

# Employment Fluctuations, Real Estate Prices and Property Taxes

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# Motivation

- | Drop in real estate prices **associated** with employment declines

$$\# \text{real estate price} \quad ! \quad \# \text{employment}$$

- | Two explanations

- (i) **Housing Wealth Channel**

- ) Mian and Sufi (2014), Chodorow-Reich et al. (2013)

- (ii) **Firm Collateral Channel**

- ) Liu, Miao and Zha (2016), Bahja et al. (2020)

# Motivation

- | Drop in real estate prices associated with employment declines

# real estate price ! # employment

- | Two explanations

(i) Housing Wealth Channel

# house prices ! # employment

(ii) Firm Collateral Channel

# commercial real estate (CRE) prices ! # employment

# Motivation

| Drop in real estate prices **associated** with employment declines

**# real estate price** ! **# employment**

| Two explanations

(i) **Housing Wealth Channel**

**# residential prices** ! **# hh's wealth** ! **# consumption (constrained hh's)**

# Motivation

| Drop in real estate prices **associated** with employment declines

**# real estate price** ! **# employment**

| Two explanations

(i) **Housing Wealth Channel**

**# residential prices** ! **# hh's wealth** ! **# demand for goods** ! **# firm's labor demand**

# Motivation

- | Drop in real estate prices **associated** with employment declines

**# real estate price** ! **# employment**

- | Two explanations

(ii) **Firm Collateral Channel**

**# CRE prices** ! **# value real estate assets** ! **# collateral value**

# Motivation

| Drop in real estate prices **associated** with employment declines

**# real estate price** ! **# employment**

| Two explanations

(ii) **Firm Collateral Channel**

**# CRE prices** ! **# collateral value** ! **# loans (constrained firms)** **# firms's labor demand**

# Motivation

- | Drop in real estate prices associated with employment declines

$$\# \text{ real estate price} \quad ! \quad \# \text{ employment}$$

- | Two explanations

- (i) Housing Wealth Channel

- (ii) Firm Collateral Channel

- | Importance of (i) & (ii) channel  $\Rightarrow$  different policy implications

- Example: 2007 US housing crash

- | Understanding relative dominance  $\Rightarrow$  provide better policy guidance



## | Research Question

Decrease in residential + CRE prices ) a decline in labor

Relative importance of Housing wealth & Firm collateral channel?

## | Main challenges

(1) Separate both channels affecting labor demand

Positive correlation residential and CRE prices

(2) Tease out other mechanisms unrelated to the two channels of interest

Other mechanisms affect labor market after drop in real estate prices (i.e labor supply)

# This Paper

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| To address (1) & (2) this paper combines

) Reduced form evidence + Quantitative Model

# This Paper

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Decrease in residential + CRE prices ) a decline in labor

Relative importance of Housing wealth & Firm collateral channel?

## | Main challenges

(1) Separate both channels

| To address (1)

) Reduced form evidence

Use 2012 Property Tax Reform in Italy => estimate effect " property taxes

? " property tax for houses=CRE ) specific shock ) # residential=CRE price

# This Paper

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## | To address (1)

) Reduced form evidence

Use 2012 Property Tax Reform in Italy => estimate effect " property taxes

*DID* specification => Outcome variables

? Employment

? Consumption expenditure

? Residential and CRE prices

# This Paper

## | Research Question

Decrease in residential + CRE prices ) a decline in labor

Relative importance of Housing wealth & Firm collateral channel?

## | Main challenges

(1) Separate both channels

| To address (1)

) Reduced form evidence

Separate both channels but don't provide a direct measure

# This Paper

## | Research Question

Decrease in residential + CRE prices ) a decline in labor

Relative importance of Housing wealth & Firm collateral channel?

## | Main challenges

(2) Tease out other mechanisms

| To address (2)

) Quantitative Model

Financial frictions + housing & CRE + differential property taxes

In model both channels induced by exogenous " property taxes

# This Paper

## | Research Question

Decrease in residential + CRE prices ) a decline in labor

Relative importance of Housing wealth & Firm collateral channel?

## | Main challenges

(2) Tease out other mechanisms

| To address (2)

) Quantitative Model

Discipline model with estimates obtained with Italian data

Measure Housing wealth & Firm collateral channel

# What I find?

## (1) Empirical findings

" property tax rate for houses/CRE:

? # Consumption expenditure

? # Residential & CRE prices

? # Non-tradable employment



# What I find?

## (2) Quantitative findings

Model does a good job matching reduced form estimates with Italian data

⇒ **Target moments**

? Consumption

? Residential prices

? CRE prices

⇒ **Non-target moments**

? Non-tradable employment

## (2) Quantitative findings

Model does a good job matching reduced form estimates obtained with Italian data

⇒ Target moments

⇒ Non-target moments

Both channels explain more than 80% of labor decline ⇒ # real estate prices

⇒ Induced " property taxes

# Road Map

I. Empirical Analysis

II. Model

III. Calibration Strategy

IV. Measuring the Housing Wealth and Firm Collateral Channel

V. Conclusions and Future Work

I. Empirical Analysis

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# Empirical Analysis: Initial Thoughts

- | Empirical analysis in this paper
  - Estimate effect of " property taxes
  - Using the 2012 property tax reform in Italy
- | Two questions I need to address
  1. **Why property taxes are relevant?**
  2. **Why focus on the Italian economy?**

# Empirical Analysis: Why Property Taxes?

## 1. Why property taxes are relevant?

Property tax changes , **exogenous shock**

" Property taxes => " **cost acquire & hold** real estate assets => # **demand** => # **price**

Differential increase house & CRE property taxes

=> **specific shock** to residential & CRE prices

All else constant

" house-owners tax rate	=>	# residential price	!	} # <b>Labor demand</b>
" CRE-owners tax rate	=>	# CRE price	!	
			<b>hous. wealth</b>	
			<b>firm collateral</b>	

# Empirical Analysis: Why Property Taxes?

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*hous. wealth*  
*firm collateral*

# Empirical Analysis: Why Property Taxes?

## 1. Why property taxes are relevant?

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$\Rightarrow$  **specific shock** to residential & CRE prices

All else constant

" house-owners tax rate $\Rightarrow$ # residential price	! <b>hou. wealth</b>	} # <b>Labor demand</b>
" CRE-owners tax rate $\Rightarrow$ # CRE price	! <b>firm collateral</b>	



## 2. Why focus on the Italian economy?

Italian economy provides a suitable environment due to three reasons

## 2. Why focus on the Italian economy?

(i) Differential property taxes to house-owners & CRE-owners

Principal (*prin*)  $\Rightarrow t^h$

House-owners ) if used as main residence

Secondary (*sec*)  $\Rightarrow t^f$

Other properties ) Firms that own CRE

## 2. Why focus on the Italian economy?

- (i) Differential property taxes to house-owners & CRE-owners
- (ii) Property taxes defined independently by municipalities each year
  - " or #  $t^h$  &  $t^f$  within range determined by central government

## 2. Why focus on the Italian economy?

- (i) Differential property taxes to house-owners & CRE-owners
- (ii) Property taxes defined independently by municipalities each year
- (iii) 2012 Property Tax Reform
  - ⇒ imposed by central government
  - ⇒ force municipalities "  $t^h$  &  $t^f$

## | Main consequences of 2012 Property Tax Reform

- (1) Sharp increase in  $t^h$  &  $t^f$ : [Details](#)
- (2) Large variation across municipalities: [Details](#)

# Italian Property Tax Reform: Results

## | Main consequences of 2012 Property Tax Reform

(1) Sharp increase in  $t^h$  &  $t^f$ : [Details](#)

(2) Large variation across municipalities: [Details](#)

## | Basic idea for empirical strategy ) **exploit**

Differential increase in  $t^h$  &  $t^f$

Significant variation across municipalities

## | **Next step**

Define main variables  $\Rightarrow$  municipal level data

Parametric specification

| **Notation:**  $m; t$  = municipality, year

| Municipal level data

Balance panel

6,220 municipalities

Period 2008-2014

## | Variables of interest

1. Property tax rate ( $t^h, t^f$ )
2. Employment ( $L$ )
3. Consumption Expenditure ( $C$ )
4. Real Estate Prices ( $P^h; P^f$ )

---

Go to Road Map

Jump to Specification

Representativeness

Stat: Main Var

Stat: Add Var

TNT def

Non-Trad

Trad

$P^h$  &  $P^f$

$C$



## | Variables of interest

### 1. Property tax rate ( $t^h$ , $t^f$ )

From official acts issued each year by municipalities

### 2. Employment ( $L$ )

### 3. Consumption Expenditure ( $C$ )

### 4. Real Estate Prices ( $P^h; P^f$ )

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$C$

## | Variables of interest

1. Property tax rate ( $t^h$ ,  $t^f$ )

2. **Employment** ( $L$ )

Based on census on establishments across Italy

Number of employees working in establishments located in municipality

Focus => **Non-Tradable sector**

Exclude => **Construction sector**

3. Consumption Expenditure ( $C$ )

4. Real Estate Prices ( $P^h; P^f$ )

---

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## | Variables of interest

1. Property tax rate ( $t^h$ ,  $t^f$ )

2. Employment ( $L$ )

3. Consumption Expenditure ( $C$ )

Proxy => new vehicles household expenditure

4. Real Estate Prices ( $P^h; P^f$ )

---

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$P^h$  &  $P^f$

$C$

## | Variables of interest

1. Property tax rate ( $t^h, t^f$ )

2. Employment ( $L$ )

3. Consumption Expenditure ( $C$ )

4. Real Estate Prices ( $P^h; P^f$ )

Houses ) Residential properties

Commercial real estate ) Retail stores properties

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Go to Road Map

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Non-Trad

Trad

$P^h$  &  $P^f$

C

# Specification: Two-way Fixed Effect Model

## | Notation:

$Y_{m;t}$ : outcome variable )  $Y = \{L; C; P^h; P^f\}$

$y_{m;t} = \frac{Y_{m;t} + Y_{m;t-1}}{2}$  )  $y = \{l; c; p^h; p^f\}$

$\Delta t_{m;t}^i = t_{m;t}^i - t_{m;t-1}^i$  for  $i = fh; fg$

? Principal tax rate (*prin*):  $t^h$  =) House-owners

? Secondary tax rate (*sec*):  $t^f$  =) Firms owning CRE

# Specification: Two-way Fixed Effect Model

| Baseline specification ) Diff-in-Diff

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + b_{y;h} \Delta t_{m,t}^h \quad 1^{ft} = 2012g + b_{y;f} \Delta t_{m,t}^f \quad 1^{ft} = 2012g + e_{m;t}$$

$d_m$ : Municipality FE

$d_t$ : Year FE

$e_{m;t}$  ⇒ unobserved trend components

Covariance matrix  $e_{m;t}$

⇒ clustered across municipalities within same local labor market

# Specification: Two-way Fixed Effect Model

- | Baseline specification ) Diff-in-Diff

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + b_{y;h} \Delta t_{m;t}^h \quad 1^{ft=2012g} + b_{y;f} \Delta t_{m;t}^f \quad 1^{ft=2012g} + e_{m;t}$$

- | Coefficients of interest )  $b_{y;h}$  &  $b_{y;f}$

$$\Delta t_{m;t}^i \quad 1^{ft=2012g} = \text{Treatment Intensity} \quad \text{Post-Tax Reform}$$

- | Interpreting  $b_{y;i}$

1 pp.  $\Delta t^i$  higher  $\Rightarrow$  change  $y$  by  $b_{y;i}$  pp.

$b_{y;i}$  ) elasticity of  $y$  to  $t^i$

# Estimation Results

## | Baseline specification results

		Employment	Consumption	Real Estate Prices	
		Non-Tradables	Durables	Houses	CRE
		$\hat{b}_{l;i}$	$\hat{b}_{c;i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^h;i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^f;i}$
$\Delta t_{m;t}^h$	1 ft = 2012g	-0.087*** (0.015)	-0.517*** (0.145)	-0.022** (0.009)	-0.005 (0.010)
$\Delta t_{m;t}^f$	1 ft = 2012g	-0.045*** (0.011)	-0.177 (0.120)	-0.017*** (0.006)	-0.032*** (0.008)



# Estimation Results

## | Baseline specification results

"  $t^h, t^f \Rightarrow \# I^{nt}$

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# Estimation Results

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"  $t^h$  => # c

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# Estimation Results

## | Baseline specification results

"  $t^f \Rightarrow \# p^f$

		Employment	Consumption	Real Estate Prices	
		Non-Tradables	Durables	Houses	CRE
		$\hat{b}_{l,i}$	$\hat{b}_{c,i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^h,i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^f,i}$
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# Estimation Results

| Baseline specification results  $\Rightarrow$  robust to changes

Different growth rate definition

Selected sample

Alternative Specifications: [Details](#)

		Employment	Consumption	Real Estate Prices	
		Non-Tradables	Durables	Houses	CRE
		$\hat{b}_{l,i}$	$\hat{b}_{c,i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^h,i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^f,i}$
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# Identification: About Parallel Trends

## | Identification with Diff-in-Diff

Parallel trends in outcome

=> If no treatment on treated groups

## | For the case of the 2012 tax reform

Across different ( $\Delta t^h; \Delta t^f$ ) choices

In the absence of tax rate changes

=> outcome trends behave similarly

# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) [Event study analysis](#)

| **Implementation:**

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y;h}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y;f}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f + e_{m;t}$$

# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) **Event study analysis**

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|  $\hat{a}_{y,i}^{\tilde{t}}$  ) Dynamic effect of 2012 tax reform



# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) **Event study analysis**

| **Implementation:**

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{\alpha}_{y;h}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{\alpha}_{y;f}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f + e_{m;t}$$

|  $b_{y;i}^{\tilde{t}}$  =) Dynamic effect of 2012 tax reform

Lead coefficients =) **Pre-tax reform** trend differences

$$? b_{y;i}^{2008} \quad b_{y;i}^{2009} \quad b_{y;i}^{2010}$$

$$? \text{ Base year 2011 } \Rightarrow b_{y;i}^{2011} = 1$$

# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) **Event study analysis**

| **Implementation:**

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y,h}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y,f}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f + e_{m;t}$$

|  $b_{y,i}^{\tilde{t}}$  ⇒ Dynamic effect of 2012 tax reform

Lag coefficients ) **Post-tax reform** persistence effects

$$? b_{y,i}^{2013} b_{y,i}^{2004}$$

# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) **Event study analysis**

| **Implementation:**

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y,h}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y,f}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f + e_{m;t}$$

|  $b_{y,i}^{\tilde{t}}$  ) Dynamic effect of 2012 tax reform

**Contemporaneous effect** ) relative to 2011

?  $b_{y,i}^{2012}$  ) Di -in-Di estimate

# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) [Event study analysis](#)

| **Implementation:**

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y;h}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{a}_{y;f}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f + e_{m;t}$$

| [Testing for parallel trends](#)

Use lead coefficients

$$H_0: b_{y;i}^{2008} = b_{y;i}^{2009} = b_{y;i}^{2010} = 0$$

# Parallel Trends: Empirical Implementation

| Most used approach ) **Event study analysis**

| **Implementation:**

$$y_{m;t} = d_m + d_t + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{\alpha} b_{y,h}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h + \sum_{\tilde{t} \neq 2011} \hat{\alpha} b_{y,f}^{\tilde{t}} 1\{t = \tilde{t}\} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f + e_{m;t}$$

| **Testing for parallel trends**

Use lead coefficients

$$H_0: b_{y,i}^{2008} = b_{y,i}^{2009} = b_{y,i}^{2010} = 0$$

| Results even study analysis: ) **No evidence of systematic trend differences**

For  $\Delta t^h$ : [Results](#)

For  $\Delta t^f$ : [Results](#)

# Road Map

I. Empirical Analysis

II. Model

III. Calibration Strategy

IV. Measuring the Housing Wealth and Firm Collateral Channel

V. Conclusions and Future Work

# Model Setup

- | Closed economy, one period
- | Continuum of firms produce differentiated goods
- | Two type of real estate properties
  - Houses  $H^h$  ) households
  - CRE  $H^f$  ) firms
- | Real estate used as collateral
  - Loans paid within period )  $R = 0$
- | Dual property tax rate set by government
  - $t^h$  ) Houses
  - $t^f$  ) CRE

## Demand Side: Households

### | First Stage Problem ) Housing/Non-housing Expenditure & Labor Supply

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C;L;H^h} \quad & C^b (H^h)^{1-b} \frac{C}{1+\frac{1}{n}} L^{1+\frac{1}{n}} \\ \text{subject to} \quad & C + P^h H^h (1+t^h) = W L + \Pi \\ & C \leq f_h P^h H^h \end{aligned}$$

$W L$ : Labor Income

$\Pi$ : Aggregate profits from firms

$t^h$ : Tax rate house-owners

### | Parameters :

- (1)  $b$  ⇒ Expenditure share on consumption goods
- (2)  $n$  ⇒ Frisch elasticity labor supply
- (3)  $f_h$  ⇒ Loan-to-Value ratio households



## Demand Side: Households

| **Second Stage Problem** ) Consumption demand for varieties

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{(c_j)_{j \in [0,1]}} & \int_0^1 p_j c_j dj \\ \text{subject to } C & \left( \int_0^1 c_j^{1-\frac{1}{e}} dj \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{e}}} \end{aligned}$$

All prices expressed in units of  $C$  )  $P_C = 1$

| **Parameters** :

(4)  $e \Rightarrow$  Elasticity of demand for variety  $j$

## Production Side: Goods

| **Goods Producing Sector** : Firm producing variety  $j$

$$\Pi_j = \max_{f_j, H_j^f} p_j c_j - W L_j - P^f H_j^f (1 + t^f)$$

$$\text{s.t. } c_j = L^a (H^f)^{1-a}$$

$$p_j = \left( \frac{C}{c_j} \right)^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}}$$

$$W L_j - f_f P^f H_j^f$$

$\Pi_j$  : Profits net of property taxes

$t^f$  : Property tax for firms

| **Parameters** :

(5)  $a$   $\Rightarrow$  Labor share

(6)  $f_f$   $\Rightarrow$  Loan-to-Value ratio for firms

# Housing and CRE Supply

- | Construction sector
- | Represented by exogenous supply functions

$$H^h(P^h) = (P^h)^{S_h}$$

$$H^f(P^f) = (P^f)^{S_f}$$

- | Parameters :
  - (7)  $S_h$  ⇒ Housing supply elasticity
  - (8)  $S_f$  ⇒ CRE supply elasticity

# Equilibrium with Binding Constraints

| Two advantages of using simple model

1. Model's (constrained) equilibrium ) closed form solution

Given  $\theta = [b; n; a; e; f_h; f_f; s_h; s_f]$

Solve for:

Allocations  $\Rightarrow L(\tau^h; \tau^f); C(\tau^h; \tau^f)$

Prices  $\Rightarrow P^h(\tau^h; \tau^f); P^f(\tau^h; \tau^f)$

2. Close form solution for  $L, C, P^h$  and  $P^f \Rightarrow$  Log-linear in  $\tau^f$  &  $\tau^h$

Effect of property tax reform in the model?

Compare Log-linear equilibrium for two tax regimes  $\Rightarrow$  High/Low

# Effect of a Property Taxes Reform

| Property tax reform => increase property taxes

$$(t_0^h; t_0^f) \text{ \& } (t_1^h; t_1^f) \Rightarrow t_1^i > t_0^i, i = fh;fg$$

| Equilibrium response:

$$Y = \{L; C; P^h; P^f\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} Y_0(\Theta; t_0^h; t_0^f) \\ Y_1(\Theta; t_1^h; t_1^f) \end{cases}$$

# Effect of a Property Tax Reform

| Equilibrium solution    **Log-linear** in  $t^f$  &  $t^h$

$$y = \log(Y_1) - \log(Y_0) \Rightarrow y = \{l; c; p^h; p^f\}$$

$$\Delta t^i = t_1^i - t_0^i \Rightarrow i = fh; fg$$

$$y = b_{y;h}(\Theta) \Delta t^h + b_{y;f}(\Theta) \Delta t^f$$

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$$\text{Model reduced form effect} \Rightarrow b_{y;i}(\Theta) = \frac{\partial y}{\partial \Delta t^i}$$

- | **Model & empirical strategy** similar functional form

Empirical estimates  $\hat{b}_{y;i}$   $\Rightarrow$  discipline the model's  $b_{y;i}(\Theta)$

- | Before going to calibration strategy

**Housing wealth** & **Firm collateral** channel induced by "property taxes" ?



## Reduced Form Effect Employment: Decomposition

- | In the model  
"  $t^h$  &  $t^f$  ) equilibrium employment
- | Part of equilibrium response in labor market explained by  
housing wealth & firm collateral effect
- | Equilibrium response of employment to tax reform

$$l = b_{l;h}(\Theta) \Delta t^h + b_{l;f}(\Theta) \Delta t^f ; \quad l = \log(L_1) - \log(L_0)$$

# Reduced Form Effect Employment: Decomposition

- | Equilibrium response of **employment** to tax reform

$$l = b_{l;h}(\Theta) \Delta t^h + b_{l;f}(\Theta) \Delta t^f$$

- | **Main Decomposition Result:**

$$b_{l;h}(\Theta) = d^{\text{wealth}}(\Theta) + d_h^W + d_h^{P^f}$$

$$d^{\text{wealth}}(\Theta) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial \Delta t^h} = \frac{\partial l^d}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial p^h} \frac{\partial p^h}{\partial \Delta t^h}$$

$$d_h^W + d_h^{P^f} \Rightarrow \text{GE adjustments due to } \Delta t^h$$

# Reduced Form Effect Employment: Decomposition

- | Equilibrium response of **employment** to tax reform

$$l = b_{l;h}(\Theta) \Delta t^h + b_{l;f}(\Theta) \Delta t^f$$

- | **Main Decomposition Result:**

$$b_{l;f}(\Theta) = d^{\text{coll}}(\Theta) + d_f^W + d_f^{Ph}$$

$$d^{\text{coll}}(\Theta) = \frac{\eta_l}{\eta_{\Delta t^f}} = \frac{\eta_l^d}{\eta_{p^f}} \frac{\eta_{p^f}}{\eta_{\Delta t^f}}$$

$$d_f^W + d_f^{Ph} \Rightarrow \text{GE adjustments due to } t^f$$

## Reduced Form Effect Employment: Decomposition

- Equilibrium response of **employment** to tax reform

$$l = b_{l;h}(\Theta) \Delta t^h + b_{l;f}(\Theta) \Delta t^f$$

- Main Decomposition Result:**

$$b_{l;f}(\Theta) = d^{\text{coll}}(\Theta) + d_f^W + d_f^{P^h}$$

$$b_{l;h}(\Theta) = d^{\text{wealth}}(\Theta) + d_h^W + d_h^{P^f}$$

- $d^{\text{coll}}$  &  $d^{\text{wealth}}$  depend  $(s_h, s_f)$  &  $(f_h, f_f)$

$$d^{\text{wealth}}(\Theta) = \left( \frac{1+n}{1+f_h} \right) \left( \frac{1+s_h}{1+s_h+(1-b)n} \right)$$

$$d^{\text{coll}}(\Theta) = \left( \frac{e}{1+f_f} \right) \left( \frac{1+s_f}{1+s_f+(1-a)(e-1)} \right)$$

# Road Map

I. Empirical Analysis

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# Calibration Procedure

- | Closed form expression for both channels

$$d^{\text{wealth}}(\Theta) = \left( \frac{1+n}{1+f_h} \right) \left( \frac{1+S_h}{1+S_h+(1-b)n} \right)$$

$$d^{\text{coll}}(\Theta) = \left( \frac{e}{1+f_f} \right) \left( \frac{1+S_f}{1+S_f+(1-a)(e-1)} \right)$$

- | Parameters calibrated internally  $\Rightarrow \Theta_{\text{in}} = [f_h; f_f; S_h; S_f]$

$S_f, S_h$ ) Supply elasticity for houses and CRE

$f_h, f_f$ ) LTV-ratio for hh's and firms

- | Parameters set externally  $\Rightarrow \Theta_{\text{out}} = [a; e; n; b]$

# Calibration Procedure

Idea ) is to calibrate  $\Theta_{in} = [f_h; f_f; S_h; S_f] \Rightarrow$  target  $\{ \hat{b}_{y;h}, \hat{b}_{y;f} \}$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{b}_{l;h} & \hat{b}_{l;f} \\ \hat{b}_{c;h} & \hat{b}_{c;f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^h;h} & \hat{b}_{p^h;f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^f;h} & \hat{b}_{p^f;f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{DATA}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_{l;h}(\Theta) & b_{l;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{c;h}(\Theta) & b_{c;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^h;h}(\Theta) & b_{p^h;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^f;h}(\Theta) & b_{p^f;f}(\Theta) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{MODEL}}$$

# Calibration Procedure

| Won't target  $\hat{b}_{l;h}$ ,  $\hat{b}_{l;f}$  => Model validation test

Compare  $b_{l;h}(\Theta)$ ,  $b_{l;f}(\Theta)$  to  $\hat{b}_{l;h}$ ,  $\hat{b}_{l;f}$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{b}_{l;h} & \hat{b}_{l;f} \\ \hat{b}_{c;h} & \hat{b}_{c;f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^h;h} & \hat{b}_{p^h;f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^f;h} & \hat{b}_{p^f;f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{DATA}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_{l;h}(\Theta) & b_{l;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{c;h}(\Theta) & b_{c;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^h;h}(\Theta) & b_{p^h;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^f;h}(\Theta) & b_{p^f;f}(\Theta) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{MODEL}}$$



# Calibration Procedure

- Exclude  $\hat{b}_{c,f}$ ,  $\hat{b}_{p^f,h}$   $\Rightarrow$  Non-statistically significant

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{b}_{c,h} & \hat{b}_{c,f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^h,h} & \hat{b}_{p^h,f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^f,h} & \hat{b}_{p^f,f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{DATA}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_{c,h}(\Theta) & b_{c,f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^h,h}(\Theta) & b_{p^h,f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^f,h}(\Theta) & b_{p^f,f}(\Theta) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{MODEL}}$$

# Calibration Procedure

## | Target moments

$$\Rightarrow \hat{b}_{c;h}, \hat{b}_{p^h;h}, \hat{b}_{p^h;f}, \hat{b}_{p^f;f}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{b}_{c;h} & \hat{b}_{c;f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^h;h} & \hat{b}_{p^h;f} \\ \hat{b}_{p^f;h} & \hat{b}_{p^f;f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{DATA}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_{c;h}(\Theta_{out}; f_h) & b_{c;f}(\Theta) \\ b_{p^h;h}(\Theta_{out}; S_h) & b_{p^h;f}(\Theta_{out}; f_f) \\ b_{p^f;h}(\Theta) & b_{p^f;f}(\Theta_{out}; S_f) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{MODEL}}$$

$$(1) \hat{b}_{c;h} \Rightarrow f_h$$

$$(2) \hat{b}_{p^h;f} \Rightarrow f_f$$

$$(3) \hat{b}_{p^h;h} \Rightarrow S_h$$

$$(4) \hat{b}_{p^f;f} \Rightarrow S_f$$

# Calibration Results

| External set parameters  $\Rightarrow \Theta_{out} = [t^h; t^f; a; b; e]$

	Parameter	Value	Target
Labor Share	$a$	0.6	Labor Share Italy
Frisch elasticity	$n$	1	Common in literature
Elasticity of demand	$e$	4	Bai et. al (2020)
Exp. share goods	$b$	0.8	Berger et. al (2018)

# Calibration Results

| Internal calibration  $\Rightarrow \Theta_{in} = [f_h; f_f; S_h; S_f]$

	Parameter	Value	Target
Supply elast. houses	$S_h$	4.87	$\hat{b}_{p^h;h}$
Supply elast. CRE	$S_f$	2.40	$\hat{b}_{p^f;f}$
LTV HH's	$f_h$	0.23	$\hat{b}_{c;f}$
LTV firms	$f_f$	0.35	$\hat{b}_{p^h;f}$

| Calibration is **consistent** with **similar estimates in the literature**

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[Back to Intro Calibration](#)

[External Parameters](#)

[Comparing Calibration](#)

[Calibration Procedure](#)

[Validation Test](#)

[Decomposition Results](#)

## Checking Model's Predictions: $b_{l;i}$ vs $\hat{b}_{l;i}$

### | Model predictions validation test

Compare  $b_{l;h}$ ,  $b_{l;f}$  with  $\hat{b}_{l;h}$ ,  $\hat{b}_{l;f}$

	Model	Data	
	$b_{L;i}$	$\hat{b}_{L;i}$	95% CI
$\Delta t^h$	0.074	0.087	[0.06, 0.12]
$\Delta t^f$	0.061	0.045	[0.02, 0.07]

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## Checking Model's Predictions: $b_{L;i}$ vs $\hat{b}_{L;i}$

- Model does a fairly good job replicating empirical estimates for labor

$b_{L;h}$  and  $b_{L;f} \Rightarrow \geq 95\% \text{ CI}$

	Model	Data	
	$b_{L;i}$	$\hat{b}_{L;i}$	95% CI
$\Delta t^h$	0.074	0.087	[0.06, 0.12]
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# Decomposition Results: Housing Wealth & Firm Collateral Channel

## | Decomposition Result

$$b_{l,h}(\Theta) = d^{\text{wealth}}(\Theta) + d_h^W + d_h^{P^f}$$

$$b_{l,f}(\Theta) = d^{\text{coll}}(\Theta) + d_f^W + d_f^{P^h}$$

Housing wealth channel

$$\text{" } \Delta t^h \text{ 1 pp } \Rightarrow \text{ 0.074 pp } = \underbrace{\text{0.073 pp}}_{\text{98 \%}} + \text{0.001 pp}$$

Firm collateral channel

$$\text{" } \Delta t^f \text{ 1 pp } \Rightarrow \text{ 0.061 pp } = \underbrace{\text{0.052 pp}}_{\text{84 \%}} + \text{0.009 pp}$$

# Road Map

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## To Conclude...

- | Relative importance firm collateral and housing wealth channel?

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  - Reduced form estimates ) 2012 Italian property tax reform
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- | Firm collateral channel as important as important housing wealth channel
  - ) Explain more than 80% of employment drop after decline in real estate prices
  - Decline in real estate prices induced by higher property taxes

- | Using the same tax reform ) firm level estimates
  - (i) How assets value and borrowing levels are changing?
- | Model improvements
  - (i) Dynamics
  - (ii) Trade ) why tradable employment is not affected?
  - (iii) What about migration?

**THANK YOU !**

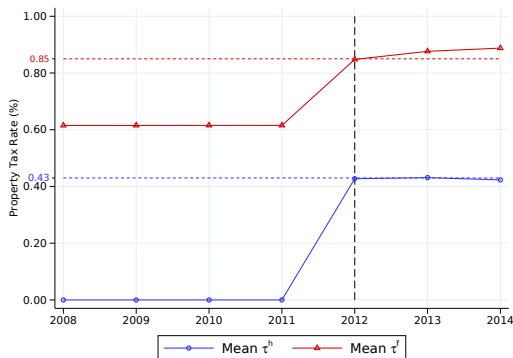
# (1) Increase in $t^h$ & $t^f$

- Average change tax rate:

$$\Delta t_{2012}^h = 0.43 \quad 322 \text{ euros}$$

$$\Delta t_{2012}^f = 0.85 \quad 200 \text{ euros}$$

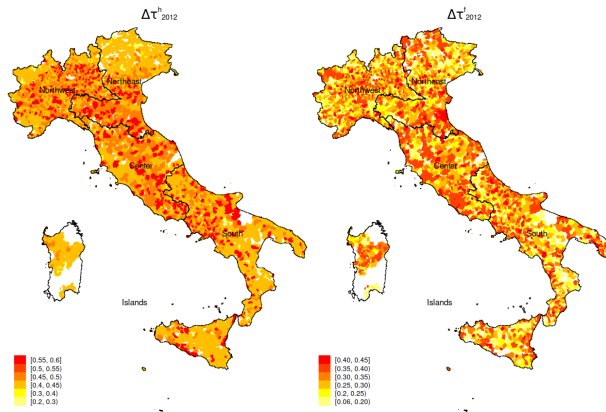
- Unique event not observed before of after 2012.



## (2) Large Variation in $t^h$ & $t^f$

| Off-tax reform years )  $\Delta t^h$  &  $\Delta t^f$  0 across municipalities

$$\text{Var}(\Delta t_{2012}^i) \approx 5 \text{ Var}(\Delta t_{t \neq 2012}^i) \quad i = fh; fg$$



# About Sample Representativeness

- | Sample of 6,220 municipalities
  - => **representative** for whole Italian economy
- | For 2012:
  - (1) 77.75% of total municipalities ( 8,000)
  - (2) 88% total population
  - (3) 89.5% total employment
  - (4) 93% total income

# Tradables and Non-Tradables Definition

| Following Mian and Sufi (2012).

## ? Tradable Industries:

Sectoral world trade (Exports+Imports) important magnitude relative sector size/output.

Economies of scale required ) sector concentrated across the territory.

## ? Non-Tradable Industries:

No trade across locations or with rest of the world.

Non-tradable sectors satisfy local demand ) uniformly dispersed across territory.



# Tradables and Non-Tradables Definition

- | Let  $s$  be a 2-Digit (NACE Rev.2) industry code.
- | I use 2007 cross-section distribution:

Sector  $s$  Total Trade with ROW per employed person:

$$\text{Trade}_s^E = \frac{X_s + M_s}{E_s}$$

Sector  $s$  Total Trade with ROW relative to Gross Output:

$$\text{Trade}_s^Y = \frac{X_s + M_s}{Y_s}$$

Sector  $s$  Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI):

$$\text{HHI}_s = \frac{\sum_m E_{s,m}^2}{\sum_m E_{s,m}}$$

# Tradables and Non-Tradables Definition

## Procedure:

1. If  $X_S + M_S > 0$ :

$$\text{Trade}_S^E > \text{Trade}_{\text{Median}}^E \text{ or } \text{Trade}_S^Y > \text{Trade}_{\text{Median}}^Y \text{ ) } s \in \text{Tradable}$$

2. If  $X_S + M_S > 0$  and 1. is not satisfied:

$$HHI_S > HHI_{P75^{\text{th}}} \text{ ) } s \in \text{Tradable}$$

3. If  $X_S + M_S = 0$ :

$$HHI_S > HHI_{P75^{\text{th}}} \text{ ) } s \in \text{Tradable}$$

$$HHI_S < HHI_{P25^{\text{th}}} \text{ ) } s \in \text{Non-Tradable}$$

## Thresholds:

$$\text{Trade}_{\text{Median}}^E = 56487 \text{ \& } \text{Trade}_{\text{Median}}^Y = 0.16$$

$$HHI_{P25^{\text{th}}} = 0.0045 \text{ \& } HHI_{P75^{\text{th}}} = 0.015$$

## Non-Tradable NACE Industries

- | # Non-Tradable Industries = 7 (Exclude Construction Sector )
- | Mean **HHI** Non-Tradables = 0.0068

Division	Division Name	Section	HHI
49	Land transport and transport via pipelines	H	0.0092
55	Accommodation	I	0.0075
46	Wholesale trade	G	0.0078
56	Food and beverage service activities	I	0.0074
47	Retail trade	G	0.0056
33	Repair & inst. of machinery & equip.	C	0.0051
45	Wholesale and retail trade vehicles & motorcycles	G	0.0043
43	Specialised construction activities	F	0.0032
42	Civil Engineering	F	0.0034
41	Construction of buildings	F	0.0035

## Tradable NACE Industries: Part a

- | # Tradable Industries = 28
- | Mean **HHI** Tradables = 0.017

Division	Name	Section	Trade <sup>E</sup>	Trade <sup>Y</sup>	HHI
19	Manuf. coke & petroleum	C	595208	0.31	0.03
20	Manuf. chemicals	C	487905	0.79	0.013
29	Manuf. vehicles	C	336130	0.79	0.03
24	Manuf. basic metals	C	285574	0.6	0.017
26	Manuf. computer/elect/opt	C	239425	0.44	0.027
21	Manuf. Pharma	C	218005	0.9	0.013
30	Manuf. other transport equip.	C	156098	0.17	0.013
10	Manuf. food products	C	138202	0.2	0.002
28	Manuf. machinery and equip.	C	135429	0.27	0.003
17	Manuf. paper/products	C	131726	0.29	0.004
27	Manuf. electrical equip.	C	116954	0.24	0.003
15	Manuf. leather/products	C	108611	0.67	0.009
32	Other manuf.	C	89349	0.13	0.008
22	Manuf. rubber/plastic	C	82638	0.23	0.002
13	Manuf. textiles	C	75699	0.44	0.009

## Tradable NACE Industries: Part b

- | # Tradable Industries = 28
- | Mean **HHI** Tradables = 0.017

Division	Name	Section	Trade <sup>E</sup>	Trade <sup>Y</sup>	HHI
14	Manuf. wearing apparel	C	73500	0.59	0.003
23	Manuf. other non-metalic	C	49033	0.25	0.003
31	Manuf. furniture	C	28915	0.22	0.005
61	Telecom.	H			0.03
53	Postal/courier serv.	J			0.03
63	Information serv.	J			0.035
62	Computer programming serv.	J			0.036
93	Sport/Recreation activ.	R			0.06
50	Water transport	H			0.115
65	Insurance/pension funding	K			0.132
60	Broadcast. activ.	J			0.17
51	Air transport	H			0.305
12	Manuf. tobacco	C			0.338

## Real State Prices: Real State Observatory (OMI)

- | **Homogeneous real state markets** within  $m$  (OMI zones).
- | Data on property and rental values (per  $m^2$ )
  - Based on restricted data on transactions across Italy + Surveys local housing markets.
  - Only Minimum and maximum values reported.
  - By type of property and maintenance state.
  - | Biannual frequency, period 2007H1-2014H2.
- | **Annual real state price:** Average values across OMI zones for second semester of each year.

# Household Consumption on Vehicles

- Idea: Mian and Sufi (2013)

$$X_{m;t}^{\text{cars}} = w_{m;t} X_t^{\text{cars}}, \quad w_{m;t} = \frac{P_{m;t}^{\text{Cars}} Q_{m;t}^{\text{Cars}}}{P_t^{\text{Cars}} Q_t^{\text{Cars}}}$$

- Assume:

$$\frac{P_{m;t}^{\text{Cars}}}{P_t^{\text{Cars}}} = \rho_m^{\text{cars}} \quad \mu \quad X_{m;t}^{\text{cars}} \approx w_{m;t}^Q X_t^{\text{cars}} = \frac{Q_{m;t}^{\text{Cars}}}{Q_t^{\text{Cars}}} X_t^{\text{cars}}$$

- Data new vehicles registrations 2009-2015

$$\hat{w}_{m;t}^Q = \frac{\text{New Cars Registered}_{m;t}}{\bar{a}_m \text{ New Cars Registered}_{m;t}}$$

- Durable Expenditure proxy  $C_{m;t}^{\text{dur}}$ :

$$C_{m;t}^{\text{dur}} = \hat{w}_{m;t}^Q C_t^{\text{cars}}$$

$C_t^{\text{cars}}$  = Household Final Expenditure, Purchase of Vehicles at  $t$

# New Vehicle Registration Data

## Vehicle categories:

- (1) Cars.
- (2) Bus.
- (3) Trucks for Goods Transport.
- (4) Vehicles for Special Use.
- (5) Motorcycles.
- (6) Motorcycles & Quadricycles for Special Use.
- (7) Trailers & Semi-Trailers for Goods Transport.
- (8) Trailers & Semi-Trailers for Special Use.
- (9) Tractors.

### Cars

Vehicles intended for the transport of persons, with a maximum of nine seats, including that of driver



## Summary Statistics: Main Variables

	Mean	S.D	$p^{25}$	$p^{50}$	$p^{75}$
Population	8,278	44,961	1,209	2,819	6,919
Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	58.38	108.65	8.63	21.79	54.39
Income <sup>PC</sup>	11,376	2,961	8,854	11,740	13,469
$L^{\text{tot}}$	2,193	16,502	139	489	1,554
share $L^{\text{ntrad}}$ (%)	41	14	31	41	50
share $L^{\text{trad}}$ (%)	17	15	4	12	26
$\Delta t^h$	0.43	0.07	0.40	0.40	0.50
$\Delta t^f$	0.24	0.10	0.16	0.25	0.31
$\Delta L^{\text{tot}}$	-0.17	7.47	-3.52	-0.67	2.54
$\Delta L^{\text{ntrad}}$	2.44	7.95	-2.20	1.28	5.67
$\Delta L^{\text{trad}}$	-2.08	19.35	-7.73	-1.02	3.36
$\Delta C$	-5.09	71.58	-57.17	-9.61	30.07
$\Delta P^{\text{House}}$	-1.81	4.03	-4.06	0.00	0.00
$\Delta P^{\text{CRE}}$	-1.88	3.43	-3.02	0.00	0.00

## Summary Statistics: Local Government Finances

	$P_{25}$	$P_{50}$	$P_{75}$	Mean	SD
$\Delta T_{pc}^c$	-6.7	-0.2	8.9	1.3	13.8
$\Delta G_{pc}^c$	-11.0	-4.2	1.8	-4.6	10.6
$\Delta T_{pc}^{trans}$	-43.3	-17.4	12.1	-17.0	47.1
$\Delta T_{pc}^{prin}$	-6.1	15.2	33.1	14.8	85.1
$\Delta T_{pc}^{sec}$	172.9	195.2	200.0	139.9	110.3
Deficit/ $T^c$	-15.3	-9.3	-3.9	-9.4	9.6
Debt/ $T^c$	42.5	78.3	124.7	90.1	65.6
$T^{irpef} = T^c$	4.2	7.3	9.2	7.1	4.3
$T^{prop} = T^c$	19.6	27.0	33.2	26.2	11.2
$T^{trans} = T^c$	17.7	28.5	41.7	34.3	25.8

## Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

| Let  $\hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}}$ :

$$\hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} = d_m + d_t + b_{y;h} \Delta t_{m;t}^h \quad 1_{ft=2012g} + b_{y;f} \Delta t_{m;t}^f \quad 1_{ft=2012g}$$

| Baseline specification:

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + e_{m;t}^0$$

# Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

| Baseline specification:

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + e_{m;t}^0$$

| Controlling for municipal time varying covariates:  $\mathbf{X}_{m;t} \ 1$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + \mathbf{X}_{m;t} \ 1 + e_{m;t}^1$$

where  $\mathbf{X}_{m;t} \ 1$  includes:

1. Local economic conditions
2. Supply Side Controls
3. Local Government Controls
4. Other Local Tax Policy Changes

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[Stat: Main Var](#)

[Stat: Add Var](#)

[Local Eco](#)

[Supply Side](#)

[Local Gov](#)

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## Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

- | Baseline specification:

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + e_{m;t}^0$$

- | Controlling for municipal time varying covariates:  $\mathbf{X}_{m;t}$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + \mathbf{X}_{m;t} + e_{m;t}^1$$

- | Controlling for unobservable local labor market trends:  $d_{m2LLS;t}$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + d_{m2LLS;t} + e_{m;t}^2$$

Local Labor Market (LLS):

Group of neighbor municipalities

Labor force lives and works

Establishments can find most of the labor force

⇒ [Commuting Zones](#)

## Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

- | Baseline specification:

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + e_{m;t}^0$$

- | Controlling for municipal time varying covariates:  $\mathbf{X}_{m;t}$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + \mathbf{X}_{m;t} + e_{m;t}^1$$

- | Controlling for unobservable local labor market trends:  $d_{m2LLS;t}$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + d_{m2LLS;t} + e_{m;t}^2$$

- | Testing additional mechanisms

⇒) **Correlation between property tax changes** and:

- (1) Productivity shocks
- (2) Credit supply shocks
- (3) Uncertainty shocks

---

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[Productivity](#)

[Credit supply](#)

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# Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

## | Testing additional mechanisms

⇒ Correlation between property tax changes and:

(1) Productivity shocks:  $Z_{m;t-1}$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + w_{y,h}^z \Delta t_{m,2012}^h Z_{m;t-1} + w_{y,f}^z \Delta t_{m,2012}^f Z_{m;t-1} + e_{m;t}^3$$

$Z_{m;t}$  = Real total income per employee (2010=100)

$$Z_{m;t} = \frac{Z_{m;t} + Z_{m;t-1}}{(Z_{m;t} + Z_{m;t-1})^{-2}}$$

# Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

## | Testing additional mechanisms

=> Correlation between property tax changes and:

(2) Credit supply shocks:  $\left(\frac{\text{Loan}}{\text{Deposits}}\right)_{m;t-1}$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + W_{y;h}^{\text{loan}} \Delta t_{m;2012}^h \left(\frac{\text{Loan}}{\text{Deposits}}\right)_{m;t-1} + W_{y;f}^{\text{loan}} \Delta t_{m;2012}^f \left(\frac{\text{Loan}}{\text{Deposits}}\right)_{m;t-1} + e_{m;t}^4$$

Loans and Deposits of all bank branches within municipality



# Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

| Testing additional mechanisms

=> Correlation between property tax changes and:

(3) Uncertainty shocks:  $S_{P;t-1}^Z$

$$y_{m;t} = \hat{y}_{m;t}^{\text{Baseline}} + W_{y,h}^{\text{uncert}} \Delta t_{m,2012}^h S_{P;t-1}^Z + W_{y,f}^{\text{uncert}} \Delta t_{m,2012}^f S_{P;t-1}^Z + e_{m;t}^5$$

$S_{P;t-1}^Z$ : Sample standard deviation Z across municipalities within province P

$$S_{P;t}^Z = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_{m2P}-1} \sum_{m2p} [z_{m;t} - \bar{z}_{P;t}]^2}$$

$$\bar{z}_{P;t} = \frac{1}{N_{m2P}} \sum_{m2p} z_{m;t}$$

# Robustness Checks: Results



# Supply Side Controls

- (1) Employment share 1-digit NACE Rev.2: For  $j = fC; D; E; F; \dots; R; Sg$ .

$$\text{Share Employment}_{m,j} = \frac{E_{m,j}}{\sum_{j=C}^S E_{m,j}}$$

| Example:

$C =$  Manufactures.

$F =$  Construction.

$G =$  Wholesale and Retail Trade.

| Employment for  $A$  and  $B$  is restricted data, so I exclude both divisions from sample.

## Local economic conditions

- (1) Growth rate income per-capita (2010=100).
- (2) Log-level income per-capita (2010=100).
- (3) Growth rate total employment.
- (4) Growth rate total employment in local labor market.
- (5) Net Internal Migration rate:

$$\frac{\# \text{ Move in to } m - \# \text{ Move out from } m}{\text{Population}_m}$$

## Local Government Controls

- (1) Growth rate Current Revenues (2010=100).
- (2) Growth rate Current Expenditure (2010=100).
- (3) Share Revenues Income Surcharge (IRPEF).
- (4) Share Revenues Property Taxes.
- (5) Share Revenues Transfers General and Regional Government.
- (6) Total Debt-Current Revenue ratio.
- (7) Interest Expenditure-Current Expenditure ratio.
- (8) Capital Expenditure-Current Expenditure ratio.
- (9) Revenues from Transfers-Current Revenue ratio.
- (10) Property Taxes Revenue-Current Revenue ratio.

## Other Local Tax Policy Changes

- (1) 2008 Exemption of Main Residence from households:

$$\# ft = 2008g \quad \Delta t_{m,2008}^{prin}$$

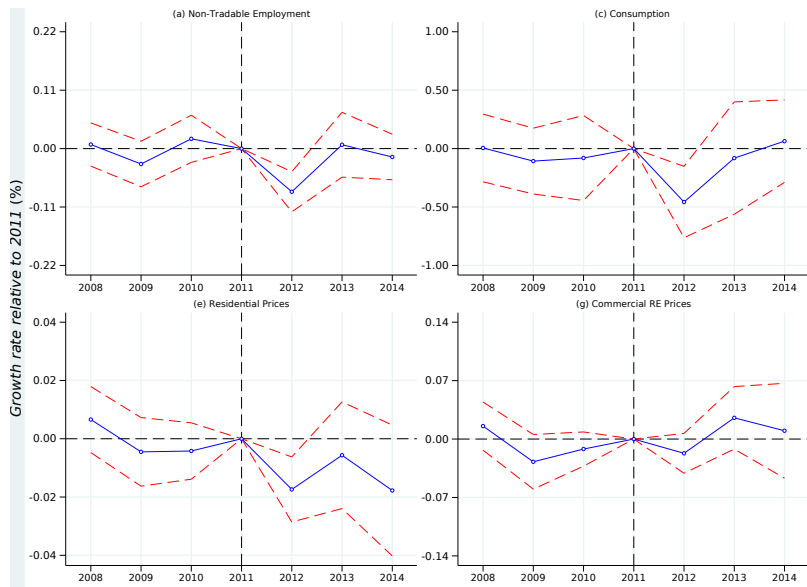
- (2) 2011 Tax Income changes.

$$\# ft = 2011g \quad \text{Ln}\left(\frac{R_{m,IRPEF}}{\text{Population}_{m,2011}}\right)$$

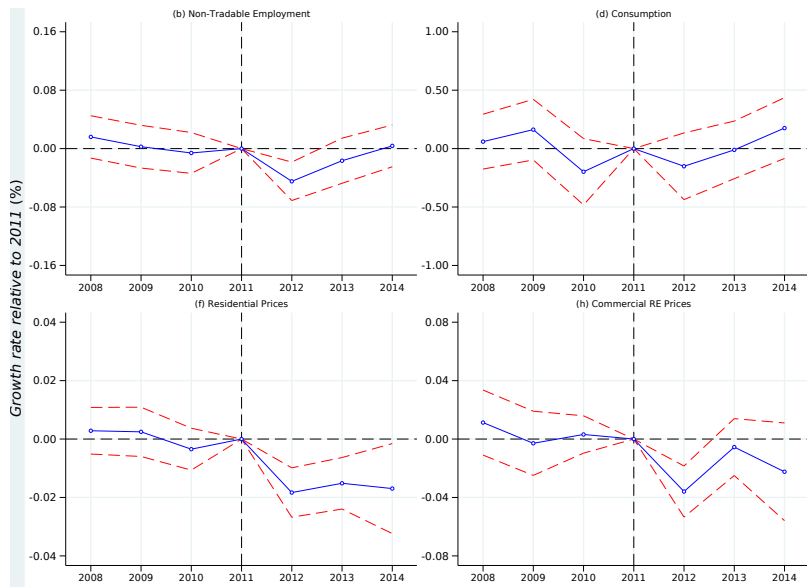
- (3) 2014 Property tax changes.

$$\# ft = 2014g \quad \text{Ln}\left(\frac{R_{m,TASI}}{\text{Population}_{m,2013}}\right)$$

# Even Study: Dynamic coefficients $\Delta t^h$



# Even Study: Dynamic coefficients $\Delta t^f$





# About No Anticipation

- | Additional identification condition  $\Rightarrow$ ) No anticipation effects
  - No pre-treatment effects on outcome across treatment groups
- | Municipalities **don't anticipate** tax reform
  - No tax rate changes in advance
  - No response of  $y$  before tax reform
- | Seems to be a valid assumption
  - $\Rightarrow$ ) **Not likely given introduction of new tax system**
  - $\Rightarrow$ ) **No changes in tax rates previous 2012**

---

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Timeline 1

Timeline 2

Tax Rate Changes

Event Study:  $\Delta t^h$

Event Study:  $\Delta t^f$

# Italian Property Tax Reform: Timeline

| 1992-2010:

Property tax system ) "*Municipal tax on Properties*" (**ICI**)

?  $t^h; t^f \in [0:4\%; 0:7\%]$

? House-owners ) exempted ( $t^h = 0$ ) if house  
House used main residence

Not categorized as luxury property

No major reforms to **ICI** system during 1992-2010

# Italian Property Tax Reform: Timeline

| April 2011

⇒) "*Own Municipal Tax*" (**IMU**) replaced ) **ICI**

Higher lower & upper threshold for  $t^f$

) Increase  $t^f$

No change to house-owners exemption

Introduction date **IMU** ) January 2014

# Italian Property Tax Reform: Timeline

| November 2011

Sovereign debt crisis episode ) " spread Italian government bonds

To reduce pressure of financial markets on Italian sovereign debt

Central government push forward emergency fiscal package

Fiscal adjustment relied mostly on property tax reform

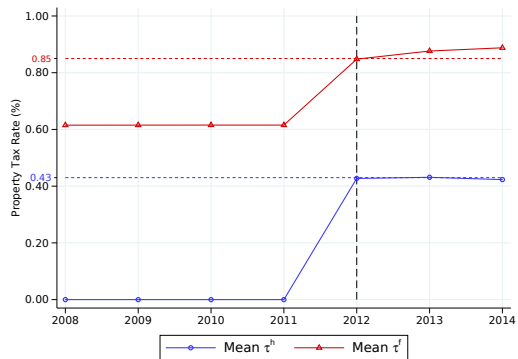
? Initial **IMU** transformed into *Experimental-IMU*

| November 2011

## *Experimental-IMU*

- ? Increase in lower & upper threshold for  $t^f$
- ? Cancel exemption for house-owners main residence
  - )  $t^f$   $t^h$  expected to increase
- ? Introduction date **IMU** ) January 2012

# Average Tax Rate Increase in $t^h$ & $t^f$



# Competitive Equilibrium: Formal Definition

## Definition (Competitive Equilibrium)

A competitive equilibrium in this economy is defined by

Prices  $\{W; P^h; P^f; p_j\}$ , allocations  $\{L; H^h; H^f; C; c_j\}$

Shadow values  $\{m^h; m^f\}$  and property tax rates  $\{t^h; t^f\}$

Such that:

1. Given  $\{W; P^h; P^f; p_j\}$  and  $\{t^h; t^f\}$ 
  - 1.1  $L$ ,  $H^h$  and  $C$  solve 1st stage problem with  $m^h = 0$  and  $(c_j)$  solve 2nd stage problem.
  - 1.2  $L$  and  $H^f$  maximize profits for firms with  $m^f = 0$ .
  - 1.3  $H^h$  and  $H^f$  are consistent with real estate supply functions.
2. Given a  $\{L; H^h; H^f\}$  and  $\{t^h; t^f\}$ 
  - 2.1  $\{W; P^f; P^h\}$  clear the markets for labor, houses and commercial real estate respectively.

# Binding Borrowing Constraints

## Proposition

Let  $\{W; P^h; P^f; \}$  and  $\{L; H^h; H^f; C; \}$  denote the equilibrium price and allocation vector.

Household's borrowing constraint binds (i.e.  $m^h > 0$ ) if and only if:

$$\frac{C}{P^h H^h (1 + t^h)} < \frac{b}{1 - b}$$

Firm's collateral constraint will bind as well (i.e.  $m^f > 0$ ) if and only if:

$$\frac{WL}{P^f H^f (1 + t^f)} < \frac{a}{1 - a}$$



## Log-Linear Equilibrium Solution

| Model's equilibrium ) closed form solution

$$\log(L) = f_f + (1 + S_f)\log(P^f) \quad \log(W) \quad (1)$$

$$\log(C) = f_h + (1 + S_h)\log(P^h) \quad (2)$$

$$A_h \log(P^h) = k_{ph}(\Theta) + (1 + n) \left[ \log(W) \quad \log(1 + t^h + f_h) \right] + \log(1 + t^f + e f_f) \quad (3)$$

$$A_f \log(P^f) = k_{pf}(\Theta) + (1 + S_h)\log(P^h) \quad a(e - 1)\log(W) \quad e \log(1 + t^f + f_f) \quad (4)$$

(1)

$$A_h = 1 + S_h + (1 - b)n$$

$$A_f = 1 + S_f + (1 - a)(e - 1)$$

$$k_{ph}(\Theta), k_{pf}(\Theta), k_W(\Theta)$$

## Effect of a Tax Reform in the Model

### Proposition (Property Tax Reform: Reduced Form Effect)

Given  $\Theta$ , if  $\frac{t^h}{1+t^h}$ ,  $\frac{t^f}{1+t^f}$  and  $\frac{t^f}{1+e t^f}$  are small enough then the percentage change in  $y = \{p^h; p^f; w; l; c\}$  after an increase in property taxes equal to  $\Delta t^h$ ,  $\Delta t^f$  can be characterized as follows:

$$y = b_{y;h}(\Theta) \Delta t^h + b_{y;f}(\Theta) \Delta t^f ; \quad (2)$$

where  $\Delta t^i = t_1^i - t_0^i$  is the percentage point (pp.) change in  $i$  tax rate for  $i = fh; fg$  and  $b_{y;i}(\Theta)$  is the reduced form effect of a change in  $t^i$  on  $y$ .

# Housing Wealth & Firm Collateral Channel: Intuition

## | Housing wealth channel

"  $t^h \Rightarrow \#L^d$ , all else constant  
 $\#P^h$

"  $t^h \quad ! \quad \#H^{h;d} \quad ! \quad \#P^h \quad ! \quad \#f_h P^h H^h = C \quad ! \quad \#C \quad ! \quad \#L^d(C; P^h; W)$

## | Firm Collateral Channel

"  $t^f \Rightarrow \#L^d$ , all else constant  
 $\#P^f$

"  $t^f \quad ! \quad \#H^{f;d} \quad ! \quad \#P^f \quad ! \quad \#f_f P^f H^f = W \quad L^d \quad ! \quad \#L^d$

## Decomposition Result: Details

### Proposition (Decomposing the Employment Response)

Reduced form coefficients  $b_{l;h}(\Theta)$  and  $b_{l;f}(\Theta)$  can be decompose as follows:

$$b_{l;h} = d^{wealth}(\Theta) + \left[ \frac{(1+s_h)(1+n)}{A_h} (1+a(e-1)) \right] b_{w;h} (1-a)(e-1) b_{p^f;h}$$

$$b_{l;f} = d^{coll}(\Theta) + \left[ \frac{(1+s_f)a(e-1)}{A^f} - 1 \right] b_{w;f} \frac{(1+s_f)(1+s_h)}{A^f} b_{p^h;f}$$

where,

$$d^{wealth}(\Theta) = \left( \frac{1+n}{1+f_h} \right) \left( \frac{1+s_h}{1+s_h+(1-b)n} \right)$$

$$d^{coll}(\Theta) = \left( \frac{e}{1+f_f} \right) \left( \frac{1+s_f}{1+s_f+(1-a)(e-1)} \right)$$

## Calibration vs Literature

- | Using 2012 Survey of Households, Income and Wealth (SHIW) for Italy
- | Average LTV-ratio

For hh's that own single home ) 0.42

	Parameter	Value	Target
Supply elast. houses	$S_h$	4.87	$\hat{b}_{p^h;h}$
Supply elast. CRE	$S_f$	2.40	$\hat{b}_{p^f;f}$
LTV HH's	$f_h$	0.23	$\hat{b}_{c;f}$
LTV firms	$f_f$	0.35	$\hat{b}_{p^h;f}$

## Calibration vs Literature

- | Using 2012 Survey of Households, Income and Wealth (SHIW) for Italy
- | Average LTV-ratio

For hh's own CRE and don't rent it ) 0.50

	Parameter	Value	Target
Supply elast. houses	$S_h$	4.87	$\hat{b}_{p^h;h}$
Supply elast. CRE	$S_f$	2.40	$\hat{b}_{p^f;f}$
LTV HH's	$f_h$	0.23	$\hat{b}_{c;f}$
LTV firms	$f_f$	0.35	$\hat{b}_{p^h;f}$

# Calibration vs Literature

| For  $S_h$  ) benchmark Saiz (2010)

Instrument  $\Delta H^{h;d}$  ) industrial shares, migration and hours of sun

Estimated value **16.67** (See TABLE III, column (4))

Use data change in housing prices for 1970-2000

	Parameter	Value	Target
Supply elast. houses	$S_h$	4.87	$\hat{b}_{p^h;h}$
Supply elast. CRE	$S_f$	2.40	$\hat{b}_{p^f;f}$
LTV HH's	$f_h$	0.23	$\hat{b}_{c;f}$
LTV firms	$f_f$	0.35	$\hat{b}_{p^h;f}$

## Baseline Estimation Results

		Employment	Consumption	Real Estate Prices	
		Non-Tradables	Durables	Houses	CRE
		$\hat{b}_{l;i}$	$\hat{b}_{c;i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^h;i}$	$\hat{b}_{p^f;i}$
$\Delta t_{m;t}^h$	1 <i>ft</i> = 2012 <i>g</i>	-0.087*** (0.015)	-0.517*** (0.145)	-0.022** (0.009)	-0.005 (0.010)
$\Delta t_{m;t}^f$	1 <i>ft</i> = 2012 <i>g</i>	-0.045*** (0.011)	-0.177 (0.120)	-0.017*** (0.006)	-0.032*** (0.008)