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Learning by Exporting, Importing or Both? Estimating  
productivity with multi-product firms, pricing heterogeneity  
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# **Learning by Exporting, Importing or Both?**

## **Estimating productivity with multi-product firms, pricing heterogeneity and the role of international trade<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

In this paper, we analyze the relationship between exporting/importing status and firm productivity. We use a rich product-firm-level dataset providing both revenue and quantities of all products for a large panel of Danish manufacturing firms over the period 1998-2005 and link it to another dataset describing firms' international trade transactions by product. We use our detailed product level information to compute a firm level deflator and avoid the criticism of biased estimates due to the use of industry level deflator. We find that both importing and exporting behaviours are strongly associated with productivity, but firms involved in both importing and exporting are the most productive. We also find evidence of a self-selection into importing and exporting but no learning effect. Finally, we try to distinguish between cost effect and product quality effect by analyzing the importance of the origin of imports and the destination of exports. We find that both imports from countries with abundant and cheap labor like China and from countries with similar level of development matter, although the mechanism through which productivity is affected is likely to be different. In addition, exporting to more distant OECD economies is more strongly associated to productivity than exporting to neighboring or other EU countries, especially when controlling for the price specific effect.

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## 1. Introduction

A large literature has been devoted to explaining the productivity difference between firms involved in international trade and those only selling on the domestic market. Both import and export decisions have been shown to be associated with higher productivity. So far, only a few studies have jointly considered export and import behaviors<sup>2</sup> and how the size of the premium depends on the origin or the destination. These factors are likely to be important in countries that offshore part of their production process to countries where labor is cheap and then re-import it, and possibly re-export it. It is also important when access to better intermediate inputs facilitates product upgrading and creates new export possibilities.

One additional difficulty stressed in the literature is the bias that arises from deflating sales with an industry level price index. Various indirect methods to correct this problem have been suggested in the literature (e.g. Klette and Griliches, 1996; Levinsohn and Melitz, 2001; De Loecker, 2007b). Recent studies have followed as an alternative a more direct approach using price information (e.g. Foster, Haltiwanger and Syverson, 2008) and the construction of a firm specific index (Eslava et al., 2004).

In this paper, we use a detailed sample of Danish manufacturing firms providing both values and quantities of domestic and international trade transactions to study the link between international trade and productivity deflating sales with a firm-specific price index. We use the Olley and Pakes (1996) methodology modified by De Loecker (2007a) to allow for different market structures between exporters and non-exporters. We find that importing and exporting behaviours are strongly associated with productivity, but the effect of importing is larger in most industries. Firms involved in both importing and exporting are the most productive.

We then investigate the mechanisms behind this effect and try to divide the import effect between access to cheaper intermediate goods, access to offshoring (imports of final goods) and access to

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<sup>2</sup> See references below. Bas (2010) specifically looks at the relationship between import access and export behavior and finds that firms in industries with lower tariffs are more likely to become exporter and have an higher productivity premium, suggesting that access to foreign inputs facilitates export and productivity improvements. She does not distinguish between different channels in her empirical analysis.

high quality intermediates. Our findings confirm that all three affect positively productivity, although the mechanism is very different and the size of the effect varies by sector.

Recent papers have used a similar approach (e.g. Muuls and Pisu, 2009; Castellani et al., 2009; Altomonte and Békés, 2009; McCann, 2009) and also found that two-way traders were on average more productive than firms only importing or exporting; a few other papers have addressed the destination/origin specific effect of export/import behavior (e.g. Serti and Tomasi, 2010); but all these papers have largely ignored the pricing heterogeneity issue. On the other hand, recent papers have investigated markup and pricing differences between exporters and non exporters, and strategic price setting behavior on different export markets (see e.g. Manova and Zhang, 2010; De Loecker and Warzynski, 2010; Simonovska, 2010). This paper is an attempt to combine these two different approaches within the standard framework of productivity estimation.

The structure of the paper is the following. We first discuss our methodology in section 2. We then describe our data in section 3. Section 4 shows our preliminary results, while we discuss potential extensions in section 5.

## **2. Methodology**

We study the effect of international trade on firm level productivity following the literature (Van Biesebroeck, 2005; De Loecker, 2007a; Kasahara and Rodrigue, 2008), considering the effects of both importing and exporting behavior. We also use detailed information about firm level prices to compute a firm level price index. We first discuss how we construct our index, and then discuss the production function estimation.

### *Computing the firm level deflator*

We follow Eslava et al. (2004) by constructing a firm-level price index<sup>3</sup>. We use a Tornqvist index, i.e. a weighted average of the growth in prices for all the individual products  $h$  of firm  $i$  in time  $t$ :

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<sup>3</sup> An alternative would be to use product quantities at the level of the firm to estimate a production function for multiproduct firms. See Petrin and Warzynski (2010).

$$\Delta P_{it} = \sum_h \bar{s}_{hit} \Delta \ln(P_{hit})$$

where

$$\Delta \ln(P_{hit}) = \ln(P_{hit}) - \ln(P_{hi(t-1)})$$

and

$$\bar{s}_{hit} = (s_{hit} + s_{hi(t-1)})/2$$

and where  $s_{hit}$  is the share of product h in firm  $i$ 's total sales.

We then use 1998 as the base year ( $P_{i,1998}=1$ ) and then add the computed firm level price change to the index:

$$P_{it} = P_{i(t-1)} + \Delta(P_{it})$$

For firms entering after 1998, we use the industry average by sector for the entry year and then follow a similar procedure.

### *Dealing with input endogeneity*

A well known problem when estimating production functions comes from the endogeneity of inputs. Starting from a production function:

$$Q_{it} = \Theta_{it} f(L_{it}, M_{it}, K_{it})$$

where output Q of firm  $i$  in time  $t$  (sales deflated by our firm specific price index) is a function of labor (L), materials (M), capital (K) and an index of technical progress ( $\Theta$ ).

Assuming a Cobb-Douglas function and taking logs:

$$q_{it} = \alpha_{Lit} l_{it} + \alpha_{Mit} m_{it} + \alpha_{Kit} k_{it} + \vartheta_{it}$$

where  $x = \log(X)$  for  $X=Q,L,M,K$  and  $\theta = \log(\Theta)$ , which can be rewritten as:

$$\vartheta_{it} = \omega_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

where  $\omega$  is a measure of log TFP and  $\epsilon$  is a true noise.

We use a modified version of the widely used Olley and Pakes (1996) methodology following De Loecker (2007)<sup>4</sup>. Their model delivers an investment policy function that depends on productivity and capital,

$$i_t = i_t(k_t, \omega_t)$$

so that we can invert it to write productivity as a function of investment and capital:

$$\omega_{it} = h_t(i_{it}, k_{it})$$

In addition, we take into account the fact that exporting firms are facing different market structures and factor prices when they make their decisions about exit and investment. In other words:

$$i_t = i_{e,t}(k_t, \omega_{it})$$

and therefore

$$\omega_{it} = h_{e,t}(i_{it}, k_{it})$$

We can follow a similar logic for importing firms:

$$\omega_{it} = h_{imp,t}(i_{it}, k_{it})$$

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<sup>4</sup> Amiti and Konings (2007), Kasahara and Rodrigue (2008) and Rizov and Walsh (2009) suggest yet another approach. They endogenize the import/export decision and treat it as an endogenous choice variable in the estimation. We plan to test the robustness of our results using this alternative method.

The first stage of the estimation algorithm consists in estimating the coefficient of the variable outputs, labor and material, semi-parametrically using a polynomial in  $k$  and  $i$  and allowing the coefficients to be different for importing and exporting firms, as explained above.

$$q_{it} = \alpha_{Lit} l_{it} + \alpha_{Mit} m_{it} + \phi_{exp,imp,both,t}(i_{it}, k_{it}) + \epsilon_{it}$$

where

$$\phi_{exp,imp,both,t}(i_{it}, k_{it}) = \alpha_{Kit} k_{it} + h_{exp,imp,both,t}(i_{it}, k_{it})$$

The second stage estimates the survival decision where the coefficients also depend on international trade status.

$$Pr(\chi_{i(t+1)} = 1 | I_t) = p_{exp,imp,both,t}(i_{it}, k_{it})$$

The last stage involves the non-linear least square estimation of the coefficient of capital:

$$q_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_{Lit} l_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_{Mit} m_{it} = \alpha_{Kit} k_{it} + g(\hat{\phi} - \alpha_{Kit} k_{it}, \hat{p}_{i,t+1})$$

We also test the robustness of our findings using alternative estimations algorithm following the criticism of Levinsohn and Petrin (2003), Akerberg, Caves and Frazier (2007) and Wooldridge (2009).

We compare our results when we use as dependent variable revenue deflated by a standard producer price index and revenue deflated by our firm-level price index.

### 3. Data

For our analysis, we combine various datasets.<sup>5</sup> We start with a transaction level dataset providing values and quantities of all domestic transactions aggregated by product code (8-digit CN) for all manufacturing firms with at least 10 employees over the period 1998-2003 (extended to 2006).

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<sup>5</sup> See Smeets and Warzynski (2010) for a more detailed description.

Table 1 provides a description of our sample. As we can see, around 80% of our sample is composed of multi-product firms.

We then merge this information with a dataset containing similar information, but regarding import and export transactions for the periods 1993-2003 (extended to 2008). This dataset covers the entire economy. For each transaction, we know the identification number of the firm buying or selling, the 8-digit CN product code, the value, the quantity, and the destination or origin. Table 2 shows the number of firms involved in international trade and the number of transactions for the period 1993-2003.

Table 3 shows the number of firms in the manufacturing industry with more than 10 employees by trade status once we merge the data with our domestic transactions dataset (for the period 1998-2003). We can see that the percentage of firms involved in both importing and exporting is increasing over time, while the percentage of firms doing none or only exporting is decreasing. The proportion of firms only importing is also increasing.

We then matched firms with the accounting statistics dataset (Regnskab) that contains information on the population of firms for the period 1994-2006. The variables included are turnover, value added, capital, employment and material costs.

## **4. Results**

### *4.1 Exporter, importer and two-way trader premium*

We estimate our production function using a) output deflated with a standard PPI; b) output deflated with our firm-level deflator. Table 4 shows the results for a subset of industries (all sectors where we had at least 1,000 observations in all specifications). We find that, depending on the industry, our estimates can vary quite a lot depending on the type of deflator used, especially the coefficients related to firms only importing or exporting. Results for two-way traders are relatively similar and show that they are more productive than firms involved in only one type of activity, although the coefficient is much higher when using the firm-level deflator (except for the last industry).

#### *4.2 Selection into exporting/importing and learning*

We then follow Bernard and Jensen (1999) to try to detect some evidence of learning by exporting and also importing, i.e. try to distinguish the learning from the selection issue. We find strong evidence of selection into exporting and/or importing: among those firms previously non exporting/importing, the more productive ones will enter into exporting/importing. Firms exporting and importing are also more likely to survive in  $t+1$ . However, we were not able to detect any evidence of learning by exporting and/or importing. Firms that start exporting and/or importing do not become more productive in  $t+1$ ,  $t+2$  or  $t+3$ .<sup>6</sup>

#### *4.3 Price effect or quality effect?*

The next step of the analysis is to try to distinguish between a price advantage of importers or an access to higher quality inputs or capital. We first distinguish between intermediate goods used as inputs and final goods. We identify the 2-digit industry associated to the good and then match it to the 2-digit industry of the firm importing the good. If both industries are the same, we call them final goods; otherwise, we call them intermediate products.<sup>7</sup>

We use the origin of imports as a way to proxy product quality, inferring that products coming from similar developed regions (like old EU member states or other OECD members) are probably of higher quality than goods coming from China, South East Asia or new members of the EU. Table 5 shows the results where we distinguish imports by type of good and by region of origin. We can see that imports of intermediate products from OECD countries are almost always positively related to productivity. These are likely to be high quality inputs or machinery improving efficiency. On the other hand, the coefficient of imports from low-wage countries like China or South East Asia is also positive, suggesting that access to cheaper inputs diminishes costs. Once we use the firm level deflator in our analysis, the size and significance of our results of some of our results are affected, suggesting that firms also adapt their prices and product mix once having access to foreign inputs. In general, the effects are larger with the firm level deflator, suggesting that we might “over-

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<sup>6</sup> We also consider alternative specifications, such as adding a new product, adding a new market, or adding a new market in a developed country with high GDP per capita (see e.g. Serti and Tomasi, 2010 for evidence that destination matters for the productivity premium). See next subsection.

<sup>7</sup> One could think of using more detailed definitions using input-output tables for example. We plan to address this issue in future work.

deflate” sales for some firms involved in international trade when using a sector-specific deflator. Table A1 shows the results using ACF. Most results from table 5 are confirmed.

## **5. Conclusion**

In this paper, we looked at the relationship between productivity and firms’ international trade decisions controlling for pricing heterogeneity. We found that firms both importing and exporting were on average more productive than firms only involved in one of these activities. We also found that controlling for firm specific prices was affecting the magnitude of these effects. This suggests that future studies should seriously consider the relationship between domestic, import and export prices to understand better the causes of firms’ trading activities and their consequences on productivity and product quality.

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Table 1: distribution of firms by year and number of products

|      | Single product firms | Firms producing between 2 and 5 products | Firms producing between 6 and 10 products | Firms producing more than 10 products | TOTAL |
|------|----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1998 | 1,628 (33.56%)       | 2,599 (53.58%)                           | 429 (8.84%)                               | 195 (4.02%)                           | 4,851 |
| 1999 | 1,567 (33.39%)       | 2,530 (53.91%)                           | 401 (8.54%)                               | 195 (4.16%)                           | 4,693 |
| 2000 | 1,578 (33.14%)       | 2,580 (54.18%)                           | 405 (8.50%)                               | 199 (4.18%)                           | 4,762 |
| 2001 | 1,564 (33.52%)       | 2,531 (54.24%)                           | 371 (7.95%)                               | 200 (4.29%)                           | 4,666 |
| 2002 | 1,551 (33.67%)       | 2,483 (53.91%)                           | 355 (7.71%)                               | 217 (4.71%)                           | 4,606 |
| 2003 | 1,556 (34.31%)       | 2,416 (53.27%)                           | 350 (7.72%)                               | 213 (4.70%)                           | 4,535 |
| 2004 | 1,481 (34.09%)       | 2,314 (53.27%)                           | 353 (8.13%)                               | 197 (4.51%)                           | 4,344 |
| 2005 | 1,382 (33.13%)       | 2,259 (54.15%)                           | 332 (7.96%)                               | 199 (4.77%)                           | 4,172 |

Table 2: summary statistics (international trade transactions)

|                               | 1993    | 1994    | 1995    | 1996    | 1997    | 1998    | 1999    | 2000    | 2001    | 2002    | 2003    |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of firms importing     | 24,378  | 23,119  | 19,920  | 19,471  | 18,315  | 18,364  | 18,805  | 18,892  | 18,800  | 22,435  | 23,648  |
| Number of firms exporting     | 18,461  | 18,063  | 16,106  | 15,899  | 15,119  | 15,270  | 15,303  | 15,361  | 15,402  | 16,329  | 16,686  |
| Number of import transactions | 441,226 | 422,388 | 420,860 | 417,652 | 399,164 | 411,084 | 423,235 | 437,287 | 408,615 | 513,448 | 527,369 |
| Number of export transactions | 322,409 | 328,564 | 335,129 | 345,686 | 350,775 | 369,258 | 386,036 | 402,813 | 356,096 | 454,380 | 494,353 |

Table 3: summary statistics – manufacturing industry (firms with more than 10 employees)

|                             | 1998  | 1999  | 2000  | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Not importing nor exporting | 1,261 | 1,193 | 1,226 | 1,149 | 1,007 | 948   |
| Importing only              | 288   | 305   | 299   | 279   | 290   | 323   |
| Exporting only              | 591   | 560   | 537   | 493   | 412   | 424   |
| Doing both                  | 2,414 | 2,401 | 2,483 | 2,543 | 2,706 | 2,631 |
|                             | 4,554 | 4,459 | 4,545 | 4,464 | 4,415 | 4,326 |

in %

|                             | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Not importing nor exporting | 27.69% | 26.75% | 26.97% | 25.74% | 22.81% | 21.91% |
| Importing only              | 6.32%  | 6.84%  | 6.58%  | 6.25%  | 6.57%  | 7.47%  |
| Exporting only              | 12.98% | 12.56% | 11.82% | 11.04% | 9.33%  | 9.80%  |
| Doing both                  | 53.01% | 53.85% | 54.63% | 56.97% | 61.29% | 60.82% |
|                             | 100%   | 100%   | 100%   | 100%   | 100%   | 100%   |

Table 4: Import, export and two-way trading

| Dep. var: OP productivity            | With PPI deflator |                   |                  | # obs. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|
|                                      | IMP               | EXP               | BOTH             |        |
| Food and beverages                   | 0.031 (0.023)     | 0.010 (0.021)     | 0.089*** (0.013) | 1,655  |
| Publishing and printing              | 0.072*** (0.020)  | -0.005 (0.015)    | 0.058*** (0.015) | 2,224  |
| Rubber and plastic products          | -0.005 (0.023)    | -0.029 (0.020)    | 0.008 (0.015)    | 1,303  |
| Fabricated metals (except machinery) | 0.003 (0.013)     | -0.033*** (0.009) | 0.036*** (0.007) | 4,288  |
| Machinery                            | -0.003 (0.018)    | -0.041*** (0.011) | 0.008 (0.008)    | 4,018  |
| Furniture; manufacturing n.e.c.      | -0.024 (0.019)    | -0.026* (0.014)   | 0.021* (0.011)   | 2,071  |

| Dep. var: OP productivity            | With firm level deflator |                  |                  | # obs. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|
|                                      | IMP                      | EXP              | BOTH             |        |
| Food and beverages                   | 0.008 (0.036)            | 0.021 (0.032)    | 0.112*** (0.021) | 1,620  |
| Publishing and printing              | 0.089** (0.037)          | 0.078*** (0.029) | 0.180*** (0.028) | 2,103  |
| Rubber and plastic products          | -0.061 (0.057)           | -0.016 (0.049)   | 0.023 (0.039)    | 1,220  |
| Fabricated metals (except machinery) | 0.003 (0.024)            | -0.027 (0.017)   | 0.065*** (0.013) | 3,885  |
| Machinery                            | -0.022 (0.052)           | -0.085** (0.034) | -0.004 (0.023)   | 3,859  |
| Furniture; manufacturing n.e.c.      | 0.005 (0.036)            | -0.039 (0.026)   | 0.010 (0.021)    | 2,019  |

**Table 5: Imports and exports by type of good and region of origin/destination**

A. Using PPI deflator

| Dep. var:<br>OP productivity                               | Food and<br>beverages | Publishing and<br>printing | Rubber and<br>plastic products | Fabricated<br>metals (except<br>machinery) | Machinery         | Furniture;<br>manufacturing<br>n.e.c. |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Import of intermediate products from neighbor country      | 0.048*** (0.016)      | 0.010 (0.023)              | -0.015 (0.014)                 | 0.023** (0.010)                            | -0.014 (0.009)    | -0.004 (0.012)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from rest of EU            | -0.002 (0.016)        | -0.023 (0.028)             | 0.010 (0.014)                  | 0.043*** (0.012)                           | 0.011 (0.009)     | -0.002 (0.012)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from OECD                  | 0.070*** (0.013)      | 0.002 (0.018)              | 0.021* (0.011)                 | 0.031*** (0.009)                           | 0.019** (0.008)   | 0.047*** (0.010)                      |
| Import of intermediate products from China                 | 0.126*** (0.024)      | 0.083** (0.039)            | -0.030 (0.019)                 | -0.009 (0.021)                             | -0.001 (0.013)    | 0.044** (0.019)                       |
| Import of intermediate products from SE Asia               | 0.109*** (0.022)      | -0.069 (0.052)             | 0.003 (0.022)                  | 0.045** (0.021)                            | 0.045*** (0.012)  | 0.025 (0.017)                         |
| Import of intermediate products from other Asian countries | 0.080*** (0.023)      | -0.042 (0.045)             | 0.044** (0.017)                | -0.033* (0.018)                            | 0.031*** (0.012)  | -0.012 (0.016)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from new EU members        | 0.010 (0.014)         | 0.071** (0.032)            | -0.005 (0.012)                 | -0.013 (0.012)                             | 0.006 (0.008)     | -0.016 (0.010)                        |
| Import of final products from neighbor country             | -0.023 (0.016)        | 0.045* (0.024)             | -0.027** (0.014)               | 0.025** (0.011)                            | 0.006 (0.010)     | 0.014 (0.012)                         |
| Import of final products from rest of EU                   | 0.009 (0.016)         | 0.010 (0.030)              | 0.025* (0.014)                 | -0.023* (0.013)                            | 0.023** (0.011)   | 0.034** (0.012)                       |
| Import of final products from OECD                         | 0.011 (0.014)         | 0.078*** (0.025)           | 0.015 (0.011)                  | 0.018 (0.012)                              | 0.000 (0.008)     | 0.002 (0.013)                         |
| Import of final products from China                        | -0.022 (0.022)        | -0.032 (0.062)             | -0.026 (0.024)                 | 0.048** (0.023)                            | -0.012 (0.014)    | 0.038* (0.020)                        |
| Import of final products from SE Asia                      | 0.027 (0.021)         | -0.012 (0.061)             | -0.003 (0.032)                 | -0.004 (0.032)                             | 0.010 (0.016)     | 0.020 (0.018)                         |
| Import of final products from other Asian countries        | -0.067*** (0.026)     | 0.231*** (0.056)           | 0.012 (0.022)                  | -0.006 (0.023)                             | -0.012 (0.013)    | 0.021 (0.019)                         |
| Import of final products from new EU members               | -0.019 (0.016)        | -0.086* (0.047)            | -0.015 (0.014)                 | -0.016 (0.013)                             | -0.029*** (0.008) | -0.027** (0.011)                      |
| Export to neighbor   | 0.044*** (0.017)      | -0.019 (0.014)             | -0.023* (0.013)                | -0.022** (0.008)                           | -0.014 (0.009)    | 0.019 (0.011)                         |
| Export to rest of EU                                       | -0.040** (0.016)      | 0.012 (0.025)              | 0.030** (0.014)                | 0.004 (0.011)                              | 0.017* (0.009)    | -0.026** (0.011)                      |
| Export to OECD   | 0.004 (0.013)         | -0.001 (0.019)             | 0.027** (0.011)                | -0.007 (0.009)                             | -0.008 (0.009)    | -0.008 (0.010)                        |
| Adj. R2  | 0.15                  | 0.03                       | 0.03                           | 0.03                                       | 0.02              | 0.05                                  |
| # obs.   | 1655                  | 2224                       | 1303                           | 4288                                       | 4018              | 2071                                  |

B. using firm-level price deflator

| Dep. var:<br>OP productivity                               | Food and<br>beverages | Publishing and<br>printing | Rubber and plastic<br>products | Fabricated<br>metals (except<br>machinery) | Machinery        | Furniture;<br>manufacturing<br>n.e.c. |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Import of intermediate products from neighbor country      | 0.067** (0.026)       | 0.008 (0.044)              | -0.018 (0.037)                 | 0.042** (0.019)                            | -0.017 (0.026)   | 0.008 (0.023)                         |
| Import of intermediate products from rest of EU            | 0.011 (0.025)         | -0.004 (0.054)             | -0.010 (0.036)                 | 0.060** (0.024)                            | 0.076*** (0.026) | -0.035 (0.024)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from OECD                  | 0.077*** (0.021)      | -0.011 (0.034)             | 0.008 (0.029)                  | 0.069*** (0.018)                           | -0.019 (0.024)   | 0.008 (0.020)                         |
| Import of intermediate products from China                 | 0.153*** (0.039)      | 0.207*** (0.076)           | -0.170*** (0.049)              | 0.037 (0.040)                              | 0.091** (0.040)  | 0.033 (0.037)                         |
| Import of intermediate products from SE Asia               | 0.102*** (0.036)      | -0.166 (0.101)             | 0.247*** (0.057)               | -0.008 (0.039)                             | -0.026 (0.036)   | 0.062* (0.032)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from other Asian countries | 0.040 (0.037)         | -0.120 (0.086)             | 0.053 (0.044)                  | -0.166*** (0.035)                          | 0.023 (0.035)    | 0.013 (0.031)                         |
| Import of intermediate products from new EU members        | 0.016 (0.023)         | 0.039 (0.061)              | -0.020 (0.031)                 | -0.000 (0.022)                             | 0.026 (0.026)    | -0.010 (0.020)                        |
| Import of final products from neighbor country             | -0.028 (0.025)        | 0.102** (0.046)            | -0.045 (0.035)                 | -0.012 (0.021)                             | -0.021 (0.030)   | 0.020 (0.023)                         |
| Import of final products from rest of EU                   | -0.011 (0.026)        | -0.065 (0.058)             | 0.029 (0.035)                  | 0.019 (0.026)                              | 0.033 (0.032)    | 0.035 (0.025)                         |
| Import of final products from OECD                         | -0.025 (0.022)        | 0.114*** (0.048)           | 0.017 (0.030)                  | -0.014 (0.023)                             | -0.027 (0.023)   | 0.010 (0.026)                         |
| Import of final products from China                        | -0.017 (0.036)        | -0.028 (0.118)             | 0.038 (0.062)                  | 0.014 (0.047)                              | 0.019 (0.042)    | 0.076** (0.038)                       |
| Import of final products from SE Asia                      | 0.086** (0.035)       | 0.157 (0.108)              | 0.013 (0.080)                  | 0.088 (0.059)                              | 0.101*** (0.039) | -0.048 (0.035)                        |
| Import of final products from other Asian countries        | -0.073* (0.041)       | 0.180 (0.119)              | 0.015 (0.056)                  | 0.132*** (0.046)                           | -0.054 (0.049)   | -0.019 (0.036)                        |
| Import of final products from new EU members               | -0.022 (0.026)        | -0.063 (0.090)             | -0.048 (0.038)                 | -0.026 (0.025)                             | -0.036 (0.026)   | -0.011 (0.021)                        |
| Export to neighbor   | 0.044 (0.027)         | 0.037 (0.027)              | -0.054 (0.034)                 | 0.008 (0.016)                              | 0.010 (0.029)    | 0.003 (0.021)                         |
| Export to rest of EU                                       | -0.019 (0.026)        | 0.011 (0.050)              | 0.081** (0.036)                | -0.033 (0.027)                             | 0.021 (0.028)    | 0.003 (0.021)                         |
| Export to OECD   | 0.018 (0.021)         | 0.065* (0.036)             | 0.054* (0.030)                 | -0.008 (0.017)                             | -0.011 (0.026)   | -0.010 (0.019)                        |
| Adj. R2  | 0.08                  | 0.03                       | 0.03                           | 0.02                                       | 0.006            | 0.004                                 |
| # obs.   | 1620                  | 2103                       | 1220                           | 3885                                       | 3859             | 2019                                  |

**Table A1: Imports and exports by type of good and region of origin/destination**

a. PPI deflated

| Dep. var:<br>ACF productivity                              | Food and<br>beverages | Publishing and<br>printing | Rubber and<br>plastic products | Fabricated<br>metals (except<br>machinery) | Machinery         | Furniture;<br>manufacturing<br>n.e.c. |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Import of intermediate products from neighbor country      | -0.049** (0.022)      | 0.041** (0.019)            | -0.005 (0.011)                 | 0.030*** (0.007)                           | -0.008 (0.006)    | 0.024** (0.011)                       |
| Import of intermediate products from rest of EU            | 0.001 (0.021)         | 0.013 (0.023)              | 0.030*** (0.010)               | 0.026*** (0.008)                           | -0.005 (0.006)    | -0.015 (0.011)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from OECD                  | 0.032* (0.018)        | -0.003 (0.014)             | -0.002 (0.008)                 | 0.002 (0.006)                              | -0.001 (0.006)    | -0.026*** (0.010)                     |
| Import of intermediate products from China                 | 0.084*** (0.032)      | 0.019 (0.031)              | -0.029** (0.014)               | 0.028** (0.014)                            | 0.006 (0.009)     | -0.008 (0.017)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from SE Asia               | 0.066** (0.031)       | -0.025 (0.041)             | -0.001 (0.016)                 | -0.014 (0.014)                             | -0.019** (0.008)  | 0.035** (0.015)                       |
| Import of intermediate products from other Asian countries | -0.023 (0.031)        | -0.009 (0.036)             | 0.019 (0.013)                  | -0.004 (0.012)                             | -0.005 (0.008)    | 0.001 (0.015)                         |
| Import of intermediate products from new EU members        | 0.063*** (0.019)      | 0.021 (0.026)              | 0.032*** (0.009)               | 0.014* (0.008)                             | -0.002 (0.006)    | 0.035*** (0.010)                      |
| Import of final products from neighbor country             | 0.020 (0.021)         | -0.004 (0.019)             | 0.012 (0.010)                  | 0.000 (0.008)                              | 0.025*** (0.007)  | 0.007 (0.011)                         |
| Import of final products from rest of EU                   | -0.028 (0.021)        | 0.020 (0.025)              | 0.027*** (0.010)               | 0.003 (0.009)                              | 0.027*** (0.007)  | 0.040*** (0.012)                      |
| Import of final products from OECD                         | -0.000 (0.019)        | -0.007 (0.020)             | -0.011 (0.009)                 | -0.007 (0.008)                             | 0.015*** (0.005)  | -0.034*** (0.012)                     |
| Import of final products from China                        | -0.031 (0.031)        | 0.147*** (0.047)           | -0.029* (0.017)                | -0.000 (0.015)                             | -0.039*** (0.009) | 0.039** (0.017)                       |
| Import of final products from SE Asia                      | 0.092*** (0.029)      | 0.082* (0.047)             | -0.020 (0.022)                 | -0.039* (0.022)                            | -0.004 (0.011)    | -0.009 (0.016)                        |
| Import of final products from other Asian countries        | -0.052 (0.034)        | 0.067 (0.044)              | -0.005 (0.017)                 | 0.008 (0.015)                              | 0.021** (0.009)   | -0.015 (0.017)                        |
| Import of final products from new EU members               | -0.039* (0.021)       | -0.039 (0.035)             | 0.032*** (0.010)               | -0.012 (0.008)                             | 0.003 (0.006)     | 0.060*** (0.010)                      |
| Export to neighbor   | -0.008 (0.023)        | 0.029*** (0.011)           | -0.002 (0.010)                 | 0.016*** (0.006)                           | 0.041*** (0.007)  | 0.036*** (0.011)                      |
| Export to rest of EU                                       | 0.054** (0.022)       | -0.022 (0.021)             | -0.014 (0.010)                 | -0.012 (0.007)                             | 0.021*** (0.007)  | -0.021** (0.010)                      |
| Export to OECD   | 0.022 (0.018)         | 0.047*** (0.015)           | -0.009 (0.009)                 | 0.010 (0.006)                              | -0.014** (0.006)  | -0.002 (0.009)                        |
| # obs.   | 1366                  | 1861                       | 1135                           | 3432                                       | 3346              | 1779                                  |

b. Using firm level deflator

| Dep. var:<br>ACF productivity                              | Food and<br>beverages | Publishing and<br>printing | Rubber and<br>plastic products | Fabricated metals<br>(except<br>machinery) | Machinery        | Furniture;<br>manufacturing<br>n.e.c. |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Import of intermediate products from neighbor country      | -0.036 (0.027)        | 0.012 (0.021)              | -0.039** (0.020)               | 0.046*** (0.009)                           | -0.016 (0.011)   | 0.028* (0.015)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from rest of EU            | 0.002 (0.025)         | 0.064** (0.027)            | 0.051*** (0.019)               | 0.035*** (0.011)                           | -0.014 (0.011)   | -0.017 (0.015)                        |
| Import of intermediate products from OECD                  | 0.036* (0.021)        | 0.013 (0.016)              | -0.021 (0.016)                 | 0.011 (0.008)                              | 0.0004 (0.010)   | -0.029*** (0.013)                     |
| Import of intermediate products from China                 | 0.084** (0.039)       | -0.012 (0.035)             | -0.053** (0.026)               | 0.031* (0.018)                             | 0.035** (0.016)  | 0.050** (0.023)                       |
| Import of intermediate products from SE Asia               | 0.060 (0.037)         | 0.040 (0.047)              | -0.025 (0.030)                 | -0.036** (0.017)                           | 0.024* (0.014)   | 0.053** (0.020)                       |
| Import of intermediate products from other Asian countries | -0.043 (0.037)        | -0.009 (0.036)             | 0.049** (0.025)                | -0.050*** (0.016)                          | 0.017 (0.014)    | -0.035* (0.020)                       |
| Import of intermediate products from new EU members        | 0.035 (0.023)         | 0.021 (0.026)              | 0.027 (0.016)                  | 0.013 (0.010)                              | 0.020* (0.010)   | 0.039*** (0.013)                      |
| Import of final products from neighbor country             | 0.015 (0.025)         | 0.065*** (0.021)           | -0.010 (0.019)                 | 0.008 (0.010)                              | 0.016 (0.012)    | 0.013 (0.015)                         |
| Import of final products from rest of EU                   | -0.040 (0.025)        | 0.012 (0.029)              | 0.021 (0.019)                  | -0.010 (0.012)                             | 0.032** (0.013)  | 0.042*** (0.016)                      |
| Import of final products from OECD                         | -0.010 (0.022)        | -0.036 (0.022)             | -0.033** (0.016)               | -0.008 (0.010)                             | -0.005 (0.010)   | -0.042** (0.016)                      |
| Import of final products from China                        | -0.048 (0.036)        | 0.148*** (0.054)           | -0.051 (0.032)                 | 0.020 (0.020)                              | -0.017 (0.017)   | 0.044* (0.023)                        |
| Import of final products from SE Asia                      | 0.086** (0.035)       | 0.104* (0.054)             | 0.038 (0.040)                  | -0.073*** (0.026)                          | 0.026 (0.019)    | 0.004 (0.021)                         |
| Import of final products from other Asian countries        | -0.044 (0.040)        | 0.039 (0.050)              | -0.009 (0.030)                 | 0.037* (0.020)                             | 0.012 (0.016)    | -0.007 (0.023)                        |
| Import of final products from new EU members               | -0.008 (0.025)        | -0.036 (0.041)             | 0.020 (0.020)                  | -0.027** (0.011)                           | 0.011 (0.011)    | 0.056*** (0.013)                      |
| Export to neighbor   | -0.008 (0.028)        | 0.033** (0.013)            | 0.007 (0.018)                  | 0.026*** (0.007)                           | 0.050*** (0.012) | 0.017 (0.014)                         |
| Export to rest of EU                                       | 0.053** (0.026)       | -0.073*** (0.024)          | -0.013 (0.019)                 | -0.025** (0.009)                           | 0.011 (0.012)    | -0.007 (0.013)                        |
| Export to OECD   | 0.037* (0.021)        | 0.056*** (0.017)           | 0.0003 (0.016)                 | 0.002 (0.008)                              | -0.019* (0.011)  | -0.005 (0.012)                        |
| # obs.   | 1342                  | 1742                       | 1052                           | 3063                                       | 3346             | 1732                                  |

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