Importers, Exporters, and Exchange Rate Disconnect*

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Abstract

Large exporters are simultaneously large importers. In this paper we show that this pattern is key to understanding low aggregate exchange rate pass-through as well as the variation in pass-through across exporters. First, we develop a theoretical framework which combines variable markups due to strategic complementarities and endogenous choice to import intermediate inputs. The model predicts that firms with high import shares and high market shares have low exchange rate pass-through. Second, we test and quantify the theoretical mechanisms using Belgian firm-product-level data with information on exports by destination and imports by source country. We confirm that import intensity and market share are the prime determinants of pass-through in the cross-section of firms. A small exporter with no imported inputs has a nearly complete pass-through of over 90%, while a firm at the 95-th percentile of both import intensity and market share distributions has a pass-through of 56%, with the two mechanisms playing roughly equal roles. The largest exporters are simultaneously high-market-share and high-import-intensity firms, which helps to explain the low aggregate pass-through and exchange rate disconnect observed in the data.

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1 Introduction

One of the central puzzles in international macroeconomics is why large movements in exchange rates have small effects on the prices of internationally traded goods. This exchange rate disconnect has generated a vast literature, yet no empirical pass-through study has taken into account one of the most salient features of international trade, that is that the largest exporters are simultaneously the largest importers. In this paper, we show that this pattern is key to understanding the low aggregate pass-through, as well as the variation in pass-through across firms.

Using detailed Belgium micro data, we find that more import-intensive exporters have significantly lower exchange rate pass-through into their export prices, as they face offsetting exchange rate effects on their marginal costs. These data reveal that the distribution of import intensity among exporters is highly skewed with the import-intensive firms being among the largest exporters, accounting for a major share of international trade. Consequently, the import-intensive firms also have high export market shares, and hence set high markups and actively move them in response to changes in marginal cost, providing a second channel that limits the effect of exchange rate shocks on export prices. These two mechanisms reinforce each other and act to introduce a buffer between local costs and international prices of the major exporters, thus playing a central role in limiting the transmission of exchange rate shocks across countries. The availability of firm-level data with imports by source country and exports by destination, combined with domestic cost data, enables us to estimate the magnitude of these two channels.

To guide our empirical strategy, we develop a theoretical framework to study the forces that jointly determine the firm's decisions to internationally source its intermediate inputs and to set markups in each destination of its exports. The two building blocks of our theoretical framework are an oligopolistic competition model of variable markups following Atkeson and Burstein (2008) and a model of the firm's choice to import intermediate inputs following Halpern, Koren, and Szeidl (2011). These two ingredients allow us to capture the key patterns in the data that we focus on, and their interaction generates new insights on the determinants of exchange rate pass-through.[1]

More specifically, we allow for three forms of exogenous firm heterogeneity—in productivity, quality of their goods, and importing costs of their intermediate inputs—that jointly determine firms' import intensities and their market shares in each destination. With fixed

[1]The combination of these two mechanisms is central for our results, while the choice of a particular model of variable markups or of selection into importing is less important.

costs of importing, firms face the standard trade-off in choosing whether to import and how much to import, with larger-scale firms finding it optimal to import more varieties. In equilibrium, the more productive firms end up having greater market shares and choose to source a greater share of their inputs internationally, which in turn further amplifies the productivity advantage of these firms. Therefore, the two sources of incomplete pass-through—operating through the marginal cost and the markup—amplify and reinforce each other in the cross section of firms. The theory suggests a firm's import intensity and export market share are the two prime determinants of its exchange rate pass-through incompleteness in the cross-section of firms, with import intensity proxying for marginal cost sensitivity to the exchange rate and market shares proxying for markup elasticity.

We test the predictions of the theory with a rich data set of Belgian exporters for the period 2000 to 2008. A distinctive feature of these data is that it comprises firm-level imports by source country and exports by destination at the CN 8-digit product codes (4,500 distinct product codes), which we match with firm-level characteristics, such as wages and expenditure on inputs. This allows us to construct a measure of imported inputs as a share of a firm's total costs and a measure of firm's market share for each export destination, which are the two key firm characteristic in our analysis. Further, with the information on imports by source country, we can separate inputs from Euro and non-Euro countries, which is an important distinction since imported inputs from within the Euro area are in the Belgium firms' currency.

We start our empirical analysis by documenting some new stylized facts related to the distribution of import intensity across firms, lending support to the assumptions and predictions of our theoretical framework. We show that in the already very select group of exporters relative to the overall population of manufacturing firms, there still exists a substantial heterogeneity in the share of imported inputs sourced internationally, in particular from the more distant source countries outside the Euro Zone. The import intensity is strongly correlated with firm size and other firm characteristics, and is heavily skewed towards the largest exporters.

Our main empirical specification, as suggested by the theory, relates exchange rate pass-through with firm's import intensity capturing the marginal cost channel and destination-specific market shares capturing the markup channel. We estimate this relationship within industries and destinations. This allows us to estimate the cross-sectional relationship between pass-through and its determinants, holding constant the general equilibrium forces

common to all firms in a given industry and destination.[2]

The results provide strong support for the theory. First, we show that import intensity is an important correlate of a firm's pass-through, with each additional 10 percentage points of imports in total costs reducing pass-through by 5.3 percentage points. Second, we show that this effect is due to both the marginal cost channel, which import intensity affects directly, and the markup channel through the selection effect. Specifically, when we control for a firm's marginal cost, the effect of the import intensity on pass-through is reduced by a half, and when we further control for market share proxying for the markup variability, it largely disappears. Lastly, including both import intensity and market share, we find these two variables jointly to be robust predictors of exchange rate pass-through across different subsamples and with controls for other firm characteristics such as productivity and employment size.

Quantitatively, these results are large. A firm at the 5-th percentile of both import intensity and market share (both approximately equal to zero) has a nearly complete pass-through of over 91%. In contrast, a firm at the 95-th percentile of both import intensity and market share distributions has a pass-through of 56%, with import intensity and market share contributing nearly equally to this variation across firms. These results have important implications for aggregate pass through. Given that both import intensity and market share distributions are skewed towards the largest exporters, these findings imply an aggregate exchange rate pass-through of 64%.

We further explore the underlying mechanisms leading to incomplete pass-through with a number of extensions. We verify that our results hold non-parametrically when we sort the firms into bins of market share and import intensity. We also show that import-intensive exporters have lower pass-through due to greater sensitivity of their marginal costs to exchange rate, confirming the theoretical mechanism. Finally, we show that it is the share of imports from the non-Euro OECD countries that matters the most, while the share of imports from within the Euro Zone has no effect on pass-through and imports from the non-OECD countries only have a statistically marginal effect on exchange rate pass-through.[3]

Our paper is related to three strands of recent literature. First, it relates to the recent and

[2]In particular, such common forces include the correlation between exchange rate and sector-destination-specific price index, as well as sector-specific productivity and cost index.

[3]Indeed, we expect to find no effect of imports from within the Euro Zone since they are priced in the same currency, and hence not subject to exchange rate movements. The finding of little effect of imports from the non-OECD countries is consistent with low pass-through from these countries into import prices even when exchange rate moves. We verify this hypothesis by estimating a pass-through regression of exchange rate into import prices and finding a much larger coefficient from the OECD import-source countries.

growing literature on the interaction of importing and exporting decisions of firms. Earlier work, for example Bernard, Jensen, and Schott (2009), has documented a large overlap in the import and export activity of firms.[4] Indeed, major exporters are almost always major importers, and this is also true in our dataset. We focus exclusively on the already select group of exporters, most of whom are also importers from multiple source countries. We instead emphasize the strong selection that still operates within the group of exporters, and in particular the heterogeneity in the intensity with which firms import their intermediate inputs. Our paper is also the first to empirically link the importing activity of the firms with the incomplete pass-through into export prices.

Second, our paper is related to the recent empirical and structural work on the relationship between firm import intensity and firm productivity. Although we base our model on Halpern, Koren, and Szeidl (2011) who estimate the effects of import use on total factor productivity for Hungarian firms, similar models were used in Amiti and Davis (2012) to study the effects of import tariffs on firm wages and in Gopinath and Neiman (2012) to study the effects of Argentine trade collapse following the currency devaluation of 2001 on the economy-wide productivity.[5] Amiti and Konings (2007) provided an early reduced-form empirical analysis of the micro-level effects of imports on firm productivity. In our study, the focus is centered around the interplay between import intensity and markup variability, and the productivity effect of imported intermediate inputs contributes to the interrelationship of these two channels.

Third, our paper contributes to the vast literature studying exchange rate disconnect (see Obstfeld and Rogoff, 2001; Engel, 2001), and more specifically incomplete pass-through of exchange rate shocks into international prices. In the last decade, there has been substantial progress made in the study of this phenomenon, both theoretically and empirically.[6] This literature has explored three channels leading to incomplete pass-through. The first channel, as surveyed in Engel (2003), is short-run nominal rigidities with prices sticky in the local currency of the destination market, labeled in the literature as *local currency pricing* (LCP). Under LCP, the firms that do not adjust prices have zero short-run pass-through. Gopinath and Rigobon (2008) provide direct evidence on the extent of LCP in the US import and export prices. The second channel—*pricing-to-market* (PTM)—arises in models of variable markups

[4]Other related papers include Kugler and Verhoogen (2009), Manova and Zhang (2009), Feng, Li, and Swenson (2012) and Damijan, Konings, and Polanec (2012).

[5]Blaum, Lelarge, and Peters (2010) document stylized facts about import behavior of French firms and provide another related model.

[6]For the survey of earlier work, see Goldberg and Knetter (1997), who in particular emphasize that "[l]ess is known about the relationship between costs and exchange rates..." (see p. 1244).

in which firms optimally choose different prices for different destinations depending on local market conditions. Atkeson and Burstein (2008) is an example of a recent quantitative investigation of the PTM channel and its implication for international aggregate prices.[7] Finally, the third channel of incomplete pass-through into consumer prices often considered in the literature is local distribution costs, as for example in Burstein, Neves, and Rebelo (2003) and Goldberg and Campa (2010). Our imported inputs channels is similar in spirit to the local distribution costs in that it makes the costs of the firm more stable in the local currency of export destination.[8]

Our paper is closely related with Berman, Martin, and Mayer (2012) in that we also study the variation in pass-through across heterogenous firms. While they focus on the role of firm productivity and size, we emphasize the role of imported inputs and destination-specific market shares.[9] Some previous studies have acknowledged the potential role of imported inputs in limiting exchange rate pass-through (e.g., see Gopinath, Itskhoki, and Rigobon, 2010), but none have empirically estimated its impact. Our paper is the first to incorporate the endogenous choice of importing within an exchange rate pass-through model, as well as to construct a theoretically-consistent empirical measure of import intensity at the firm level and estimate its impact on pass-through. Additionally, the focus of our paper is on the interaction between the imported inputs and PTM channels, which as we show reinforce and amplify each other. We further build on the previous literature by quantitatively decomposing the contribution of the marginal cost and variable markup channels to incomplete

[7]Gopinath and Itskhoki (2011) show the importance of PTM in matching patterns in the international aggregate and micro price data. Fitzgerald and Haller (2012) provide the most direct evidence on PTM by comparing the exchange rate response of prices of the same item sold to both the domestic and international market. Gopinath, Itskhoki, and Rigobon (2010) and Gopinath and Itskhoki (2010) show that the PTM and LCP channels of incomplete pass-through interact and reinforce each other, with highly-variable-markup firms endogenously choosing to price in local currency as well as adopting longer price durations. Nakamura and Zerom (2010) and Goldberg and Hellerstein (2011) provide alternative decompositions of incomplete pass-through into the contribution of LCP and PTM components for the coffee and beer markets respectively.

[8]The difference with the distribution cost channel is that the use of imported inputs results in incomplete pass-through not only into consumer prices, but also into the at-the-dock export prices of the producers. Corsetti and Dedola (2005) show how local distribution costs interacted with monopolistic price setting also result in incomplete pass-through into at-the-dock export prices.

[9]A number of earlier papers have linked pass-through with market share of exporters. Feenstra, Gagnon, and Knetter (1996), Alessandria (2004) and Garetto (2012) emphasize the U-shape relationship between market share and pass-through. The Atkeson and Burstein (2008) model can in general produce such non-monotonic relationship. However, when we hold the price index constant, consistent with our empirical strategy, pass-through monotonically decreases in market share. Empirically, we also find no evidence of a U-shape relationship between market share and pass-through. A recent paper by Auer and Schoenle (2012) shows that greater sector-level market share of exporters from a particular country contributes to higher pass-through. We instead focus on the firm-level interaction between market share and pass-through, and find a negative relationship. These seemingly contradictory findings are consistent with each other in a model of strategic complementarities due to counteracting general equilibrium effects operating at the sectoral level and held constant in our analysis (refer to Gopinath and Itskhoki, 2011, for further discussion).

exchange rate pass-through.[10]

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 lays out the theoretical framework and provides our theoretical results which motivate the empirical analysis that follows. Section 3 describes our main empirical findings. Section 3 additionally reports information on the dataset, provides the stylized patterns of cross-sectional variation in the data, and reports the results of the robustness tests. Section 4 concludes. All technical derivations are relegated to the appendix.

2 Theoretical Framework

In this section we develop a theoretical framework linking a firm's exchange rate pass-through to its import intensity and export market shares, all of which are endogenously determined. We use this framework to formulate testable implications and to derive an empirical specification, which we later take to the data. We start by laying out the two main ingredients of our framework—the Atkeson and Burstein (2008) model of strategic complementarities and variable markups, and the Halpern, Koren, and Szeidl (2011) model of the firm's choice to import intermediate inputs. We then show how the interaction of these two mechanisms generates new theoretical insights on the determinants of exchange rate pass-through. The key predictions of this theory are that a firm's import intensity and market shares are positively correlated in the cross-section, and together constitute prime determinants of exchange rate pass-through incompleteness at the firm level, with import intensity proxying for marginal cost sensitivity to the exchange rate and market shares proxying for markup elasticity.

We develop the model in partial equilibrium and focus on the equilibrium cross-sectional variation between firms within industries and export destinations. This allows us to derive sharp predictions for cross-sectional variation, holding constant the general equilibrium environment of the firms within industry-destinations, without imposing any exogeneity assumptions for exchange rate shocks.

In order to focus our analysis on the relationship between import intensity and pass-through of the firms, we make a number of simplifying assumptions. First, we condition our analysis on the subset of exporting firms, and hence we do not model entry, exit or selection

[10] Burstein and Jaimovich (2008) emphasize the importance of discriminating between the marginal cost and markup channels in order to assess the welfare implications of pass-through incompleteness. We return to this issue in the concluding section. De Loecker, Goldberg, Khandelwal, and Pavcnik (2012) propose an alternative structural method of decomposing prices into marginal costs and markups, and apply it to estimate the pass-through from import tariffs into domestic prices, marginal costs and markups.

into exporting (as, for example, in Melitz, 2003), but rather focus on the import decisions of the firms. Similarly, we do not model the decision to export to multiple destinations, and simply take this information as exogenously given. These additional sources of endogenous selection would only reinforce the cross-sectional patterns predicted by the model, yet leaving the qualitative predictions for pass-through unchanged. Furthermore, we assume all firms are single-product. As we explain in footnote 21, one can think about multi-product firms in a similar way as multi-destination firms.

Second, we assume flexible price setting as in Atkeson and Burstein (2008) and hence do not include the choice of currency of pricing decision (i.e., local versus producer currency pricing). This modeling choice is motivated by the nature of our dataset in which we use unit values as proxies for prices. Empirically, pass-through incompleteness is at least in part due to price stickiness in local currency, and in light of this we provide a careful interpretation of our results in the discussion section (see Section 4).[11]

Lastly, in modeling firms' import decisions we abstract from the possibility of *real hedging*, where firms may choose or adjust import source countries to hedge their export-destination exchange rate risk. Empirically, we find moderate presence of real hedging, which however does not vary with the firm variables that are the focus of our analysis.[12]

2.1 Demand and markups

Consider a firm producing a differentiated good i in sector s and supplying it to destination market k in period t. Consumers in each market have a nested CES demand over the varieties of goods, as in Atkeson and Burstein (2008). The elasticity of substitution across the varieties within sectors is ρ, while the elasticity of substitution across sectoral aggregates is η, and we assume $\rho > \eta \geq 1$.

Under these circumstances, a firm i faces the following demand for its product:

$$Q_{k,i} = \xi_{k,i} P_{k,i}^{-\rho} P_k^{\rho-\eta} D_k, \tag{1}$$

[11] It is useful to keep in mind that, as shown in Gopinath, Itskhoki, and Rigobon (2010), the flexible-price pass-through forces shape the currency choice of the firms, i.e. firms with a low pass-through conditional on a price change choose to price in local currency, which further reduces the short-run pass-through of these firms. In this paper we focus on the endogenous determinants of flexible-price (or long-run) pass-through in the cross-section of firms, which in the sticky price environment would also contribute to the prevalence of local currency pricing, yet the two forces work in the same direction.

[12] Under the assumption of risk neutrality of the firm and in the absence of liquidity constraints (for example, of the type modeled in Froot, Scharfstein, and Stein, 1993), financial hedging constitutes only a side bet to the firm and does not affect its import and pricing decisions. A recent related paper by Fauceglia, Shingal, and Wermelinger (2012) provides evidence on the role of imported inputs in "natural" hedging of export exchange rate risk by Swiss firms.

where $Q_{k,i}$ is quantity demanded, $\xi_{k,i}$ is a relative preference (quality) parameter of the firm, $P_{k,i}$ is firm's price, P_k is the sectoral price index, and D_k is the sectoral demand shifter, which the firm takes as given. Index k emphasizes that all of these variables are destination specific. For brevity, we drop the additional subscripts s and t for sector and time, since all of our analysis focuses on variation within a given sector.

The sectoral price index is given by $P_k \equiv \left[\sum_i \xi_{k,i} P_{k,i}^{1-\rho}\right]^{1/(1-\rho)}$, where the summation is across all firms in sector s supplying destination k in time period t, and we normalize $\sum_i \xi_{k,i} = 1$. As a convention, we quote all prices in the local currency of the destination market.

An important characteristic of the firm's competitive position in a market is its market share given by:

$$S_{k,i} \equiv \frac{P_{k,i} Q_{k,i}}{\sum_{i'} P_{k,i'} Q_{k,i'}} = \xi_{k,i} \left(\frac{P_{k,i}}{P_k}\right)^{1-\rho} \in [0,1], \tag{2}$$

where market share is sector-destination-time specific. The effective demand elasticity for the firm is then

$$\sigma_{k,i} \equiv -\frac{\mathrm{d} \log Q_{k,i}}{\mathrm{d} \log P_{k,i}} = \rho(1 - S_{k,i}) + \eta S_{k,i}, \tag{3}$$

since $\partial \log P_k / \partial \log P_{k,i} = S_{k,i}$. In words, the firm faces a demand elasticity which is a weighted average of the within-sector and the across-sector elasticities of substitution with the weight on the latter equal to the market share of the firm. Larger market share firms exert a stronger impact on the sectoral price index, making their demand less sensitive to their own price.

When firms compete in prices, they set a multiplicative markup $\mathcal{M}_{k,i} \equiv \sigma_{k,i}/(\sigma_{k,i} - 1)$ over their costs. Firms face a demand with elasticity decreasing in the market share, and hence high market share firms charge high markups. We now define a measure of the markup elasticity with respect to the price of the firm holding the sector price index constant:[13]

$$\Gamma_{k,i} \equiv -\frac{\partial \log \mathcal{M}_{k,i}}{\partial \log P_{k,i}} = \frac{S_{k,i}}{\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho-\eta} - S_{k,i}\right)\left(1 - \frac{\rho-\eta}{\rho-1} S_{k,i}\right)} > 0. \tag{4}$$

A lower price set by the firm leads to an increase in the firm's market share, making optimal a larger markup. Furthermore, the markup elasticity is also increasing in the market share of the firm. We summarize this discussion in:

[13] We choose this partial measure of markup elasticity (holding price index P_k constant) because in what follows we focus on the differences in price response across firms within sectors, hence facing the same sector-destination price index.

Proposition 1 *Market share of the firm is a sufficient statistic for its markup; both markup and markup elasticity are increasing in the market share of the firm.*

2.2 Production and imported inputs

We build on Halpern, Koren, and Szeidl (2011) to model the cost structure of the firm and its choice to import intermediate inputs. Consider a firm i which uses labor L_i and intermediate inputs X_i to produce its output Y_i according to the production function:

$$Y_i = \Omega_i X_i^{\phi} L_i^{1-\phi}, \tag{5}$$

where Ω_i is firm productivity. Parameter $\phi \in [0,1]$ measures the share of intermediate inputs in firm expenditure, and is sector specific but common to all firms in the sector.

Intermediate inputs consist of a bundle of intermediate goods indexed by $j \in [0,1]$, and aggregated according to a Cobb-Douglas technology:

$$X_i = \exp\left\{\int_0^1 \gamma_j \log X_{i,j} \mathrm{d}j\right\}. \tag{6}$$

The types of intermediate inputs vary in their importance in the production process as measured by γ_j, which satisfy $\int_0^1 \gamma_j \mathrm{d}j = 1$. Each type j of intermediate good comes in two varieties—a domestic and a foreign—which are imperfect substitutes:

$$X_{i,j} = \left[Z_{i,j}^{\frac{\zeta}{1+\zeta}} + a_j^{\frac{1}{1+\zeta}} M_{i,j}^{\frac{\zeta}{1+\zeta}}\right]^{\frac{1+\zeta}{\zeta}}, \tag{7}$$

where $Z_{i,j}$ and $M_{i,j}$ are respectively the quantities of domestic and imported varieties of the intermediate good j used in production. The elasticity of substitution between the domestic and foreign varieties is $(1+\zeta) > 1$, and a_j measures the productivity advantage (when $a_j > 1$, and disadvantage otherwise) of the foreign variety, adjusted for transportation cost. Note that since home and foreign varieties are imperfect substitutes, production is possible without the use of imported inputs. At the same time, imported inputs are useful both due to their potential productivity advantage a_j and the love-of-variety feature of the production technology (7).

A firm needs to pay a firm-specific sunk cost f_i in terms of labor in order to import each type of the intermediate good. The cost of labor is given by the wage rate W^* and the prices of domestic intermediates are $\{V_j^*\}$, both denominated in units of producer currency (hence

starred). The prices of foreign intermediates are $\{\mathcal{E}_m U_j\}$, where U_j is the price in foreign currency and $\mathcal{E}_m$ is the exchange rate measured as a unit of producer currency for one unit of foreign currency.[14]

With this production structure, we can derive the cost function of the firm. In particular, given output Y_i, the firm minimizes its total costs:

$$TC_i^*(Y_i) \equiv \min_{J_{0,i}, L_i, \{Z_{i,j}\}, \{M_{i,j}\}} \left\{ W^* L_i + \int_0^1 V_j^* Z_{i,j} \mathrm{d}j + \int_{J_{0,i}} \left(\mathcal{E}_m U_j M_{i,j} + W^* f_i \right) \mathrm{d}j \right\},$$

subject to the production technology given in equations (5)–(7), and where $J_{0,i}$ denotes the set of intermediate goods imported by the firm. This cost minimization problem results in the following cost function (see the appendix):

$$TC_i^*(Y_i) = \frac{C^* Y_i}{B_i^\phi \Omega_i} + W^* f_i j_{0,i}, \tag{8}$$

where C^* is the cost index for a non-importing firm;[15] and $B_i \equiv B(j_{0,i})$ is the cost-reduction factor from the use of imported intermediates which we now describe.

We sort all intermediate goods j by $\gamma_j \log b_j$, from highest to lowest, where $b_j \equiv \left[1 + a_j (\mathcal{E}_m U_j / V_j^*)^{-\zeta}\right]^{1/\zeta} > 1$ is the productivity-enhancing effect from importing type-j intermediate good, adjusted for the relative cost of the import variety. Then, as we show in the appendix, the optimal set of imported intermediate inputs is an interval $J_{0,i} = [0, j_{0,i}]$, with $j_{0,i} \in [0,1]$ denoting the cutoff intermediate good. Furthermore, the cost-reduction factor is given by

$$B(j_{0,i}) = \exp\left\{ \int_0^{j_{0,i}} \gamma_j \log b_j \mathrm{d}j \right\}. \tag{9}$$

Finally, the optimal choice of $j_{0,i}$ satisfies (see the appendix):

$$j_{0,i} = \max\left\{ j \in [0,1] : \ \gamma_j \log b_j \cdot \phi \frac{C^* Y_i}{B(j)^\phi \Omega_i} \geq W^* f_i \right\}. \tag{10}$$

The right-hand side of the inequality in (10) is the fixed cost of importing an additional intermediate good, while the left-hand side is the incremental benefit which is proportional to the total material cost of the firm $\phi C^* Y_i / \left[B_i^\phi \Omega_i\right]$ and the cost-saving impact of additional imports $\gamma_j \log b_j$.[16] This reflects the standard tradeoff that the fixed cost activity is under-

[14] We denote by m a generic source of imported intermediates, and hence $\mathcal{E}_m$ can be thought of as an import-weighted exchange rate faced by the firms.

[15] This cost index is given by $C^* = \left(V^*/\phi\right)^\phi \left(W^*/(1-\phi)\right)^{1-\phi}$ with $V^* = \exp\left\{ \int_0^1 \gamma_j \log\left(V_j^*/\gamma_j\right) \mathrm{d}j \right\}$.

[16] Note that $\gamma_j \log b_j / B(j)$ is decreasing in j, and hence $j_{0,i}$ is uniquely defined given (Y_i, Ω_i, f_i).

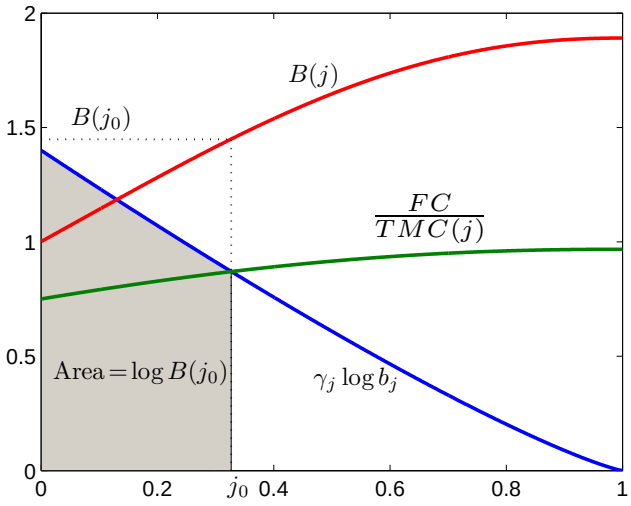


Figure 1: Import cutoff j_0 and cost-reduction factor $B(j_0)$

Note: *$FC = W^* f_i$ is the fixed cost of importing an additional type of intermediate input. $TMC(j) = C^* Y_i / [B(j)^\phi \Omega_i]$ is the total material cost of the firm, decreasing in j holding output fixed due to cost-saving effect of importing. The intersection between $\gamma_j \log b_j$ and $FC/TMC(j)$ defines the import cutoff j_0, and the exponent of the area under $\gamma_j \log b_j$ curve determines the cost-reduction factor from importing.*

taken provided that the scale of operation (here total spending on intermediate inputs) is sufficiently large. The import cutoff choice $j_{0,i}$ and the resulting cost-reduction factor $B(j_{0,i})$ are illustrated in Figure 1.

With this cost structure, the fraction of total variable cost spent on imported intermediate inputs equals

$$\varphi_i \equiv \varphi(j_{0,i}) = \phi \int_0^{j_{0,i}} \gamma_j \left(1 - b_j^{-\zeta}\right) \mathrm{d}j, \tag{11}$$

where ϕ is the share of material cost in total variable cost and $\gamma_j(1 - b_j^{-\zeta})$ is the share of material cost spent on imports of type-j intermediate good.[17] We refer to φ_i as the *import intensity* of the firm, and it is one of the characteristics of the firm we measure directly in the data. Lastly, the cost function in (8) results in the following marginal cost:

$$MC_i^* = C^* / \left[B_i^\phi \Omega_i\right]. \tag{12}$$

The *partial* elasticity of the marginal cost with respect to the exchange rate $\mathcal{E}_m$, holding the extensive margin $j_{0,i}$ and all prices $(W^*, \{V_j^*, U_j\})$ and productivity Ω_i constant, equals the

[17] Indeed, γ_j is the expenditure share on type-j intermediates and $1 - b_j^{-\zeta} = \left[1 + a_j^{-1} (\mathcal{E}_m U_j / V_j^*)^\zeta\right]^{-1}$ is the imports share of this expenditure.

expenditure share of the firm on imported intermediates:[18]

$$\varphi_i \equiv -\frac{\partial \log MC_i^*}{\partial \log \mathcal{E}_m}.$$

We summarize these results in:

Proposition 2 (i) *Within sectors, firms with larger total material cost or smaller fixed cost of importing have a larger import intensity,* φ_i. (ii) *The partial elasticity of the marginal cost of the firm with respect to the (import-weighted) exchange rate equals* φ_i.

2.3 Equilibrium relationships

We now combine the ingredients introduced above to study the optimal price setting of the firm, as well as the equilibrium determinants of the market share and import intensity of the firm. Consider a firm supplying a set K_i of destination markets k, which we take as exogenously given in our analysis. The price setting problem of the firm is given by

$$\max_{Y_i, \{P_{k,i}, Q_{k,i}\}_k} \left\{ \sum_{k \in K_i} \mathcal{E}_k P_{k,i} Q_{k,i} - TC_i^*(Y_i) \right\},$$

with (P_{ki}, Q_{ki}) subject to the demand equations (1) in each destination k, the cost function defined in (8), and the total output of the firm satisfying $Y_i = \sum_{k \in K_i} Q_{k,i}$. We quote the destination-k price $P_{k,i}$ in the units of destination-k local currency and use the bilateral nominal exchange rate $\mathcal{E}_k$ to convert the price to the producer currency, denoting with $P_{k,i}^* \equiv \mathcal{E}_k P_{k,i}$ the producer-currency price of the firm for destination k. An increase in $\mathcal{E}_k$ corresponds to the depreciation of the producer currency. The total cost of the firm is quoted in units of producer currency, and hence is starred.[19]

Taking the first order conditions with respect to $P_{k,i}$, we obtain the optimal price setting conditions:

$$P_{k,i}^* = \frac{\sigma_{k,i}}{\sigma_{k,i} - 1} MC_i^* = \mathcal{M}_{k,i} \frac{C^*}{B_i^{\phi} \Omega_i}, \qquad k \in K_i, \tag{13}$$

where MC_i^* is the marginal cost as defined in (12), $\sigma_{k,i}$ is the effective demand elasticity defined in (3), and $\mathcal{M}_{k,i}$ is the multiplicative markup introduced in Section 2.1. This set of first order conditions together with the constraints fully characterize the allocation of the

[18] In the appendix we show that taking into account the response of the extensive margin $j_{0,i}$ to the exchange rate magnifies this elasticity by a multiplicative factor.

[19] We do not explicitly model variable trade costs, but if they take an iceberg form, they are without loss of generality absorbed into the $\xi_{k,i} D_k$ term in the firm-i demand (1) in destination k.

firm given industry-level variables. We now exploit these equilibrium conditions to derive how relative market shares and import intensities are determined in equilibrium across firms.

Single-destination firms We first consider two Belgian firms, i and i', in industry s serving the same single destination k. The firms face the same industry-destination-specific market conditions reflected in $\mathcal{E}_k$, P_k, D_k, C^* and ϕ. We allow the firms to be heterogeneous in terms of productivity Ω_i, demand/quality shifter ξ_i and fixed costs of importing f_i.

In order to characterize how exogenous firm heterogeneity affects the relative market share and import intensity outcomes for these two firms, we use log-linear approximations of the equilibrium conditions derived above. For example, consider the relative market shares of the two firms using the definition in (2) and the optimal price setting in (13):

$$\frac{S_{k,i}}{S_{k,i'}} = \frac{\xi_{k,i}}{\xi_{k,i'}} \left(\frac{\mathcal{M}_{k,i}}{\mathcal{M}_{k,i'}} \frac{B_{i'}^{\phi} \Omega_{i'}}{B_i^{\phi} \Omega_i} \right)^{1-\rho},$$

where the sector-destination price index P_k drops out since it is shared by both firms. Taking logs and applying a log-linear approximation to $\mathcal{M}_{k,i}$, we arrive at our approximate expression for relative market shares of the two firms. Following similar steps for expressions defining B_i and other equilibrium conditions, we arrive at (see the appendix):

Proposition 3 *Under a local stability condition detailed in the appendix, the equilibrium relationship between relative market shares and relative import intensities of two single-destination firms i and i' in a given industry satisfy the following first order approximations:*

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \frac{S_{k,i}}{S_{k,i'}} &= \frac{\kappa_2}{1-\kappa_1} \left[\log \frac{\xi_{k,i}}{\xi_{k,i'}} + (\rho - 1) \log \frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} - \kappa_3 \log \frac{f_i}{f_{i'}} \right], \\
(\rho - 1)\phi \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} &= \frac{\kappa_1}{1-\kappa_1} \left[\log \frac{\xi_{k,i}}{\xi_{k,i'}} + (\rho - 1) \log \frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} - \frac{\kappa_3}{\kappa_1} \log \frac{f_i}{f_{i'}} \right], \\
\varphi_i - \varphi_{i'} &= \kappa_4 \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}.
\end{aligned}$$

where $0 < \kappa_1 < 1$ and $\kappa_2, \kappa_3, \kappa_4 > 0$ are approximation constants.

Proposition 3 implies that market shares and import intensities are positively correlated in the cross-section of firms, where exogenous firm differences arise due to demand/quality shifters, productivity and/or fixed costs of importing. Furthermore, there are feedback effects with high import intensity enhancing firm's productivity and contributing to stronger market positions of the firm (higher market shares), which in turn magnifies the scale of operation

of the firm and makes it optimal to further increase its import intensity. We next examine firms serving multiple destinations.

Multiple-destination firms The analysis for firms exporting to the same set K of multiple destinations leads to the same qualitative results as in Proposition 3, and we omit it for brevity.[20] Instead, we focus here on two firms, i and i', one serving a set of destinations K_i and the other serving a strictly smaller set of destinations $K_{i'} \subset K_i$. For simplicity, assume that these firms are identical in all respects, that is $\big(\{\xi_{k,i}\}_{k\in K_{i'}}, \Omega_i, f_i\big)$, except the exogenously given number of destinations. We prove (in the appendix):

Proposition 4 *Consider two firms, i and i', identical in all respects, except the exogenously given number of destinations that they serve, $K_i \supset K_{i'}$. Then, under the same regularity conditions as in Proposition 3, firm i has a higher import intensity ($\varphi_i > \varphi_{i'}$) and larger market shares in each jointly supplied destination ($S_{k,i} > S_{k,i'}$ for all $k \in K_{i'}$).*

Intuitively, a firm serving more destinations operates on a larger scale, and hence according to Proposition 2 chooses to import a larger range of intermediate inputs. This, in turn, reduces the variable cost of the firm through the productivity effect of imports, and enhances the firm's competitive position in every market it serves.[21]

2.4 Imported inputs, market share, and pass-through

We are now in a position to relate the firm's exchange rate pass-through into its export prices with its market share and import intensity. The starting point for this analysis is the optimal price setting equation (13), which we rewrite as a full log differential:

$$\mathrm{d}\log P^*_{k,i} = \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{M}_{k,i} + \mathrm{d}\log MC^*_i. \tag{14}$$

Consider first the markup term. Following equation (4), we have

$$\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{M}_{k,i} = -\Gamma_{k,i}\big(\mathrm{d}\log P_{k,i} - \mathrm{d}\log P_k\big),$$

[20] The only material difference to the analysis is that we have to replace $Y_i/Y_{i'} = Q_i/Q_{i'}$ with approximation $\log(Y_i/Y_{i'}) = \sum_{k\in K} \bar{\omega}_k \log(Q_{k,i}/Q_{k,i'})$, where $\bar{\omega}_k \in (\omega_{k,i}, \omega_{k,i'})$ is some average share of firms' output sent to destination k. The remaining steps follow exactly those of the proof of Proposition 3 in the appendix.

[21] A similar result can be derived for multi-product firms, with a firm that supplies more products also being more import intensive (due to greater scale of operations) and hence having larger market shares for all its products. In footnote 28 we further discuss the theoretically-relevant definition of the market share which determines the markups of a multi-product firm.

where converting the export price to local currency yields $\mathrm{d}\log P_{k,i} = \mathrm{d}\log P^*_{k,i} - \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k$. From Proposition 1, $\Gamma_{k,i}$ is increasing in the firm's market share, and hence price increases for larger market-share firms are associated with larger declines in the markup.

Next the change in the marginal cost in equation (12) can be decomposed as follows (see the appendix):

$$\mathrm{d}\log MC^*_i = \varphi_i\big(\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m + \mathrm{d}\log U\big) + (\phi - \varphi_i)\mathrm{d}\log V^* + (1-\phi)\mathrm{d}\log W^* + \mathrm{dEM}_i - \mathrm{d}\log \Omega_i,$$

where U and V^* are the price indexes for the imported intermediates in the currency of imports and domestic intermediates in the producer currency respectively. Intuitively, the marginal cost changes when either the cost indexes or the productivity of the firm change; φ_i, $(\phi - \varphi_i)$ and $(1-\phi)$ are the shares of firm's total variable costs spent on imported intermediates, domestic intermediates and labor input respectively. Finally, the term dEM_i stands for *extensive margin* adjustment to the set of imported intermediates (i.e., corresponding to $\mathrm{d}j_{0,i}$). In what follows we make the assumption that at the horizons we are considering, the responsiveness of the extensive margin to exchange rate movements is negligible ($\mathrm{dEM}_i/\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m \propto \mathrm{d}j_{0,i}/\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m \approx 0$).[22] This assumption is in line with the empirical evidence we present in Section 3 and is motivated by the idea that international sourcing of inputs is a sunk long-term decision which is not revised at an annual frequency in response to the fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Substituting these expressions into (14) and projecting the change in price onto the change in the destination-specific bilateral exchange rate ($\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k$) we prove in the appendix the following:

Proposition 5 *The first order approximation to the exchange rate pass-through elasticity into producer-currency export prices of the firm is given by*

$$\Psi^*_{k,i} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\log P^*_{k,i}}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k} = \alpha_{s,k} + \beta\varphi_i + \gamma S_{k,i} + \epsilon_{k,i}, \tag{15}$$

where $\alpha_{s,k}$ is sector-destination specific, $\beta, \gamma > 0$ are reduced-form parameters and $\epsilon_{k,i}$ is the projection residual orthogonal to $(\varphi_i, S_{k,i})$.

[22] In the appendix we show that when the firm flexibly adjusts $j_{0,i}$ in response to exchange rate movements, the extensive margin response is proportional to import intensity of the firm, more precisely $\mathrm{EM}_i \propto \varphi_i \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m$. Therefore, qualitatively our results are unchanged even when we allow a fully flexible extensive margin adjustment. We also show in the appendix that our previous results, in particular Proposition 3, extend to the case when the choice of $j_{0,i}$ is a sunk decision and cannot be revised upon the resolution of exchange rate uncertainty.

Proposition 5 shows that firms with a higher import intensity (φ_i) and larger destination-specific market-share ($S_{k,i}$) adjust their producer prices by more. This in turn implies that these firms have lower pass-through into destination-currency import prices (equal to $1 - \Psi^*_{k,i}$), a hypothesis we test in the data. The high import intensity of a firm (large φ_i) reflects its marginal cost sensitivity to exchange rate changes, other things equal (that is, in the cross section of firms within a sector). Firms with marginal costs strongly co-moving with bilateral devaluations (vis-à-vis the destination country) respond with a bigger adjustment to their producer-currency export prices and, hence, a lesser change in their destination-currency export prices. The larger destination-specific market share of the firm reflects its greater markup elasticity. Hence larger market share firms choose to absorb a larger portion of their marginal cost fluctuations into markups as opposed to changes in their destination-currency prices.[23] Consequently, larger market share firms have lower pass-through into destination-currency export prices (or, equivalently, higher $\Psi^*_{k,i}$).

We emphasize that equation (15) is an approximate equilibrium relationship between endogenous variables—exchange rates, import intensity, and market share—and, in general, does not imply a causal relationship. It is a within sector-destination relationship across firms, as reflected by the sector-destination fixed effects $\alpha_{s,k}$. In the appendix we provide explicit structural expressions for the coefficients β and γ. In particular, we show that not surprisingly β depends on the projection of the import-weighted exchange rate ($\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_m$) onto the destination-specific exchange rate ($\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k$), as well as on the pass-through coefficients for imported and domestic intermediate inputs ($[\mathrm{d}\log V^* - \mathrm{d}\log U]/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_m$). In the data we can directly assess the strength of these effects in the cross-section of the firms with varying import intensity.

Finally, as follows from Propositions 1 and 4, import intensity and export market shares are positively correlated in the cross-section of firms, both due to selection (interaction effect) and due to the cost-reducing effects of importing (amplification effect). Consequently, if one omits market share from the pass-through relationship (15), the coefficient on import intensity should increase to reflect the positive correlation between import intensity and the omitted variable. For the same reason, we expect import intensity to still correlate with pass-through even after controlling for marginal cost.

To summarize, large-market-share firms are simultaneously high import-intensity firms.

[23] Consider the destination-currency price, $P_{k,i} = \mathcal{M}_{k,i} MC^*_i/\mathcal{E}_k$, where $MC^*_i/\mathcal{E}_k$ is the marginal cost of the firm converted to the destination-k currency. Changes in $\mathcal{E}_k$ affect $MC^*_i/\mathcal{E}_k$, and firms partially pass them through into destination-currency import prices $P_{k,i}$ and partially absorb them in their markups $\mathcal{M}_{k,i}$ with the relative strength of the two effects depending on markup elasticity $\Gamma_{k,i}$, and hence the firm's market share $S_{k,i}$.

This makes them low-pass-through firms through both markup and marginal cost channels, with the two channels reinforcing each other. We now test these predictions using detailed Belgian firm-level data on exporters and imports.

3 Empirical Evidence

This section provides our empirical results starting with a description of the dataset and the basic stylized facts on exporters and importers, proceeding with our main empirical results, and concluding with a battery of robustness tests.

3.1 Data description and construction of variables

Our main data source is the National Bank of Belgium, providing a comprehensive panel of Belgian trade flows, by firm, product (CN 8-digit level), exports by destination and imports by source country. We merge these data, using a unique firm identifier, with firm level characteristics from the Belgian Business Registry, comprising information on firms' inputs, which we use to construct total cost measures and total factor productivity estimates. Our sample comprises annual data for the period 2000 to 2008, beginning the year after the euro was introduced.[24] We focus on manufacturing exports to all OECD countries outside the euro area: Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States, accounting for 58 percent of total non-Euro exports.[25] We provide a full description of all the data sources in the data appendix.

The main variable of interest is the log change in a firm f's export price of good i to destination country k at time t, proxied by the change in a firm's export unit value, defined as the ratio of export values to export quantities:

$$\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t} \equiv \Delta \log \left(\frac{\text{Export value}_{f,i,k,t}}{\text{Export quantity}_{f,i,k,t}} \right), \tag{16}$$

where quantities are measured as weights or units. We use the ratio of value to weights, where available, and the ratio of value to units otherwise. We note that unit values are an

[24] The euro area was formed on January 1, 1999 in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain. Greece joined on January 1, 2001, Slovenia joined in 2007, Cyprus and Malta joined in 2008, and Slovakia joined in 2009.

[25] We include OECD countries that are classified as advanced according to the IMF or high income according to the World Bank, except we exclude Denmark because its exchange rate hardly moves relative to Belgium. We also include a robustness test with the full set of non-Euro destinations.

imprecise proxy for prices because there may be more than one distinct product within a CN 8-digit code despite the high level of disaggregation comprising an average of 4,500 distinct manufacturing product categories over the sample period. Some price changes may be due to compositional changes within a product code or errors in measuring quantities. In order to try to minimize this problem, we drop all year-to-year unit value changes of plus or minus 200 percent.

A distinctive feature of these data that is critical for our analysis is that it contains firm-level import values and quantities for each CN 8-digit product code by source country. We include all 242 source countries and all product codes (nearly 10,000) in the sample. Studies that draw on price data have not been able to match import and export prices at the firm level.[26] In general, many firms that are engaged in exporting also import their intermediate inputs. In Belgium, around 80 percent of manufacturing exporters import some of their inputs. We use these import data to construct two key variables—the import intensity $\varphi_{f,t}$ and the log change in the marginal cost $\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$. Specifically,

$$\varphi_{f,t} \equiv \frac{\text{Total non-Euro import value}_{f,t}}{\text{Total costs}_{f,t}}, \tag{17}$$

where total costs comprise a firm's total wage bill and total material cost. We often average this measure over time to obtain a firm-level average import intensity denoted with φ_f.

The change in marginal cost is defined as the log change in unit values of firm imports from all source countries weighted by respective expenditure shares:

$$\Delta mc^*_{f,t} \equiv \sum_{\substack{j \in J_{f,t} \\ m \in M_{f,t}}} \omega_{f,j,m,t} \Delta \log U^*_{f,j,m,t}, \tag{18}$$

where $U^*_{f,j,m,t}$ is the Euro price (unit value) of firm f imports of intermediate good j from country m at time t, the weights $\omega_{f,j,m,t}$ are the average of period t and $t-1$ shares of respective import values in firm's total costs, and finally $J_{f,t}$ and $M_{f,t}$ denote the set of all

[26] Despite the richness of our dataset, which also provides a variety of firm characteristics, it is subject to the typical drawback of customs data (e.g., the French dataset used in Berman, Martin, and Mayer, 2012) in that we observe trade values and quantities at very disaggregated level, yet we do not observe trade prices of individual items. As a result, two potential concerns are, one, aggregation across heterogenous goods even at the very fine level of disaggregation (firm-destination-CN 8-digit product code level) and, two, aggregation over time of sticky prices. In particular, we cannot condition our analysis on a price change of a good, as was done in Gopinath, Itskhoki, and Rigobon (2010) using BLS IPP item-level data, which however is limited in the available firm characteristics and hence not suitable for our analysis. This constrains our ability to interpret the finding of low pass-through as coming from variable desired markup as opposed to local currency price stickiness. We conduct a number of robustness tests to address these two caveats, as well as provide a cautious interpretation of our findings in Section 4.

imported goods and import source countries (including inside the Euro area) for the firm at a given time period. Note that this measure of the marginal cost is still a proxy since it does not reflect the costs of domestic inputs and firm productivity. We control for estimated firm productivity separately, however data on the prices and values of domestic inputs are not available. Nonetheless, controlling for our measure of the firm-level marginal cost is a substantial improvement over previous pass-through studies which typically only control for aggregate manufacturing wage rate and/or producer price level. Furthermore, our measure of marginal cost arguably captures the component of the marginal cost most sensitive to exchange rate movements.

Ideally, we would like to construct $\varphi_{f,t}$ and $\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$ for each of the products i a firm produces however this measure is only available at the firm f level, which may not be the same for all of the products produced by multi-product firms. To address this multi-product issue, we only keep the firm's main export products which we identify using Belgium's input-output table for the year 2005, comprising 56 IO manufacturing codes. For each firm we identify an IO code that accounts for its largest export value over the whole sample period and only keep the CN 8-digit product codes within this major-IO code. The objective is to only keep the set of products for each firm that have similar production technologies. This leaves us with 60 percent of the observations but 90 percent of the value of exports. We also present results with the full set of export products, and experiment with defining the major product using more disaggregated product line levels, such as HS 4-digit. Further, it is possible that some of the firm's imports might be final goods rather than intermediate inputs. We attempt to identify imported intermediate inputs using a number of different approaches. First, we omit any import from the construction of $\varphi_{f,t}$ that is defined as a final product using Broad Economic Codes (BEC).[27]However, a potential problem with this measure is that what might constitute an input for one industry may in fact be an output for another industry. Thus we also provide robustness results with equations (17) and (18) modified using the IO tables to identify intermediate inputs.

Another key variable of interest for our analysis is a firm's market share, which we construct as follows:

$$S_{f,s,k,t} \equiv \frac{\text{Export value}_{f,s,k,t}}{\sum_{f' \in F_{s,k,t}} \text{Export value}_{f',s,k,t}},$$

where s is the sector in which firm f sells product i and $F_{s,k,t}$ is the set of Belgian exporters to destination k, in sector s at time t. Therefore, $S_{f,s,k,t}$ measures a Belgium firm's market

[27]See `http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=10`. We define intermediate inputs to comprise codes 111, 121, 2, 42, 53, 41 and 521.

share in sector s, export destination k at time t relative to all other Belgium exporters. Note that, following the theory, this measure is destination specific. The theory also suggests that the relevant measure is the firm's market share relative to all firms supplying the destination market in a given sector, including exporters from other countries as well as domestic competitors in market k. But, since our analysis is across Belgian exporters within sector-destinations, the competitive stance in a particular sector-destination is common for all Belgian exporters and hence is absorbed into sector-destination fixed effect. As a result, this market share variable captures all relevant variation for our analysis.[28] We define sectors at the HS 4-digit level, at which we both obtain a non-trivial distribution of market shares and avoid having too many sector-destinations served by a single firm.[29]

3.2 Stylized facts about exporters and importers

A salient pattern in our data set is that most exporters are also importers, which is also present in many earlier studies cited in the Introduction. As reported in Table 1, in the full sample of Belgian manufacturing firms, the fraction of firms that are either exporters or importers is 33%. Out of these firms, 57% both import and export, 28% only import and 16% only export. That is, 22% of manufacturing firms in Belgium export and 78% of exporters also import.[30] We show that this empirical regularity turns out to be important in understanding why there is incomplete exchange rate pass-through. This high correlation between exporting and importing reflects that selection into both of these activities is driven by firm characteristics such as productivity and scale of operation.

Interestingly, the data reveals a lot of heterogeneity within exporting firms, which are an already very select subsample of firms. The large differences between exporters and non-exporters are already well-known and are also prevalent in our data. The new stylized facts we highlight here are the large differences within exporters between high and low import-intensity exporting firms. We show in Table 2 that these two groups of exporting firms

[28] In an extension of the theory (not provided in the interest of space constraints), a multiproduct firm sets the same markup for all its varieties within a sector, as in (13), where its markup depends on the cumulative market share of all these varieties. Therefore, $S_{f,s,k,t}$ is indeed the appropriate measure of market power for all varieties i produced by the firm f in sector s at time t.

[29] The median of $S_{f,s,k,t}$ is 7.8%, yet the 75-th percentile is over 40% and the export-value-weighted median is 55%. 24% of $S_{f,s,k,t}$ observations are less than 1%, yet these observations account for only 1.4% of export sales. 3% of $S_{f,s,k,t}$ observations are unity, yet they account for less than 2.5%. Our results are robust (and, in fact, become marginally stronger) to the exclusion of observations with very small and very large market shares. We depict the cumulative distribution function of $S_{f,s,k,t}$ in Figure A1 in the appendix.

[30] These statistics are averaged over the sample length, but they are very stable year-to-year. In the subsample of exporters we use for our regression analysis in Section 3.3, the fraction of importing firms is somewhat higher at 85.5%, reflecting that data availability is slightly biased towards larger firms.

Table 1: Exporter and importer incidence

	Exporters and/or importers	All exporters
Fraction of all firms	32.6%	23.7%
of them:		
— exporters and importers	57.0%	78.4%
— only exporters	15.8%	21.6%
— only importers	27.2%	—

Note: *Manufacturing firms sample. Average frequencies over the years 2000–2008.*

differ in fundamental ways. We report various firm-level characteristics for high and low import-intensity exporters, splitting exporters into two groups based on the median share of non-Euro import intensity (φ_f) equal to 4.2%.[31] For comparison, we also report the available analogous statistics for non-exporting firms with at least 5 employees.

From Table 2 we see that import-intensive exporters operate on a larger scale and are more productive. The share of imported inputs in total costs for import-intensive exporters is 37% compared to 17% for nonimport-intensive exporters, and similarly for imports sourced outside the Euro Zone it is 17% compared to 1.2%. And of course, these numbers are much lower for non-exporters at 1.6% for imports outside Belgium and 0.3% for imports outside the Euro Zone. Import-intensive exporters are 2.5 times larger in terms of employment than nonimport-intensive exporters and 13 times larger than non-exporters; they pay a 15 percent wage premium relative to non-import-intensive firms and a 40 percent wage premium relative to non-exporters. Similarly, import-intensive exporters are much larger in terms of total material costs, total factor productivity and market share. These firms also export and import on a much larger scale, in terms of export and import values, number of export destinations and import source countries, and numbers of exported and imported varieties of goods. Specifically, import-intensive firms import on average a total of 80 varieties of intermediate inputs (at the CN-8-digit level) from 14 countries, of which 9 countries are outside the Euro Zone. Compare this with the lower numbers for nonimport-intensive firms that import 53 varieties from 9 countries, of which 4 countries are outside the Euro Zone. These numbers highlight that both types of exporting firms are active in importing from a range of countries both within and outside the Euro Zone, but that the two types of firms differ substantially in import intensity, consistent with the predictions of our theoretical

[31] The unit of observation here is a firm-year. If we split our sample based on firm-product-destination-year (which is the unit of observation in our regression analysis), the median import intensity is higher at 8.2%, however this has no material consequences for the patterns we document in Table 2.

Table 2: Exporting firms with high and low import intensity φ_f

	Exporters		Non-exporters
	Import intensive (high φ_f)	Not import intensive (low φ_f)	
Share of total imports in total cost	0.368	0.173	0.016
Share of non-Euro imports in total cost (φ_f)	0.166	0.012	0.003
Employment (# full-time equiv. workers)	270.9	112.1	20.7
Average wage bill (thousands of Euros)	48.8	42.3	34.9
Material cost (millions of Euros)	103.5	28.1	3.0
Total Factor Productivity (log)	0.36	0.07	
Market share (firm–destination–HS-4)	0.19	0.12	
Export value	49.6	9.4	
# of products exported	28.5	12.0	
# of non-Euro export destinations	18.8	9.4	
# of non-Euro export destinations by HS-8	8.1	5.0	
Import value	49.3	6.9	
# of import source countries	14.5	9.2	
# of import source countries by HS-8	2.7	2.0	
# of HS 8-digit products imported	79.8	53.4	
# of HS 8-digit-country products imported	131.0	75.1	
Import value outside EZ	20.8	0.5	
# of import source countries outside EZ	8.7	4.3	
Producer-price pass-through coefficient	0.25	0.14	

Note: *The exporter sub-sample is split at the median of non-Euro import intensity (share of non-Euro imports in total costs) equal to 4.3%. The non-exporter subsample is all non-exporting manufacturing firms with 5 or more employees. All import and export values are in millions of Euros. 33% of low import intensity firms do not import at all, and 48% of them do not import from outside the Euro Zone. The construction of the measured TFP follows standard procedure and is described in the data appendix.*

framework. We exploit the large differences between these two groups of exporters to show that import-intensive firms have a higher exchange rate pass-through into producer prices which we report in the last row of Table 2 and further explore in Section 3.3.

We now provide more details on the distribution of import intensity outside the Euro Zone (φ_f) among the exporting firms and its relationship with other firm-level variables. We see that the distribution of import intensity among exporters in Table 3, although somewhat skewed towards zero, has a wide support and substantial variation, which we exploit in our regression analysis in Section 3.3. Over 24% of exporters do not import from outside the Euro Zone, yet they account for only 1% of Belgian manufacturing exports. For the majority of firms, the share of imported inputs in total costs ranges between 0 and 10%. At

Table 3: Distribution of import intensity φ_f among exporters

	# firms	frac firms	frac exp. value
$\varphi_f = 0$	716	24.9%	1.2%
$0 < \varphi_f \leq 0.1$	1,478	51.3%	38.5%
$0.1 < \varphi_f \leq 0.2$	348	12.1%	23.8%
$0.2 < \varphi_f \leq 0.3$	154	5.4%	8.9%
$0.3 < \varphi_f \leq 0.4$	95	3.3%	22.7%
$0.4 < \varphi_f \leq 0.5$	44	1.5%	3.3%
$\varphi_f > 0.5$	45	1.6%	1.6%

Note: *Import intensity, φ_f, is the share of imported intermediate inputs from outside the Euro Zone in the total cost of the firm, averaged over the sample period.*

the same time, the export-value-weighted median of import intensity is 12.7% and nearly 28% of export sales are generated by the firms with import intensity in excess of 30%.[32] We further depict the cumulative distribution function of import intensity φ_f in Figure A1 in the appendix, which also provides a cumulative distribution function for our market share variable $S_{f,s,k,t}$.

Table 4 displays the correlations of import intensity with other firm-level variables in the cross-section of firms. Confirming the predictions of Proposition 3, import intensity is positively correlated with market share, as well as with firm TFP, employment and revenues. The strongest correlate of import intensity is the total material cost of the firm, consistent with the predictions of Proposition 2. Overall, the correlations in Table 4 broadly support the various predictions of our theoretical framework. At the same time, although import intensity and market share are positively correlated with productivity and other firm performance measures, there is sufficient independent variation to enable us to distinguish between the determinants of firm pass-through incompleteness in the following subsections.

We close this section with a brief discussion of the patterns of time-series variation in import intensity for a given firm. Import intensity appears to be a relatively stable characteristic of the firm, moving little over time and in response to exchange rate fluctuations. Specifically, the simple regression of $\varphi_{f,t}$ on firm fixed effects has an R^2 of over 85%, implying that the cross-sectional variation in time-averaged firm import intensity φ_f is nearly 6 times larger than the average time-series variation in $\varphi_{f,t}$ for a given firm. When we regress

[32] While the unweighted distribution (firm count) has a single peak, the export-value-weighted distribution has two peaks. This is due to the fact that one exporter with $\varphi_f = 0.33$ accounts for almost 14% of export sales. Our results are not sensitive to the exclusion of this largest exporter which accounts for only 134 observations out of a total of over 90,000 firm-destination-product-year observations in our sample.

Table 4: Correlation structure of import intensity

	Import intensity	TFP	Revenues	Empl't	Material cost
Market share	0.16	0.20	0.28	0.25	0.27
Material cost	0.23	0.70	0.99	0.83	
Employment	0.10	0.60	0.86		
Revenues	0.21	0.72			
TFP	0.15				

Note: *Cross-sectional correlations of firm-level variables averaged over time. Material costs, Employment, Revenues and TFP are in logs. Import intensity is the share of imported intermediate inputs from outside the Euro Zone in the total cost of the firm.*

the change in $\varphi_{f,t}$ on firm fixed effects and the lags of the log change in firm-level import-weighted exchange rates, the contemporaneous effect is significant with the semi-elasticity of only 0.056, and with offsetting, albeit marginally significant, lag effects. That is, a 10% depreciation of the euro temporarily increases import intensity by 0.56 of a percentage point. Furthermore, we find that the firm hardly adjusts its imports on the extensive margin in response to changes in its import-weighted exchange rate. All of this evidence provides support for our assumption in Section 2.4 that adjustment on the extensive margin plays a very limited role in the response of a firm's marginal cost to exchange rate movements, and justifies the use of φ_f as a time-invariant firm characteristic in the empirical regression that follow.[33]

To summarize, this preliminary data analysis shows that there is substantial variation in import intensity among exporters, and this heterogeneity within exporters follows patterns consistent with the predictions of our theoretical framework. Next, guided by the theoretical predictions, we explore the implications of this heterogeneity for the exchange rate pass-through patterns of Belgian firms.

3.3 Main empirical findings

We now empirically test our central theoretical prediction that firm's market share and import intensity are two prime determinants of exchange rate pass-through into export prices (Proposition 5). Our goal is to empirically implement the theoretical regression (15). However, since pass-through is not directly observed in the data at the firm level, we rewrite (15)

[33] We measure the extensive margin as the growth in exports at the firm-time level due to importing a new product variety, where a variety is defined at different levels of aggregation including country-product level at CN 8-digit and HS 6-digit. We provide additional robustness checks where we allow $\varphi_{f,t}$ to be time-varying

in changes over time and multiply through by the log change in the destination-specific exchange rate. This leads to our main empirical specification, where we regress the annual change in export price on the change in the exchange rate, interacted with import intensity and market share, where an increase in the exchange rate corresponds to the depreciation of the Euro:[34]

$$\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t} = \text{level controls} + \left[\alpha + \beta\varphi_f + \gamma S_{f,s,k,t}\right]\Delta e_{k,t} + \epsilon_{f,i,k,t}. \tag{19}$$

We estimate equation (19) for the group of non-Euro OECD countries within the manufacturing sector, but later we allow for α to be country-industry specific at a much finer level of industry disaggregation. Proposition 5 predicts positive coefficients β and γ.

To explore the underlying mechanisms behind the equilibrium relationship between pass-through, import intensity and market shares, we begin with a more simple specification and build up to the specification in equation (19). Table 5 reports the results. First, in Column 1, we report that the unweighted average exchange rate pass-through elasticity into producer prices in our sample is 0.21, or equivalently 0.79 $(= 1 - 0.21)$ into destination prices. We refer to it as 79% pass-through.

In Column 2, we include an interaction between exchange rates and a firm's import intensity. We see that the simple average coefficient reported in Column 1 hides a considerable amount of heterogeneity, as firms with different import intensities have very different pass-through rates. Firms with a high share of intermediate inputs relative to total variable costs exhibit lower pass-through into destination-specific export prices—a 10 percentage point higher import intensity is associated with a 5.3 percentage point lower pass-through. A typical firm with zero import intensity has a pass-through of 85% $(= 1 - 0.15)$, while a firm with a 38% import intensity (in the 95-th percentile of the distribution) has a pass-through of only 65% $(= 1 - (0.15 + 0.53 \cdot 0.38))$.

Next, we explore whether import intensity operates through the marginal-cost channel or through selection and the markup channel. In Columns 3 and 4, we add controls for the marginal cost of the firm to see whether the effect of import intensity on pass-through persists beyond the marginal cost channel. In Column 3, we control for the change in marginal cost $\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$, measured as the import-weighted change in the firm's import prices of material inputs, which is likely to be sensitive to exchange rate changes if the firm relies heavily on imported intermediate inputs. Comparing Columns 2 and 3, we see that the coefficient

[34]The exchange rates are average annual rates from the IMF. These are provided for each country relative to the US dollar, which we convert to be relative to the Euro.

Table 5: Import intensity, market share and pass-through

Dep. var.: $\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t}$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\Delta e_{k,t}$	0.214***	0.149***	0.129***	0.136***	0.077***	0.088***
	(0.029)	(0.030)	(0.028)	(0.038)	(0.028)	(0.031)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f$		0.526***	0.285***	0.375*	0.178	0.397***
		(0.097)	(0.104)	(0.202)	(0.108)	(0.091)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$					0.225***	0.262***
					(0.054)	(0.059)
$\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$			0.582***		0.577***	
			(0.034)		(0.033)	
FPY FE	no	no	no	yes	no	no

Note: *Observations unweighted at the firm-destination-product-year level; number of observations in each regression is 92,693. Δ corresponds to annual changes. All regressions include country fixed effects. FPY FE stands for firm-product-year fixed effects. Regressions (2)–(3) and (6) include a control for the level of φ_f, and regression (5)–(6) additionally include a control for the level of the market share, $S_{f,s,k,t}$.* * *and* *** *correspond to 10% and 1% significance levels respectively. Standard errors clustered at the coutnry-year level reported in brackets. Alternative clustering at the firm level and at the country-HS 4-digit level yield the same conclusions.*

on the import intensity interaction nearly halves in size once we control for marginal cost, dropping from 0.53 to 0.29, but still remains strongly significant with a t-stat of 2.74. We confirm this findings with an alternative measure of marginal cost changes, which we proxy with firm-product-year fixed effects (FPY FE) in Column 4. In this specification, the only variation that remains is across destinations for a given firm, and hence among other things arguably controls for all components of the marginal cost of the firms. The coefficient on the import intensity interaction in Column 4 is somewhat larger compared to Column 3, but still about a third smaller compared to Column 2 without the control for marginal cost. The coefficient in Column 4 is much less precisely estimated, yet it remains marginally significant with a t-stat of 1.86. This result is impressive given that this specification is saturated with fixed effects, and the similarity of the results in Columns 3 and 4 provides confidence in our measure of marginal cost.

The results in Column 3 and 4 suggest that, although the marginal cost is an important channel through which import intensity affects pass-through (see Proposition 2), there is still a considerable residual effect after conditioning on the marginal cost that is operating through the markup channel. This is consistent with theoretical predictions, since import intensity correlates with market share in the cross-section of firms and market share determines the

markup elasticity (see Propositions 1 and 3). To test this, in Column 5 we augment the specification of Column 4 (controlling for $\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$) with a market share interaction with the log change in exchange rate to proxy for markup elasticity, as suggested by Proposition 5. Given that we now control for both marginal cost and markup, we expect import intensity to stop having predictive power. Indeed, the coefficient on import intensity interaction nearly halves in size (from 0.29 to 0.18) and becomes statistically insignificant.

Finally, Column 6 implements our main specification in (19) by including the import intensity and market share interactions, without controlling for marginal cost. Proposition 5 suggests that import intensity and market share are two prime predictors of exchange rate pass-through, and indeed we find the two interaction terms in Column 6 are strongly statistically significant. Interpreting our results quantitatively, we find that a firm with a zero import intensity and a nearly zero market share (corresponding respectively to the 5-th percentiles of both distributions) has a pass-through of 91.2% ($= 1 - 0.088$). Although complete pass-through for such firms is statistically rejected, a 97% pass-through coefficient falls within a 95% confidence interval around our point estimate. A hypothetical non-importing firm with a 75% market share relative to other Belgian exporters (corresponding to the 95-th percentile of the firm-level distribution of market shares) has a pass-through of 71.5%, 19.7 percentage points lower ($= 0.262 \cdot 0.75$). Holding this market share constant and increasing the import intensity of the firm from zero to 38% (corresponding again to the 95-th percentile of the respective distribution) reduces the pass-through by another 15.1 percentage points ($= 0.397 \cdot 0.38$), to 56.4%. Therefore, variation in market share and import intensity explains a vast range of variation in pass-through across firms.

Our main empirical findings in Table 5 provide strong support for the theoretical predictions developed in Section 2. However, we want to ensure that these results are smooth and not driven by outliers, as well as to isolate the particular mechanism through which import intensity affects pass-through. We re-estimate the specifications in Table 5 non-parametrically, by splitting the distribution of import intensity φ_f into four quartiles. Specifically, we estimate a separate pass-through coefficient for each quartile of the import intensity distribution, including additional controls, and plot these coefficients in the left panel of Figure 2. All estimated coefficients, standard errors and p-values are reported in Table A2 in the appendix. The graph shows that the coefficient is estimated to be monotonically higher (thus lower pass-through) as we move from low to higher import intensity bins when we don't include both marginal cost and market share controls. The steepest line corresponds to the unconditional regression (a counterpart to Column 2 of Table 5), and it is somewhat flatter with

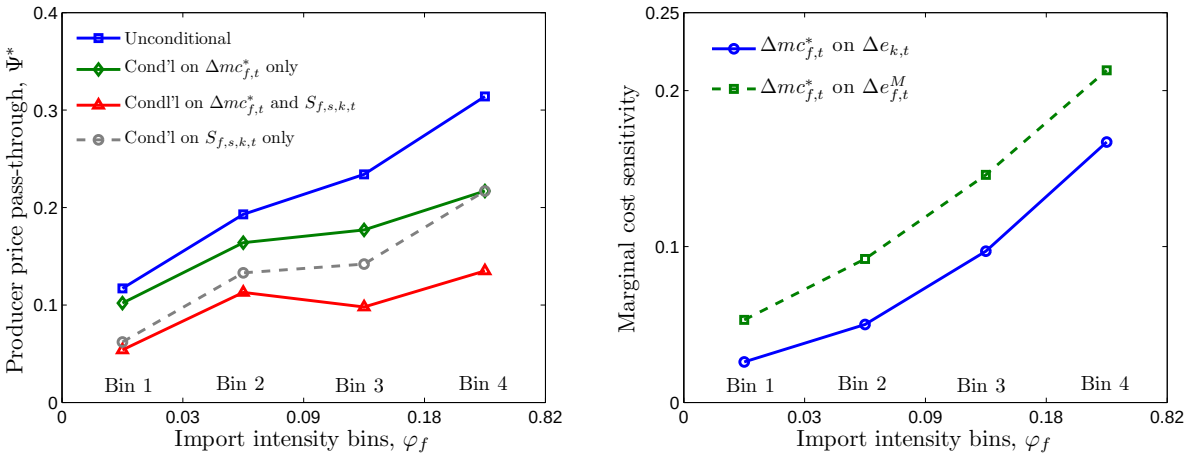


Figure 2: Pass-through by quartile of φ_f distribution

Note: *The means of φ_f in the four bins are 1.3%, 5.5%, 13.1% and 30.1% respectively. The left panel reports pass-through coefficients of $\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t}$ on $\Delta e_{k,t}$ within each φ_f-quartile, where the regressions include additional controls in levels and interacted with $\Delta e_{k,t}$, as indicated in the legend of the figure. The right panel reports the pass-through coefficients from regressions of the log change in our measure of the marginal cost of the firm $\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$ on both bilateral export exchange rates $\Delta e_{k,t}$ and firm-level import-weighted exchange rate $\Delta e^M_{f,t}$, by quartiles of the φ_f-distribution. Additional information reported in Table A2 in the appendix.*

controls for marginal cost (Column 3), and it is much flatter after controlling jointly for the change in the marginal cost and the market share interaction (Column 5). The dashed line corresponds to our main specification (Column 6), which controls for both market share and import intensity, but not marginal cost, and it also exhibits a considerable slope across the import intensity bins. Furthermore, in all of these cases the difference between the pass-through coefficient in the first and fourth quartiles is significant with a p-value of 1%, with the exception of when we control for both marginal cost and market share. Consistent with our findings in Column 5 of Table 5, when controlling for market share and marginal costs the profile of pass-through coefficients across the bins of the import intensity distribution becomes nearly flat with the differences between the pass-through values in different bins statistically insignificant.[35]

A key mechanism that the theory highlights is that import intensity affects exchange rate pass-through by increasing the marginal cost sensitivity to exchange rates (Proposition 2). In the right panel of Figure 2, we test this by regressing our measure of the change in the marginal cost $\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$ on the change in the destination-specific exchange rate $\Delta e_{k,t}$ and separately on the change in the firm-level import-weighted exchange rate $\Delta e^M_{f,t}$, within each

[35] Only the difference between the first and the fourth bins is marginally significant at 10% level, yet in all other bilateral comparisons the coefficients are statistically the same with a p-value of at least 23% (not reported).

quartile of the import-intensity distribution.[36] Indeed, we find a very tight monotonically increasing pattern of marginal cost sensitivity to the destination-specific exchange rates across the bins with increasing import intensity. Quantitatively, an increase in import intensity from 1% on average in the first quartile to 30% on average in the fourth quartile leads to an increase in marginal cost sensitivity to exchange rate from 0.03 to 0.17. Consistent with the theory, the response of the marginal cost to import-weighted exchange rate is also monotonically increasing in φ_f and lies strictly above the response to the destination-specific exchange rate, ranging from 0.05 to 0.21. Table A2 reports the coefficients from these regressions in Columns 6 and 7.

Column 8 of Table A2 additionally reports the projection coefficients of firm-level import-weighted exchange rates $\Delta e^M_{f,t}$ on destination-specific exchange rates $\Delta e_{k,t}$ across the quartiles of import-intensity distribution. This link is important for our mechanism since we expect import intensity to affect pass-through into export prices only to the extent that import and export exchange rates correlate with each other. We find these projection coefficients to be stable at around 0.45, with no systematic and little overall variation across bins of import intensity. In particular, the coefficients across the range of import intensity cannot be distinguished statistically from each other. Furthermore, we find little evidence of *real hedging*, when firms may align their import sources and export destinations to hedge their exchange rate risks, which should be reflected in high coefficients in firm-level regression of import-weighted exchange rates on export-destination exchange rates.[37] Importantly for our analysis, there is no systematic variation in our measure of real hedging across the bins of import intensity. To summarize, we conclude that the marginal cost channel through which import intensity affects pass-through, as emphasized in the theory, is indeed at play empirically, and import intensity does not appear to proxy for other omitted characteristics of the firm, such as the extent of real hedging.

Finally, given the importance of the interaction effects between import intensity and market share highlighted in the theory, we further explore non-parametric relationships in Table 6 by creating four bins based on whether a firm's market share and import intensity

[36] The import-weighted exchange rate $\Delta e^M_{f,t}$ is constructed as the sum of the import expenditure shares of all imports outside the euro zone at the firm-level, with the weights averaged between period t and $t-1$.

[37] Specifically, the median of the distribution of these firm-level regression coefficients is not substantially higher than the average of the regression coefficient of manufacturing-wide import-weighted exchange rate on destination-specific exchange rates. At the same time, the distribution of firm-level regression coefficients exhibits a lot of variation, possibly due to imprecise measurement of firm-level import-weighted exchange rate and short estimation window. Additionally, we find no evidence that firms switch the countries of their input sourcing in response to exchange rate fluctuations, at least at the horizons we consider in our pass-through estimation.

Table 6: Pass-through by import-intensity and market-share bins

	Low import intensity	High import intensity
Low market share	0.114***	0.146***
Fraction of observations	*30.0%*	*20.0%*
Share in export value	*8.8%*	*9.3%*
High market share	0.235***	0.388***
Fraction of observations	*19.9%*	*30.1%*
Share in export value	*21.2%*	*60.7%*

Note: *Coefficients from regression of $\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t}$ on $\Delta e_{k,t}$ within respective bins. Firms are sorted by market share $S_{f,s,k}$ into below and above the median equal to 9.8%; and by import intensity φ_f into below and above median equal to 8.2%. All coefficients are significantly different from each other at least at a 5% level, with the exception of 0.114 and 0.146 which are statistically distinguishable only at 10.6% level. Reported fraction of observations is at the firm-product-destination level.*

are above or below their respective medians. Within each bin, we estimate a simple pass-through regression of the change in producer export prices on the change in exchange rate. Consistent with results in Column 6 of Table 5, we find that pass-through into destination-specific export prices decreases significantly either as we move towards the bin with a higher market share or towards the bin with a higher import intensity. The lowest pass-through of 61% ($= 1 - 0.388$) is found in the bin with above median market share and above median import intensity, compared with the pass-through of 89% ($= 1 - 0.114$) for firms with below-median import intensity and market share, quantitatively consistent with the results in Table 5.

Furthermore, we report in Table 6 the fraction of observations and the share in total export value which falls within each of the four bins. Although we split the sample at the medians along both dimensions, we end up with more observations along the main diagonal (around 30% in each bin) relative to the inverse diagonal (around 20% in each bin). This reflects the positive correlation between the market share and import intensity in the cross-section of firms. This notwithstanding, the share of export value in the first bin with both low market share and low import intensity is only 9%. The fourth bin with both above-median import intensity and market share accounts for the majority of export values, namely over 60%. Table 6 also suggests that the pass-through coefficient into destination prices from an unweighted regression as in Column 1 of Table 5 should be substantially higher than from a regression in which observations are weighted by respective export values. Indeed, when weighting by export values, we find a pass-through coefficient of 64.5% as opposed to 78.6%

in the unweighted specification, consistent with our earlier calculations.[38] Our evidence further shows that part of this difference is due to greater markup variability among the large exporters, but of a quantitatively similar importance is the higher import intensity of these firms.

3.4 Extensions and robustness

In this section we describe an extensive series of robustness tests for our main empirical results, as well as provide some additional evidence on the particular mechanism at play behind our results.

Which imports matter? We first explore whether imports from all countries are equally important for our results. Our main results in the previous section focused on the measure of imports from outside the Euro Area as a share of total variable costs of the firm. Hence, this measure fully excludes all imports of Belgian firms from other members of the common currency area, yet treats symmetrically all source countries outside the currency union. We now ask whether imports from within the Euro Area play a separate role in affecting pass-through, and whether imports from OECD and non-OECD countries outside the Euro Area have different effects on pass-through. This is a possibility since what matters for marginal cost changes beyond the exchange rate variation, is the pass-through of shocks into the prices of imported inputs, and this may well vary across import source countries.

Table 7 reports the results when we estimate our main empirical specifications upgraded with additional measures of import intensity. In particular, in Columns 1–2, alongside with our measure of import intensity from outside the Euro Area φ_f, we include φ_f^{EZ}— the share of imports from within the Euro Area in total variable costs. Columns 1 has no additional controls, as in specification (2) from Table 5, while Column 2 controls additionally for the market share interaction, as in our main specification (6) in Table 5. We find that imports from within the Euro Area have no additional effect on pass-through once we already control for import intensity from outside the Euro Area. Indeed, we do not expect imports from within the Euro Zone to affect marginal costs differentially from inputs sourced inside Belgium. However, what is also interesting, is that importing from within the Euro Zone does not appear to be a strong indicator of firm selection, since this variable does not have predictive ability even when we do not control for market share.

[38] This difference also largely helps to close the gap in the pass-through estimates between firm-level trade datasets finding larger pass-through (as, for example, in Berman, Martin, and Mayer, 2012) and product-level datasets finding substantially lower pass-through (as, for exmaple, in Gopinath and Itskhoki, 2010).

Table 7: Euro-area imports and imports from OECD vs non-OECD countries

	Euro Area imports		OECD vs non-OECD
Dep. var.: $\Delta p^*_{f,k,t}$	(1)	(2)	(3)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f$	0.523***	0.385**	
	(0.098)	(0.093)	
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f^{EZ}$	0.081	0.004	0.002
	(0.123)	(0.122)	(0.122)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f^{OECD}$			0.470***
			(0.158)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f^{non-OECD}$			0.252
			(0.193)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$		0.262***	0.263***
		(0.059)	(0.060)

Note: *φ_f^{EZ} is the share of firm's imports from within the Euro Zone in total variable costs, so that $\varphi_f + \varphi_f^{EZ}$ is the share of total imports in variable costs. φ_f^{OECD} and $\varphi_f^{non-OECD}$ are the cost shares of imports from non-Euro OECD and non-OECD countries respectively, so that $\varphi_f^{OECD} + \varphi_f^{non-OECD} = \varphi_f$. All regressions additionally include $\Delta e_{k,t}$ without interactions, as well as controls for levels of all variables included as interaction terms. The coefficients on $\Delta e_{k,t}$ range closely around 0.088 estimate in Column 6 of Table 5 and hence are not reported for brevity. Other details as in Table 5.*

In Column 3 of Table 5 we estimate our main empirical specification, but partitioning the non-Euro import intensity φ_f into import intensity from non-OECD and OECD countries outside the Euro Zone, as well as controlling for imports intensity from within the Euro Zone which still turn out inconsequential. We find that only import from non-Euro OECD countries have statistically significant effect on pass-through, while the effect of imports from non-OECD countries is half as big in terms of point estimate and imprecisely estimated. To gain further understanding, we estimate pass-through regressions of import-country exchange rate on the price of imported inputs from this country, pooling the coefficients on all OECD and all non-OECD countries, weighting the observations by their import shares. We find the import pass-through coefficient to be 52% from OECD countries and only 6% with a 14% standard error from non-OECD countries. Therefore, despite substantial fluctuations in exchange rates with non-OECD countries, the pass-through from this countries into the prices of intermediate goods is very low, which explains why high import intensity of a firm from these countries has little bearing on the firm's pass-through into export prices.[39]

[39]This differential pass-through from rich and poor countries has been documented in many previous studies (e.g., see discussion in Gopinath and Itskhoki, 2011). One possible reason for this is low differentiation of products coming from poor countries. Another potential reason is volatile macroeconomic policies in the poor countries leading to swings in exchange rates which do not affect foreign-currency prices of international transactions of these countries.

Finally, we find in the data that larger importers in our sample import more from non-OECD countries, apparently another dimension of firm selection in the data. Specifically, the share of non-OECD imports monotonically increases from 24% to 45% as we go from the lowest to the highest quartile of import intensity. This pattern explains the somewhat moderate slope of the marginal cost pass-through across import-intensity quartiles reported in Figure 2 and acts to diminish the strength of the export-price pass-through effects that we find, which are nonetheless large.

Finally, we have additionally experimented extensively with the particular definitions of (non-Euro) import intensity that we use in our regressions. We report these robustness checks in Table A1 in the appendix, where we estimate our main empirical specification using alternative alternative definitions of import intensity. First, we consider a time-varying measure of import intensity rather than fixing it for a given firm at its value averaged over the whole sample. Next, we restrict the definition of imports to exclude consumer goods. Finally, we only include imports identified as intermediate inputs for that firm's exports based on an IO-table, and then we additionally exclude any import at the CN 8-digit industrial code if the firm simultaneously exports in this category. In the first three case the results stay essentially unchanged, while in the last case the coefficient on the import intensity substantially increases but its standard deviation increases alongside.

Within destination-industry We now check whether the empirical relationship between pass-through, market share and import intensity documented in Table 5 is largely driven by within industry-destination variation, as suggested by Proposition 5. Table 8 reports the results from estimating equation (19) with exchange rate changes interacted with industry-destination fixed effects, as suggested by equation (15). First, in Columns 1–4 of this table we replicate the specifications from Columns 2–3 and 5–6 of Table 5 with destination-SITC 1-digit exchange rate interactions, hence identifying the pass-through relationship within destination and 1-digit manufacturing industries. The results are nearly identical to our main specification in Table 5, in which the data is pooled across 12 non-Euro OECD destinations and all manufacturing exports. This suggests that the relationship between pass-through, import intensity and market share that we uncover is almost entirely a within industry-destination relationship.

Second, in Column 5 of Table 8, we further test for this within-effect by controlling for industry interactions at a finer level of disaggregation. Specifically, instead of four SITC 1-digit fixed effect interactions we use 163 manufacturing sectors at the SITC 3-digit, but drop the interaction with destination fixed effects. For brevity we only report the results

Table 8: Robustness within destinations and industries

Dependent variable: $\Delta p^*_{k,i,f,t}$	All manufacturing					Differentiated Goods	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f$	0.569***	0.306***	0.147	0.370***	0.459***	0.353***	0.473***
	(0.105)	(0.108)	(0.113)	(0.101)	(0.124)	(0.117)	(0.142)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$			0.341***	0.414***	0.215***	0.370***	0.252***
			(0.065)	(0.073)	(0.082)	(0.067)	(0.085)
$\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$		0.578***	0.568***				
		(0.034)	(0.034)				
Fixed effect interactions:							
$\Delta e_{k,t} \times$ country $\times$ SITC 1-digit	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
$\Delta e_{k,t} \times$ SITC 3-digit	no	no	no	no	yes	no	yes
# of industries	4	4	4	4	163	4	128
# of observations	92,693	92,693	92,693	92,693	92,693	80,069	80,069

Note: *Columns 1–4 correspond to specifications in Columns 2–3 and 5–6 of Table 5, and include destination-industry fixed effect interacted with the change in the exchange rate. The number of destination is 12, and industries are defined at SITC 1-digit level (4 manufacturing industries). Column 5 repeat the specification in Column 4, but replacing the destination-industry interaction with only industry interaction, but at a finer SITC 3-digit level (163 manufacturing industries). Column 6–7 repeat specifications in Column 4–5, restricting the manufacturing sample to only differentiated goods according to the Rauch classification. All specifications include destination and industry (at respective level of aggregation) fixed effects in levels.*

for the main specification with import intensity and market share interaction, but without marginal cost (parallel to the specification in Column 4 of the same table). Again, we find very similar results with the coefficient on import intensity interaction larger by about 25%. Finally, Columns 6–7 replicates Columns 4–5 but only for the subsample of differentiated manufacturing goods based on the Rauch (1999) classification. This excludes a little less than 15% of observations, but also largely leaves the results unchanged.

Alternative samples We further check the robustness of our results within alternative sub-samples of the dataset, both in terms of the coverage of export destinations and types of products. Table A3 in the appendix provides the results from estimates of the main specification from Column 6 of Table 5 in eight alternative subsamples. By and large, it recovers the same qualitative and quantitative patterns we find in our benchmark sample. We first report the results for three alternative sets of export destinations—all non-Euro countries, non-Euro OECD countries excluding the US, and the US only.[40]

The remaining columns in Table A3 consider a different set of products and firms. So far, all of the specifications have been restricted to the sub-sample of only manufacturing firms because our φ_f measure is likely to be a better proxy of import intensity in manufacturing than for wholesalers (who may purchase final goods within Belgium to import them or alternatively import final goods for distribution within Belgium). In Column 4, which adds in all wholesale firms to our baseline sample, we see that although the import intensity and market share interactions are still positive and significant, their magnitudes and t-stats are smaller. The wholesalers represent around 40 percent of the combined sample. Next, in Column 5, we drop all intra-firm transactions from our baseline sample (around 15 percent of observations), and this has little effect on the estimated coefficients.[41]

Finally, our sample has only included the firm's major export products, based on its largest IO code, in order to address the issue of multi-product firms. In Columns 6–8, we show that the results are not sensitive to this choice of 'main products'. In Column 6, we include all of the firm's manufacturing exports rather than restricting it only to IO major products. In Column 7, we adopt an alternative way to identify a firm's major products, using the HS 4-digit category, which is much more disaggregated than the IO categories.

[40] It is noteworthy that for the US subsample we estimate both a lower baseline pass-through (for firms with zero import intensity and market share) and a stronger effect of import intensity on pass-through, than for other countries. Specifically, small non-importing firms exporting to the US market pass-through on average only 80% of the Euro-Dollar exchange rate changes, while the largest firms with high import-intensity (at the 95-th percentile) pass-through only 39%.

[41] Using data from the Belgium National Bank, we classify intra-firm trade as any export transaction from a Belgium firm to country k in which there is either inward or outward foreign direct investment to or from that country.

Table 9: Robustness with additional controls

Dep. var.: $\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t}$	(1)	(2)	(3)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f$	0.326***	0.353***	0.387***
	(0.095)	(0.098)	(0.098)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$	0.199***	0.235***	0.265***
	(0.060)	(0.061)	(0.060)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \log L_{f,t}$	0.043***		
	(0.012)		
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \log TFP_{f,t}$		0.054**	
		(0.023)	
$\Delta \log W^*_{f,t}$			-0.008
			(0.013)
$\Delta \log TFP_{f,t}$			0.037***
			(0.006)
# observations	91,891	91,424	86,958

Note: *$L_{f,t}$ is firm employment, $W^*_{f,t}$ is firm average wage rate, and $TFP_{f,t}$ is the estimate of firm total factor productivity.*

And in Column 8, we only include a firm if its HS 4-digit major category accounts for at least 50 percent of its total exports. In all three cases, we find the magnitudes on the import intensity and market share interactions very close to our main specification.

Additional controls Our theory provides sharp predictions that market share is a sufficient statistic for markup variability and import intensity is an important predictor of marginal cost sensitivity to exchange rate changes. Therefore, together they form a sufficient statistic for pass-through. We test this prediction by including additional controls, which could be viewed as alternative proxies for markup elasticity and marginal cost sensitivity to exchange rates. Specifically, Table 9 re-estimates the main empirical specification in Column 6 of Table 5 with additional controls—firm's employment size and measured TFP interactions with the exchange rate change. Consistent with theory and with the empirical correlations in Table 4, market share and import intensity are both positively correlated with employment and measured TFP in the cross-section of firms. As a result, it is possible that the market share or import intensity variables are picking up variation in one of these other variables.[42]

[42]In theories where productivity is the only source of heterogeneity, market share, employment and productivity itself are all perfectly correlated. However, when there is more than one source of heterogeneity, these variables are correlated less than perfectly. The modeling framework that we use makes a sharp prediction that market share is the sufficient statistic for markup. Alternative theories may emphasize firm productivity as the sufficient statistic for markup variability, as for example in Berman, Martin, and Mayer

Columns 1 and 2 of Table 9 show that our empirical findings are robust to the inclusion of additional interaction terms. Controlling for employment and TFP interactions reduces slightly the estimated coefficients on import intensity and market share interactions, but they remain large and strongly statistically significant. The coefficient on employment and TFP interactions, although significant, are in turn quantitatively very moderate. Finally, Column 3 of Table 9 controls for the local component of the marginal cost by including the change in the measure of firm-level wage rate and the log change in firm TFP, in order to isolate the effect of import intensity through the foreign-sourced component of the marginal cost of the firm. These controls have essentially no effect on the estimated coefficients of interest.

4 Conclusion

Large exporters are simultaneously large importers. We show that this pattern is key to understanding the patterns of exchange rate pass-through. The firms that account for the largest share of international trade, import at the same time a large share of their intermediate inputs. As a result, these firms exhibit low pass-through of exchange rate shocks into their export prices. We show that import intensity affects pass-through both directly, by inducing an offsetting change in the marginal cost when exchange rate changes, as well as indirectly, through selection into importing of the largest exporters with the most variable markups. We use firms' import intensities and export market shares as proxies for the marginal cost and markup channels respectively, and show that variation in these variables across firms explains a substantial range of variation in pass-through. A small firm using no imported intermediate inputs has a nearly complete pass-through, while a firm at the 95-th percentile of both market share and import intensity distributions has a pass-through of only 56%. A little less than a half of this decline is due to the effects of import intensity on the marginal cost sensitivity. Since import intensity is heavily skewed towards the largest exporters, our findings help explain the observed low aggregate pass-through elasticities, which play a central role in the study of exchange rate disconnect. Finally, we show that the patterns we document emerge naturally in a theoretical framework which combines standard ingredients of oligopolistic competition and variable markups with endogenous selection into

(2012). Specifications in Columns 1–2 of Table 9 are counterparts to some of their regressions with the exception that we include both the import intensity and market share interactions. Overall, our empirical results are consistent with their findings in that more productive firms have lower pass-through, but we split this effect into the markup and marginal cost effects by controlling separately for market share and import intensity, and show that these two controls are at least as strong as employment and productivity, consistent with our theoretical model.

importing at the firm level.

Our findings suggest that the marginal cost channel contributes substantially—reinforcing and amplifying the markup channel—to low aggregate pass-through and pass-through variation across firms. The decomposition of incomplete pass-through into its marginal cost and markup components is necessary for the analysis of the welfare consequences of exchange rate volatility and desirability to fix exchange rates, for example by means of integration into a currency union. Furthermore, price sensitivity to exchange rates is central for the expenditure switching mechanism at the core of international adjustment and rebalancing. A sign of inefficiency is when exchange rate movements mostly affect the distribution of markups across exporters from different countries, leading to little expenditure switching. However, if the lack of pass-through is largely due to the complex international web of intermediate input sourcing, incomplete pass through of exchange rates into prices may well be an efficient response. A complete analysis of the welfare consequences requires a general equilibrium model disciplined with the evidence on the importance of marginal cost and markup channels of the type we provide, and we leave this important question for future research.

Finally, we briefly comment on the interpretation of our results in the an environment with sticky prices, where exporters choose to temporarily fix their prices either in local or producer currency. Since we cannot condition our empirical analysis on a price change or split the sample by currency of pricing, our results confound together the change in the desired markup with the mechanical changes in markup induced by the exchange rate movements when prices are sticky in a given currency. Therefore, one should keep in mind that our results suggest that import intensity and market share contribute to either flexible-price pass-through incompleteness, or they contribute to the probability of local currency pricing which in turn leads to low pass-through before prices are adjusted. In reality, our results are likely to be driven partly by both these sources of incomplete pass-through.[43] Indeed, Gopinath, Itskhoki, and Rigobon (2010) show that the two share the same primitive determinants and provide evidence that the choice to price in local currency is closely correlated in the cross-section of firms with the pass-through incompleteness conditional on price adjustment. Nonetheless, we favor the flexible-price interpretation of our results, as we focus on a relatively long annual horizons and our results remain quantitatively similar (albeit less precise) when we increase the horizon to two years.

[43] Our data does not allow us to do a non-structural decomposition into these two sources, but one can make such inference by taking a stand on a particular structural model of incomplete pass-through with sticky prices, and using outside information to calibrate its parameters related to price stickiness and currency of pricing. We do not attempt this exercise in the current paper.

A Appendix

A.1 Derivation of the results for Section 2

Derivation of the cost function For brevity, we drop the firm identifier i in this derivation. Denote by λ, ψ and χ the Lagrange multiplier on constraints (5), (6) and (7) respectively. For a given J_0, take the first order conditions of firm cost minimization with respect to L, X, $\{X_j, Z_j, M_j\}_j$:

$$\begin{aligned} W^* &= \lambda(1-\phi)Y/L, \\ \psi &= \lambda\phi Y/X, \\ \chi &= \psi\gamma_j X/X_j, && j \in [0,1], \\ V_j^* &= \chi(X_j/Z_j)^{1/(1+\zeta)}, && j \in [0,1], \\ \mathcal{E}_m U_j &= \chi(a_j X_j/M_j)^{1/(1+\zeta)}, && j \in J_0, \end{aligned}$$

with $M_j = 0$ and $X_j = Z_j$ for $j \in \tilde{J}_0 \equiv [0,1]\backslash J_0$. Expressing out ψ and χ, taking the ratio of the last two conditions and rearranging, we can rewrite:

$$\begin{aligned} W^* L &= \lambda(1-\phi)Y, \\ V_j^* X_j &= \lambda\phi\gamma_j Y (X_j/Z_j)^{1/(1+\zeta)}, \quad j \in [0,1], \\ \frac{\mathcal{E}_m U_j M_j}{V_j^* Z_j} &= a_j \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_m U_j}{V_j^*}\right)^{-\zeta}, \qquad j \in J_0, \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the last expression into (7), we obtain $X_j = Z_j \left[1 + a_j(\mathcal{E}_m U_j/V_j^*)^{-\zeta}\right]^{\frac{1+\zeta}{\zeta}}$ for $j \in J_0$, which together with the expression for $V_j^* X_j$ above yields:

$$V_j^* X_j = \lambda\phi\gamma_j Y b_j, \qquad j \in J_0,$$

where $b_j \equiv \left[1 + a_j(\mathcal{E}_m U_j/V_j^*)^{-\zeta}\right]^{1/\zeta}$, and $V_j^* X_j = \lambda\phi\gamma_j Y$ for $j \in \tilde{J}_0$. Based on this, we express L and X_j for all $j \in [0,1]$ as functions of λY and parameters. Substituting these expressions into (5)–(6), we solve for

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{\Omega}\left(\frac{\exp\left\{\int_0^1 \gamma_j \log\left(\frac{V_j^*}{\gamma_j}\right)\mathrm{d}j\right\}}{\phi\exp\left\{\int_{J_0}\gamma_j \log b_j \mathrm{d}j\right\}}\right)^{\phi}\left(\frac{W^*}{1-\phi}\right)^{1-\phi} = \frac{C^*}{\Omega\left(\exp\left\{\int_{J_0}\gamma_j\log b_j \mathrm{d}j\right\}\right)^{\phi}},$$

where C^* is as defined in footnote 15. Finally, we substitute the expression for W^*L, $V_j^* Z_j = V_j^* X_j \cdot (Z_j/X_j)$ and $\mathcal{E}_m U_j M_j = V_j^* Z_j \cdot (\mathcal{E}_m U_j M_j/(V_j^* Z_j))$ into the cost function to obtain

$$TC^*(Y; J_0) = \lambda Y + \int_{J_0} W^* f \mathrm{d}j.$$

We now solve for the optimal set J_0. Consider two intermediate goods, j and j'. The cost

of importing either intermediate good is the same, while the benefit is increasing in $\gamma_j \log b_j$, since this factor reduces λ. Therefore, if a firm imports j, it must also import all j' such that $\gamma_{j'} \log b_{j'} > \gamma_j \log b_j$. Sorting the goods by $\gamma_j \log b_j$ in descending order, we conclude that the import set J_0 is an interval $[0, j_0]$ with $j_0 \in [0,1]$. We can now minimize $TC(Y; J_0)$ with respect to j_0. The net cost reduction from additional imports of intermediate j equals

$$\gamma_j \log b_j \phi \lambda Y - W^* f,$$

and hence the firm should choose j_0 according to (10) in the text, where

$$\lambda = MC^* = \frac{C^*}{B^\phi \Omega} \qquad \text{and} \qquad B = \exp\left\{\int_0^{j_0} \gamma_j \log b_j \mathrm{d}j\right\}.$$

Proof of Proposition 3 For a single-destination firm we have $Y_i = Q_{k,i}$, and we drop index k in what follows for brevity. Thererfore, the full equilibrium system can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}} &= \frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} \left(\frac{P_i}{P_{i'}}\right)^{-\rho}, \\
\frac{S_i}{S_{i'}} &= \frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} \left(\frac{P_i}{P_{i'}}\right)^{1-\rho}, \\
\frac{P_i}{P_{i'}} &= \frac{\mathcal{M}_i}{\mathcal{M}_{i'}} \frac{B_{i'}^\phi \Omega_{i'}}{B_i^\phi \Omega_i}, \qquad \mathcal{M}_i = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_i - 1}, \quad \sigma_i = \rho(1 - S_i) + \eta S_i, \\
B_i = B\big(j_0(i)\big) &= \exp \int_0^{j_0(i)} \chi(j) \mathrm{d}j, \qquad \chi(j) \equiv \gamma_j \log b_j, \\
\chi\big(j_0(i)\big) &= \frac{f_i W^*}{\phi C^*} \frac{B(j_0(i))^\phi \Omega_i}{Y_i} > 0, \quad \chi'(\cdot) < 0, \\
\varphi_i = \varphi\big(j_0(i)\big) &= \phi \int_0^{j_0(i)} \nu(j) \mathrm{d}j, \qquad \nu(j) \equiv \gamma_j (1 - b_j^{-\zeta}) > 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Taking the log-linear approximation to this system, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \frac{\mathcal{M}_i}{\mathcal{M}_{i'}} &= \frac{\bar{\Gamma}}{\rho - 1} \log \frac{S_i}{S_{i'}}, \\
\log \frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}} &= \log \frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + \rho \left(\log \frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} + \phi \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}\right) - \rho \frac{\bar{\Gamma}}{\rho - 1} \log \frac{S_i}{S_{i'}}, \\
\big[1 + \bar{\Gamma}\big] \log \frac{S_i}{S_{i'}} &= \log \frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + (\rho - 1) \left(\log \frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} + \phi \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}\right), \\
\frac{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}{\chi(\bar{j}_0)} \big(j_0(i) - j_0(i')\big) &= \log \frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}} - \phi \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} - \log \frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} - \log \frac{f_i}{f_{i'}}, \\
\log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} &= \chi(\bar{j}_0) \big(j_0(i) - j_0(i')\big), \\
\varphi_i - \varphi_{i'} &= \phi \nu(\bar{j}_0) \big(j_0(i) - j_0(i')\big),
\end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{\Gamma} = \bar{S}\left[\frac{\rho}{\rho-\eta} - \bar{S}\right]^{-1}\left[1 - \frac{\rho-\eta}{\rho-1}\bar{S}\right]^{-1}$ for some $\bar{S} \in (S_i, S_{i'})$, and $\bar{j}_0 \in \left(j_0(i), j_0(i')\right)$.

Combining these expressions together we arrive at:

$$\begin{aligned}
\log\frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}} - \phi\log\frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} - \log\frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} &= \left[1 - \bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)\right]\log\frac{S_i}{S_{i'}} \\
&= \frac{1-\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)}{1+\bar{\Gamma}}\left[\log\frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + (\rho-1)\left(\log\frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} + \phi\log\frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}\right)\right], \\
\log\frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} &= \frac{1}{\frac{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}\frac{1+\bar{\Gamma}}{1-\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)} - \phi(\rho-1)}\left[\log\frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + (\rho-1)\log\frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} - \frac{1+\bar{\Gamma}}{1-\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)}\log\frac{f_i}{f_{i'}}\right], \\
\log\frac{S_i}{S_{i'}} &= \frac{\frac{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}\frac{1}{1-\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)}}{\frac{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}\frac{1+\bar{\Gamma}}{1-\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)} - \phi(\rho-1)}\left[\log\frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + (\rho-1)\log\frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} - \phi(\rho-1)\frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}\log\frac{f_i}{f_{i'}}\right], \\
\varphi_i - \varphi_{i'} &= \phi\frac{\nu(\bar{j}_0)}{\chi(\bar{j}_0)}\log\frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}.
\end{aligned}$$

The regularity condition that we impose is

$$0 < \kappa_1 < 1, \qquad \text{where} \quad \kappa_1 \equiv \phi(\rho-1)\frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}\frac{1-\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1)}{1+\bar{\Gamma}}, \tag{20}$$

which in turn requires $\bar{\Gamma}/(\rho-1) < 1$. Condition (20) ensures stable equilibrium and intuitive comparative statics; when it is violated, small changes in firm characteristics lead to large jumps in $j_0(i)$. Condition (20) holds when $\bar{S}$ is small enough and $\chi(\cdot)$ is decreasing steeply enough. To give a quantitative sense of how likely is this condition to hold, consider the parameterization with $\rho = 4$ and $\eta = 1.5$. With these parameters, $\bar{\Gamma} < \rho - 1$, whenever $\bar{S} < 0.8$. Finally, consider $\bar{S} = 0.05$ and $\phi = 0.5$. Then, $\kappa_1 < 1$ holds, when $(-\chi'(\bar{j}_0))O/(\chi(\bar{j}_0))^2 > 1.43$. When this condition is violated, the choice of j_0 is locally unstable.

Finally, we can rewrite the expressions as

$$\begin{aligned}
(1-\kappa_1)\log\frac{S_i}{S_{i'}} &= \frac{1}{1+\bar{\Gamma}}\left[\log\frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + (\rho-1)\log\frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}} - \phi(\rho-1)\frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}\log\frac{f_i}{f_{i'}}\right], \\
(1-\kappa_1)\log\frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} &= \frac{\kappa_1}{\phi(\rho-1)}\left[\log\frac{\xi_i}{\xi_{i'}} + (\rho-1)\log\frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_{i'}}\right] - \frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)}\log\frac{f_i}{f_{i'}},
\end{aligned}$$

and hence the constants in the proposition are given by

$$\kappa_2 \equiv \frac{1}{1+\bar{\Gamma}} > 0, \qquad \kappa_3 \equiv \phi(\rho-1)\frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)} > 0, \qquad \kappa_4 \equiv \phi\frac{\nu(\bar{j}_0)}{\chi(\bar{j}_0)} > 0,$$

and $\kappa_1 \in (0,1)$ is defined in (20). ■

Proof of Proposition 4 Using the results from the proof of Proposition 3 and imposing that firms are symmetric in $\left(\{\xi_{k,i}\}, \Omega_i, f_i\right)$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} &= \frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0)} \left[\log \frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}} - \phi \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} \right], \\
\log \frac{Q_{k,i}}{Q_{k,i'}} &= \rho\phi \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} - \frac{\rho\bar{\Gamma}}{\rho - 1} \log \frac{S_{k,i}}{S_{k,i'}}, \qquad \forall k \in K_{i'}, \\
\log \frac{S_{k,i}}{S_{k,i'}} &= \phi(\rho - 1)\kappa_2 \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}, \qquad \forall k \in K_{i'}, \\
\varphi_i - \varphi_{i'} &= \kappa_4 \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}},
\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} &= \frac{\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0) + \phi\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2} \log \frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}}, \\
\log \frac{Q_{k,i}}{Q_{k,i'}} &= \rho\phi\kappa_2 \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}}, \qquad \forall k \in K_{i'}.
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}} > \sum_{k \in K_{i'}} \omega_{k,i'} \log \frac{Q_{k,i}}{Q_{k,i'}} &= \rho\phi\kappa_2 \log \frac{B_i}{B_{i'}} \\
&= \rho\kappa_2 \frac{\phi\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0) + \phi\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2} \log \frac{Y_i}{Y_{i'}},
\end{aligned}$$

where $\omega_{k,i'} = Q_{k,i'}/Y_{i'}$ and $\sum_{k \in K_{i'}} \omega_{k,i'} = 1$, and the second inequality substitutes in the expression above for relative destination-k demand. Note that

$$\rho\kappa_2 \frac{\phi\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2}{-\chi'(\bar{j}_0) + \phi\chi(\bar{j}_0)^2} < 1$$

is equivalent to the upper bound in the regularity condition (20) which we required for the stability of equilibrium in the proof of Proposition 3. Therefore, it must be $Y_i > Y_{i'}$, and hence from equations above we conclude that $B_i > B_{i'}$, $\varphi_i > \varphi_{i'}$ and $S_{k,i} > S_{k,i'}$ for all $k \in K_{i'}$. ■

Derivation of the change in the marginal cost ...[TO BE COMPLETED]

The case of sunk import decision ...[TO BE COMPLETED]

Proof of Proposition 5 [TO BE COMPLETED]

Start with the optimal price setting equation (13) and write it as a full differential:[44]

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki} &= \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{M}_{ki} + \mathrm{d}\log MC_i - \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k \\ &= -\Gamma_{ki}(\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki} - \mathrm{d}\log P_k) + \mathrm{d}\log C^* - \mathrm{d}\log \Omega_i - \phi \mathrm{d}\log B_i - \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k,\end{aligned}$$

where Γ_i is the elasticity of markup with the relative price of the firm defined in (4), and given the definitions (**??**)–(9) and (11) we have

$$\begin{aligned}\phi \mathrm{d}\log B_i &= -\phi \int_0^{j_0(i)} \left(\gamma_j\left(1 - b_j^{-\zeta}\right)\mathrm{d}\log \frac{\mathcal{E}_m U_j}{V_j^*}\right)\mathrm{d}j \\ &= -\varphi_i \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m - \phi \int_0^{j_0(i)} \left(\gamma_j\left(1 - b_j^{-\zeta}\right)\left[\mathrm{d}\log U_j - \mathrm{d}\log V_j^*\right]\right)\mathrm{d}j.\end{aligned}$$

Given this decomposition, we can write down the expression for pass-through elasticity of $\mathcal{E}_k$ into $P_{ki}^* = \mathcal{E}_k P_{ki}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki}^*}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k} &= \frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki} + \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k} = 1 + \frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki}}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k} \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{1+\Gamma(s_{ki})}\frac{1}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k}\Bigg[\Gamma(s_{ik})\mathrm{d}\log P_k + \mathrm{d}\log C^* - \mathrm{d}\log \Omega_i \\ &\qquad + \varphi_i \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m - \phi \int_0^{j_0(i)} \left(\gamma_j\left(1 - b_j^{-\zeta}\right)\left[\mathrm{d}\log U_j - \mathrm{d}\log V_j^*\right]\right)\mathrm{d}j - \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k\Bigg] \\ &= \frac{1}{1+\Gamma(s_{ki})}\left[\Gamma(s_{ik})\frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_k}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\log(C^*/\bar{\Omega})}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k} + \left(\varphi_i \rho_m + \Gamma(s_{ki})\right) - \varphi_i \frac{\mathrm{d}\log(U/V^*)}{\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k}\right],\end{aligned}$$

where $\rho_m = \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_m / \mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k \approx \mathrm{cov}(\mathcal{E}_m, \mathcal{E}_k)/\mathrm{var}(\mathcal{E}_k)$. To derive this result we made the following assumptions:

(i) $\mathrm{d}\log \xi_{ki}/\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{E}_k = 0$, that is quality/demand shifter shocks are not systematically correlated with bilateral exchange rate. This assumption is not needed for our derivation and is made exclusively for convenience, so that we can drop the $\mathrm{d}\log \xi_{ki}$ terms, which we do already in the first full differential.

(ii) Importing cutoff $j_0(i)$ does not respond to exchange rate movements. This assumption is also done to simplify derivation and can be dispensed with, but we check in the data that this is an empirically relevant assumption as φ_i does not vary systematically with $\mathcal{E}_k$ in the time-series. Theoretically, this would be the case if the decision on import cutoff is a sunk one, done before the exchange rate shock realization.

[44] An alternative expression for the log change in markup is:

$$\mathrm{d}\log \mathcal{M}_{ki} = \frac{\rho - \eta}{\sigma_i(\sigma_i - 1)}\mathrm{d}s_{ki},$$

but we choose to link this change to relative prices rather than market share, and then link markup elasticity Γ_{ki} to the value of s_{ki}.

(iii) Productivity can be split into idiosyncratic and aggregate (sectoral) component, $\Omega_i = \tilde{\Omega}_i\bar{\Omega}$, and the idiosyncratic component does not vary systematically with the bilateral exchange rate, $\mathrm{d}\log\tilde{\Omega}_i/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k = 0$.

(iv) Finally, we assume $\mathrm{d}\log U_j/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k \equiv \mathrm{d}\log U/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k$ and $\mathrm{d}\log V_j^*/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k \equiv \mathrm{d}\log V^*/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k$ for all $j \in [0,1]$. Furthermore, we assume that $\rho_{u/v} \ll \rho_m$, where $\rho_{u/v} = \mathrm{d}\log(U/V)/\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k$.

We further rewrite

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki}^*}{\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k} = \frac{\varphi_i(\rho_m - \rho_{u/v}) + \Gamma(s_{ki})}{1+\Gamma(s_{ki})} + \frac{1}{1+\Gamma(s_{ki})}\left[\Gamma(s_{ik})\frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_k}{\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\log(C^*/\bar{\Omega})}{\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k}\right].$$

Note that $C^*/\bar{\Omega}$ is sector, but not destination specific, so it will be absorbed by a sector dummy $\tilde{\alpha}_s$. In contrast, P_k is sector-destination specific and will only be absorbed by a sector-destination dummy $\tilde{\delta}_{sk}$. With this we rewrite:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki}^*}{\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k} = \frac{\varphi_i(\rho_m - \rho_{u/v}) + \Gamma(s_{ki})}{1+\Gamma(s_{ki})} + \frac{\tilde{\alpha}_s + \Gamma(s_{ik})\tilde{\delta}_{sk}}{1+\Gamma(s_{ki})}.$$

This is the pass-through expression for the cross-section of firms within sector-destination, which depends on φ_i and s_{ki}. We can further linearize this expression as

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\mathrm{d}\log P_{ki}^*}{\mathrm{d}\log\mathcal{E}_k} &\approx \hat{\alpha}_{sk} + \beta_{sk}\varphi_i + \gamma_{sk}s_{ki} \\ &\approx \alpha_{sk} + \beta\varphi_i + \gamma s_{ki} + \epsilon_{ski},\end{aligned}$$

where $\beta_{sk} \equiv (\rho_m - \rho_{u/v})/(1+\bar{\Gamma}_k) > 0$ and $\gamma_{sk} > 0$ under some weak conditions, and the second line decomposes the last two terms into effects of φ_i and s_{ki} common across sector-destinations and the residual sector-destination-firm component which we treat as a residual.[45]

This last equation can be estimated if we had direct data on pass-through, but we only observe prices and exchange rates. As a result, our main empirical specification is

$$\Delta\log P_{ki}^* = [\alpha_{sk} + \beta\varphi_i + \gamma s_{ki}]\Delta\log\mathcal{E}_k + \epsilon_{ski},$$

where Δ is a time difference operator, and we estimate this relationship from variation across firms within manufacturing, within detailed industries, and within detailed industry-destinations to control for the possibility that α (and possibly β and γ) are industry-destination specific.

[45] In order to identify average (β,γ) we need to assume $\mathbb{E}\{(\beta_{sk}-\beta, \gamma_{sk}-\gamma)'|\varphi_i, s_{ki}\} = 0$?

A.2 Data Appendix

A.2.1 Trade Data

The import and export data are from the National Bank of Belgium, with the extra-EU transactions reported by Customs and the intra-EU trade by the Intrastat Inquiry. These data are reported at the firm level for each product classified at the 8-digit combined nomenclature (CN) in values and weights or units. Note that the CN code is a Europe-based classification with the first 6-digits corresponding to the World Hamonized System (HS). We include all transactions that are considered as trade involving change of ownership with compensation (codes 1 and 11). These data are very comprehensive, covering all firms with a total extra-EU trade whose value is greater than 1,000 euros or whose weight is more than 1,000 kilograms. Since 2006, even smaller transactions are reported. However, for intra-EU trade, the thresholds are higher, with total intra-EU imports or exports above 250,000 euros in a year, and in 2006 this threshold was raised to 1,000,000 euros for exports and 400,000 for imports. Note that these thresholds result in changing cutoffs for countries that joined the EU during our sample period as their transactions move from being recorded by Customs to the Intrastat inquiry.

A.2.2 Firm-level data

The firm-level data are from the Belgian Business Registry, covering all incorporated firms. These annual accounts report information from balance sheets, income statements and annexes to the annual accounts. Only large firms are required to provide full annual accounts whereas small firms only have to provide short annual accounts so some variables such as sales, turnover, employment and material costs may not be provided for small firms. A large firm is defined as a company with an average annual workforce of at least 100 workers or when at least two of the followhing three thresholds are met: (i) annual average workforce of 50 workers, (ii) turnover (excluding VAT) amounts to at least 7,300,000 euros, or (iii) total assets exceeding 3,650,000 euros. Note that the last two thresholds are altered every four years in order to take account of inflation. Although less than 10 percent of the companies in Belgium report full annual accounts, for firms in the manufacturing sector these account for most of value added (89 percent) and employment (83 percent).

Each firm reports a 5-digit NACE code based on its main economic activity. The key variable of interest is the construction of ϕ defined as the ratio of total noneuro imports to total costs (equal to wages plus total material costs). These total cost variables are reported by 58 percent of exporters in the manufacturing sector. Combining this information with the import data, we can set ϕ equal to zero when total noneuro imports are zero some even if total costs are not reported, giving us a ϕ for 77 percent of manufacturing exporters, which account for 98 percent of all manufacturing exports.

A.2.3 Product Concordances

We use SITC one-digit product codes (5 to 8) to identify a manuacturing export as it is not possible to do so directly from the CN 8-digit classifications nor from its corresponding HS 6-digit code. We construct a concordance between CN 8-digit codes and SITC Revision 3 by building on a concordance between HS 10-digit and SITC 5-digit from Peter Schott's website, which takes into account revisions to HS codes up to 2006.[46] We update this to take account of HS 6-digit revisions in 2007 using the concordance from the U.S. Foreign Census (see `http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/products/layouts/imhdb.html`). We begin by taking the first 6-digits of the 8-digit CN code, which is effectively an HS 6-digit code, and we only include the corresponding SITC code when it is a unique mapping. Some HS 6-digit codes map to multiple SITC codes, so in those cases we do not include a corresponding SITC code. This happens mainly when we get to the more disaggregated SITC codes and rarely at the one-digit SITC code.

Second, we need to match the CN codes to input-output (IO) codes. We use a 2005 Belgium IO matrix which with 74 IO codes of which 56 are within the manufacturing sector. The matching of the IO codes to the CN 8-digit was not straightforward as we had to deal with the many-to-many concordance issues. We only included an IO code when the match from the CN code was clear.

A.2.4 Sample

Our sample is for the years 2000 to 2008, beginning with the first year after the euro was formed. We keep all firms that report their main economic activity in manufacturing defined according to 2-digit NACE codes 15 to 36, thus excluding wholesalers, mining, and services. We restrict exports to those that are defined within the manufacturing sector (SITC one-digit codes 5 to 8). To address the multi-product firm issue, we only keep the set of CN 8-digit codes that fall within a firm's major IO export, which we identify as follows. We select an IO code for each firm that reflects the firm's largest export share over the sample period and then keep all CN codes that fall within that IO code. For most of the analysis, we focus on exports to noneuro OECD countries that are defined as advanced by the IMF or high-income by the World Bank.

We keep all import product codes and all import source countries. For some robustness checks, we limit the set of imports to intermediate inputs defined either according to Broad Economic Codes (BEC) by exluding any import that is classified as a consumer good or using the Belgium 2005 IO table to identify a firm's intermediate inputs.

A.2.5 Total Factor Productivity Measures

We measure total factor productivity (tfp) for each firm by first estimating production functions for each 2-digit NACE sector separately. We note that a key problem in the estimation of production functions is the correlation between inputs and unobservable productivity

[46] See Pierce and Schott (2012).

shocks. To address this endogeneity problem we estimate total factor productivity using two different methodologies. The first approach is based on Levinsohn and Petrin (2003) (LP), who propose a modification of the Olley and Pakes (1996) (OP) estimator. OP uses investment as a proxy for unobservable productivity shocks. However, LP finds evidence suggesting investment is lumpy and hence investment may not respond smoothly to a productivity shock. As an alternative, LP use intermediate inputs, such as materials, as a proxy for unobserved productivity. In particular, we assume a Cobb Douglas production function,

$$\nu_{f,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_l l_{f,t} + \beta_k k_{f,t} + \omega_{f,t} + \eta_{f,t}, \tag{21}$$

where $\nu_{f,t}$ represents the log of value added, $l_{f,t}$ is the log of the freely available input, labor, and $k_{f,t}$ is the log of the state variable, capital. The error term consists of a component that reflects (unobserved) productivity shocks, $\omega_{f,t}$, and a white noise component, $\eta_{f,t}$, uncorrelated with the input factors. The former is a state variable, not observed by the econometrician, but which can affect the choices of the input factors. This simultaneity problem can be solved by assuming that the demand for the intermediate inputs, $x_{f,t}$, depends on the state variables $k_{f,t}$ and $\omega_{f,t}$, and

$$x_{f,t} = x_{f,t}(k_{f,t}, \omega_{f,t}). \tag{22}$$

LP shows that this demand function is monotonically increasing in $\omega_{f,t}$ and hence the intermediate demand function can be inverted such that the unobserved productivity shocks, $\omega_{f,t}$, can be written as a function of the observed inputs, $x_{f,t}$ and $k_{f,t}$, or $\omega_{f,t} = \omega(k_{f,t}, x_{f,t})$. A two-step estimation method is followed where in the first step semi-parametric methods are used to estimate the coefficient on the variable input, labor. In the second step, the coefficient on capital is estimated by using the assumption, as in OP, that productivity follows a first order Markov process.

However, as pointed out by Ackerberg, Caves, and Frazer (2006) a potential problem with LP is related to the timing assumption of the freely available input, labor. If labor is chosen optimally by the firm, it is also a function of the unobserved productivity shock and capital. Then the coefficient on the variable input cannot be identified. Wooldridge (2009) shows how the two-step semi-parametric approach can be implemented using a unified one-step Generalized Methods of Moments (GMM) framework. This is the second methodology that we adopt for estimating tfp. In particular $\omega_{f,t} = \omega(k_{f,t}, x_{f,t})$ is proxied by a lagged polynomial in capital and materials, which controls for expected productivity in t. We use a third order polynomial in capital and material in our estimation. To deal with the potential endogeneity of labor, we use its first lag as an instrument. A benefit of this method is that GMM uses the moment conditions implied by the LP assumptions more efficiently. The log of tfp measures are normalized relative to their 2-digit NACE sector mean in order to make them comparable across industries. The correlation between both measures is very high at 99 percent.

A.3 Additional empirical results

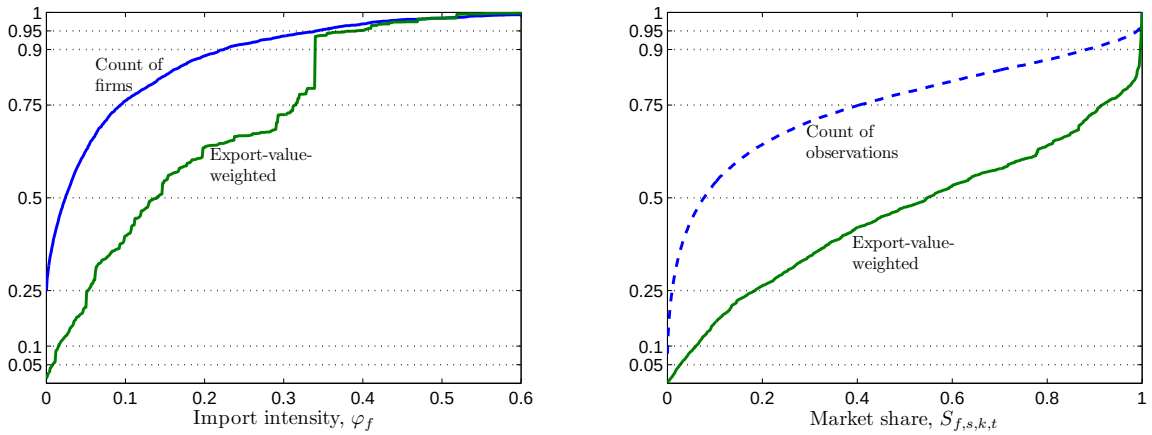


Figure A1: Cumulative distribution functions of import intensity φ_f and market share $S_{f,s,k,t}$

Note: *Estimated cumulative distribution functions. In the left panel, the upper cdf corresponds to the unweighted firm-count, while the lower cdf weighs firm observations by their export values. The unweighted distribution of φ_f has a mass point of 24% at $\varphi_f = 0$, while this mass point largely disappears in the value-weighted distribution, which in turn has a step $\varphi_f = 0.33$ corresponding to the largest exporter in our sample with an export share of 14%. In the right panel, the upper cdf corresponds to the count of firm-sector-destination-year observations, and it has small mass points at both $S_{f,s,k,t} = 0$ and $S_{f,s,k,t} = 1$, which largely correspond to small sectors in remote destinations. The lower cdf weighs the observations by their export value, and this weighted distribution has no mass points, although the distribution becomes very steep at the very large market shares.*

Table A1: Robustness to the definition of import intensity

Dep. var.: $\Delta p^*_{f,k,t}$	Time-varying $\varphi_{f,t}$ (1)	Drop consumer imports (2)	Only IO-table inputs (3)	Only IO-table inputs* (4)	Drop re-exports (5)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f$	0.307***	0.404***	0.391***	0.403***	1.205***
	(0.101)	(0.115)	(0.097)	(0.095)	(0.385)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$	0.266***	0.265***	0.265***	0.264***	0.257***
	(0.059)	(0.060)	(0.059)	(0.059)	(0.056)

Note: *Same specification as in Column 6 of Table 5 with alternative measures of import intensity φ_f. The coefficient on $\Delta e_{k,t}$ varies very little with the alternative definitions of import intensity, and is omitted. Relative to Column 3, Column 4 requires additionally that imports correspond only to the product with a share over 50% in firm exports. Other details as in Table 5.*

Table A2: Pass-through into producer prices and marginal cost by quartiles of import intensity

Dep. variable:	$\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t}$					$\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$		$\Delta e^M_{f,t}$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$\Delta e_{\ell,t} \cdot \delta_{1,f}$	0.117***	0.102***	0.163***	0.054	0.062	0.026***	0.053***	0.415***
	(0.036)	(0.037)	(0.055)	(0.038)	(0.038)	(0.007)	(0.006)	(0.063)
$\Delta e_{\ell,t} \cdot \delta_{2,f}$	0.193***	0.164***	0.129***	0.113***	0.133***	0.050***	0.092***	0.449***
	(0.038)	(0.035)	(0.049)	(0.035)	(0.037)	(0.017)	(0.011)	(0.066)
$\Delta e_{\ell,t} \cdot \delta_{3,f}$	0.234***	0.177**	0.223***	0.098*	0.142**	0.097***	0.146***	0.480***
	(0.055)	(0.050)	(0.069)	(0.050)	(0.055)	(0.022)	(0.010)	(0.069)
$\Delta e_{\ell,t} \cdot \delta_{4,f}$	0.314***	0.217***	0.222***	0.135***	0.217***	0.167***	0.213***	0.438***
	(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.055)	(0.040)	(0.035)	(0.037)	(0.018)	(0.082)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$				0.350***	0.416***			
				(0.070)	(0.083)			
$\Delta mc^*_{f,t}$		0.580***		0.575***				
		(0.034)		(0.033)				
FPY FE			yes					
p-value Bin 1 vs 4	0.000***	0.012**	0.403	0.082*	0.000***	0.000***	0.000***	0.465

Note: *$\delta_{i,f}$ is a dummy variable for whether the firm's φ_f belongs to quartile i of φ_f-distribution. 92,693 of firm-product-destination-year observations in each specification, unweighted. All specifications control for country fixed effects. Specifications (4) and (5) additionally control for the level of the market share $S_{f,s,k,t}$. In Columns (1)-(6), $\Delta e_{\ell,t} \equiv \Delta e_{k,t}$ is the destination-specific bilateral exchange rate; in Column (7) $\Delta e_{\ell,t} \equiv \Delta e^M_{f,t}$ is the firm-level import-weighted exchange rate (excluding imports from the Euro Zone). Column (8) reports the regression of firm-level import-weighted exchange rate $\Delta e^M_{f,t}$ on the destination-specific exchange rate $\Delta e_{k,t}$ by quartiles of φ_f-distribution. p-value for the F-test of equality of the coefficients for quartiles 1 and 4. *, ** and *** corresponds to 10%, 5% and 1% significance. Standard errors clustered at the destination-year level.*

Table A3: Robustness with different samples

	Countries			All firms	Dropping	Products		
	all	w/out	only	including	intra-firm	all	HS 4-digit	
	countries	US	US	wholesalers	trade	products	major	major*
Dep. var.: $\Delta p^*_{f,i,k,t}$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$\Delta e_{k,t}$	0.067***	0.055*	0.203***	0.168***	0.096**	0.081***	0.128***	0.132***
	(0.014)	(0.033)	(0.059)	(0.032)	(0.037)	(0.030)	(0.041)	(0.042)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot \varphi_f$	0.255***	0.352***	0.567*	0.217**	0.390***	0.529***	0.368**	0.492***
	(0.064)	(0.104)	(0.328)	(0.088)	(0.096)	(0.100)	(0.177)	(0.167)
$\Delta e_{k,t} \cdot S_{f,s,k,t}$	0.044	0.277***	0.262**	0.119*	0.188***	0.226***	0.184***	0.175**
	(0.029)	(0.059)	(0.120)	(0.061)	(0.067)	(0.051)	(0.057)	(0.071)
# countries	161	11	1	12	12	12	12	12
# observations	226,540	81,745	10,948	157,431	78,851	142,998	62,301	52,729

Note: *Main specification from Column 6 of Table 5 estimated in alternative sub-samples of the data. All the details are as in Table 5. Column 5 excludes all transactions if the Belgian firm has either inward or outward FDI with that destination. Columns 7 only keeps the major good reported by the firm at the HS 4-digit level, and Column 8 only keeps this good if its market share in firm's exports is above 50%.*

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