

Monopsony Power and Firm Organization*

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Abstract

Labor market competition drastically differs for production workers and managers. For instance, in Portugal, there are half as many firms competing for managers as for production workers in the typical local labor market. Using administrative data from Portugal together with a general equilibrium model of oligopsony that incorporates minimum wages and management delegation, we show that monopsony power by firms leads to a welfare loss of 5.7% for production workers and 23.1% for managers relative to an efficient economy. Production workers bear smaller losses because they often work in markets with more competitor firms, view firms as closer substitutes, and are more affected by the minimum wage. The weak monopsony power of low-wage firms over production workers implies that raising the statutory minimum wage reduces overall welfare and affects managers through worker reallocation and delegation adjustments. Moving from the benchmark to an occupation-based minimum wage that optimally addresses monopsony power increases welfare by about 0.2% for both occupations.

Keywords: Monopsony power, firm organization, welfare, minimum wages.

JEL: D21, J21, J31, J42, O40

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1 Introduction

Limited labor market competition enables firms to offer lower wages, leading to lower employment, labor misallocation, and thereby welfare losses.¹ This has influenced governments to implement policies that reduce firms’ wage-setting power, such as minimum wages. However, uniform minimum wages fail to address the drastic differences in labor market competition across occupations, especially when occupational wage disparities are sizeable. For instance, in Portugal, half as many firms compete for managers as for production workers in the typical local labor market, as only some firms delegate decision-making to managers.² This paper shows that the heterogeneity in monopsony power across these worker types matters when studying the welfare effects of monopsony power and minimum wage policies.

To that end, we develop a general equilibrium model with firm-occupation-specific monopsony power and minimum wages. Using administrative data from Portugal, we show that monopsony power leads to a consumption equivalent welfare loss of 5.7 percent for production workers and 23.1 percent for managers relative to an efficient economy. The weak monopsony power of low-wage firms over production workers, who make up the majority of minimum wage earners, implies that raising the benchmark statutory minimum wage lowers overall welfare and affects managers through worker reallocation and management adjustments. Moving to an optimal occupation-based minimum wage increases welfare by about 0.2 percent for both occupations relative to the benchmark minimum wage.

To arrive at these conclusions, we first use matched employer-employee data from an annual census that covers the universe of private firms in Portugal between 2010 and 2016. We compute market concentration using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) for each occupation-based local labor market and document two novel stylized facts. First, we show that the average production worker and manager work in a market with an HHI equal to 0.19 and 0.27, respectively. This corresponds to observing a market with five and three competitor firms, respectively. Indeed, we show that markets for managers are more concentrated

¹For evidence on monopsony power, see [Staiger et al. \(2010\)](#); [Kline et al. \(2019\)](#); [Azar et al. \(2022\)](#); [Lamadon et al. \(2022\)](#); [Yeh et al. \(2022\)](#). For evidence of its welfare effects, see [Berger et al. \(2022\)](#).

²We exclude CEOs and most managers are supervisors, team leaders, or middle managers. We define an occupational local labor market as the combination of a municipality and a 2-digit industry.

because, on average, a manager works in a local labor market where the number of active firms is only half that of the average production worker’s market. This result suggests that firms have stronger monopsony power over managers. Second, we show that highly concentrated production workers’ local labor markets have a higher share of firms that delegate decision-making to managers. In particular, an increase of 10 pp in the HHI is associated with an increase of 2.8 pp in the share of firms that delegate decisions to managers. This result indicates that the degree of competition in production workers’ local labor markets affects the internal organization of firms and, thus, the allocation of managers across firms.

To map those facts into structural wage markdowns across occupations and perform counterfactual simulations, we develop a general equilibrium model of oligopsony that incorporates minimum wages and firm organization. The economy features a representative household for each occupation and a continuum of local labor markets, each with a finite number of firms. Households choose the labor supply to each individual firm for their respective occupations. Households view firms within the same and across distinct markets as imperfect substitutes due to preference heterogeneity, where the degree of substitutability is exogenously specific to each occupation. Firms exogenously differ in terms of productivity and the local labor market they inhabit. A firm’s organizational decision involves adopting a single- or multi-layer organizational structure. Single-layer firms decide how many production workers to hire. Multi-layer firms include an additional management layer and choose how many managers and production workers to hire. Managers enable firms to expand their workforce, yet it comes at higher overhead costs, and thus, only the most productive firms adopt a multi-layer structure. Regarding monopsony power, imperfect firm substitutability and firm granularity imply that firms face upward-sloping labor supply curves and internalize their size within the local labor market, which leads to firm-occupation-specific markdowns.

We estimate the model using the Simulated Method of Moments (SMM) to fit moments of firm organization, wages, and market concentration in Portugal. For each occupation, the firm substitutability parameters determine the within-market and across-market labor supply elasticities. We exploit the correlation between employment and wages at the establishment level, controlling for market unobserved heterogeneity, to calibrate the within-market elasticities. Moreover, we adopt an indirect inference approach to estimate the across-market elasticities from plausibly exogenous labor demand changes at the municipality level, which

we generate with a Bartik-type instrument that exploits the exposure of each municipality to national sector employment trends during the Great Recession. The model reproduces the empirical distribution of wages across workers and the distribution of employment across markets. Moreover, it fits average levels of market concentration, firm organization, and the positive relationship between market concentration and the share of production workers at multi-layer firms. To validate the estimated elasticities, we conduct an event study analysis that quantifies the effect of mass-layoff shocks on employment and wages at the municipality level. For each occupation, our model captures that mass layoffs slightly decrease the municipality’s average wage and significantly decrease the municipality’s employment.

To quantify the effect of monopsony power on aggregate outcomes, we compare the benchmark equilibrium with a counterfactual efficient economy where we exogenously set wages to the marginal product of labor. In the benchmark economy, we estimate that the average manager and production worker bear a wage markdown of 23.1 and 10.6 percent, respectively. Firms generally exert wider wage markdowns on managers because managers (i) often work in markets with fewer competitor firms, (ii) the minimum wage is more likely to be binding for production workers, and (iii) have lower across and within market elasticities. Regarding the lower elasticities of managers, our result aligns with evidence on the lower labor supply elasticity of top earners ([Langella and Manning, 2021](#)) and workers performing non-routine cognitive tasks relative to workers performing routine or non-routine manual tasks ([Bachmann et al., 2022](#)). Moreover, we show that production workers are more likely to switch firms than managers, as they are younger and more likely to have temporary contracts.

We derive three main results when comparing the benchmark and efficient economy. First, the efficient economy increases the managerial wage premium by 11.8 percent. Second, the share of multi-layer firms decreases by 11.2 percent in the efficient economy because rising wages make managerial delegation more costly, especially for medium-productivity firms. Among these, the share of multi-layer firms decreases by 12.6 to 44.4 percent. The result is an increase in manager concentration at the most productive firms and these firm expanding also their hiring of production workers and their production. Third, the efficient economy provides a consumption-equivalent welfare gain of 5.7 percent for production workers and 23.1 percent for managers, as they benefit from the efficiency gains and the redistribution of profits to labor income. We show that accounting for the endogenous drop in managerial

delegation in an efficient economy avoids overestimating the welfare gains of production workers by 0.6 pp and managers by 2.1 pp. The reason is that the decrease in managerial delegation, which stems from removing monopsony power, reduces the consumption level of managers due to lower labor demand. Moreover, the induced reallocation of production workers to other firms increases their disutility from labor supply.

To assess the implications for the design of optimal minimum wage policies to alleviate monopsony power, we first analyze the Portuguese reforms that increased the real minimum wage by ten percent between 2016 and 2019. The weak monopsony power of low-wage firms over production workers, who make up the majority of minimum wage earners, undermines the effectiveness of this policy. We show that the minimum wage increase deteriorates production workers' welfare by 0.7 percent, mainly due to their disemployment effects. Regarding managers, the increase in the minimum wage maintains their welfare with two opposing effects. On the one hand, it decreases the demand for managers in medium-productivity firms that reduce their workforce of production workers. On the other hand, it increases the demand for managers in high-productivity firms due to the reallocation of production workers from other firms.

Second, we quantify the welfare effects of designing optimal occupation-based minimum wages to address the heterogeneous markdowns across worker types.³ First, we find that the welfare gain of managers is hump-shaped in increasing the minimum wage just for managers while keeping the baseline minimum wage for production workers (525€). At most, this policy yields a welfare gain for managers of about 0.5 percent when their minimum wage is 56 percent of their mean wage (900€). However, it decreases the welfare of production workers by 0.1 percent. Second, we compute the combination of occupation-based minimum wages that generate a Pareto optimal improvement relative to the benchmark economy. Setting the minimum wage for production workers at 63 percent of their mean wage (460€) and the one for managers at 50 percent of their mean wage (790€) increases their welfare level by 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively. That is, even an optimal occupation-based minimum wage recovers less than 5 percent of the welfare loss from monopsony power for each occupation.

³Occupation-based minimum wages are implemented in Australia, with its [Modern Awards](#) legislation, and are common in many European countries, whose collective contracts set occupation-specific wage floors.

Literature. This paper contributes to the literature on oligopsonistic labor markets and how this affects the overall economy (Bhaskar et al., 2002; MacKenzie, 2021; Berger et al., 2022; ?; ?; Jarosch et al., 2023; ?). Using models where labor market power arises from firm granularity and imperfect firm substitutability, they study the effect of labor market power on wages, efficiency, and welfare. Our main theoretical contribution to this literature is to study the effect of monopsony power on these outcomes through the organization of work within firms. The distinctive mechanism in our model is that firms make organizational decisions that endogenously contribute to markdown heterogeneity across worker types. Our main quantitative contribution is to show that the large heterogeneity in wage markdowns between managers and production workers matters to explain the managerial wage premium and the welfare losses from monopsony power.

We connect to the literature that studies the effect of minimum wage policies in models with imperfect labor market competition (Bamford, 2021; Ahlfeldt et al., 2022; Hurst et al., 2022; Karabarbounis et al., 2022; Drechsel-Grau, 2023). We build our framework on Berger et al. (2023), which studies the effect of minimum wages on efficiency and welfare in an oligopsonistic environment with firm and worker heterogeneity. Our main contribution is to allow for occupation-specific markdowns and imperfect substitutability across worker types in production. This matters for adding three findings to this literature. First, we rationalize that minimum wages affect the employment and wage distribution of managers by affecting production workers. Second, we show that raising the minimum wage decreases the share of firms that delegate to managers, which is crucial to explain the reallocation of managers towards high-productivity firms. Third, we show that adopting an occupation-based minimum wage can provide welfare gains.

This paper also contributes to the literature on production organization (Garicano and Rossi-Hansberg, 2006; Caliendo and Rossi-Hansberg, 2012). Several studies build on this model to analyze firm-size distortions (Garicano et al., 2016; Tamkoç, 2022), the adoption of information and technological capital (Mariscal, 2020), the misallocation of labor in developing countries (Grobovsek, 2020), and technological adoptions across urban areas (Santamaria, 2023). Contemporaneously to our work, Lawson et al. (2023) studies the impact of minimum wages on productivity through firm organization in a perfectly competitive framework. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to incorporate monopsony power in a general

equilibrium model with managerial delegation choices. This adds two contributions to this literature. First, delegation choices help to explain the degree of monopsony power over managers and production workers. Second, we show that lower competition in production workers’ markets incentivizes firms to delegate tasks to managers.

We also contribute to the literature that studies the misallocation of labor across firms (Hsieh and Klenow, 2009; Bartelsman et al., 2013; Davis et al., 2014; Garcia-Santana and Pijoan-Mas, 2014; Heise and Porzio, 2023). We show that large firms mainly restrict managerial employment relative to the efficient level in Portugal, leading to an inefficiently high managerial span of control and to an inefficiently high share of multi-layer firms.

Finally, we relate to the empirical literature on monopsony and labor market concentration (Martins, 2018; Azar et al., 2020; Benmelech et al., 2020; Rinz, 2022; Azar et al., 2022; Bassanini et al., 2023; Dodini et al., 2023). We bring two new stylized facts to this literature. First, we document that managerial markets display higher levels of market payroll concentration relative to the markets of production workers. Second, we highlight that this heterogeneity stems from managerial markets having fewer firms and because managers sort into more concentrated markets.

2 Empirical Analysis

This section documents two stylized facts that motivate the relationship between firms’ organizational decisions and labor market concentration. First, the average production worker and manager work in a market with an HHI equal to 0.19 and 0.27, respectively. Second, the share of production workers that work in multi-layer establishments, i.e., establishments that add a management layer to their organization, is higher when their local labor market is more concentrated.

2.1 Data

Our primary data source is *Quadros de Pessoal* (QP), an annual census of private sector employees conducted by the Portuguese Ministry of Employment. This census provides matched employer-employee data with information on employment, monthly wages, occu-

pation, industry, and municipality for all private firms based in Portugal with at least one worker. Our sample period covers from 2010 to 2016. We explain here the main aspects of the sample and relegate the details to Appendix B.

We define two broad occupations: managers and production workers. We classify labor markets for each occupation based on their geography (municipality) and industry (2-digit NACE). This classification stems from the fact that workers are more attached to their current labor market because of the imperfect substitutability of skills across jobs and sectors, as well as imperfect geographical mobility (Neal, 1995; Kambourov and Manovskii, 2009; Sullivan, 2010; Kennan and Walker, 2011; Monte et al., 2018).

We assign workers to each occupation following a hierarchical classification similar to Caliendo et al. (2020). By Portuguese law, firms must assign workers to hierarchic categories that allow us to distinguish between two layers within each firm (see Table A.1). We exclude CEOs and assign middle managers, supervisors, team leaders, and top managers to the management layer. The distinctive feature of managers is that they guide groups of employees in their tasks. In our sample, nearly one-fifth of employees are managers, who are mostly supervisors, team leaders, or middle managers (see Table A.2). We group the remaining categories as production workers, which range from non-skilled to higher-skilled professionals.⁴

2.2 Market Concentration and Firm Organization

The level of market payroll concentration in a local labor market, which represents how much of the total market payroll belongs to a few establishments, is a standard proxy for the degree of monopsony power that establishments hold in such a market.⁵ We measure payroll concentration in each local labor market using the HHI. This index equals a weighted average payroll share of establishments within the market. Thus, an increase in the HHI reflects higher market concentration because fewer establishments accumulate a greater share

⁴According to occupation transitions, these broad categories represent a persistent occupational state. Figure A.5 shows that most workers remain within the same category after changing to another establishment.

⁵This measure is broadly used in the literature (Azar et al., 2020; Berger et al., 2022; ?; Jarosch et al., 2023), and it is the baseline measure of the U.S. Department of Justice to evaluate the competitive effect of mergers.

Table 1: Market Concentration by Occupation

	Managers	Production Workers
	Mean	Mean
Max s_{ij}	0.38	0.30
HHI _j	0.27	0.19

Source: Elaboration based on Quadros de Pessoa.

Note: The first row reports the employment-weighted mean of the maximum payroll share across local labor markets. The second row of the Table reports the employment-weighted mean of the HHI across local labor markets.

of the market payroll.

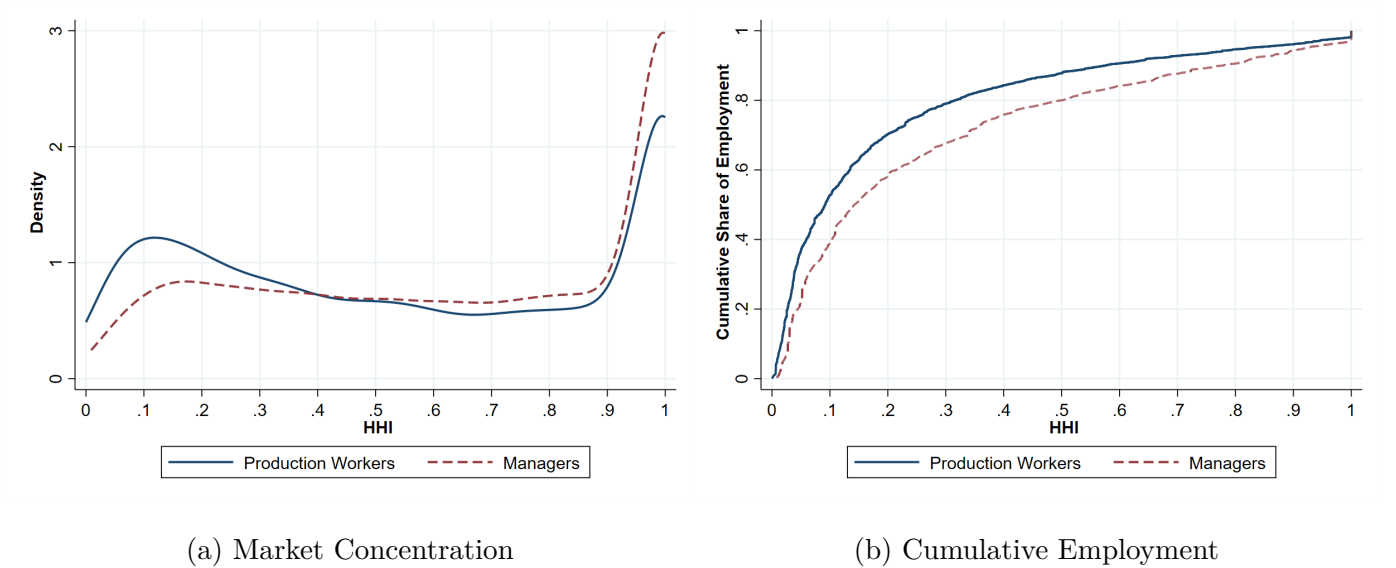
Fact #1: Managers work in more concentrated labor markets. In Table 1, we document that the average manager works in a market whose HHI is eight percentage points higher than the average production worker.⁶ Specifically, the employment-weighted average HHI is 0.27 for managers and 0.19 for production workers. To provide context for these numbers, one would observe a similar concentration level with three and five equally-sized establishments, respectively. Table 1 also reports the employment-weighted average of the maximum payroll share across local labor markets. The average largest establishment in a local labor market accumulates about eight percentage points more market payroll in the market of managers than in the market of production workers.

Two underlying forces determine the heterogeneity in market concentration between both occupations. First, the heterogeneity in the distribution of payroll concentration across markets. Second, the heterogeneity in employment sorting across these market types. We display both channels in Figure 1, which plots the estimated kernel density of the market level HHI for each occupation and their respective cumulative share of employment.

First, we find that managers work in more concentrated markets because the market-concentration distribution for managers is shifted to the right relative to production workers (see Figure 1a). We use a standard decomposition that breaks the HHI into two elements to understand what makes managerial markets more likely to be concentrated (see Ap-

⁶This observation is robust to measuring HHI with the employment share rather than the payroll share.

Figure 1: Distribution of HHI by Occupation



Source: Elaboration based on QP.

Note: The Graph plots the kernel density of the payroll HHI across local labor markets for managers (dashed line) and production workers (solid line). Moreover, the graph plots the cumulative share of employment with respect to the payroll HHI.

pendix B.4 for details). The first element involves the *number of establishments* in each market. All else being constant, increasing the number of establishments lowers the average establishment size in the market. The second element entails the *dispersion level of payroll shares* across establishments relative to the case in which they hold identical shares. All else being constant, increasing the dispersion in payroll shares leads to greater payroll concentration. Table 2 reports the results from decomposing the unweighted average of the HHI for both occupations.⁷ We find that the entire gap of nine percentage points stems from the fact that managerial markets have fewer establishments. In particular, the markets of production workers tend to have almost two times as many establishments as the markets of managers (see Table A.6). This fact emphasizes the importance of modeling establishments' decision-making regarding managerial delegation, as only some establishments choose to hire managers, leading to more concentration in their labor markets.

Second, we find that managers are more likely to sort into highly concentrated markets (see

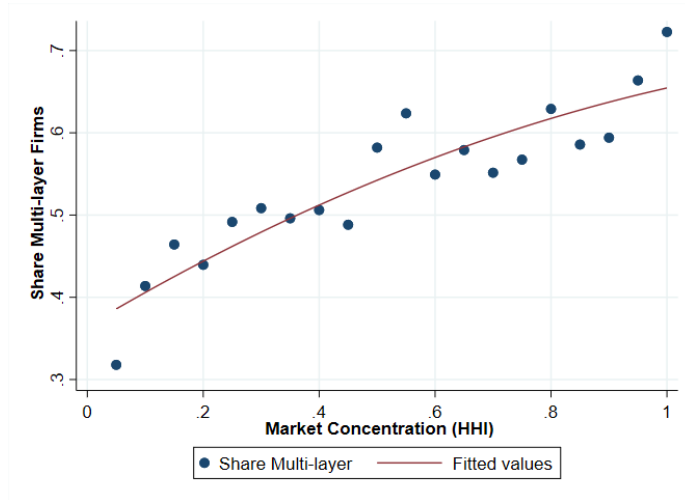
⁷We do not weigh each market by employment size to isolate the decomposition from employment sorting.

Table 2: Decomposition of the Average HHI across Occupations

	Component: N ^o establishments	Component: Dispersion in shares	Mean HHI
(1) Managers	0.57	0.08	0.65
(2) Production Workers	0.47	0.09	0.56
(1)-(2) Gap	0.10	-0.01	0.09

Note: The Table reports the contribution of each channel to the unweighted average HHI level across local labor markets for each occupation. The first column reports the contribution of the number of establishments ($1/M$). In contrast, the second column shows the contribution of the dispersion in payroll shares relative to the symmetric case $\left(\sum_{i=1}^M \left(s_i - \frac{1}{M}\right)^2\right)$.

Figure 2: Market Concentration and Multi-layer Firms



Source: Elaboration based on QP.

Note: The Figure plots the employment-weighted average share of multi-layer firms across local labor markets that differ in the level of HHI. In particular, we compute the share of multi-layer firms and the HHI for each local labor market of production workers. We split the distribution of the HHI into 20 cells of length 0.05. In each cell, we take the employment-weighted mean of the share of multi-layer firms across markets.

Figure 1b). For instance, nearly 70 percent of production workers are in markets with an HHI below 0.20, whereas only 60 percent of managers work in such markets. Most employees in both occupations work in a handful of markets with relatively low concentration levels. However, the proportion of managers in those markets is comparatively smaller. Different sorting patterns emphasize the need to model labor allocation across markets.

Fact #2: More firms delegate decision-making to managers in highly concentrated production workers' markets. Figure 2 displays the weighted average share of multi-layer establishments across the markets of production workers. We rank each market by their HHI and use the number of employees as weights. When concentration rises in production workers' markets, the share of multi-layer firms increases.⁸ An increase of 10 pp in the HHI is associated with an increase of 2.8 pp in the share of multi-layer firms. This suggests a tight relationship between the internal organization of firms and the level of payroll concentration in the labor markets where they operate. Two complementary stories with different economic implications may explain this result. On the one hand, this relationship may reflect the tendency of high-productivity firms to adopt a multi-layer structure as they expand, consequently contributing to increased market concentration. On the other hand, it may reflect that small markets with low competition allow firms, even when their productivity is low, to easily attract workers and expand their organization because mobility frictions prevent production workers from relocating to other firms.

3 Model

This section presents a general equilibrium model that incorporates firm organization, oligopsonistic labor markets, and minimum wages. The model considers two occupations, managers and production workers, each with heterogeneous labor disutility costs and firm substitutability parameters. For each occupation, there is a household that makes consumption choices and decides the labor supply to each firm. Firms are heterogeneous in productivity and the local labor market they inhabit. Regarding their organization, firms have a layer of production workers and choose whether to add a management layer. Then, they choose the number of workers in each layer. Firms have monopsony power and face a minimum wage when making employment choices, where wage markdowns are firm and occupation-specific.

⁸In Figure A.4, we also show that this positive relationship holds when we take the unweighted average of the share of multi-layer firms across local labor markets.

3.1 Environment

The internal organization of firms is related to labor market concentration and, potentially, to monopsony power. We stand out two reasons to analyze this relationship through the lens of a general equilibrium model. First, the fact that managerial markets are more concentrated suggests that firms have greater monopsony power over managerial wages. Yet, these market categorizations do not capture the entire set of potential employers, as workers flow across industries and regions. Thus, to quantify monopsony power, it is necessary to measure the extent to which workers find it costly to switch firms both within the same and across different markets. Second, the fact that multi-layer firms contribute more to production workers' employment when their markets are more concentrated suggests that monopsony power affects managerial delegation choices. Modeling the relationship between both variables and performing counterfactual simulations solve the identification problem arising from the confounding that delegation may also contribute to market concentration, as multi-layer firms are usually bigger. Next, we describe the environment of the model in detail.

Agents. The economy is populated by two households, indexed by their permanent occupation type $o \in \{w, m\}$, and a continuum of firms. The two households differ in how substitutable they view different firms within the same and across different markets, as well as in terms of disutility costs for each unit of work. Firms are exogenously heterogeneous in two dimensions. First, they belong to a continuum of local labor markets $j \in [0, 1]$, i.e., intersections between region and industry, where each local labor market contains a finite number of firms indexed by $i \in \{1, \dots, M_j\}$. Second, firms differ in productivity z_{ij} , drawn from a standard log-normal distribution with standard deviation σ_z .

Goods and Technology. Firms use labor to produce a tradable good in a perfectly competitive national market whose price we normalize to one. We assume that there are two types of labor: production workers and managers. Production workers are essential for production, while managers are optional. We assume each firm chooses between two types of organizations, which vary in the number of layers, $\ell \in \{1, 2\}$.

The first type of firm organization is the single-layer firm ($\ell = 1$). Single-layer firms use n_w

units of labor of production workers to produce according to the following technology:

$$y(z, 1) = z \varphi_w n_w^{1-\alpha}. \quad (1)$$

The parameter φ_w stands for the efficiency of labor of production workers. This technological specification includes the essential features of the production technology in the standard model of Lucas (1978). Namely, firms are heterogeneous in productivity and face diminishing returns to scale. The parameter $1 - \alpha \in (0, 1)$ determines the strength of diminishing returns and, thus, limits the number of production workers of single-layer firms.

Alternatively, firms may choose to be multi-layer organizations ($\ell = 2$) to manage a larger workforce. In this case, firms additionally include a managerial layer and use the labor of both managers n_m and production workers n_w to produce output. The technology of multi-layer firms is given by:

$$y(z, 2) = z \varphi_m n_m^{(1-\alpha)\alpha} n_w^{1-\alpha}. \quad (2)$$

The parameter φ_m reflects how much managers enhance the productivity of production workers relative to the single-layer organization. Under this technological specification, managerial delegation allows firms to increase their workforce by dampening the diminishing returns to the labor of production workers. In addition, the parameter α embeds in a simple manner all the technical reasons that influence the span of control of managers, as it is the only technological parameter that is informative of the ratio of the marginal labor productivity between the two occupations.

Overall, this technological specification abstracts from the micro-foundations in the theory of firm organization, such as those of the knowledge-based hierarchy literature (Garicano, 2000; Garicano and Rossi-Hansberg, 2006). Nevertheless, it facilitates the quantification of the model and considers the main organizational trade-off. That is, adding a managerial layer permits the firm to manage a larger workforce, but it comes at the expense of higher costs.

Households. Each household type $o \in \{w, m\}$ chooses the measure of workers to supply to

each firm n_{ijo} and consumption of each good c_{ijo} to maximize their utility:

$$\mathcal{U}_o = \max_{n_{ijo}, c_{ijo}} \mathbf{C}_o - \phi_o \frac{\mathbf{N}_o^{1+\frac{1}{\gamma}}}{1+\frac{1}{\gamma}}, \quad (3)$$

subject to the household's budget constraint:

$$\mathbf{C}_o = \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^{M_j} w_{ijo} n_{ijo} dj, \quad (4)$$

where we define the aggregate consumption and labor supply indexes as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}_o &:= \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^{M_j} c_{ijo} dj \\ \mathbf{N}_o &:= \left[\int_0^1 \left(\frac{\mathbf{n}_{jo}}{B_{jo}} \right)^{\frac{\theta_o+1}{\theta_o}} dj \right]^{\frac{\theta_o}{\theta_o+1}} \quad \mathbf{n}_{jo} := \left[\sum_{i=1}^{M_j} n_{ijo}^{\frac{\eta_o+1}{\eta_o}} \right]^{\frac{\eta_o}{\eta_o+1}}, \quad \eta_o > \theta_o > 0. \end{aligned}$$

The parameter γ stands for the aggregate Frisch elasticity of households, ϕ_o is a labor disutility shifter that is specific to each occupation, and B_{jo} is a market amenity shifter. We follow closely the consumption and labor supply structure of [Berger et al. \(2022\)](#). That is, we assume that consumption goods are perfectly substitutable, but households view firms as imperfect substitutes in terms of non-wage characteristics. In particular, each firm faces an occupation-based upward-sloping labor supply curve with two elasticities of substitution $\theta_o > 0$ and $\eta_o > 0$. The parameter θ_o regulates the degree of substitutability of firms in distinct markets and, thus, captures the costs of moving across markets or idiosyncratic tastes for the market. If these costs decrease ($\theta_o \uparrow$), workers find it easier to substitute firms across markets and become more responsive to market wage differentials. The parameter η_o regulates the degree of substitutability of firms within the same market, thus capturing features such as commuting costs, search costs, or idiosyncratic tastes for the firm. As these costs decrease ($\eta_o \uparrow$), workers find within-market, across-firm substitutability easier and become more responsive to wage differentials across firms in the same market. We refer to η_o and θ_o as the within- and across-market firm substitutability parameters. Critical to the main conclusions of the theory, we impose the following assumption:

Assumption 1. Across-market mobility costs are higher than within-market mobility costs:

$$\eta_o \geq \theta_o, \quad \forall o \in \{0, 1\} \quad (5)$$

In other words, we assume that both household types find firms within the same market as closer substitutes than firms in different markets. Under this assumption, larger firms hinder the reallocation of their workers to other firms because their workers have fewer alternatives within the same market and, thus, need to move to other markets to find more potential employers. As a result, employees become less responsive to the wage policy of the firm, which in turn provides greater monopsony power to larger firms.

Linear utility in consumption implies that the aggregate labor supply in occupation o is:

$$\mathbf{N}_o = \left(\frac{\mathbf{W}_o}{\phi_o} \right)^\gamma, \quad (6)$$

and the labor supply curve of occupation o to firm i in market j is:

$$n_{ijo} = B_{jo}^{1+\theta_o} \left(\frac{w_{ijo}}{\mathbf{w}_{jo}} \right)^{\eta_o} \left(\frac{\mathbf{w}_{jo}}{\mathbf{W}_o} \right)^{\theta_o} \mathbf{N}_o \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \underbrace{w_{ijo} = \left(\frac{1}{B_{jo}} \right)^{\frac{1+\theta_o}{\theta_o}} \left(\frac{n_{ijo}}{\mathbf{n}_{jo}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\eta_o}} \left(\frac{\mathbf{n}_{jo}}{\mathbf{N}_o} \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta_o}} \mathbf{W}_o}_{\text{Inverse labor supply curve } \forall ijo}, \quad (7)$$

where we define the market wage index \mathbf{w}_{jo} and the aggregate wage index \mathbf{W}_o as

$$\mathbf{w}_{jo} := \left[\sum_{i \in j} w_{ijo}^{1+\eta_o} \right]^{\frac{1}{1+\eta_o}} \quad \mathbf{W}_o := \left[\int_0^1 (B_{jo} \mathbf{w}_{jo})^{1+\theta_o} dj \right]^{\frac{1}{1+\theta_o}}. \quad (8)$$

We derive the labor supply system of equations given by (6) and (7) in Appendix C.1.

Firms. Firms choose the organizational structure to maximize profits, which consists of choosing whether to add a management layer:

$$\pi(z) = \max_{\ell} \{ \pi(z, \ell) \}_{\ell=1}^2, \quad (9)$$

In addition, firms make employment choices given upward-sloping labor supply curves and oligopsonistic competition for labor. We assume firms are constrained by a minimum wage. Infinitesimal with respect to the economy, firms take the aggregate disutility of labor supply \mathbf{N}_o and aggregate wages \mathbf{W}_o as given. However, non-atomistic to the local market, each firm internalizes the impact of the employment decisions of all firms in the market, including itself, on the labor supply curve it faces.

When firms adopt a single-layer structure, they also choose the measure of production workers n_{ijw} to maximize profits, given the employment policies of their local competitors, n_{-ijw}^* . In particular, they solve:

$$\pi(z, 1) = \max_{n_{ijw}} y(z, 1) - w_{ijw}(n_{ijw}, n_{-ijw}^*, \mathbf{N}_w, \mathbf{W}_w)n_{ijw}, \quad (10)$$

subject to the inverse labor supply curve of production workers and minimum wages:

$$w_{ijw}(n_{ijw}, n_{-ijw}^*, \mathbf{N}_w, \mathbf{W}_w) = \left(\frac{1}{B_{jw}} \right)^{\frac{1+\theta_o}{\theta_o}} \left(\frac{n_{ijw}}{\mathbf{n}_{jw}(n_{ijw}, n_{-ijw}^*)} \right)^{\frac{1}{\eta_w}} \left(\frac{\mathbf{n}_{jw}(n_{ijw}, n_{-ijw}^*)}{\mathbf{N}_w} \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta_w}} \mathbf{W}_w,$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{jw}(n_{ijw}, n_{-ijw}^*) = \left[n_{ijw}^{\frac{1+\eta_w}{\eta_w}} + \sum_{k \neq i} n_{kjw}^* \frac{1+\eta_w}{\eta_w} \right]^{\frac{\eta_w}{1+\eta_w}},$$

$$w_{ijw} \geq \underline{w}$$

When firms adopt a multi-layer structure, they also choose the measure of production workers n_{ijw} and managers n_{ijm} to maximize profits, given the employment policies of their local competitors, (n_{-ijw}^*, n_{-ijm}^*) . Their maximization problem is:

$$\pi(z, 2) = \max_{n_{ijw}, n_{ijm}} y(z, 2) - \sum_{o \in \{w, m\}} w_{ijo}(n_{ijo}, n_{-ijo}^*, \mathbf{N}_o, \mathbf{W}_o)n_{ijo}, \quad (11)$$

subject to the inverse labor supply curve of both occupations:

$$w_{ijo}(n_{ijo}, n_{-ijo}^*, \mathbf{N}_o, \mathbf{W}_o) = \left(\frac{1}{B_{jo}} \right)^{\frac{1+\theta_o}{\theta_o}} \left(\frac{n_{ijo}}{\mathbf{n}_{jo}(n_{ijo}, n_{-ijo}^*)} \right)^{\frac{1}{\eta_o}} \left(\frac{\mathbf{n}_{jo}(n_{ijo}, n_{-ijo}^*)}{\mathbf{N}_o} \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta_o}} \mathbf{W}_o,$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{jo}(n_{ijo}, n_{-ijo}^*) = \left[n_{ijo}^{\frac{1+\eta_o}{\eta_o}} + \sum_{k \neq i} n_{kjo}^* \frac{1+\eta_o}{\eta_o} \right]^{\frac{\eta_o}{1+\eta_o}},$$

$$w_{ijo} \geq \underline{w}, \quad \forall o \in \{w, m\}.$$

Given the occupation $o \in \{w, m\}$ and the number of layers $\ell \in \{1, 2\}$, the solution to the firm's problem has three cases. First, the minimum wage is not binding. Second, the minimum wage is binding, and labor demand equals the labor supply curve. Third, the

minimum wage is binding and labor supply exceeds labor demand. We summarize the system of first-order conditions for each case as follows.

Case I: The minimum wage is not binding. Firms choose the level of employment in occupation $o \in \{w, m\}$ for which the marginal cost of labor equals its marginal product (see Figure A.1).

$$w_{ijo}^* = \mu_{ijo} \frac{\partial y(z, \ell)}{\partial n_{ijo}} \Big|_{n_{ijo}^*}, \quad \mu_{ijo} = \frac{\varepsilon_{ijo}}{\varepsilon_{ijo} + 1} \in (0, 1), \quad \varepsilon_{ijo} = \left[\frac{\partial \log w_{ijo}}{\partial \log n_{ijo}} \right]^{-1}. \quad (12)$$

Equation (12) determines that the marginal productivity of labor is higher than the wage payment for each occupation (see Appendix C.2 for complete derivations). As in the classical monopsony environment (Manning, 2013), the marginal cost of labor is equal to both the wage and the additional cost of increasing wages because firms internalize upward-sloping labor supply curves. Hence, there is a wedge between wages and the marginal product of labor $\mu_{ijo} < 1$. In addition, firm granularity within each local labor market implies that wage markdowns and the labor supply elasticity are firm-specific because firms internalize the impact of their relative market size on the labor supply curve they face. In particular, the structural labor supply elasticity has a closed-form solution and is given by:

$$\varepsilon_{ijo}(s_{ijo}) = \left[\frac{1}{\eta_o} + \left(\frac{1}{\theta_o} - \frac{1}{\eta_o} \right) \frac{\partial \log \mathbf{n}_{jo}}{\partial \log n_{ijo}} \right]^{-1} = \left[\frac{1}{\eta_o} + \left(\frac{1}{\theta_o} - \frac{1}{\eta_o} \right) s_{ijo} \right]^{-1}, \quad (13)$$

where s_{ijo} stands for the payroll share of firm i in market j :

$$s_{ijo} := \frac{w_{ijo} n_{ijo}}{\sum_{i \in j} w_{ijo} n_{ijo}}. \quad (14)$$

Note that firms face an elasticity that is a function of their payroll share for each occupation. Since we assume $\eta_0 \geq \theta_0$, larger firms face lower labor supply elasticities and exert wider markdowns. On the one hand, consider the monopsony case with only one firm in the market, i.e., $s_{ijo} = 1$. If a monopsonist makes an additional hire, it understands that it has to attract workers from other markets. Hence, it faces the across-market labor supply elasticity θ_{ijo} . On the other hand, consider an atomistic firm ($s_{ijo} \simeq 0$). This firm internalizes that a marginal hire attracts workers from the same market, as its decision has a negligible effect on market employment. Therefore, it faces the within-market labor supply elasticity η_{ijo} .

The model explicitly tells apart the forces shaping wage dispersion across occupations. The first source of dispersion comes from differences in marginal productivity, which depends on organizational choices. The second source of dispersion comes from differences in markdowns. Firms have occupational-based monopsony power because they may have different sizes in each local labor market (s_{ijo}) and because firm substitutability may differ across occupations (η_o, θ_o).

Case II: The minimum wage is binding, and labor supply equals labor demand. The minimum wage is binding and is below the efficient wage level where the labor supply curve intersects the marginal product curve. In this case, firms pay the minimum wage, and the markdown is the ratio between the minimum wage and the marginal product, with the level of employment given by the labor supply curve evaluated at the minimum wage (see Figure A.2).

$$w_{ijo}^* = \underline{w}, \quad \mu_{ijo} = \frac{\underline{w}}{\left. \frac{\partial y(z, \ell)}{\partial n_{ijo}} \right|_{n_{ijo}^*}}, \quad n_{ijo}^* = \left(\frac{\underline{w}}{\mathbf{w}_{jo}} \right)^{\eta_o} \left(\frac{\mathbf{w}_{jo}}{\mathbf{W}_o} \right)^{\theta_o} \mathbf{N}_o. \quad (15)$$

In this region, firms pay higher wages and hire more workers than they had done without the minimum wage.

Case III: The minimum wage is binding, and labor supply excess labor demand. The minimum wage is binding and is above the efficient wage level where the labor supply curve intersects the marginal product curve. In this case, firms pay a wage that is equal to both the minimum wage and marginal product, with the employment level given by the marginal product, and firms face an excess of labor supply (see Figure A.3).

$$w_{ijo}^* = \underline{w} = \left. \frac{\partial y(z, \ell)}{\partial n_{ijo}} \right|_{n_{ijo}^*}, \quad \mu_{ijo} = 1, \quad n_{ijo}^* < \left(\frac{\underline{w}}{\mathbf{w}_{jo}} \right)^{\eta_o} \left(\frac{\mathbf{w}_{jo}}{\mathbf{W}_o} \right)^{\theta_o} \mathbf{N}_o. \quad (16)$$

In this region, firms pay higher wages and hire fewer workers than they had done without the minimum wage.

Equilibrium. Given a minimum wage \underline{w} , the general equilibrium of this economy is a set of organizational structures $\{\ell_{ij}^*\}$, aggregate disutilities of labor supply (N_w^*, N_m^*) , and employment levels $\{n_{ijw}^*, n_{ijm}^*\}$ such that:

1. *Labor supply*: Households choose aggregate disutility N_o^* and labor supply to each firm $\{n_{ijo}^*\}$ to maximize utility. That is, Equation (6) and Equation (7) hold $\forall o \in \{w, m\}$.
2. *Firm organization*: Firms optimally choose the organizational structure: ℓ_{ij}^* . That is, Equation (9) holds $\forall j \in [0, 1], \forall i = \{1, \dots, M_j\}$.
3. *Labor Demand*: Firms optimally choose employment (n_{ijw}^*, n_{ijm}^*) . That is, Equations (12)-(16) hold $\forall j \in [0, 1], \forall i = \{1, \dots, M_j\}$.
4. *Market Clearing*: Labor supply and demand are given by Equations (12) and (15) for firms in Cases I and II. For firms in Case III, households supply the labor demand n_{ijo}^* given by Equation (16).

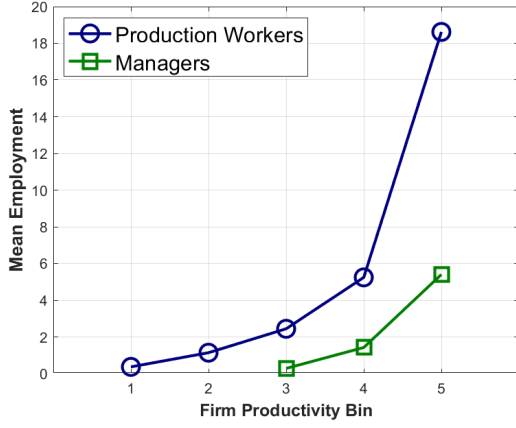
Note that the equilibrium considers market clearing in the presence of minimum wages. To handle non-market-clearing wages, we solve the equilibrium using a shadow wages approach as in Berger et al. (2023). This approach considers that households perceive a lower wage than the minimum wage for firms in Case III, which implies that the excess labor supply at the minimum wage is reallocated towards other firms (see Appendix D).

3.2 Market Characterization

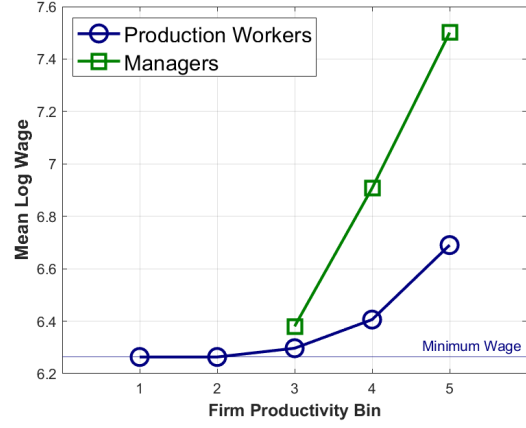
Before quantifying model parameters, we discuss the interaction between firm organization, market concentration, and wage markdowns in equilibrium. Figure 3 plots the average level of employment, log wages, and wage markdowns across firms of distinct productivity under the benchmark quantification of parameters.

Consider first the top left panel, which displays the employment level of production workers (blue) and managers (green) across firms. All firms hire production workers, as they are essential for production. However, only relatively high-productivity firms find it optimal to hire managers. These firms have more incentives to produce at large scales, and hiring managers enable them to manage a larger workforce. As a result, they use managerial delegation to dampen the diminishing marginal returns to the labor of production workers. The top right panel shows the wage level across firms for each occupation. Production workers earn wages close to the minimum wage when they work at low-productivity firms. Furthermore, managers earn substantially higher wages than production workers. This occurs because the

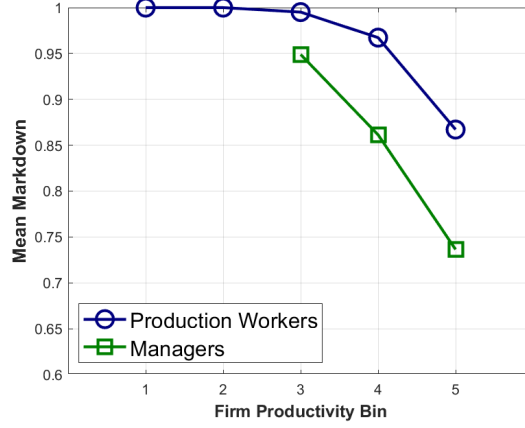
Figure 3: Oligopsonistic Market with Firm Organization



(a) Employment



(b) Wages



(c) Markdown

Note: Figures constructed from the model under the estimated parameters in Table 3.

aggregate disutility from labor supply is higher for managers and because the ratio of production workers to managers is high, which drives up the marginal productivity of managers relative to that of production workers. Moreover, the model captures the fact that wage dispersion between both occupations increases with firm size. This result stems from the fact that the ratio of production workers to managers increases with firm size and, therefore, and so does the ratio of their marginal productivity.

Lastly, the bottom panel of Figure 3 plots wage markdowns across firms as the ratio between wages and the marginal product of labor for each occupation. Overall, wage markdowns are wider for managers than for production workers for three reasons. First, minimum wages are more likely to be binding for production workers. Second, managers have a lower degree of firm-substitutability. If firms had the same payroll share in both markets, they would exert a wider markdown over managerial wages because they would internalize that managers bear higher across-firm mobility costs, which makes them less responsive to labor demand changes. Third, market payroll concentration is also higher for managers. If both occupations had the same degree of firm-substitutability, firms would exert a wider markdown over managerial wages because the labor supply elasticity of managers that firms face would be closer to the across-market elasticity than that of production workers.

4 Quantification of the Model

The quantification of the model parameters proceeds in three steps. First, we exogenously calibrate the aggregate Frisch elasticity of labor supply. Second, we calibrate the within-market elasticity parameters from the correlation between firms' wages and employment, and we use an indirect inference approach to estimate the across-market elasticity from plausibly exogenous changes in municipality's labor demand. Third, we estimate the remaining model parameters using the Simulated Method of Moments (SMM) approach. The quantification of the parameters targets moments of the firm organization, such as the average firm size or span of control. Together, these moments determine the characteristics of the average firm across markets. Then, we target observed market differences in wages, employment, number of firms, and payroll concentration. Finally, we compare the model simulated moments and their data counterparts to assess the model predictions, and we exploit mass-layoff shocks to validate the performance of the model equilibrium responses.

4.1 Estimation

Table 3 summarizes the model parameters. We calibrate outside the model the aggregate Frisch elasticity. We follow Berger et al. (2022) by setting $\gamma = 0.5$, which is within the range that the Congressional Budget Office considers for policy evaluation. We endoge-

nously calibrate the within-market elasticities to match the correlation between firm wages and employment after controlling for municipality-year fixed effects. Moreover, we adopt an indirect inference approach to estimate the across-market elasticities from plausibly exogenous labor demand changes at the municipality level, which we generate with a Bartik-type instrument that exploits national sector employment trends interacted with baseline exposure shares during the Great Recession. Then, we estimate the remaining parameters by the SMM approach. In particular, we set the parameter values to minimize the percentage difference with equal weighting between the vector of model moments and its data counterpart. Appendix E.1 shows the fit of our targeted parameters. Next, we describe each parameter and its most informative moment in detail.

Labor disutility shifter (ϕ_w, ϕ_m). The moment most closely associated with the labor disutility shifter of production workers ϕ_w is the average firm size in terms of production workers. In the data, the average firm hires 5.3 production workers. For the labor disutility shifter of managers ϕ_m , we include as the most linked moment that about 19 percent of all employees are managers.

Span of control (α). The ratio of production workers to managers partially depends on the span of control parameter. When this parameter increases, the technology converges towards a production function with constant marginal returns to labor, thus decreasing the incentives for managerial delegation. The closest moment we use for this parameter is that the median multi-layer firm has 3.1 workers per manager.

Efficiency of labor (φ_w, φ_m). The efficiency of labor parameters is informative of wages. Thus, we include as targets the mean monthly wage of 717€ for production workers and the wage gap in mean wages between managers and production workers, which is equal to 0.73 log points.

Dispersion in firm productivity (σ_z). The most associated moment to the standard deviation of firm productivity is the employment-weighted average HHI across local labor markets of production workers, which equals 0.19.

Market Amenities (B_{ijw}). Regarding market amenities, we note that only 12 percent of production workers belong to markets with less than ten firms, despite these markets

Table 3: Parameterization

Parameter Value	Description	Value	Moment
<i>Panel I: Exogenous Calibration</i>			
γ	Aggregate Frisch elasticity	0.50	Berger et al. (2022)
<i>Panel II: SMM Estimation</i>			
<i>A: Preferences</i>			
ϕ_w	Labor disutility shifter: workers	1.67×10^{-4}	Average firm size
ϕ_m	Labor disutility shifter: managers	0.13	Share managers
<i>B: Firm Organization</i>			
α	Span of control	0.76	Median span of control
φ_w	Worker efficiency	4,356	Mean wage of prod. workers
φ_m/φ_w	Managerial efficiency	1.13	Wage gap managers and prod. workers
σ_z	Std. Dev. firm TFP	1.11	Weighted Mean HHI prod. workers
<i>C: Market Characteristics</i>			
B_{ijw}	Amenities in small markets	0.46	Share workers in markets $M_j \leq 10$
<i>Panel III: Endogenous Calibration</i>			
(θ_w, θ_m)	Across-market firm substitutability	(1.52, 0.95)	Across-municipality labor supply elasticity
(η_w, η_m)	Within-market firm substitutability	(19.97, 6.10)	Within-market labor supply elasticity

Source: The Table reports the quantification of model parameters. Panel I reports the parameters that we calibrate outside the model. Panel II reports the estimated parameters using the SMM approach.

representing nearly 65 percent of the total. We set a common market amenity for production workers in markets with less than ten firms. Then, our approach includes the share of production workers in those markets as the most related moment. The rationale for using amenities rather than productivity differences is that we would require too low productivity in small markets, which would highly overestimate the share of minimum wage earners in such places.

Firm Distribution (G). The distribution of the number of firms across markets, $M_j \sim G(\cdot)$, combines a discrete mass at $m_j = 1$ with a Pareto distribution. To estimate these parameters, the most associated targeted moments include that 29 percent of markets have just one firm, the average market has 17.4 firms, and the standard deviation in the number of firms equals 59.9.

Across-market substitutability (θ_w, θ_m). The across-market firm substitutability parameters govern how greater market productivity translates into more employment. When firm substitutability is high, employment in a particular market is highly responsive to increased market productivity. We use an indirect-inference approach for each occupation to match the reduced-form inverse labor supply elasticity from a municipality-level regression. We estimate the following equation:

$$\text{Log } w_{m,o,t} = \gamma \text{Log } L_{m,o,t} + \alpha_{m,o} + e_{m,o,t}, \quad (17)$$

where $w_{m,o,t}$ is the mean wage in municipality m for occupation o in period t , $L_{m,o,t}$ is total employment in that municipality, and $\alpha_{m,o}$ are municipality fixed effects. The main threat to identification is that employment and wages in a municipality may vary over time due to changes in labor supply. To overcome this problem, we use a shift-share instrument for employment (Blanchard et al., 1992):⁹

$$\hat{L}_{m,o,t} = \sum_s \left(\underbrace{\frac{L_{i,m,s,o,2007}}{\sum_i L_{i,m,s,o,2007}}}_{\text{Industry-Municipality Share}} \times \underbrace{\sum_i L_{i,s,o,t}}_{\text{National Employment in Sector } s} \right). \quad (18)$$

This instrument predicts employment in each municipality as the exposure-weighted average

⁹In the model, the municipality is a collection of local labor markets. We use a municipality-level regression, instead of a market-level regression, to use the standard formulation of the shift-share instrument.

of national sector employment, where the weights are the employment shares of each sector in the municipality in the initial period. With this approach, we estimate the coefficient γ from within-municipality, across-time variation in wages and employment that arises from national sector employment shocks and the municipality's initial exposure to them, which plausibly represent exogenous changes in the municipality's labor demand. We also restrict the sample to municipalities with a mean wage higher than 25 percent of the minimum wage in the reference year. We impose this restriction to exclude municipalities where a high share of firms pay wages close to the minimum wage, as the labor supply elasticity of these firms is not informative of the across-market elasticity because they may pay the minimum wage either before or after the labor demand shock. Table E.2 reports the IV results for each occupation. The implied coefficients are 1.5 for production workers and 0.92 for managers.

To replicate this regression in the model, we randomly assign markets to each municipality to approximate the number of markets that the average municipality has in the data while keeping a reasonable sample size of municipalities. Then, we simulate two periods, where the second period involves random productivity shocks at the municipality level from a standard log-normal distribution with $\sigma = 0.05$. Moreover, we restrict the sample of municipalities to those with a mean wage higher than 25 percent of the model minimum wage in both periods. Finally, we choose (θ_w, θ_m) to target the inverse labor supply elasticity γ that results from estimating the regression in Equation (17) with the simulated sample. We infer an across-market elasticity of 1.5 for production workers and 0.95 for managers.

Within-market substitutability (η_w, η_m). Lastly, we calibrate the within-market elasticity parameters, which are informative of the relationship between firms' wages and employment for the sub-sample of unconstrained firms in each market. In particular, the inverse labor supply curve in Equation (7) delivers the following equilibrium relationship between (log) wages and (log) employment:

$$\log(w_{ijo}^*) = \frac{1}{\eta_o} \log(n_{ijo}^*) + \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\theta_o} - \frac{1}{\eta_o} \right) \log(\mathbf{n}_{jo}(n_{ijo}^*, n_{-ijo}^*))}_{\text{Effect of payroll share on wages stems from } \mathbf{n}_{jo}} + \frac{1}{\theta_o} \log(\mathbf{N}_o) + \log(\mathbf{W}_o).$$

Common across firms in a market jo

Note that, conditional on common market features, all firms face the same labor supply elasticity η_o for each occupation. This occurs because the effect of the payroll share on

the labor supply elasticity shuts down when we control for market employment. We use this insight to obtain a theory-consistent estimate of the within-market elasticity for each occupation. In particular, the previous equation implies the following empirical reduced-form relationship for the inverse labor supply curve:

$$\log(w_{ijo,t}) = \beta_o \log(n_{ijo,t}) + \mu_{jo,t} + \nu_{ijo,t}, \quad (19)$$

where $\mu_{jo,t}$ stands for the market-year fixed effects that empirically control for common labor demand and supply shocks across firms in the same market year. Our coefficient of interest is β_o . In the model, conditional on the sub-sample of unconstrained firms, the OLS regression of Equation (19) separately for each occupation identifies the within-market elasticity as $\hat{\eta}_o = 1/\hat{\beta}_o$. This regression exploits the cross-sectional variation in employment and wages that uniquely stems from labor demand differences across firms in the same market while keeping their labor supply curve fixed. The intuition is as follows. Firms pay different wages and hire a different number of workers because they are heterogeneous in productivity. Increasing the productivity of a firm has two equilibrium effects. First, the labor demand curve shifts to the right because the marginal productivity rises. Second, the labor supply curve shifts to the right because the strategic complementarities from Cournot’s competition imply that competitors restrict employment. The coefficient β_o absorbs the first effect while market-fixed effects absorb the second effect.

In our baseline specification, we separately estimate Equation (19) by OLS for each occupation. Regarding the sample selection, we restrict to firms paying wages at least one percent higher than the minimum wage each year. This regression implies a within-market labor supply elasticity of 19.9 for production workers and 6.1 for managers (see Table E.3). In addition, since the error may capture firm-specific labor supply considerations that threat identification, we also provide the results from an IV regression that uses a traditional Bartik instrument to predict firms’ employment from national sector employment trends and initial shares (see Appendix E.2). This alternative specification provides similar results. Overall, we estimate that production workers are three times as responsive to changes in labor demand as managers.

4.2 Discussion on the Estimation of Labor Supply Elasticities

Given the importance of the firm-substitutability parameters in estimating wage markdowns, we provide additional evidence on mobility measures that support our findings and compare our estimates with the literature.

The main finding from our estimates is that production workers are significantly more responsive to exogenous labor demand changes than managers. This result is consistent with the empirical evidence of monopsony power over different worker types. [Bachmann et al. \(2022\)](#) find that the labor supply elasticity of workers performing non-routine cognitive tasks is lower than that of workers performing routine or non-routine tasks. [Langella and Manning \(2021\)](#) show that the quit rate is less responsive to wage changes at the top of the wage distribution. In addition, since the labor supply elasticity of production workers is higher, one would expect that they are also more mobile across markets and firms. Tables (A.4)-(A.5) report that production workers are more likely to change municipality and sector than managers. Production workers may be more mobile because they are younger ([Molloy et al., 2011](#); [Kennan and Walker, 2011](#); [Faberman et al., 2022](#)) and more likely to have temporary contracts ([Kahn, 2012](#)). The results from Tables (A.4)-(A.5) show that both factors largely contribute to the gap in the migration probability.

Comparing our estimates with the literature, we focus on the estimates from three papers that also estimate the firm-substitutability parameters using a general equilibrium model of oligopsony. [Berger et al. \(2022\)](#) estimate the firm-substitutability parameters using an indirect inference approach to replicate size-dependent labor supply elasticities at the firm level, which they estimate using U.S. microdata and exploiting changes in state corporate taxes. Abstracting from different occupations, they define the local labor market as the combination of a three-digit industry and a commuting zone. They estimate $\theta = 0.4$ and $\eta = 10.9$. [?](#) also estimates the firm substitutability parameters from U.S. microdata and exploits changes in state corporate taxes. However, they estimate skill-specific parameters and use a stochastic market definition that is a subset of 6-digit industries. For low-skilled workers, they estimate $\theta_L = 1.9$ and $\eta_L = 2.4$, and for high-skilled workers, they find $\theta_H = 2$ and $\eta_H = 2.5$. Using French data, [?](#) define a local labor market as the intersection between a commuting zone, three-digit industry, and occupation. Nonetheless, they assume

the firm-substitutability parameters to be common across occupations. They find an across-market elasticity $\theta = 0.4$ and industry-specific within-market elasticities that range within $\eta \in \{1.2, 4.1\}$. Despite using a different methodology, we find our estimates reasonably close to their results. Our estimates of the within-market elasticities are within the range of their results for managers but somewhat higher for production workers. We attribute this to Portuguese-specific factors such as the high rate of temporary contracts. Our estimates of the across-market elasticities are also within the range of their results. They are higher than [Berger et al. \(2022\)](#) and [?](#), which is consistent with Portuguese municipalities being smaller than U.S. and French commuting zones.¹⁰

4.3 Model Fit

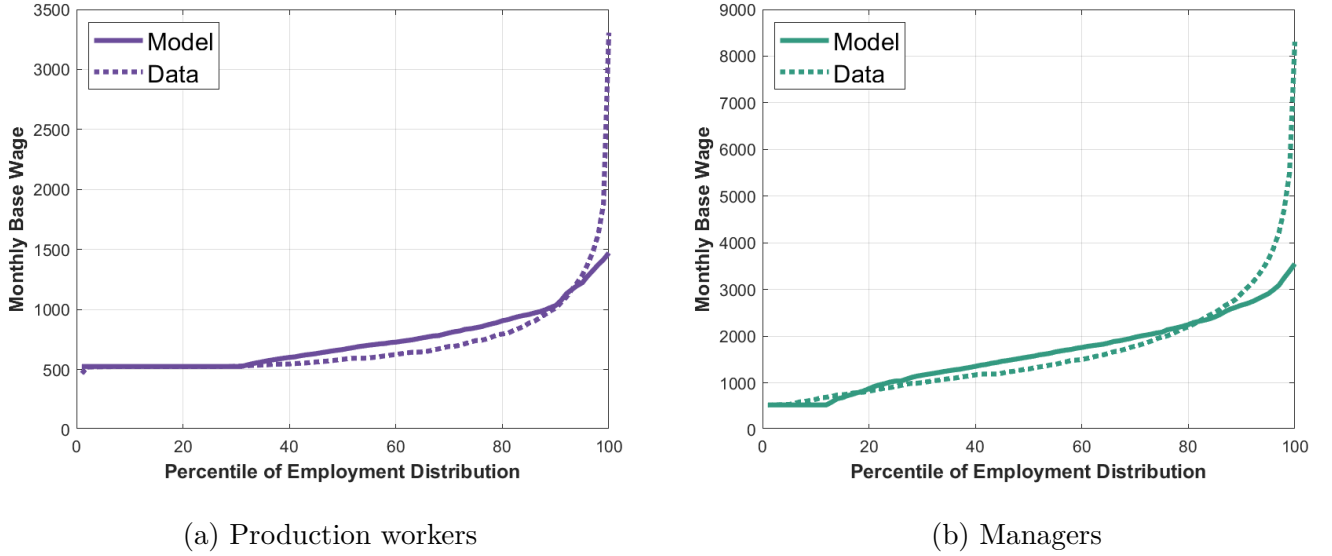
Before turning to the counterfactual analysis, we discuss how the model captures untargeted moments of employment, wages, firm organization, and market concentration. In addition, we exploit large mass-layoff shocks to assess the model’s generated employment and wage responses relative to the ones in the data.

Moments for the minimum wage. We start analyzing the wage distribution, which is key to quantifying wage dispersion and the repercussions of minimum wage policies. [Figure 4](#) displays the occupation wage distribution in the model and data. The model fits most of the wage distribution for both occupations. Importantly, it replicates the wage distribution at the bottom deciles. This is key because minimum wage policies primarily affect workers whose wage is close to the statutory minimum wage. Since we assume that workers are homogeneous in talent within occupations, the model underestimates wages in the upper deciles. However, minimum wage policies have little impact on these workers.

Panel A in [Table 4](#) displays how the model fits moments related to the share of workers whose wages are close to the minimum wage. The model somewhat overvalues the share of minimum wage earners for both occupations, but it reflects that managers are significantly less likely to earn the minimum wage than production workers. Moreover, the model gets

¹⁰Comparing mobility rates, nearly 10 percent of workers change municipality in Portugal yearly. Instead, the yearly migration rate across U.S. counties, subsets of commuting zones, ranges between 3 to 6 percent in the same period ([Molloy et al., 2011](#)).

Figure 4: Wage Distribution across Occupations



Note: The Figures show the wage distribution in the model and data for production workers (left) and managers (right).

right the share of workers in each occupation conditional on being a minimum wage earner. That is, the model matches that more than 90 percent of employees are production workers. Furthermore, the model matches that most production workers earn less than 30 percent of the minimum wage (700€), whereas this proportion falls to around 15 percent for managers. Hence, the model captures that minimum wage policies mainly affect production workers.

Moments of firm organization. The distribution of firm wages, the degree of firm substitutability, and local amenities determine the firm size distribution in the model. This distribution is essential to understanding the misallocation of labor across firms that results from high-productivity firms exerting wider markdowns. Panel B in Table 4 shows that the distribution in the model is somewhat similar to that of the data for production workers. Most firms are small and hire less than two employees, whereas a few firms are relatively large and hire more than 60 workers.

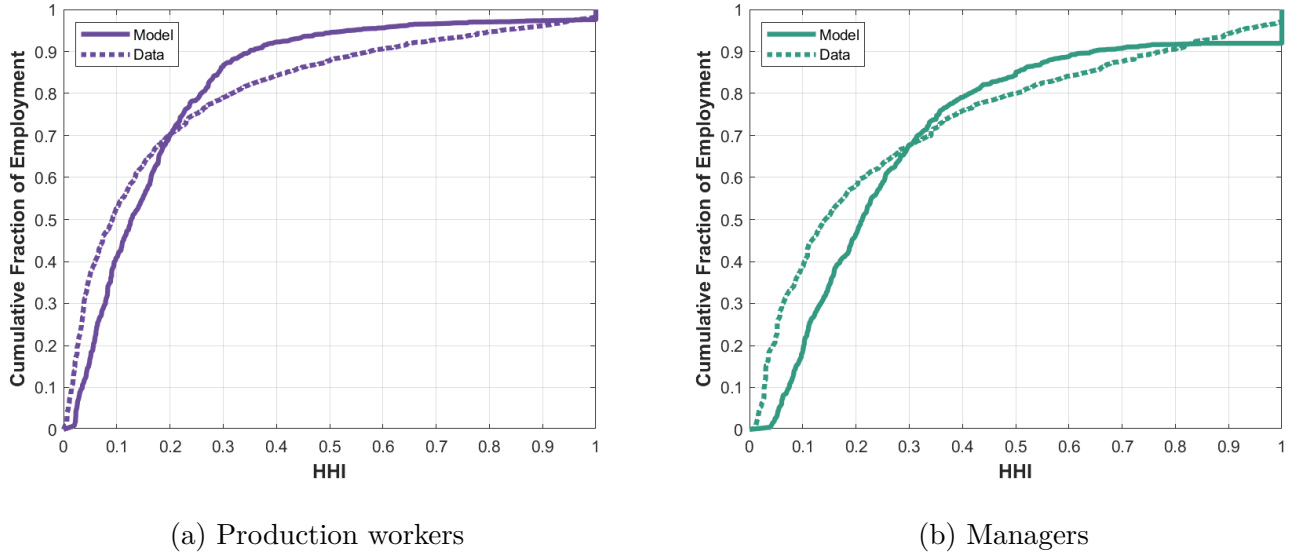
The share of multi-layer firms is key for explaining the differences in market concentration in the markets of production workers and managers, as it determines the relative number of competing firms across these markets. Panel C shows that one-third of firms hire managers in

Table 4: Untargeted Moments

	Production Workers		Managers	
	Model	Data	Model	Data
<i>Panel A: Minimum Wage</i>				
Share minimum wage earners	0.31	0.22	0.12	0.04
Share Minimum wage earner	0.91	0.96	0.09	0.04
Share wage ≤ 700	0.55	0.69	0.15	0.12
<i>Panel B: Firm Organization</i>				
Share multi-layer	0.33	0.33		
Share workers in multi-layer	0.36	0.43		
Share workers in multi-layer $\text{HHI}_j \leq 0.20$	0.31	0.37		
Share workers in multi-layer $\text{HHI}_j > 0.20$	0.49	0.55		
P25 firm size	1	1	2	1
P50 firm size	2	2	3	1
P90 firm size	14	9	9	5
P99 firm size	52	59	15	34
<i>Panel C: Market Concentration</i>				
Weighted mean HHI			0.29	0.27
Weighted mean Max s_{ij}	0.28	0.30	0.38	0.38

Note: The Table reports untargeted moments of the distributions of wages, firm organization, and market payroll concentration. For each occupation, we report the statistics from the data and baseline model.

Figure 5: Distribution of Employment across Markets



Note: The Figures show the cumulative fraction of employment across local labor markets ranked by their level of concentration in the model and data for production workers (left) and managers (right).

both the model and data. Moreover, these firms hire nearly 40 percent of production workers, which is also relevant because multi-layer firms are on average bigger and increase market concentration. The model can also explain our motivational fact relating the employment share of multi-layer firms to market concentration. In particular, the share of production workers employed in multi-layer firms is about 20 pp higher in relatively high-concentrated local labor markets. The model rationalizes this fact because the few firms that usually compete in these markets can attract many production workers and managers at relatively low wages due to the low degree of substitutability across markets. As a result, they produce at large scales and find managerial delegation profitable.

Moments of market concentration. Next, consider the distribution of employment across markets that differ in the level of payroll concentration, which is endogenous in the model due to the agents' labor demand and supply decisions. This distribution is fundamental to measuring the wage markdown of the average employee. Figure 5 shows that the model closely matches the distribution of employment across markets that differ in terms of the HHI. Two features stand out. First, the model rationalizes that most workers sort into a handful

of relatively low-concentrated labor markets. These markets attract most workers because they have many firms that pay higher wages due to the relatively high degree of competition. These markets are also more attractive for production workers because they have relatively higher local amenities. Second, managers are more likely to belong to a market with higher levels of concentration relative to production workers. This heterogeneity occurs because there is a higher proportion of managerial markets with higher concentration levels, and managers face higher across-market mobility costs, discouraging them from leaving markets that pay relatively low wages.

Lastly, consider how the model fits two statistics of market concentration. Panel C in Table 4 shows that the model replicates that the average manager works in a market with an HHI of around one-third; the same one would observe with three equally sized firms. In addition to aggregate concentration measures, the model establishes a direct relationship between a wage markdown and the firm’s market payroll share. As a result, the model needs to predict realistic payroll shares for the biggest firms. The last row in Panel C of Table 4 shows that the model captures that the average production worker works for a firm with nearly one-third of the market payroll, whereas the average manager works for a firm with about 40 percent of the market payroll.

Simulating mass-layoff shocks. Mass-layoff shocks are relevant to assess the performance of employment and wage equilibrium responses in the model. The model incorporates two main channels through which areas adjust to this shock: (i) outflows to non-employment and (ii) worker reallocation to other firms, either in the same or a different area. The empirical evidence suggests that most of the impact of mass-layoff shocks on regional employment depends on the degree of worker reallocation across regions (Foote et al., 2019; Gathmann et al., 2020).¹¹ Therefore, we use this simulation as a validation exercise of the across- and within-market firm substitutability estimates, which are the key drivers of the allocation of workers across and within markets.

¹¹These papers find that geographic mobility accounts for most of the regional employment change. For instance, Gathmann et al. (2020) finds that outflows to non-employment account for only 20 percent of the overall employment decline in German regions following a mass layoff. They also find that geographic mobility protects workers below 50 from suffering employment losses.

Table 5: Estimates of Mass Layoff Shocks on Municipalities

	Production Workers		Managers	
	Model	Data	Model	Data
<i>Panel A: Log Wages</i>				
Event Region	-0.006*** (0.001)	-0.007 (0.005)	-0.012*** (0.003)	-0.006 (0.010)
<i>Panel B: Log Employment</i>				
Event Region	-0.017*** (0.001)	-0.061*** (0.013)	-0.011** (0.005)	-0.040** (0.019)
Observations	200	3,084	200	3,084

Note: The Table reports the empirical (Data) and simulated (Model) results from exploiting mass-layoff shocks. For the Data, we show the average treatment effect of mass-layoff shocks on average municipality wages (Panel A) and total municipality employment (Panel B). The dependent variable is the log municipality's employment and wages. Standard errors are in parentheses.

Next, we show the results from this exercise and relegate the details of the methodology to the Appendix E.3. Table 5 reports the empirical and simulated results of the impact of mass-layoff shocks on average municipality wages and total municipality employment. Our empirical results show that municipalities with at least one mass-layoff event experience an average decrease of 6.1 percent in the local employment of production workers and 4 percent in the local employment of managers compared to municipalities without mass layoffs. We do not find a significant impact of mass layoffs on average municipality wages. These results align with Gathmann et al. (2020) for Germany, which find a drop of 3.7 percent in local employment and an insignificant response in wages following a mass layoff.

Regarding the results in the simulated data, the model reproduces that mass layoffs have a small effect on average municipality wages for production workers. For managers, the point estimate is twice more negative in the model, but it is in the range of the confidence interval of the data. In the model, wages decrease for two reasons. First, the shocked firm becomes less productive. Second, the non-affected firms also decrease wages because their employment share increase. At the same time, wages do not fall much due to the downward rigidity

in wages stemming from minimum wages. In terms of employment, the model accounts for nearly one-fourth of the decrease in employment of managers and production workers. Overall, the model explains a substantial portion of the observed employment decline. We attribute the residual to the lack of factors such as agglomeration economies, input-output linkages, or firm exit.

5 Implications of Monopsony Power

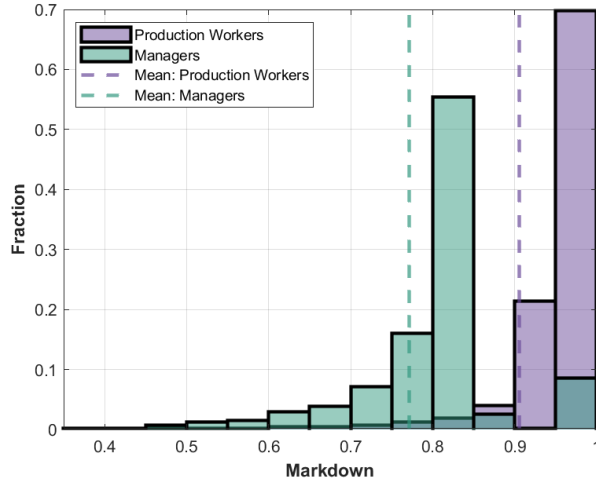
In this section, we quantify the distribution of wage markdowns for both occupations and the effect of monopsony power on wage dispersion, firm organization, and welfare. We estimate a markdown of 10.4 percent for the average production worker and 23.1 percent for the average manager. Relative to the efficient economy, monopsony power reduces the managerial wage premium by 11.8 percent and increases the share of multi-layer firms by 11.3 percent because it incentivizes less productive firms to delegate tasks to managers. Overall, monopsony power leads to a welfare loss of 5.7 and 23.1 percent for production workers and managers, respectively. Understanding firms' managerial delegation choices is crucial to explain the reallocation of managers towards more productive firms and accounts for 10 to 30 percent of the change in average market concentration in the efficient economy. Moreover, ignoring that monopsony power incentivizes delegation leads to overestimating the welfare loss of production workers and managers by 0.6 and 2.1 pp, respectively.

5.1 Measuring Monopsony Power

This section shows the distribution of wage markdowns across firms for production workers and managers. In the benchmark economy, wage markdowns are below one due to imperfect firm substitutability and firm granularity, implying that wages are below the marginal revenue product of labor. This wedge represents the efficiency loss from monopsony power, as workers would earn the entire marginal product in an efficient economy.

Figure 6 displays the distribution of wage markdowns for both occupations. We estimate an employment-weighted markdown of 10.4 percent over the wage of the average production worker and a markdown of 23.1 percent over the wage of the average manager. Therefore,

Figure 6: Distribution of Wage Markdowns



Note: The Figure plots the distribution of wage markdowns (μ_{ij}) across firms for production workers and managers. The wage markdown is the wedge between the wage and the marginal productivity of labor. Dashed lines display the weighted mean of each variable, where the weight of each firm is its employment size.

the interaction between monopsony power and firm organization reduces the wage dispersion between both occupations. There are three reasons for this fact. First, both the upper (η_o) and lower bounds (θ_o) of the structural elasticities are lower for managers. That is, we estimate that managers bear greater mobility costs of moving to a firm in another region or industry and greater mobility costs of changing firms within the same region-industry. Second, firms tend to have higher managers' payroll shares than production workers. Thus, the labor supply elasticity of managers is closer to the across-market elasticity than that of production workers. In other words, managers find it harder to reallocate toward other firms because more of their alternatives are outside of their current local market. Third, minimum wages mainly constrain low-productivity firms from exercising monopsony power. Thus, minimum wages are more likely to limit monopsony power over production workers, who tend to work at low-productivity firms. Relative to the efficient economy, this heterogeneity in wage markdowns implies a higher distortion in the allocation of managers across firms than production workers. For policy evaluation, this suggests that additional policies targeting the reduction of monopsony power among low-wage workers, such as an increase in the minimum wage, may not effectively mitigate the welfare losses from monopsony power.

5.2 Welfare and Efficiency Losses from Monopsony Power

We now study the effect of monopsony power on firm organization, wage dispersion, efficiency, and welfare. Moreover, we estimate the extent to which the impact of monopsony power on these outcomes is attributable to the endogenous organizational choices of firms. We compute the efficient allocation by setting wage markdowns to one, i.e., equalizing wages to the marginal product of labor for all firms. The left column in Table 6 summarizes the results by comparing the aggregate outcomes in the efficient relative to the benchmark economy.

Panel A in Table 6 shows the change in employment across occupations. When firms have monopsony power, they internalize that a higher level of employment also involves higher wages, i.e., they internalize an upward-sloping labor supply curve. Then, firms find it optimal to restrict employment relative to the efficient allocation to reduce labor costs. We find that employment would rise by 5.6 and 9.3 percent for production workers and managers in an efficient economy, respectively. Managers' employment response is higher because firms exert wider markdowns over their wages. Besides changes in aggregate employment, monopsony power also distorts labor allocation across firms because high-productivity firms restrict employment the most, as they set the widest markdowns. The top panels in Figure 7 show the reallocation of employees from less to more productive firms. We observe that firms in the top decile of productivity raise the number of production workers and managers by about 12 and 21 percent, respectively. The increase in employment and the reallocation of workers leads to an increase of 3.3 percent in aggregate output.

Regarding the impact of monopsony power on wages, the top panels in Figure 8 show how mean wages change across the firm productivity distribution. In an efficient economy, wages especially increase at high-productivity firms, which exert the widest markdowns. As a result, wage dispersion within occupations also increases. Since managers bear wider markdowns, the wage increase is greater for managers. In particular, Panel B shows that the mean wage of production workers and managers increase by 10 and 23 percent, respectively. As a result, dispersion in mean wages across occupations rises by 11.8 percent.

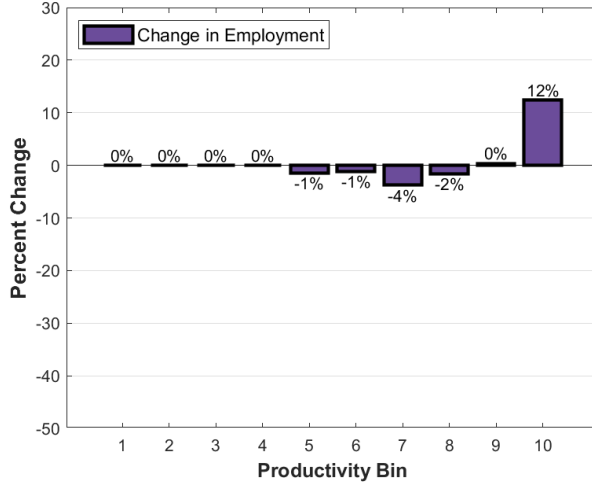
To understand why managerial employment and wages drop at middle-productivity firms, we need to analyze the effect of monopsony power on the internal organization of firms. Panel C shows, in line with the empirical evidence, that more firms adopt a multi-layer structure

Table 6: Change in Counterfactual Relative to Benchmark

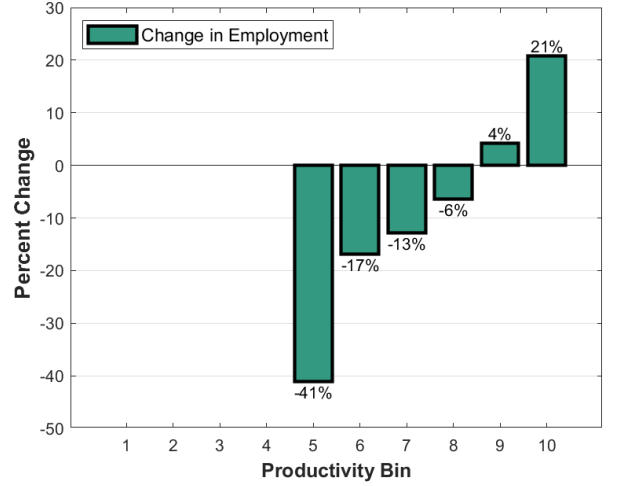
	Efficient Economy	Minimum Wage Reform
Panel A: Employment & Output	% Change	% Change
Production workers	5.57	-1.28
Managers	9.29	-0.99
Aggregate Employment	6.33	-1.21
Output	3.25	-0.04
Panel B: Wages		
Mean: Production workers	10.04	2.06
Mean: Managers	23.02	0.94
Ratio	11.79	-0.87
Panel C: Firm Organization		
Share multi-layer firms	-11.27	-0.56
Median span of control	-3.64	-0.48
Mean HHI: Production Workers	5.00	0.63
Mean HHI: Managers	7.95	0.07
Panel D: Welfare		
Welfare: Production workers	5.73	-0.72
Welfare: Managers	23.13	-0.01

Note: The Table reports the percent change in aggregate outcomes in the counterfactual relative to the benchmark economy. In the first column, the counterfactual consists of an efficient economy where wage markdowns equal one. In the second column, the counterfactual consists of an economy with a ten percent higher minimum wage than the benchmark economy.

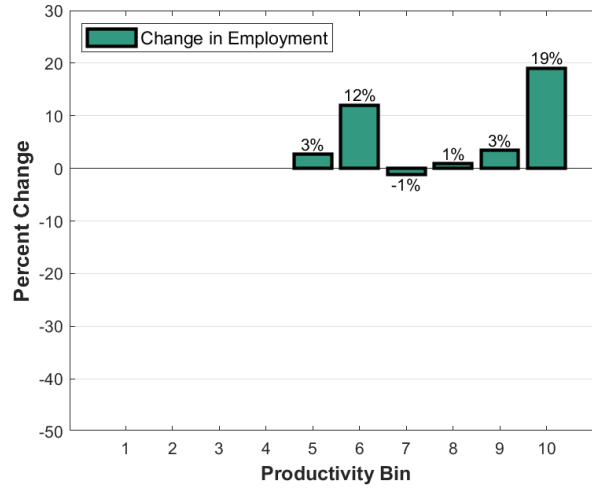
Figure 7: Effect of Monopsony Power on Employment Reallocation



(a) Production Workers



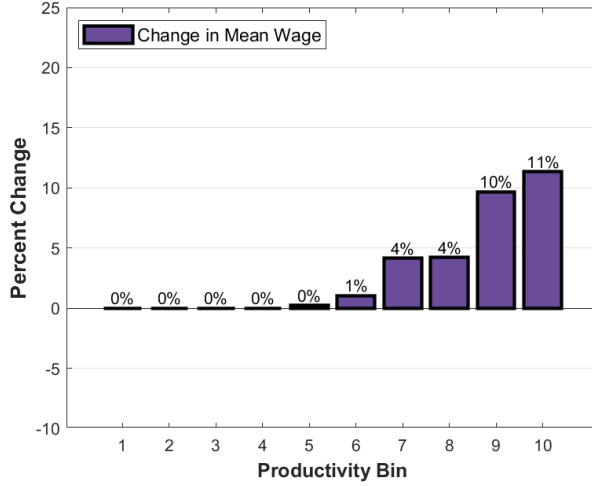
(b) Managers



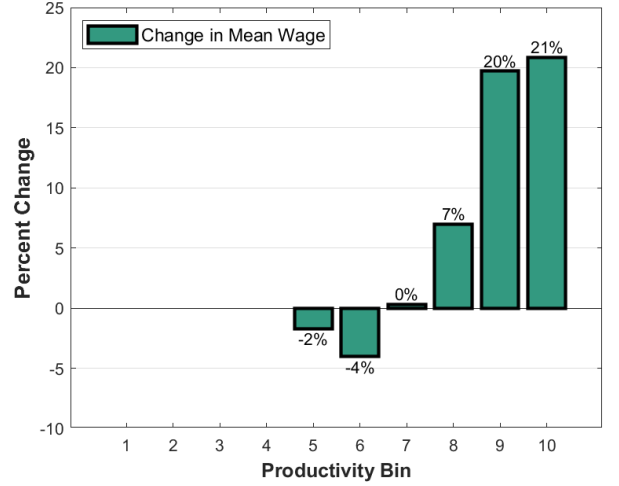
(c) Managers: Exogenous Delegation Choice

Note: The top panels in the Figure plot the percent change in employment of production workers (left) and managers (right) across firms in the efficient relative to the benchmark economy. The bottom panel shows the reallocation of managers in an efficient economy where firms exogenously keep the organizational structure of the benchmark economy. Both counterfactual simulations represent an efficient economy where wages are equal to the marginal product of labor. We classify firms into ten bins according to their productivity, where a higher bin implies higher productivity.

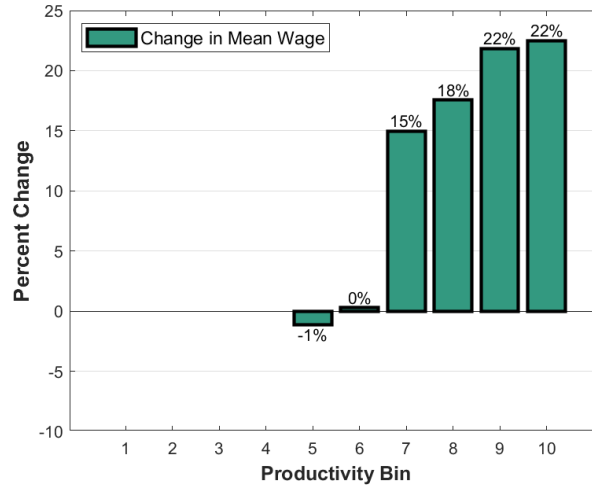
Figure 8: Effect of Monopsony Power on Wages



(a) Production Workers



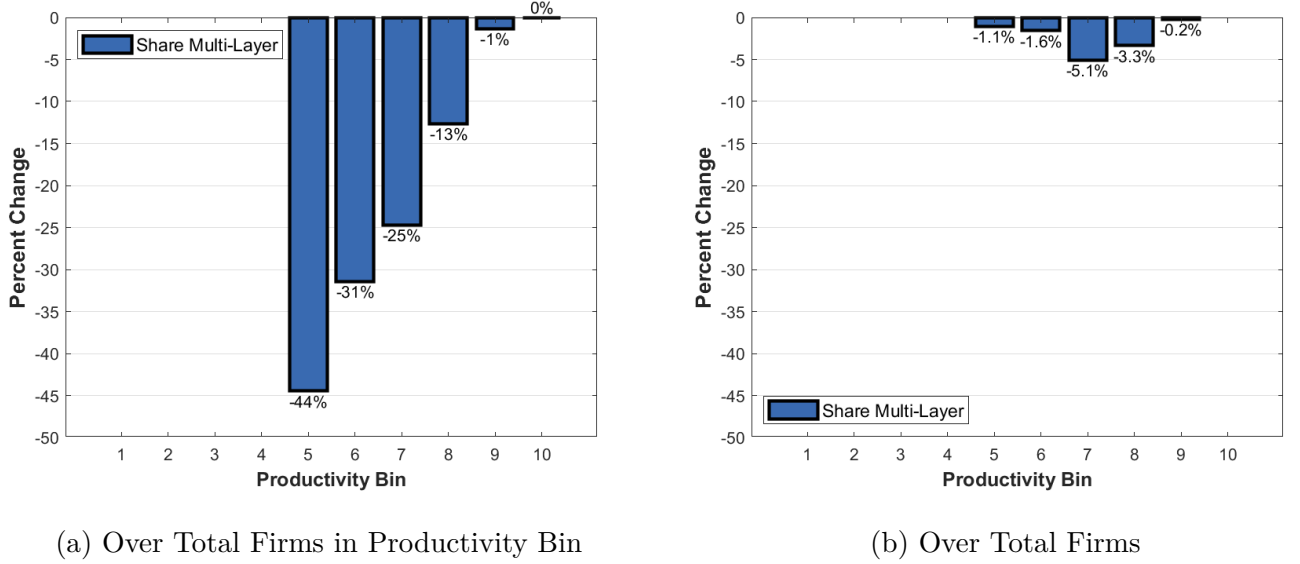
(b) Managers



(c) Managers: Exogenous Delegation Choice

Note: The top panels of the Figure plot the percent change in mean wages relative to the benchmark for production workers (left top) and managers (right top). The bottom panel shows the change in mean wages of managers in an efficient economy where firms exogenously keep the organizational structure of the benchmark economy. Both counterfactual simulations represent an efficient economy where wages are equal to the marginal product of labor. We classify firms into ten bins according to their productivity, where a higher bin implies higher productivity.

Figure 9: Share of Multi-layer Firms in the Efficient Relative to Benchmark Economy



Note: The Figure plots the percent change in the share of multi-layer firms, where we express the change as a fraction over the total number of firms (right) and over the total number of firms in the same productivity bin (left). The counterfactual simulation represents an efficient economy where wages are equal to the marginal product of labor. We classify firms into ten bins according to their productivity, where a higher bin implies higher productivity.

when they have monopsony power. In particular, we estimate that the proportion of firms that delegate to managers falls by 11.3 percent, from 33 to 29 percent of all firms. Furthermore, the share of multi-layer firms especially decreases at medium-productivity firms, as we observe in Figure 9. The reason is that monopsony power enables medium-productivity firms to attract employees at relatively low wages, incentivizing them to be multi-layer organizations. This result implies that managers at medium-productivity firms experience the most substantial decline in employment and even a decrease in wages. Notably, when we get rid of the effect of multi-layer firm exit on these outcomes, i.e., we analyze what happens to employment and wages in a counterfactual efficient economy where firms exogenously choose the benchmark organizational structure, we observe that managers at middle-productivity firms would get employment and wage gains due to the reallocation of production workers (see the bottom panels of Figure 7 and Figure 8). Regarding managers' span of control, we estimate that it decreases by almost 3.6 percent because firms increase their managerial workforce. We also find that the average HHI in the market of production workers and man-

agers increases by 5 and 7.9 percent, respectively, due to the reallocation of labor towards high-productivity firms and the decrease in the number of firms that hire managers.

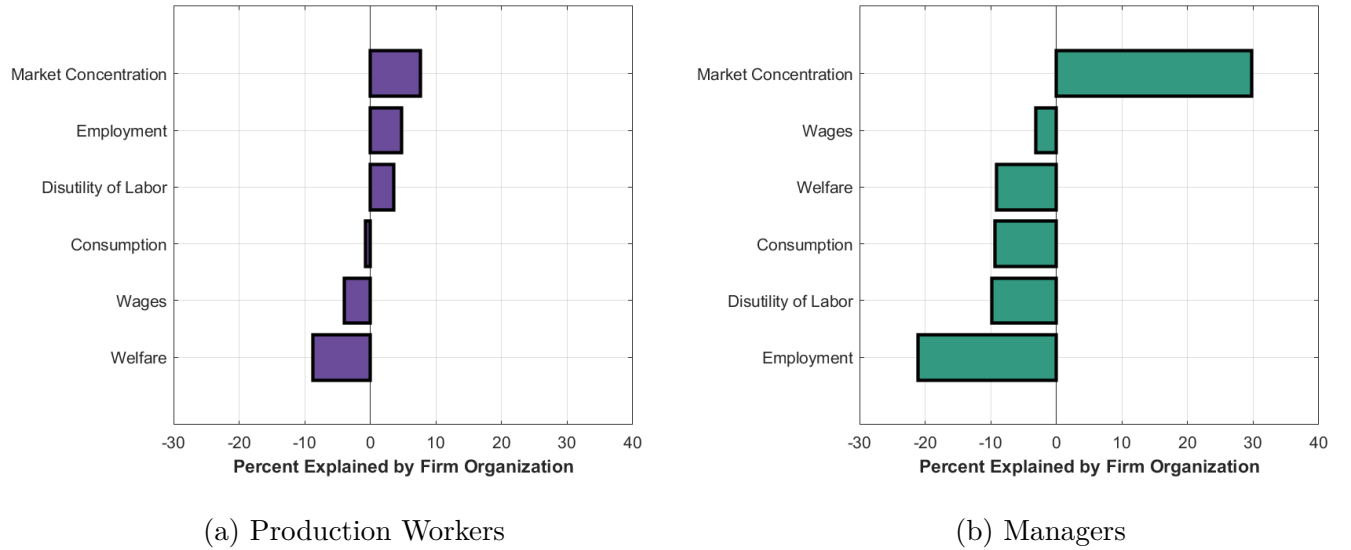
Panel D reports the welfare losses from monopsony power. The welfare gain in the efficient economy is substantially higher than the output gain because there is a redistribution channel that increases labor income at the expense of profits in addition to the efficiency gain. Measuring welfare as the consumption equivalent that would make households indifferent between the efficient and benchmark economy, we estimate that welfare increases by 5.7 and 23.1 percent for production workers and managers, respectively.

5.3 Firm organization channel

Our structural model allows us to quantify the extent to which changes in economic outcomes in the efficient economy stem from the endogenous organizational choices of firms. To isolate this channel, we simulate a counterfactual efficient economy where firms exogenously keep the same number of layers they choose in the benchmark economy. Then, we compute the change in each economic outcome between this counterfactual and the benchmark economy. This change is attributable to all the mechanisms included in the model except for the firm organization channel. Hence, we attribute to firm organizational choices the difference in the changes between the efficient counterfactual economy, where the layer structure is endogenous, and the efficient counterfactual economy, where this choice is exogenous. Figure 10 shows how much firm organization accounts for changes in the market structure and welfare of production workers and managers. Two results stand out.

First, the firm organization channel explains about 30 percent of the change in the average concentration level of managerial markets. In particular, the average HHI of managerial markets increases by 7.7 percent in the efficient economy. Out of this increase, 2.3 pp are attributable to delegation decisions. The reason is that the number of multi-layer firms decreases when firm organization is endogenous, further contributing to increased market concentration because fewer firms participate in managerial markets. Moreover, the firm organization channel also explains nearly 10 percent of the change in the average concentration level in production worker markets. This result stems from the technological reciprocity between worker types, which implies that organizational decisions also affect the distribution

Figure 10: Firm Organization Channel



Note: The Figures display how much the firm organization channel, i.e., the endogenous firms' choice of layers, accounts for the percent change between the efficient and benchmark economies in several outcomes of production workers (left) and managers (right). For instance, the endogenous organizational choice of firms explains about 30 percent of the change in the average level of payroll concentration in managerial markets between the efficient and benchmark economies.

of production workers across firms.

Second, ignoring firm organization contributes to overestimating the welfare gains of both worker types in the efficient economy by about 9.1 percent. Regarding the welfare of managers, we overestimate it by about 2.1 pp when the organization of firms is exogenous (25.2%) relative to endogenous (23.1%). That is, the endogenous organizational response of firms in an efficient economy reduces the welfare of managers. Since fewer firms adopt a multi-layer structure in an efficient economy, the demand for managers falls, and so does their consumption level. Moreover, their disutility of labor decreases because their aggregate labor supply falls. Regarding the welfare of production workers, we overestimate it by 0.6 percentage points when the organization of firms is exogenous (6.3%) relative to endogenous (5.7%). In this case, almost the entire negative effect of firm organization on production workers' welfare stems from an increase in their disutility of labor supply, as the decrease in the share of multi-layer firms also induces the reallocation of some production workers.

Overall, we show the impact of monopsony power on firm organization, efficiency, and welfare in the Portuguese economy. Regarding the importance of the firm organization channel, we emphasize that it is informative of the impact of monopsony power on employment at middle-productivity firms, welfare, and the market structure. Regarding the policies that aim to reduce the welfare losses from monopsony power, our results point out that the success of these policies especially relies on their ability to reduce the markdowns over managerial wages. In the following section, we assess the effectiveness of Portuguese minimum wage policies in reducing the monopsony power of firms.

6 Minimum Wage Policies

Among other reasons, minimum wage policies aim to improve the well-being of low-income workers by reducing the wage-setting power of firms. In this section, we find that recent raises in the statutory Portuguese minimum wage lower overall welfare. Thus, we analyze occupation-based minimum wages as an alternative. Increasing only the minimum wage for managers gives them up to a 0.5 percent welfare gain but slightly decreases production workers' welfare. We also compute the optimal combination of occupation-based minimum wages that generates a Pareto improvement relative to the benchmark economy. We find that this policy brings about a welfare gain of 0.3 and 0.2 for production workers and managers, respectively. Thus, this optimal policy recovers 5.3 and 0.9 percent of their welfare losses from monopsony power, respectively.

6.1 Minimum Wage Reforms Implemented in Portugal

Raising the minimum wage mitigates monopsony power in a firm by inducing this firm to increase employment and wages as long as there is a wedge between wages and the marginal revenue product of labor. We assess whether the Portuguese reforms that raised the real minimum wage by ten percent between 2016 and 2019 were effective in mitigating monopsony power.¹² We focus on this period because it involves a meaningful and permanent minimum

¹²In nominal terms, the Portuguese minimum wage increased from 530€ to 600€. Adjusting for the CPI, where we set the base year to 2010, it implies an increase of 10 percent from 525€ to 578€. For more information, see: <https://www.dgert.gov.pt/evolucao-da-remuneracao-minima-mensal-garantida-rmmg>.

wage increase, and it coincides right after our calibration period and before the COVID-19 crisis. The rightmost column in Table 6 reports the percent change in aggregate outcomes in the minimum wage counterfactual relative to the benchmark economy.

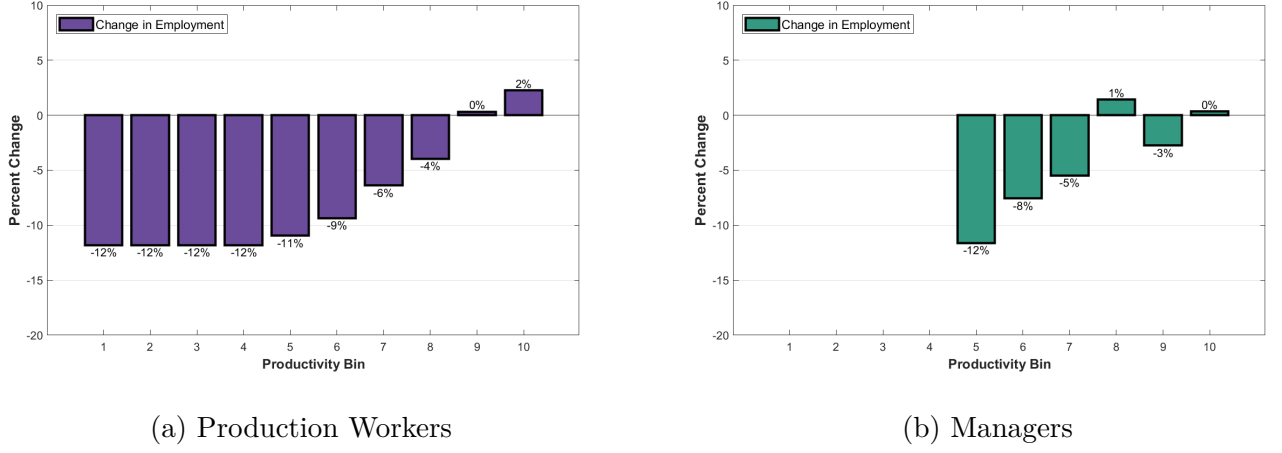
Panel A in Table 6 shows that the increase in the minimum wage reduces aggregate employment by about 1.3 percent. Although employment falls for both occupations, the employment decline is larger for production workers, who are more likely to work at firms that exert narrow markdowns and pay low wages. The negative effect on employment does not generate large efficiency losses, as output almost remains unchanged. The reason is that the minimum wage increase also induces workers to relocate to high-productivity firms, reducing the misallocation of labor. There is a reallocation effect because the rise in the minimum wage leads to employment losses at less productive firms, part of which relocates to more productive firms. Figure 11 shows the reallocation of both worker types towards high-productivity firms. Note that even a slight employment increase at high-productivity firms crowds out most of the employment drop at low-productivity firms, as high-productivity firms account for most of aggregate employment (see Figure A.7).

Regarding the impact of the minimum wage increase on wages, Figure 12 shows that it increases wages at low-productivity firms, which have to pay higher wages. In contrast, when labor relocates towards high-productivity firms, it increases labor supply in those firms, leading to downward pressure on wages. As a result, wage dispersion decreases within occupations. Since the wage change is more intense for production workers, wage dispersion also decreases across occupations. In particular, Panel B shows that the minimum wage reform reduces mean wage dispersion across occupations by 0.9 percent. Lastly, we estimate the own-wage employment elasticity by occupations to find that for production workers, it is -0.6, and for managers, it is -1.05.¹³ These elasticities are in the range of other estimates from the minimum wage literature (Dube, 2019).

Next, Panel C reports the effect on firm organization, which is a novel mechanism in our model. We estimate a decrease of almost 0.6 percent in the share of multi-layer firms. Figure 13 shows that this happens mostly at medium productivity bins, even though managers in these firms earn wages well above the baseline minimum wage (see Figure A.8). The higher

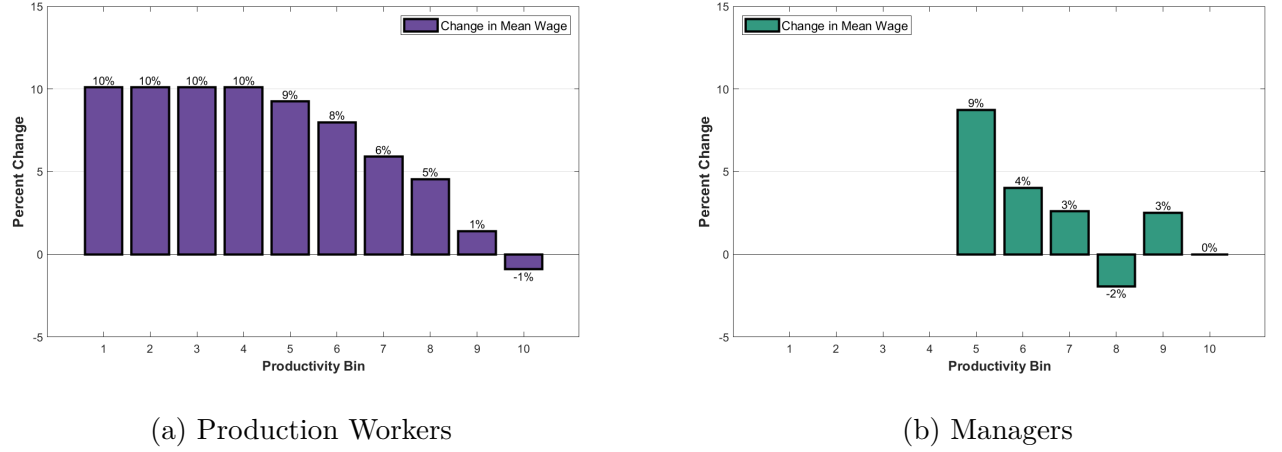
¹³We estimate the elasticity as $OWE_o = \frac{\% \Delta Employment_o}{\% \Delta Minimum Wage} * \frac{\% \Delta Mean Wage_o}{\% \Delta Minimum Wage}^{-1}$.

Figure 11: Effect of the Minimum Wage Reform on Employment Reallocation



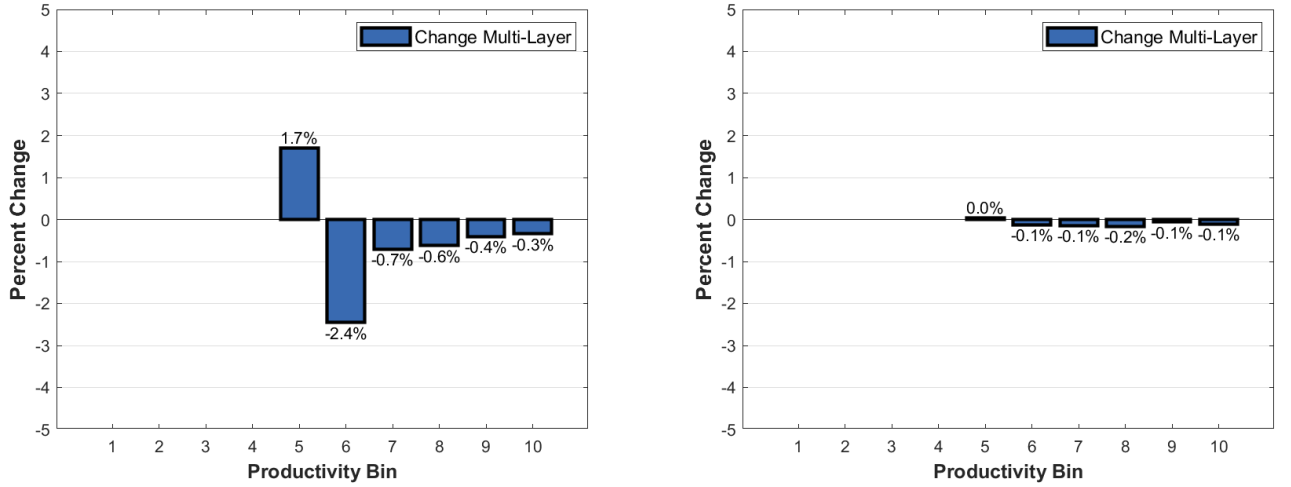
Note: The Figure plots the percent change in employment of production workers (left) and managers (right) across firms in the minimum wage counterfactual relative to the benchmark economy. In the counterfactual economy, the minimum wage is ten percent higher than in the benchmark. We classify firms into ten bins according to their productivity, where a higher bin implies higher productivity.

Figure 12: Effect of the Minimum Wage Reform on Wages



Note: The Figure plots the percent change in mean wages of production workers (left) and managers (right) across firms in the minimum wage counterfactual relative to the benchmark economy. In the counterfactual economy, the minimum wage is ten percent higher than in the benchmark. We classify firms into ten bins according to their productivity, where a higher bin implies higher productivity.

Figure 13: Effect of the Minimum Wage Reform on the Share of Multi-layer Firms



(a) Over Total Firms in Productivity Bin

(b) Over Total Firms

Note: The Figure plots the percent change in the share of multi-layer firms, where we compare the change over the total number of firms (right) and the total number of firms in the same productivity bin (left).

minimum wage makes their production workers, who earn wages close to the minimum wage, more expensive. Therefore, they have incentives to reduce their workforce and, consequently, the number of layers because a multi-layer organization primarily provides advantages when producing at large scales. The median span of control of managers decreases by 0.5 percent because the cost of production workers relative to managers increases. Regarding the effect on the market structure, the reform induces an increase in market concentration for both occupations due to the reallocation effect and the drop of the managerial layer of firms.

Lastly, consider the effect of the minimum wage increase on welfare in Panel D. It reduces the welfare of production workers by 0.7 percent. Despite a slight increase in consumption, welfare decreases because the reform induces a reallocation of labor across firms that significantly raises their disutility of labor supply. We interpret this last finding as a situation wherein the reallocation of labor across firms involves substantial search costs, increases commuting costs, and diminishes the idiosyncratic taste of production workers toward firms, all in an effort for workers to remain employed. Regarding the effect on managers, raising

the minimum wage decreases the demand for managers in less productive firms, whose share of multi-layer firms drops. Still, it increases the demand for managers in more productive firms due to worker reallocation. Overall, managers' welfare remains constant as both effects cancel out.

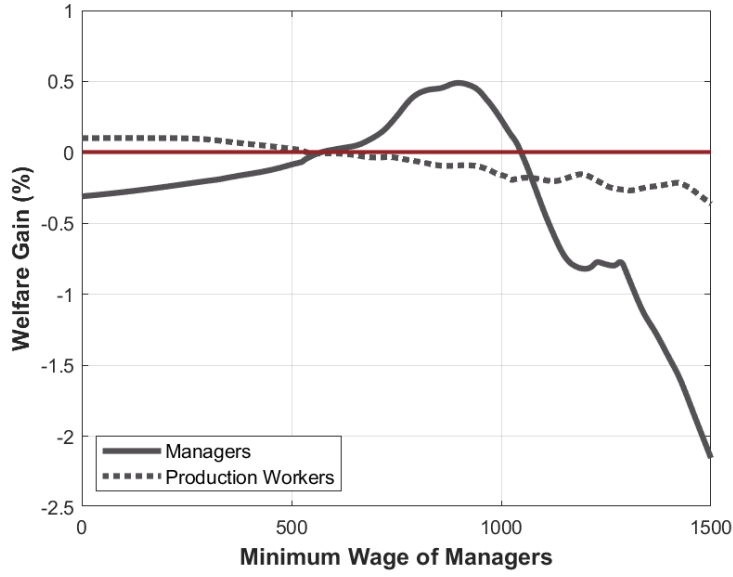
6.2 Occupation-based Minimum Wage

The heterogeneity in the distribution of wage markdowns across occupations suggests that designing a minimum wage for each occupation could be more effective at tackling the welfare losses from monopsony power. Distinct minimum wages across occupations exist in Australia and many European countries.¹⁴ Thus, it is natural to ask whether a different minimum wage for managers would improve upon the implemented Portuguese minimum wage, as managers tend to earn wages above the minimum wage and bear wider markdowns than production workers. For this reason, we simulate different scenarios where we set a specific minimum wage for managers while keeping the benchmark minimum wage for production workers. Figure 14 depicts the welfare change of production workers and managers in each counterfactual relative to the benchmark.

We find that the welfare of managers is hump-shaped relative to a manager-specific minimum wage. As this minimum wage increases, the negative employment effects become more predominant and offset the wage gains. We calculate that the welfare gain of managers attains its maximum at 0.5 percent when their minimum wage equals 56 percent of the mean managerial wage (900€). Regarding production workers, their welfare level is decreasing in the minimum wage of managers mainly due to a consumption drop. Raising the minimum wage of managers diminishes the consumption level of production workers, as firing managers decreases the marginal productivity of the incumbent production workers and incentivizes firms to fire production workers. Hence, only adjusting the manager-specific minimum wage

¹⁴Under the Modern Awards system, the Australian government implements statutory minimum wages that are occupation-based. Moreover, collective agreements that set distinct wage floors across occupations in an industry are common in European countries such as Italy ([Adamopoulou et al., 2023](#)), France ([Fougère et al., 2018](#)), Belgium, Sweden ([International Labour Organization, 2023](#)), and Portugal. However, Portuguese workers typically earn significant wage premiums over their wage floor ([Card and Cardoso, 2022](#)), indicating that wage bargaining is not effective in preventing firm-wage setting power for most employees.

Figure 14: Welfare Effect of Occupation-based Minimum Wage



Note: The Figure plots the percent change in the welfare of both managers and production workers in the counterfactual where the minimum wage of managers changes relative to the benchmark economy. We keep the benchmark minimum wage for production workers.

increases welfare inequality between occupations.

Lastly, we compute the optimal combination of occupation-based minimum wages that generate a Pareto improvement relative to the benchmark economy. We find that this combination of occupation-based minimum wages provides a welfare gain relative to the benchmark of 0.3 percent for production workers and 0.2 percent for managers when the minimum wage of production workers is about 63 percent of their mean wage (460€) and the minimum wage of managers is about 50 percent of their mean wage (790€). That is, there is no other combination of occupation-based minimum wages that can make one worker type better off without making the other worker type worse off. Our results show that occupation-minimum wages improve upon uniform minimum wages. However, optimal occupation-based minimum wage policy only mitigates 5.3 and 0.9 percent of the production workers' and managers' welfare loss from monopsony power, respectively.

7 Conclusion

Using a model where firms organize production in hierarchies, we show that the heterogeneity in monopsony power between managers and production workers matters for understanding the welfare effects of monopsony power across worker types and the optimal design of minimum wage policies. We estimate that firms exert a 23.1 and 10.6 percent wage markdown over the average manager and production worker, respectively. As a result, managers and production workers experience a 23.1 and 5.7 percent welfare loss from monopsony power, respectively. We also find that monopsony power incentivizes managerial delegation, especially in medium-productivity firms. Thus, ignoring the endogenous delegation choices of firms leads to overestimating these welfare losses by 0.6 and 2.1 pp. Finally, we study the implication for the design of minimum wages to address the welfare losses from monopsony power. We find that moving to an optimal occupation-based minimum wage provides welfare gains for both worker types relative to the benchmark but recovers less than 5 percent of the welfare losses from monopsony power.

We consider two valuable extensions for future research. We believe market concentration and mobility costs may also show a systematic relationship with other market characteristics. For instance, the skill level required in the job, workers' age, or whether the market is formal or not in developing countries. Regarding the model specification, future model extensions may consider worker heterogeneity in productivity and across-occupation mobility.

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