}_{p,t}|}$  -

▶ Back

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

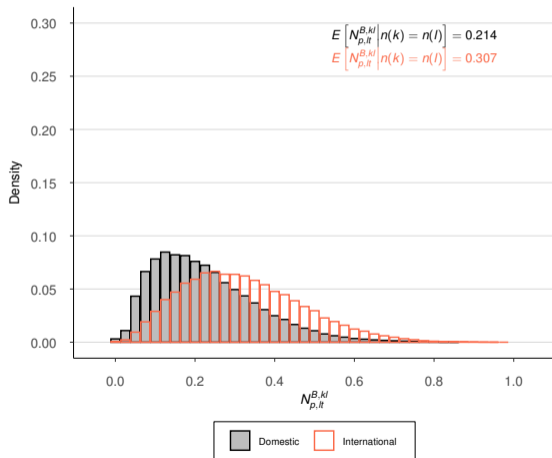


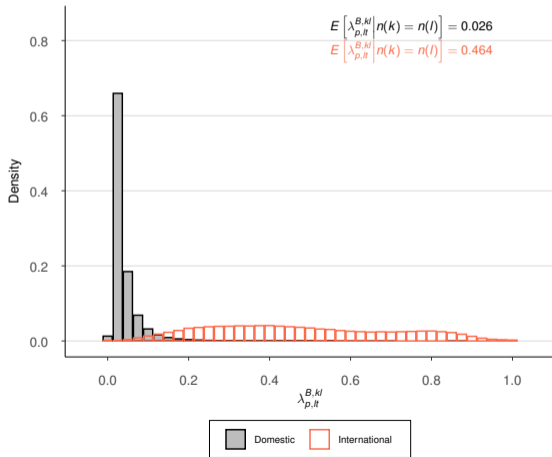
Figure 13: Product availability differences: Variety-level (Numbers) - Branded



... but so are differences in product availability -  $1 - \frac{\sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_{p,lt}} E_{pf,lt} \mathbb{1}(f \in \mathcal{F}_p^{kl})}{\sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_{p,lt}} E_{pf,lt}}$

▶ Back

(a) Europe



(b) United States of America

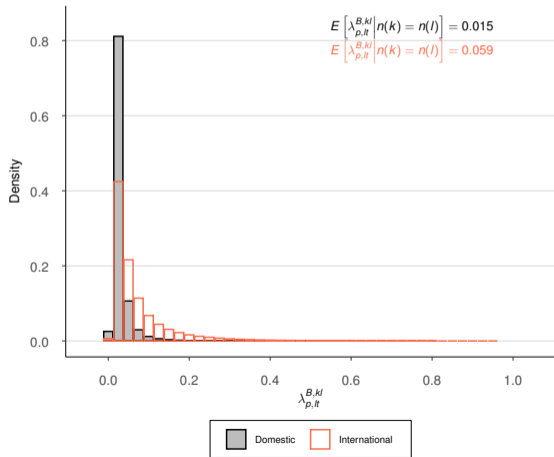


Figure 15: Differences in product availability: Firm-level (Expenditure)

## Step 1: Preferences - [▶ Back](#)

Consumers in region  $l$  at time  $t$  have the following preferences:

- ▶ **Across product categories**, there is a homothetic and separable aggregator:

$$U(C_{lt}) = F \left( \{C_{p,lt}\}_{p=1}^{\mathcal{P}} \right)$$

## Step 1: Preferences - ▶ Back

Consumers in region  $l$  at time  $t$  have the following preferences:

- ▶ **Across product categories**, there is a homothetic and separable aggregator:

$$U(C_{lt}) = F \left( \{C_{p,lt}\}_{p=1}^{\mathcal{P}} \right)$$

- ▶ **Within product categories**, consumers substitute between **firms** and **varieties** with nested CES preferences

$$C_{p,lt} = \left( \sum_{f \in \Omega_{p,lt}} (\xi_{pfl,lt} C_{pfl,lt})^{\frac{\eta_p - 1}{\eta_p}} \right)^{\frac{\eta_p}{\eta_p - 1}}, \quad C_{pfl,lt} = \left( \sum_{i \in \Omega_{pfl,lt}} (\xi_{pfi,lt} C_{pfi,lt})^{\frac{\sigma_p - 1}{\sigma_p}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma_p}{\sigma_p - 1}}$$

## Step 1: Preferences - ▶ Back

Consumers in region  $l$  at time  $t$  have the following preferences:

- ▶ **Across product categories**, there is a homothetic and separable aggregator:

$$U(C_{lt}) = F\left(\{C_{p,lt}\}_{p=1}^{\mathcal{P}}\right)$$

- ▶ **Within product categories**, consumers substitute between **firms** and **varieties** with nested CES preferences

$$C_{p,lt} = \left( \sum_{f \in \Omega_{p,lt}} (\xi_{pfi,lt} C_{pfi,lt})^{\frac{\eta_p - 1}{\eta_p}} \right)^{\frac{\eta_p}{\eta_p - 1}}, \quad C_{pfi,lt} = \left( \sum_{i \in \Omega_{pfi,lt}} (\xi_{pfi,lt} C_{pfi,lt})^{\frac{\sigma_p - 1}{\sigma_p}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma_p}{\sigma_p - 1}}$$

Utility functions are homogenous of degree 1 in consumer taste, therefore we **normalize** them as follows:

$$\tilde{\xi}_{fp,lt} \equiv \left( \prod_{i \in \Omega_{pfi,lt}} \xi_{pfi,lt} \right)^{\frac{1}{N_{pfi,lt}}} = \left( \prod_{i \in \Omega_{pfi,lt+1}} \xi_{pfi,lt+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{N_{pfi,lt+1}}} \equiv \tilde{\xi}_{fp,lt+1}$$













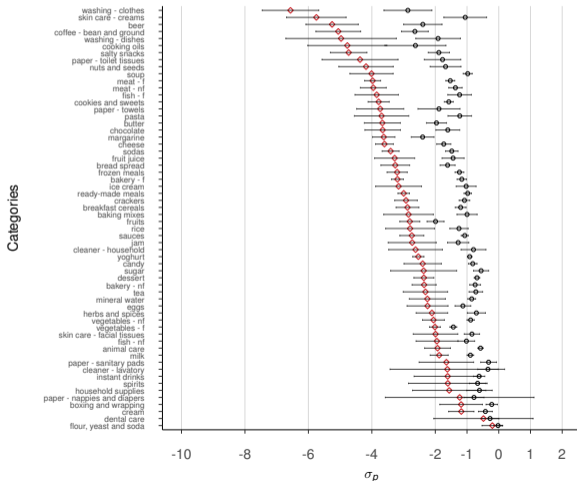




Estimating  $\sigma_p$  - Results:  $\hat{\mathbb{E}} [\hat{\sigma}_p] = -2.77$  with

10% - 90% :  $[-4.77, -1.15]$

Figure 16: Elasticity of substitution  $\sigma_p$

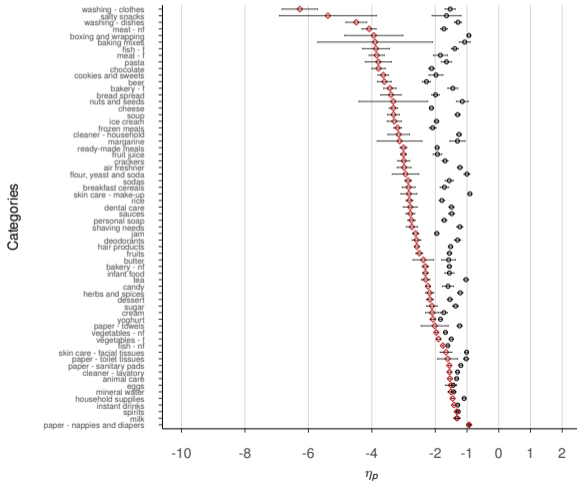




Estimating  $\eta_p$  - Results:  $\hat{\mathbb{E}} [\hat{\eta}_p] = -3.10$  with

10% - 90% :  $[-4.84, -1.71]$

Figure 17: Elasticity of substitution  $\eta_p$







**Table 6:** Geographic market segmentation: Estimation results ( $\varepsilon = 0.05$ )

Y	$P_{p,t}^{kl}$	$T_{p,t}^{kl}$	$L_{p,t}^{kl}$	$\Lambda_{p,t}^{kl}$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
EUROPE				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.369***	.3009***	.1009***	.2685***
	[.3443, .3979]	[.2799, .3238]	[.0991, .1028]	[.2502, .2924]
$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{Y}_{p,t}^{kl}(0)]$	.2476	.226	.0125	.043
Nr. treated	68	68	68	68
Nr. matched units	1	1	1	1
Nr. unique controls	41	41	41	41
Nr. obs	4,624	4,624	4,624	4,624
USA				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.0103***	.0095***	.0058***	.0164***
	[.0037, .0153]	[.0032, .0152]	[.0054, .0063]	[.0145, .018]
$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{Y}_{p,t}^{kl}(0)]$	.3987	.3438	.0236	.0871
Nr. treated	256	256	256	256
Nr. matched units	1	1	1	1
Nr. unique controls	63	63	63	63
Nr. obs	17,084	17,084	17,084	17,084

**Notes:** Block-bootstrapped standard errors on 50 iterations at the  $p < 0.1^*$ ,  $p < 0.05^{**}$  and  $p < 0.01^{***}$  levels.







# Detecting cross-border market segmentation - [▶ Back](#)

**Table 10:** Robustness: Elasticities - Cutoff: 10% and Nr. controls: 1 - Europe

$Y$	$P_{p,t}^{kl}$	$T_{p,t}^{kl}$	$L_{p,t}^{kl}$	$\Lambda_{p,t}^{kl}$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\hat{\eta} + 0, \hat{\sigma} + 0$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.3787*** [.3548, .4114]	.3041*** [.2866, .3276]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.2972*** [.2768, .3259]
$\hat{\eta} + 0, \hat{\sigma} + 1$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.3259*** [.3168, .3403]	.2684*** [.2595, .2794]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.2514*** [.2432, .2615]
$\hat{\eta} + 0, \hat{\sigma} + 2$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.3181*** [.3097, .3314]	.2628*** [.2538, .274]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.2423*** [.2346, .2538]
$\hat{\eta} + 0, \hat{\sigma} + 3$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.3158*** [.3077, .3284]	.2611*** [.252, .2725]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.239*** [.2312, .2506]
$\hat{\eta} + 1, \hat{\sigma} + 0$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.3213*** [.2954, .358]	.2337*** [.2168, .2553]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.2126*** [.1938, .2438]
$\hat{\eta} + 1, \hat{\sigma} + 1$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.2323*** [.2268, .2388]	.176*** [.1715, .1812]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.1496*** [.1462, .1549]
$\hat{\eta} + 1, \hat{\sigma} + 2$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.2111*** [.2077, .2149]	.1634*** [.1597, .1663]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.1337*** [.1312, .1361]
$\hat{\eta} + 1, \hat{\sigma} + 3$				
$\hat{\gamma}_{Y,\varepsilon}$	.2023*** [.1993, .2059]	.1586*** [.1552, .1615]	.0967*** [.0953, .0977]	.1268*** [.1246, .129]

**Notes:** Reported significance levels are at the  $p < 0.1^*$ ,  $p < 0.05^{**}$  and  $p < 0.01^{***}$  levels.



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