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Globalization and the markups of European firms

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Abstract

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JEL: D22, D24, F14, L11, L60

Keywords: markups, exporting, importing, FDI, innovation

Globalizáció és az európai vállalatok haszonkulcsai

Békés Gábor - Hornok Cecília - Muraközy Balázs

Összefoglaló

Egy négy európai országban (Franciaországban, Németországban, Olaszországban és Spanyolországban) lezajlott egyedülálló keresztmetszeti vállalati felmérés és ezekhez kapcsolt mérlegadatok alapján vizsgáljuk a globalizáció egyes fontos aspektusai és a vállalati haszonkulcsok közötti összefüggéseket. A fontosabb eredmények a következők: (i) Az exportálás pozitívan függ össze a haszonkulccsal; (ii) A félkésztermékek importja és a kiszervezés szintén pozitívan korrelál a haszonkulccsal; (iii) Magasabb azon vállalatok haszonkulcsa, amelyeknek van leányvállalata, míg a vállalatcsoportban való tagság vagy a külföldi tulajdonos önmagában kevésbé tűnik fontosnak; (iv) Az alacsony termelési költségű országokból származó versenytársak jelenléte negatívan korrelál a haszonkulccsal; (v) A jobb termékminőség és az innováció, különösen ha szellemi tulajdonjog által védett eredménye van, erős pozitív kapcsolatban áll a haszonkulccsal; (vi) Noha ezek a változók korreláltak, a mind a négy változócsoporthoz tartozó összevont modellben is szignifikánsak, és a teljesen globalizált vállalatok átlagosan mintegy 100%-kal magasabb haszonkulccsal működnek, mint a nem globalizált vállalatok.

JEL: D22, D24, F14, L11, L60

Tárgyszavak: haszonkulcs, export, import, FDI, innováció

Globalization and the markups of European firms*

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July 18, 2016

Abstract

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1 Introduction

Globalization can affect markups through multiple channels. Increased global competition can lead to a fall in markups, exit of domestic firms and increased welfare (Feenstra and Weinstein, 2010). But globalization may also create opportunities to achieve scale by exporting (De Loecker and Warzynski, 2012), importing cheaper or higher quality intermediate inputs (Goldberg et al., 2008) or provide stronger incentives for innovation and product differentiation. While the relationship between markups and a number of these factors has been quantified, few attempts have been made to study their role jointly and systematically. The aim of this paper is to present stylized facts about the relative importance and magnitude of the correlations between the various dimensions of globalization and markups by linking extensive firm-level survey information from four European countries with markups estimated from a panel of balance sheet data.

Firm-level markups are of interest because of many reasons. First, markups play an important role in determining welfare. Research about how markups are affected by changes in trade costs and market structure is important when designing efficient policies. Second, markups proxy an important dimension of firm performance: if a firm can charge higher markups than its competitors, it is likely to be more productive or capable of producing more desirable goods. In other words, markups are often considered as measures of competitiveness. Understanding the relationship between decisions of strategic importance and markups may provide lessons for managers in designing robust strategies in response to globalization. Third, markups provide important information about market structures and competition in an industry. High markups can signal high entry barriers including high sunk costs. Fourth, the level and distribution of markups are informative about the reaction of the industry to different types of shocks. For example, the level and distribution of markups can strongly affect the level of pass-through of different shocks (Burstein and Gopinath, 2014).

Motivated by these questions, a recent literature in international trade has focused on models with variable markups.¹ We will apply two key insights from these models. First,

¹For example, Krugman (1979) and Melitz and Ottaviano (2008) rely on quadratic utility function, and Feenstra and Weinstein (2010) and Novy (2013) develop models with translog expenditure functions, while Burstein and Gopinath (2014) relies on a nested CES model.

firms facing weaker competition—either because their product has weaker substitutes or because the firm has fewer or less efficient competitors—will have a larger market power and markups. The general prediction of this logic is that product differentiation, either horizontal or vertical, should be positively associated with markups. Second, these models suggest an incomplete pass-through: firms producing with lower costs will pass-through part, but not all, of their cost advantage to consumers. As a result, more productive firms are likely to charge higher markups.

In this paper we focus on five groups of variables measuring different ‘dimensions’ of the global activities of firms. Our dependent variable is the firm-level markup, and we explain it with different measures of internationalization and globalization. These are: (i) Exporting; (ii) Importing and outsourcing; (iii) Ownership, including whether the firm is a member of a group, foreign-owned or has its own affiliates; (iv) The nationality of the firm’s competitors and (v) Different measures of R&D and innovation inputs and outputs.

While our cross-sectional identification strategy is aimed at finding correlations and cannot say much about causation, we try to isolate the association between globalization variables and markups from that of other confounders, including market structure. To this end, we always identify from within 2-digit industry-country variation. We also attempt to control for market power by including the domestic (revenue) market share and the Herfindahl concentration index at the more disaggregated 4-digit industry-country level. In addition, we include a number of other controls including the number of employees and the age of the firm.

Let us describe briefly the motivation behind each of our globalization variable groups and the main predictions.

Consider exporting first. There are three basic reasons that can motivate the relationship between exporting and markups. First, more productive (or more ‘competitive’) firms may self-select into exporting as in Melitz (2003). Under many demand systems, including the linear demand model of Melitz and Ottaviano (2008), more productive firms will charge higher markups, hence self-selection of more productive firms can in itself imply a markup premium of exporters. Consequently, self-selection into exporting predicts a positive relationship between the two variables. Second, global activities themselves affect markups. For example,

exporting may help generate scale, and a larger potential market may provide stronger incentives to improve quality (Aw et al., 2000), which, in turn, raises markups. By and large, these arguments also predict a positive relationship between exporting and markups. Third, on a more methodological note, exporting (and especially exporting to multiple markets) can introduce a composition effect into the firm-level markup estimated from the balance sheet data. The firm-level markup is a weighted average of the markups charged by the firm on each of its markets. If firms can charge a lower markup in foreign markets compared to the domestic one (which is indeed the case in a symmetric Melitz-Ottaviano setting)², then the average markup of an exporter can be lower than that of a similarly competitive firm only serving the domestic market (Muraközy and Hornok, 2015).

Self-selection of more productive or competitive firms can also take place into importing or outsourcing – if these activities also involve a fixed cost. Importing, however, can also have direct benefits in terms of productivity and markups. Access to cheaper inputs leads to cost saving, and—if pass-through is incomplete—this cost saving will yield to increased markups (De Loecker et al., 2016). Globalization may also provide access to high-quality inputs or inputs which are simply a better match to the production process of the firm. If firms are able to produce higher quality output with these high-quality or better matched inputs (Kugler and Verhoogen, 2009, 2012; Atkin et al., 2015; Halpern et al., 2015; Feng et al., 2012, e.g.), markups may rise (Muraközy and Hornok, 2015). Very similar arguments can be applied for outsourced production of inputs.

Another key aspect of globalization is more cross-border investment and the formation of multinational groups. Again, self-selection can play a role, especially given the high cost of FDI (Helpman et al., 2004). Foreign ownership or membership in multinational groups can also have a causal effect on productivity and markups. Foreign acquisitions are often accompanied by knowledge transfers and increased productivity (Arnold and Javorcik, 2009) and markups (Clementi, 2015). Further, multinational groups may create larger potential for knowledge flows and may have larger market power than stand-alone firms. Such patterns

²In a symmetric Melitz-Ottaviano setup, exporters will have to pay transportation cost in the export market, and because of the incomplete pass-through in the Melitz-Ottaviano model, they can charge lower markups in export markets.

would fit nicely to the robust stylized fact that both multinational parents and affiliates tend to be larger, more productive, more R&D-intensive, and more export oriented than non-multinational firms.³ In general, these arguments point to a positive association between foreign ownership, multinational group membership, and markups.

However, it is possible that not all members of multinational groups benefit from group membership to the same extent. One reason for this can be transfer pricing, which will lead to higher observed markups in low-tax destinations. More importantly for our analysis of large European countries, it is possible that the multinational network provides an opportunity for the headquarter to leverage its knowledge assets (Markusen, 2004; Antràs, 2003). This would generate higher return on the sunk investment into knowledge assets, leading to higher measured markups at the headquarter.

Next, we study how the type of competitors a firm faces affects its markups. In particular we focus on whether the firm reports that it has foreign competitors and whether these competitors are from low-cost, emerging economies. Note that our identification strategy is to compare firms within the same country-industry based on their survey answers about their main competitors. Our hypothesis is that firms which perceive that they are competing with firms from emerging countries are more likely to charge lower markups than firms perceiving no such competition. Naturally, these different perceptions may partly result from either vertical or horizontal differentiation; i.e. these results can be interpreted as comparing firms with products with high versus low level of differentiation from emerging country exports.

Finally, we look at innovation activities and their output. Innovation to improve production methods and quality seems to be a key variable in globalized economies, and usually co-moves strongly with internationalization (Altomonte et al., 2013). In globalized markets, innovation seems to be one of the key sources of sustained competitive advantage. Producing high quality and strongly differentiated products can be the key determinant of markups in the longer term. Variable markup models naturally predict that firms producing higher quality products tend to charge higher markups (Antoniades, 2015). Naturally, one of the sources of producing higher quality (or more attractive) products is product innovation. Process innovation, on the other hand, may generate more efficient, lower cost production,

³See Fact Four in Antràs and Yeaple (2014).

and—under incomplete pass-through—this will also yield higher markups.

Our main findings are: (i) Exporting is positively correlated with markups; (ii) Importing intermediate inputs and outsourcing are also positively correlated with markups; (iii) Firms with affiliates have higher markups than other firms, while simply membership in a group or being foreign-owned seems to be less important; (iv) Perceived competition from low-cost markets is negatively correlated with markups; (v) Higher quality and innovation, especially if it results in IP, has a strong positive relationship with markups; (vi) While these variables are correlated, they are significant in a joint model including all four groups, and ‘fully globalized’ firms tend to charge around 100% higher markups than non-globalized firms.

A key conceptual question concerns the role of productivity in these relationships. As we have already discussed, variable markup models include two broad channels for higher markups: (i) the substitutability of the product and (ii) higher productivity. The relative role of these two mechanisms is certainly of interest because it can shed light on the relative importance of the different channels described in the previous paragraphs. For example, self-selection into exporting is based on productivity, and learning-by-exporting may also take the form of adopting technology generating higher productivity. In other words, these channels work indirectly via productivity. Exporting, however, may also help in learning about product characteristics valued by high-end consumers. Such learning will help in creating a more distinct, less substitutable product. As this channel does not work via productivity, we can say that exporting through this channel has a direct effect on markups.

Ideally, one could distinguish between direct and indirect channels by comparing coefficient estimates with and without controlling for physical productivity. We will attempt to do so by controlling for TFP in some specifications. However, our measure of productivity, TFP, is a revenue-based measure, and as such, it includes markups to some extent. Consequently, controlling for it may condition out part of the direct association between internationalization and markups, biasing our internationalization coefficients towards zero. Hence, the results after controlling for TFP should be interpreted with care. However, if the coefficients of globalization variables remain significant even in this case, then some evidence is provided for a direct, rather than only an indirect relationship.

In empirical specifications including firm TFP, in addition to indirect relationship via

TFP, we find clear evidence for a direct relationship between the markup and importing and outsourcing, especially from emerging areas, controlling other firms, as well as product quality and IP creation. In contrast, the positive association between exporting and markup seems to be driven entirely by the higher productivity of exporters.

While a few papers have studied the relationship between different dimensions of globalization and firm-level markups, our contribution is that we analyse many dimensions of globalization in a symmetric way from a unified dataset. Our dataset, which links rich firm-level survey data with a large panel of balance sheet data is ideal for such an exercise. By including TFP we also attempt to quantify the degree to which different globalization channels work via productivity. Also, many of the previous studies have analyzed developing countries, which is complemented by our analysis of large developed European countries.

Our approach, however, has a number of limitations. Most importantly, the cross-sectional nature of our globalization variables does preclude us from measuring causal effects. The patterns we present are cross-sectional partial correlations after controlling for industry characteristics and a rich set of firm-level controls. While such controls may condition out country or industry-specific confounders, we are not able to distinguish between self-selection and causal relationships. Second, our methodology generates only one estimate for the markup of each firm. This is a weighted average of the markups charged by the firm in its different geographic and product markets. The data available do not allow us to estimate market-specific markups. Third, as we have already discussed, it would be of much interest to control for physical productivity because it is a key variable in variable markup models. We can do it only imperfectly by controlling for revenue TFP, which may include markups to some extent. While this makes a proper decomposition into direct and indirect effects elusive, this kind of endogeneity works against finding a direct effect. As a result, significant estimated coefficients when controlling for TFP can be interpreted with care as evidence for the presence of direct effects.

The structure of this paper is as follows. Section 2 discusses the datasets used in this paper and our empirical approach, followed by a sketch of the estimated markups in Section 3. Section 4 presents the results, while Section 5 concludes.

2 Data and measurement

In our study we make use of two firm-level databases, the AMADEUS database of firm balance sheets and profit and loss accounts and the survey-based EFIGE database. We use the former to estimate firm markups and productivity and to calculate market shares and concentration, while we source all the other firm measures from the latter. Then, we merge the two sets of data into our final estimation sample.

2.1 AMADEUS database

AMADEUS (Analyse MAjor Databases from EUropean Sources) is a comprehensive database of European firms, provided commercially by Bureau van Dijk. The complete database covers 21 million companies from all EU countries and several non-EU European countries. It contains a maximum of ten years of detailed information from firms' balance sheets and profit and loss accounts, together with firm identifiers and industry classification at the 4-digit level.

In this study we use a subset of the AMADEUS database, including French, German, Italian and Spanish firms over the period 2004-2013. In order to estimate productivity and markup we need to use the following firm variables from AMADEUS: number of employees, value of sales, value of fixed assets, cost of employees and material costs as well as the 4-digit industry code. All these variables but the number of employees are reported in thousand euros.

Despite the large number of firms present in the database (roughly 4.5 million for the four countries), the high prevalence of missing values substantially limits data availability, especially in Germany. The panel is also highly unbalanced, which affects particularly the first three years. Against this background, our panel of AMADEUS data includes 8-10 million firm-year observations for roughly 2 million unique firms in the four countries.

We use this database to estimate production functions and calculate firm-level markups and productivity (described in the next section). To capture the market share of individual firms, we also calculate each firm's share in the total sales at the 4-digit industry-country

level. Hence, the market share of firm i active in country c and industry j^4 in year t is

$$\text{market share}_{icjt} = \frac{\text{sales}_{icjt}}{\sum_{k \text{ in } cj} \text{sales}_{kcjt}},$$

We will use this variable as a proxy of the firm's market power in the regressions explaining the markup.

To capture market structure, we simply calculate the Herfindahl-index of sales at the four-digit industry-country level:

$$H_{cjt} = \sum_{k \text{ in } cj} \text{market share}_{kcjt}^2.$$

2.2 Estimating the production function and markups

Based on the AMADEUS panel, we estimate a value-added production function:

$$y_{icjt} = \beta_l^{(cj)} l_{icjt} + \beta_k^{(cj)} k_{icjt} + \delta_{cjt} + \epsilon_{icjt}. \quad (1)$$

where y_{icjt} is the log value added of firm i operating in country c and industry j in year t , k_{icjt} and l_{icjt} are its capital and labor stock, respectively, while δ_{cjt} is a set of year dummies for country-industry cj .⁵ We estimate the production function separately for each 3-digit industry-country combination, with $\beta_l^{(cj)}$ and $\beta_k^{(cj)}$ showing the 3-digit-industry-country specific elasticities of the production function. To handle potential endogeneity issues, we estimate the production function following the method of Wooldridge (2009), the details of which are relegated to Appendix A.

We base our markup estimation on the insight of Hall (1986, 1988) and follow De Loecker and Warzynski (2012) in operationalizing this idea. The idea is that, for a cost-minimizing producer, the markup equals the ratio of the output elasticity of a variable input to the input's revenue share. This follows directly from the cost-minimization assumption and requires no further assumptions on the market structure or the demand system.

⁴For notational simplicity, we will denote all industry classifications, sometimes 2, 3 or 4-digit with j in this paper but will always state what is the relevant level of aggregation.

⁵We capture value added as sales minus material costs, labor as the number of employees and capital by fixed assets. We deflate the value added by country- and industry-specific prices and fixed assets by a country-specific price index for capital goods.

At the cost-minimizing optimum, the marginal product of a variable input X equals the ratio of the input price to the marginal cost of the firm, hence $MP_X = \frac{P_X}{MC}$. Multiplying both sides by the input's quantity share in production, $\frac{X}{Q}$, we get

$$\theta_X = \frac{P_X X}{MC \cdot Q},$$

where $\theta_X = MP_X \cdot \frac{X}{Q}$ is the input's output elasticity. Using the definition of the markup as the product price over marginal cost, $\mu = \frac{P}{MC}$, and with some manipulation we get the markup formula

$$\mu = \theta_X \left(\frac{P_X X}{PQ} \right)^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

Intuitively, under perfect competition, when $\mu = 1$, the output elasticity and the input's revenue share are equal. With imperfect competition the elasticity is larger than the revenue share and this difference determines the size of the markup.

We measure firm-level markups based on (2) using the labor input of the firm as the variable input. While labor's revenue share can be calculated from observables, the output elasticity is estimated from the production function (1). Given the estimated output elasticities of labor, $\hat{\beta}_l^{(cj)}$, specific to country-industry cj , we calculate the markups of firm i in year t (belonging to country-industry cj) as

$$\text{markup}_{icjt} = \hat{\beta}_l^{(cj)} \left(\frac{\text{cost of employees}_{icjt}}{\text{sales}_{icjt} - \text{material costs}_{icjt}} \right)^{-1},$$

where the components of labor's revenue share (cost of employees, sales and material costs) are directly observable from firms' balance sheets.⁶

Clearly, all the variation in the markup estimates within country-industry will come from labor's revenue share.⁷ The proper measurement of labor's revenue share is therefore crucial to get reliable markup estimates. Revenue shares that take extreme values naturally result in outlying markups. Hence, in order to clear outliers, we trim the upper and lower 2 percentiles of the distribution of labor's revenue share (across all firms and years). Although

⁶Also, as value added includes markup on materials, we correct the markups with the share of materials in total costs, proxied by the parameters of the Cobb-Douglas production function with gross output on the left-hand-side and three inputs.

⁷The same can be said about the time variation, which we do not use in this study.

this approach reduces the size of our sample, it removes all markups which we consider outliers (negative or higher than 10).

From the estimated production function we also obtain the firm-year-level total factor productivity (TFP) as

$$\ln \text{TFP}_{icjt} = y_{icjt} - \hat{\beta}_l^{(cj)} l_{icjt} - \hat{\beta}_k^{(cj)} k_{icjt},$$

where y_{icjt} , l_{icjt} and k_{icjt} are the value added output, labor and capital inputs, respectively, of firm i in year t in logarithm and $\hat{\beta}_k^{(cj)}$ is the estimated country-industry-specific output elasticity for capital.

As we have already noted, since we do not observe the price of output and capital on the firm level (although we deflate by industry price indices), our TFP measure is a revenue-based TFP. This means that it does not purely reflect physical productivity but also captures variation in firm-level prices and costs (Foster et al., 2008). Thus, some of the markup variation is also present in the TFP variable, which is to be taken into account when we interpret our regression results below.

Our method differs from that of De Loecker and Warzynski (2012) in the important respect that these authors emphasize the importance of correcting the revenue share in the markup formula with the idiosyncratic productivity shock while we omit this correction. The reason for this omission is that the AMADEUS database involves a large number of missing observations and missing values. Most importantly, for many operating firms we only have a few observations, often from non-consecutive years. This makes it hard to build a credible dynamic model for each firm. While the lack of this correction can introduce some bias into our markup measures, keeping only firms with non-missing values for consecutive years would lead to a large, endogenous loss in the number of observations. Also, this issue may be less important in the cross-sectional analysis we rely on here than in analyses relying more strongly on within-firm variation.

Another difference is that we present results from a production function estimated by the Wooldridge methodology rather than the ACF methodology used by De Loecker and Warzynski (2012). We found this estimator more robust in the case of many missing values. However, we have also estimated markups using (i) a Cobb-Douglas ACF production

function; (ii) a translog ACF production function and (iii) a simple fixed effects production function. Our main results are robust to using these alternative markup measures.

Finally, note that the unit of observation is a firm-year and, hence, the measured markup is a weighted average of the markups charged by the firm in its different product and geographic markets. Estimating markups at a more disaggregated level would require production and price data for the different markets (or strong assumptions).

2.3 EFIGE survey data

EFIGE (European Firms In a Global Economy) is a survey-based database of a sample of European manufacturing firms in seven EU countries (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain and the UK).⁸ In this paper we will rely on data from the four large countries (France, Germany, Italy and Spain), where a suitable number of observations are available for the within-country-industry analysis.

EFIGE is a unique database in that it enables comprehensive cross-country comparison of a very large set of firm measures. The questions in the survey are centered around six broad topics: the structure of the firm, the workforce, investment, innovation and R&D, internationalization, finance, as well as the market and pricing. The survey was carried out once during the period late-2009 to early-2010. Most survey questions refer to the situation either in 2008 or in the survey year. Questions on changes in firm measures (e.g. change in turnover or workforce) mainly concern the change from 2008 to 2009. Questions on more lumpy measures like acquisitions, investment, innovation and R&D refer to the last three years (2007-2009).

Roughly 3,000 firms have answered the questionnaire in each of the four countries we consider. The sample over-represents larger firms, because it only includes firms with more than 10 employees. For the population of such firms, however, the sample is made representative by country, sector and three size categories with appropriate sampling weights.⁹

Based on the EFIGE database we construct several – mostly binary – variables of firm characteristics. Table 1 lists these variables and their descriptions. Here we provide a brief

⁸For a more detailed description see Altomonte and Aquilante (2012).

⁹For a detailed description of the weighting see Navaretti et al. (2011, Appendix II).

description of the construction of each variable.

The age of the firm is defined as the number of years passed until 2009 since the year of establishment of the firm. The year of establishment is reported by the firm in the EFIGE survey and is typically different from the date of incorporation given in AMADEUS. Since, by definition, establishment must precede incorporation, we replace the establishment year with the year of incorporation whenever the former is larger than the latter.¹⁰

We capture the size of the firm by four size categories in terms of employment, which are based on firms's answers in the EFIGE survey on whether they fall into the group with 10 to 19, 20 to 49, 50 to 249 or 250 and more employees. We will take the smallest size category as the reference group in our regressions.

Exporters are the firms which answered the question "Has the firm sold abroad some or all of its own products/services in 2008?" with "yes, directly from home country."

Importers of intermediate inputs are firms responding to either of the two questions "In 2008 has the firm purchased raw materials or any intermediate inputs for its domestic production?" and "In 2008 has the firm purchased any services for its domestic production (i.e. transport, communication, financial and R&D services)?" with "yes, from abroad". Firms importing from emerging areas are a subset of importers of inputs. These firms report they purchased at least some of their inputs from emerging areas in 2008. The EFIGE survey differentiates among eight geographical areas (EU15, other EU countries, non-EU European countries, China and India, other Asian countries, USA and Canada, Latin America, and other areas). We classify the areas other EU countries, China and India, other Asia, Latin America and other areas as emerging. Firms are classified as international outsourcers if they answered the survey question "Does the firm currently run at least part of its production activity in another country?" with "Yes, through contracts and arm's length agreements with local firms".

We characterize firm ownership and control with three firm variables. Individual firms may belong to groups, they may control other firms (both in and outside of groups) and they may be under foreign ownership. In the EFIGE survey firms report if they belong to a group and whether the group is national or foreign. From further questions on shareholders

¹⁰The results are qualitatively the same if we work only with the year of establishment information.

Table 1: List of binary variables from EFICE

Variable	Description	#firms
Age 10 years or less	firm aged 10 or less years in 2009	754
<i>Size dummies (reference group is 10-19 employees)</i>		
Size 20-49 employees	number of employees between 20 and 49	2,891
Size 50-249 employees	number of employees between 50 and 249	1,229
Size 250+ employees	number of employees 250 or above	482
<i>Internationalization</i>		
Exporter	sold products/services abroad in 2008	3,915
Importer of inputs	purchased raw materials, intermediate goods or services for production in 2008	3,025
Imports from emerging areas	importer of inputs & purchased from emerging areas in 2008	1,342
International outsourcer	runs production activity abroad through contracts and arm's length agreements	275
<i>Ownership and control</i>		
Group member	firm belongs to a group (national or foreign)	1,538
Controlling firm	controls other firms in the group or not in group but has affiliates, FDI or acquired other firms	1,828
Foreign owned	belongs to foreign group or has foreigner among its 3 main shareholders	677
<i>Competitors</i>		
Firm has foreign competitor	some of the firm's main competitors are located abroad	3,614
Firm has competitor in emerging areas	some of the firm's main competitors are located in emerging areas	1,926
<i>Innovation and product quality</i>		
Quality certification	has product or process quality certification (e.g. ISO9000)	4,046
Innovation activity	carried out product or process innovation in the last three years	4,508
R&D activity	undertook R&D activities in the last three years	3,607
IP creation	applied for patent, registered industrial design or trademark, or claimed copyright in the last three years	1,704
Total number of firms		6,830

and past acquisitions we can identify those firms which are owned by foreigners and not part of a group. Based on these information we create two dummy variables, one for group membership and one for foreign ownership. Group members were also asked if they control other firms in the group (either as group heads or not). Based on questions on affiliates, FDI activities and past acquisitions we are also able to identify a comparable amount of non-group firms, which are in controlling position. This allows us to create a dummy for firms in controlling position.

Next, we construct two indicators for the type of the firm's competitors. In EFIGE, firms report the location of their main competitors. This can be the home country or seven geographical areas abroad (other EU, other non-EU European, China and India, other Asia, USA and Canada, Latin America, other areas). A firm has foreign competitor if it indicated any of the foreign areas as its main competitors' location. A firm has competitor in emerging areas if it marked at least one area out of China and India, other Asia, Latin America and other areas.

We measure innovation and product quality with four measures (quality certification, innovation, R&D activity, and IP creation). We capture product quality with the presence or absence of a quality certification. Firms were asked if they had gone through any form of quality certification (e.g. ISO9000) before. Our quality certification dummy is one for firms which answered yes to this question and zero otherwise. A set of survey questions concerned technological innovation. Firms were asked if they carried out any product or process innovation during 2007-2009.¹¹ On the basis of this question we generate our innovation activity dummy taking value one for firms which reported some product or process innovation. Another survey question asked if, on average in 2007-2009, the firm undertook any R&D activities.¹² Our R&D activity dummy takes value one for the firms which answered yes to this question. Finally, our IP creation dummy is based on a question that asked if a firm applied for a patent, claimed copyright or registered an industrial design or trademark

¹¹Product or process innovation means the introduction/adoption of a new or significantly improved product or production technology, respectively, which however should not necessarily be new to the market.

¹²The EFIGE questionnaire describes R&D activities to the respondee as creative activities aimed at increasing knowledge and using this knowledge in new applications, such as in the development of technologically new or improved products and processes.

during 2007-2009. It takes value one for firms which reported any of the above activities.

2.4 The merged database

When creating our estimation sample we start from the EFIGE database and merge it, by using unique firm identifiers, with the markup, TFP and market structure variables estimated from AMADEUS. We construct our estimation sample from firms for which none of the variables which appear in our regressions take missing values. Because there are relatively many missing values for the TFP variable, we construct lagged TFP (a regressor in some of our empirical specifications) as the average of its nonmissing values from years 2006-2008.¹³

Our estimation sample includes 6,830 firms (Table 2). Most of these firms are from France, Italy or Spain, with 1,800 to 2,500 firms from each country. Note that the original EFIGE sample size for all of these countries was about 3,000, hence we loose between 20-40 percent of the sample during the matching. The situation is much worse in the case of German firms, from which only 393 remained in the sample, due to the insufficient data availability for Germany in the AMADEUS database. The firm size distribution of the German subsample is also skewed toward large firms.

Table 2: Number of firms by country and size

Country	Size category				All sizes
	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	
France	527	674	434	156	1,791
Germany	23	104	144	122	393
Italy	870	1,193	352	104	2,519
Spain	808	920	299	100	2,127
All countries	2,228	2,891	1,229	482	6,830

As Section 2.3 has already noted, the EFIGE sample was made representative with sampling weights by country, sector, and firm size classes. Importantly, we rescale the

¹³We do this because the capital input variable, which is needed to obtain TFP, is missing for some of our sample firms in 2008 but not in 2006 or 2007. This imputation, however, does not affect our main results.

original weights to accommodate our smaller estimation sample and will use these weights in all markup regressions and statistics we produce.

In the last column of Table 1 we report the number of firms in the merged data falling into each category of the EFIGE firm characteristics. Relative to the overall sample size there are sufficiently large numbers of firms in each category, except that we have relatively few firms in the largest size category and firms involved in international outsourcing.

2.5 Empirical approach

Using the rich set of firm characteristics from EFIGE, we will explore how firm markups covary with the globalization variables within country and industry. We estimate the following equation on the cross section of 6,830 firms:

$$\text{markup}_{icj} = \mathbf{X}_{icj}\boldsymbol{\beta}' + \mathbf{Z}_{icj}\boldsymbol{\gamma}' + \delta_{cj} + \varepsilon_{icj}. \quad (3)$$

The dependent variable is the firm markup in 2009.¹⁴ \mathbf{X}_{icj} is the vector of the firm variables of interest such as exporting status or group membership. All of these variables are presented in Section 2.3. Control variables \mathbf{Z}_{icj} include firm characteristics such as size, age, market share, TFP, as well as the market concentration index. The measurement of the latter three is described in Sections 2.1 and 2.2. δ_{cj} is a full set of country-industry dummies with 2-digit NACE industries and ε_{icj} is the error term.

An econometric concern is due to the fact that markup, market share, and TFP are all based on sales data from AMADEUS, which may be measured with error. This may introduce a spurious correlation between the markup and the other two variables and can lead to measurement error bias in the estimation. To mitigate this problem we use the lagged values of TFP and market share (and market concentration) in the regressions. We present basic descriptive statistics of the these lagged variables and the markup in Table 3.

We estimate (3) with Weighted Least Squares using the appropriate EFIGE sampling weights, as well as with robust standard errors clustered at the 2-digit industry level.

¹⁴Because some of the EFIGE variables (e.g. trading status) refer to year 2008, we always cross-check if the result is robust to the choice of the year. We find the all our main results are robust to this choice.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of non-binary variables

Variable	N	mean	st.dev	median	p25	p75	min	max
Markup in 2009	6,830	1.241	0.304	1.164	1.036	1.359	0.739	4.029
Markup in 2008	6,830	1.287	0.311	1.208	1.072	1.413	0.740	3.910
Log TFP lagged	6,830	5.050	0.652	4.992	4.629	5.414	2.811	9.821
Market share in 2008	6,830	0.009	0.042	0.001	0.000	0.003	0.000	1.000
Age (years)	6,830	33.490	27.395	27.000	17.000	41.000	1.000	678.000
Market conc. (HHI) in 2008	6,830	0.059	0.096	0.027	0.010	0.067	0.001	1.000

3 Markups of European firms

Before turning to the results of the regression analysis, let us look at the country and industry variation of markups and review how some key firm and market characteristics may be correlated with it.

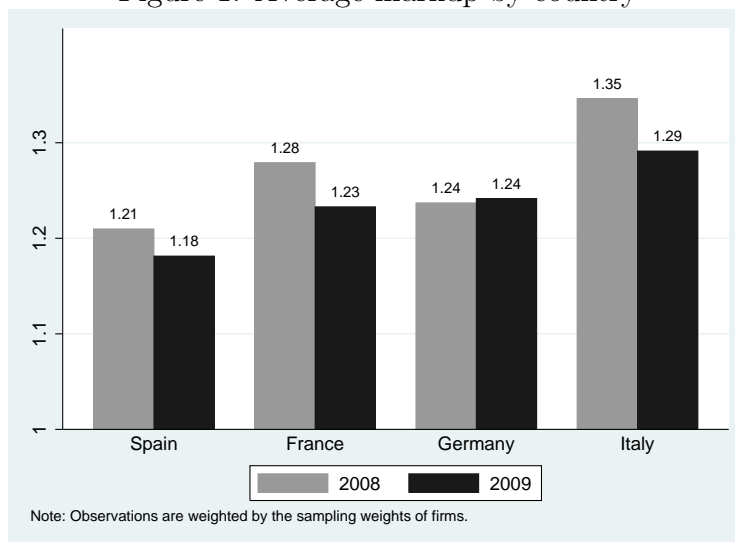
3.1 Country and industry variation of markups

Figures 1 and 2 plot the markup averages (weighted by sampling weights) in 2008 and 2009 by country and broad industry groups, respectively, while Table 3 shows descriptives for the whole sample.

The average firm in our sample charged a 24 percent markup over marginal cost in 2009, down by 4 percentage points in comparison to year 2008. The fall in the average markup reflects the huge negative demand shock European firms faced during the 2008-09 global financial crisis.

The level of the markup and its change in comparison to the previous year varies considerably by country. In both years the highest markups were charged by Italian firms, the lowest ones by Spanish ones. The average markup for Italy is also statistically significantly higher than the average for Spain and France, both unconditionally and conditional on the industry structure of these countries. Italian markups remained relatively high despite the fact that they fell the most between 2008 and 2009. The average markup also fell considerably in France and Spain, while it remained unchanged in Germany. This pattern is consistent with the extent these countries were affected by the global financial crisis.

Figure 1: Average markup by country



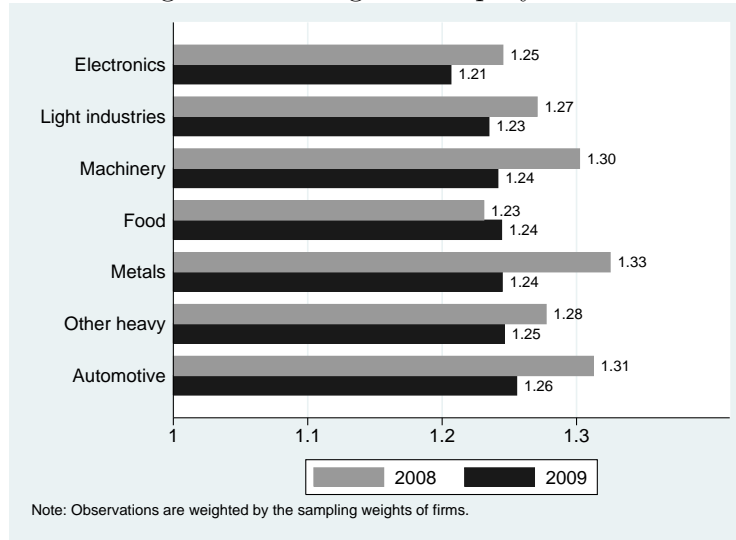
Across broad industry groups average markups differed only moderately in 2009, ranging from 21% in the electronics producing sector to 26% for automotive production. These industry differences are not statistically significant, except for electronics production, where the markup is found smaller than in the other sectors.¹⁵ The small industry variation in 2009 can partly be explained by the fact that sectors with the highest average markups in 2008 (metals, automotive, machinery) experienced the largest markup declines in 2009. The only sector whose markup did not fall between the two years is food production.

Naturally we find somewhat larger industry variation if we look at a more detailed two-digit classification (not reported here). Among manufacturing industries, we find the three largest average markups in 2009 by coke and petroleum (68%), beverages (50%) and other transport equipments (38%), the three smallest ones by pharmaceuticals (13%) furniture (14%) and other manufacturing (15%).

Nevertheless, country and industry variation explains only a small fraction of the overall heterogeneity in firm markups in both years. According to a simple ANOVA exercise we find that roughly 90% of the markup variation in 2009 remains unexplained after accounting for country and industry effects.

¹⁵This finding is not driven by differences in the industry structure of countries or in the firm size distribution across sectors.

Figure 2: Average markup by sector



3.2 Firm demographics and domestic market structure

In this subsection we present the relationship between markups and key firm characteristics and market conditions (Table 4). These variables will be used as controls further on.

First, unconditionally, larger firms (in terms of employment) charge higher markups (column 1). This relationship, however, is to a considerable extent explained by the higher market share of these firms (column 2): having a 10 percentage points larger (domestic) market share is associated with a 7.6 percentage points larger markup. The Herfindahl-index of concentration, however, is not significant, suggesting either that this measure is an imprecise proxy of market structure or that the fixed effects do a relatively good job in controlling for market structure.

Column (3) also includes TFP, which is strongly related to markups (a 10% TFP is associated with 2.26 percentage points higher markups). The coefficient of market share becomes smaller, but it is still strongly significant both in economic and statistical terms suggesting that high market share or market power has an independent effect on markups. Note that once we add TFP into the equation, interpreting individual employment size coefficients is problematic as employment size is formally part of TFP and is, hence, strongly correlated with it.

Finally, we also include firm age (column 4). Younger and older firms may price differ-

ently. For example, it is possible that young firms price more aggressively to gain market share (Foster et al., 2008). We find weak evidence for a negative association between firm age and markups: older firms seem to charge a bit lower markups, but this difference is not significant in economic terms.

Table 4: Markup, firm size, age and productivity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Depvar: Markup in 2009				
Size 20-49 employees (dummy)	0.0139*	0.0128	-0.0453***	-0.0445***
	[0.0081]	[0.0081]	[0.0106]	[0.0104]
Size 50-249 employees (dummy)	0.0476***	0.0389***	-0.0941***	-0.0897***
	[0.0119]	[0.0106]	[0.0149]	[0.0142]
Size 250+ employees (dummy)	0.0583**	0.0129	-0.2145***	-0.2030***
	[0.0229]	[0.0209]	[0.0324]	[0.0312]
Market share in 2008		0.7631***	0.2893***	0.2945***
		[0.1319]	[0.0785]	[0.0780]
Market concentration in 2008		0.0471	0.0338	0.0379
		[0.0358]	[0.0494]	[0.0494]
Log TFP lagged			0.2261***	0.2273***
			[0.0233]	[0.0236]
Age (years)				-0.0006**
				[0.0003]
R-squared	0.142	0.147	0.275	0.278
Observations	6,830	6,830	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Baseline sizegroup is 10-19 employees. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

The explanatory power of these regressions is also of interest. Industry and country characteristics and firm size explain about 14% from the cross-sectional variation of markups. The additional explanatory power of market share is about 0.5%. TFP, in contrast, explains an additional 13 percentage points. This large increase in explanatory power, however, may be partly of mechanical nature because, as it has already been discussed, the revenue-based

TFP includes prices, and to some extent, markups.

4 Markups and Globalization: Results

In this section we discuss the relationship between markups and our variables of various forms and channels of globalization. We first look at these channels individually and then, analyse their relative contributions in a joint model.

4.1 Various globalization channels

Exporting

Let us start with the relationship between exporting and markups. As we have already discussed, both self-selection and potential learning from exporting may predict a positive relationship between exporting and markups. Potential composition effects may counterbalance this relationship to some extent.

There is strong empirical evidence for a positive relationship between exporting and firm TFP. Our regression results, presented in Table 5, show that exporting is also positively associated with the firm markup. We find that exporters on average charge roughly 6 percentage points higher markups than non-exporters of the same size, age, and market share. Once lagged productivity is also controlled for, our point estimate of the exporter markup premium is halved and the estimated coefficient loses most of its statistical significance.

Importing and outsourcing

The relationship between importing and markups is predicted to be positive both by self-selection and causal explanations. We find that firms importing inputs charge significantly higher markups than non-importers (Table 6). The size of the importer markup premium is comparable to the premium estimated for exporters.

The source of the imported input also seems to matter (column 2). Firms which reported to have imported at least some of their inputs from emerging markets charge about twice as high markup as other importers.

Table 5: Markup and exporting

	(1)	(2)
Depvar: Markup in 2009		
Exporter (dummy)	0.0588*** [0.0132]	0.0265* [0.0133]
Log TFP lagged		0.2239*** [0.0238]
R-squared	0.156	0.279
Observations	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include market share, market concentration, age, size dummies and country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms.

Table 6: Markup and importing of inputs

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Depvar: Markup in 2009			
Importer of inputs (dummy)	0.0665*** [0.0110]	0.0424*** [0.0088]	0.0186** [0.0077]
Imports from emerging areas (dummy)		0.0498*** [0.0129]	0.0452*** [0.0095]
International outsourcer (dummy)		0.0925** [0.0379]	0.0589** [0.0231]
Log TFP lagged			0.2211*** [0.0219]
R-squared	0.158	0.164	0.285
Observations	6,830	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include market share, market concentration, age, size dummies and country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

An alternative to importing is to outsource part of the production process. International outsourcing typically has a vertical motive, where the output of the outsourced production is imported back to the home country for further manufacturing or sale. Indeed, as a question in the EFIGE survey reveals, 80% of the outsourcing firms in our sample indicated that the main destination of the outsourced production is the firm's home country.

Outsourcing can again generate cost savings, which can lead to an increase in markups if it is not fully passed through to consumers. We find evidence in line with this: firms active in outsourcing enjoy a significantly positive markup premium of 9 percentage points, which is similar in quantitative terms to imports from emerging markets.

When we include productivity, the point estimates become smaller but remain significant. This is indicative of the presence of a direct effect of imports on markups on top of the self-selection hypothesis. Imports may reduce production costs and/or increase product quality, thereby allowing firms to charge higher markups.

Ownership and control

As we have discussed, being a member of business groups can yield advantages in knowledge flows, can provide cost savings, and may help in leveraging knowledge capital. We investigate these questions in Table 7.

Table 7: Markup, ownership and control

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Depvar: Markup in 2009				
Group member (dummy)	0.0469*** [0.0114]	0.0255** [0.0126]	0.0227 [0.0140]	0.0098 [0.0127]
Controlling firm (dummy)		0.0697*** [0.0143]	0.0700*** [0.0144]	0.0392*** [0.0125]
Foreign owned (dummy)			0.0109 [0.0161]	-0.0282 [0.0169]
Log TFP lagged				0.2241*** [0.0243]
R-squared	0.151	0.158	0.158	0.281
Observations	6,830	6,830	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include market share, market concentration, age, size dummies and country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

Column (1) suggests that, unconditionally, firms operating in business groups charge higher markups. As column (2) unveils, however, this premium is mainly enjoyed by firms which have affiliates (which have a 7 percentage point markup premium relative to non-group members), while affiliate group members have a much smaller premium. Interestingly, foreign ownership is not significantly associated with markups in our sample.

Global competitors

Foreign competition per se does not correlate with the firm markup (Table 8). Competition from emerging countries, however, does. Firms which report that their main competitors are located in emerging countries charge roughly 3 percentage points lower markup. A more detailed decomposition of geographical areas reveals that this effect is entirely driven by competition from Asia, in particular China and India.

Table 8: Markup and the competitors of the firm

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Depvar: Markup in 2009			
Firm has foreign competitor (dummy)	0.0195 [0.0137]	0.0398** [0.0156]	0.0196 [0.0162]
Firm has competitor in emerging areas (dummy)		-0.0388*** [0.0111]	-0.0179* [0.0091]
Log TFP lagged			0.2261*** [0.0238]
R-squared	0.149	0.151	0.278
Observations	6,830	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include market share, market concentration, age, size dummies and country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms.

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

Innovation and product quality

The most important source of long-run competitiveness may be investment into quality and innovation. Process innovations may make production more efficient, and the cost savings can partly materialize in higher markups. Improving product quality or creating more differentiated products can similarly increase markups. All of these arguments predict a positive relationship between proxies for innovation and markups.

Table 9 shows the association between markups and different measures of product quality and innovation. Quality certification, an important proxy for a high-quality production process, has a strong correlation with markups. Firms with quality certification charge 7 percentage point higher markups than similar firms without a certification. This premium remains significant even after controlling for productivity: even at similar levels of productivity, firms with a quality certification charge 3.5 percentage point higher markups.

In column (2), we proxy innovative activities with a simple innovation dummy. This is only significant at the 5% level. Decomposing this into R&D-conducting and non-R&D-conducting innovative firms reveals that the markup advantage is only significant for R&D-

conducting firms. In other words, non-R&D based innovation may be important for incremental technological change, but it may not provide a long-term competitive advantage embodied in higher markups.

Naturally, these are measures of innovative inputs. Tangible results of innovation, however, may be more important in determining product differentiation or cost advantages. In column (4) we include a composite variable which shows whether the innovative activities of the firm have yielded new IP, including patents, copyrights, industrial designs or trademarks. This innovation output measure is strongly correlated with markups, with successful innovators charging a 4.5 percent point markup premium.

Table 9: Markup, innovation and product quality

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Depvar: Markup in 2009						
Quality certification (dummy)	0.0679*** [0.0121]	0.0667*** [0.0122]	0.0648*** [0.0121]	0.0640*** [0.0114]	0.0352*** [0.0119]	0.0348*** [0.0116]
Innovation activity (dummy)		0.0168** [0.0073]	0.0071 [0.0078]		0.0018 [0.0088]	
R&D activity (dummy)			0.0252*** [0.0089]	0.0189** [0.0077]	0.0167** [0.0083]	0.0121 [0.0082]
IP creation (dummy)				0.0442*** [0.0099]		0.0263*** [0.0085]
Log TFP lagged					0.2220*** [0.0240]	0.2207*** [0.0239]
R-squared	0.158	0.159	0.160	0.163	0.281	0.282
Observations	6,830	6,830	6,830	6,830	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include market share, market concentration, age, size dummies and country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

4.2 Combined effects

While the previous subsections have shown some interesting relationships between globalization variables and markups, all these variables are interconnected in many ways, hence it is important to analyze models with all of these variables included (Table 10).

Let us start with discussing the joint explanatory power of these variables. As the base model in column (1) shows, 2-digit industry-country effects, market concentration and firm size and age explain 14.5 percent of the markup variation. Adding all the globalization variables and market share to it (Column 3) explains about 4 additional percentage points. Importantly, however, the explanatory power of TFP and market share is much larger than that of the globalization variables. If one adds only these variables to the base model, the explanatory power increases to 0.28 (column 2). Adding the globalization variables to this model increase the explanatory power by only 1 percentage point. However, as we have already discussed, TFP and markups may be spuriously correlated, hence the explanatory power of TFP is overestimated in this calculation, while that of globalization variables may be underestimated.

Turning our attention to the coefficient estimates suggests that most of our results are robust when all of the globalization variables are included. In particular, exporting, importing, FDI-making, quality certification, and new IP generation are all positively and—both in an economic and statistical sense—significantly correlated with markups. Most of these variables, with the notable exception of the exporter dummy, remain significant even after controlling for TFP.

The combined effect of these variables shows that globalized firms can enjoy much larger markups than non-internationalized firms. Take, for example a non internationalized firm and compare it with one which exports, imports from emerging countries, has FDI, quality certification, and has generated IP. The combined effect of these variables is 23.9 percentage points when not controlling for TFP and 14.6 percentage points when compared to firms with similar TFP levels. These numbers should be compared with the 24.1 mean markup and its 30 percentage point standard deviation.

5 Discussion and Conclusion

In this paper we have linked a rich firm-level survey database from four European countries with a panel of balance sheet data to investigate the relationship between five dimensions of globalization and markups at the firm level. Our main aim has been to analyse these variables

Table 10: Joint regressions

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Depvar: Markup in 2009				
Exporter (dummy)			0.0364***	0.0143
			[0.0117]	[0.0122]
Importer of inputs (dummy)			0.0256***	0.0131*
			[0.0077]	[0.0069]
Imports from emerging areas (dummy)			0.0459***	0.0426***
			[0.0132]	[0.0094]
International outsourcer (dummy)			0.0767**	0.0516**
			[0.0371]	[0.0235]
Group member (dummy)			0.0228*	0.0101
			[0.0134]	[0.0123]
Controlling firm (dummy)			0.0504***	0.0284**
			[0.0126]	[0.0117]
Foreign owned (dummy)			-0.0059	-0.0352**
			[0.0141]	[0.0148]
Firm has foreign competitor (dummy)			0.0068	0.0037
			[0.0133]	[0.0138]
Firm has competitor in emerging areas (dummy)			-0.0330***	-0.0171*
			[0.0091]	[0.0087]
Quality certification (dummy)			0.0561***	0.0326***
			[0.0105]	[0.0110]
IP creation (dummy)			0.0260***	0.0156*
			[0.0088]	[0.0086]
R&D activity (dummy)			0.0045	0.0042
			[0.0068]	[0.0080]
Market share in 2008		0.2945***	0.6221***	0.2591***
		[0.0780]	[0.1240]	[0.0809]
Log TFP lagged		0.2273***		0.2128***
		[0.0236]		[0.0234]
R-squared	0.144	0.278	0.185	0.291
F-stat (size, age, hhi)	8.628	13.479	6.449	28.983
F-stat (market share)		14.267	25.166	10.263
F-stat (tfp)		92.973		82.843
F-stat (all other)			11.179	10.551
Observations	6,830	6,830	6,830	6,830

Notes: All specifications include market share, market concentration, age, size dummies and country-industry (2-digit) dummies. Robust standard errors, clustered by industry, in brackets. Observations are weighted by the sampling weights of firms. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

in a symmetrical way from a unified database and to present cross-sectional stylized facts.

Regarding exporting, we find a significant positive association with markups even when controlling for TFP. This is in line with predictions both from self-selection and learning models. This finding confirms the results of De Loecker and Warzynski (2012) who find that Slovenian exporters charge significantly higher markups than their non-exporting counterparts and that a large part of this markup premium is due to the productivity advantage of exporters. In contrast, Marin and Voigtländer (2013) find on Chilean data that firms experienced a fall in their marginal cost following export entry, which then they fully passed on to lower prices, leaving the markup unchanged.

In terms of importing, we also find a positive association, which may also result from self-selection or the causal effect of access to cheaper or higher quality intermediate inputs. De Loecker et al. (2016) show that import tariff liberalization increased firm markups in India, as firms did not fully pass through the cost savings resulting from lower input tariffs to their output prices. Related to this, we have also found that, for Western European firms, importing from low wage countries such as China is key to higher markups. Finally, note that we found evidence of a similar channel by outsourcing—a novel finding in this literature.

The third channel of globalization is through ownership. Our finding of an FDI premium in markups may be explained by self-selection into setting up affiliates (Helpman et al., 2004) or by being able to leverage knowledge assets to a larger degree. This premium remains significant even after controlling for productivity, suggesting a direct relationship between having affiliates and markups. Interestingly, foreign ownership is not significantly associated with markups in our sample. To some degree, this is in contrast with many papers showing a positive relationship between foreign ownership and productivity (Arnold and Javorcik, 2009) and markups (Clementi, 2015). This may partly be explained by differences between developed and developing countries (Indonesia and Romania in these two studies, respectively) but it is also possible that foreign ownership has a different effect on markups than on productivity. One reason for this can be that most of the profits from the productivity premium of foreign-owned firms is passed through their owners.

The fourth channel is competition with global firms. We find that import competition is also important. Firms that report more emerging market competitors experience lower

average markups.

Finally, it is important to take stock of these channels in a combined model. A great advantage of the EFIGE database is that it allows to combine various modes of being affected by globalization and review the joint effect. We contribute to the literature (similarly to (Mayer and Ottaviano, 2008) in the case of productivity) to show that the combined effect of these variables is quite large, consequently globalized firms can enjoy much larger markups than non-internationalized firms.

Note that our exercise has three main limitations. First, the cross-sectional nature of our database precludes us from estimating causal effects. Second, we can only estimate firm-level markups rather than firm-market specific ones. Third, it would be important to have a control for physical productivity, but we can only measure revenue TFP, which includes markups to some extent.

In general we find that globalized firms tend to charge significantly—both in the economic and statistical sense—higher markups than their non-globalized counterparts. This is likely to result, to a large extent, from self-selection of more competitive firms into different globalization activities. Globalization, on the other hand, can be an important source of sustained competitiveness and higher markups for these firms. Innovation, for example is correlated strongly with markups even when controlling for many other globalization activities.

Our results also provide some evidence for a significant relationship between globalization activities and markups even when we control for TFP, a measure of productivity. This suggests that innovation and globalization activities are not only associated with increased productivity but also with generating more distinct, higher quality and more differentiated products.

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Appendix A: Production function estimation

We perform the production function estimation on the value added with capital and labor inputs following Wooldridge (2009). Wooldridge (2009) shows that the two-step production function estimation procedures developed by Olley and Pakes (1996), Levinsohn and Petrin (2003) and Akerberg et al. (2006) can be implemented in a one-step generalized method of moments (GMM) framework.

The production function estimating equation with all variables in logs is

$$y_{it} = \beta_l l_{it} + \beta_k k_{it} + g(k_{i,t-1}, m_{i,t-1}) + \delta_t + \epsilon_{it}. \quad (4)$$

Value added output of firm i in year t (y_{it}) is a function of the current labor (l_{it}) and capital (k_{it}) use and a function $g(\cdot)$ of lagged capital and material use, which proxies for the expected (in $t-1$) component of the current total factor productivity, while the δ_t are year intercepts. As it is customary in the literature, we specify function $g(\cdot)$ as a third-degree polynomial with interaction terms.¹⁶ The error term ϵ_{it} also incorporates the (unexpected) productivity shock.

The parameters of interest, β_l and β_k , measure the output elasticity of labor and capital, respectively. In order to obtain unbiased estimates, however, one has to account for the possible correlation between the current variable input (l_{it}) and the productivity shock in the error term. This is achieved by a generalized method of moments instrumental variable estimation, where l_{it} is instrumented with $l_{i,t-1}$, while all other right-hand side variables are instruments for themselves.

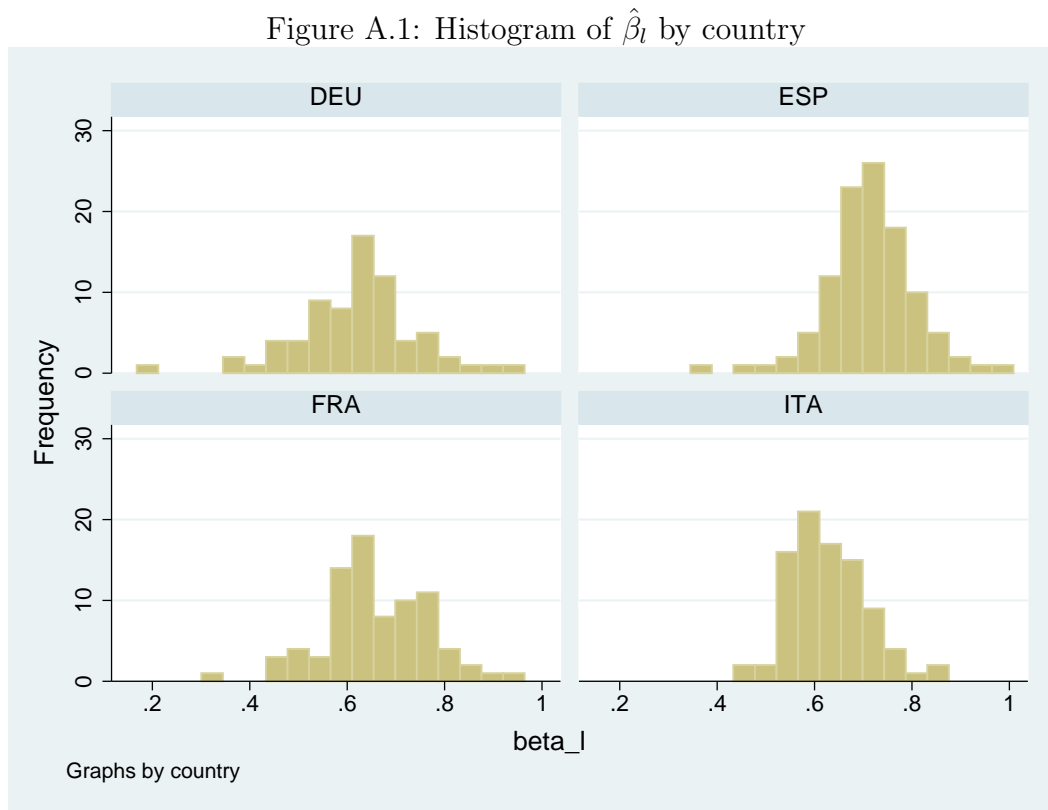
We measure value added output as sales minus material costs, labor input by the number of employees, capital input by fixed assets and material use by material costs of the firm. We deflate sales and material costs with industry- and country-specific producer prices and fixed assets with country-specific prices for capital goods.¹⁷

We estimate (4) on an unbalanced panel of the broadest possible set of French, German, Italian and Spanish firms in the Amadeus database over years 2004-2013. We perform the

¹⁶The terms of the polynomial are hence $k_{i,t-1}$, $m_{i,t-1}$, $k_{i,t-1}m_{i,t-1}$, $k_{i,t-1}^2$, $m_{i,t-1}^2$, $k_{i,t-1}^2m_{i,t-1}$, $k_{i,t-1}m_{i,t-1}^2$, $k_{i,t-1}^3$ and $m_{i,t-1}^3$.

¹⁷The source of the price indices is Eurostat.

estimation separately by country and three-digit NACE industry.¹⁸ Figure A.1 present the histogram of the estimated output elasticities of labor for our baseline estimation sample. The estimated industry-country elasticities fall in a reasonable range with a sample mean of 0.66.



Based on the estimated output elasticities we can calculate the total factor productivity (in log) of firm i in year t as

$$\ln \text{TFP}_{it} = y_{it} - \hat{\beta}_l^{(cj)} l_{it} - \hat{\beta}_k^{(cj)} k_{it},$$

where $\hat{\beta}_k^{(cj)}$ is the estimated output elasticity for capital, specific to country-industry cj . Figure A.2 presents histograms of the estimated firm-level productivities by country.

¹⁸We made sure that the number of observations per country and industry is not smaller than 50, otherwise we merged some three-digit industries.

Figure A.2: Productivity distributions by country

