

Concentration and Foreign Sourcing in the U.S. Retail Sector

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Disclaimer: Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. All results have been reviewed to ensure that no confidential information is disclosed.

Motivation

Changes in the aggregate structure of retail

- Increasing national concentration
- Growth of Walmart, Target, etc.
- Exit of small firms
- Effect on consumers?

Motivation

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Retail markets are local

- Negative effects of concentration operate through local markets
- What does the increase in national concentration imply for local markets?

Question

What has happened to local retail concentration?

- National concentration contains no information on local concentration
- New data showing local concentration increasing

And why has it changed?

- Potential Cause: Globalization
- Can cause expansion of large retailers and exits of small ones
- Increasing foreign sourcing coincides with aggregate changes
 - Clothing, electronics, furniture all produced abroad
- Walmart and Target are major direct importers
 - Small retail firms rarely import
- Large retailers have lower costs on foreign goods (Holmes and Singer, 2018; Ganapati, 2018)

Literature Review

- **Retail Concentration** - Rossi-Hansberg, Sarte, Trachter (2018); Autor, Dorn, Katz, Patterson, Van Reenan (2017), Hortascu and Syverson (2015)
- **Effect of Globalization on the U.S. Economy** - Autor, Dorn, Hanson (2013), Jaravel and Sager (2018), Pierce and Schott (2016); Amiti, Dai, Feenstra, Romalis (2017)
- **Exit of small retailers** - Basker (2006); Jia (2008); Haltiwanger, Jarmin, Krizan (2010), Holmes (2010); Arcidiacono, Bayer, Blevins, Ellickson (2016)

Roadmap

Data

Changing Local Markets

Dynamic Structural Entry Model

Store-level Sales Data

- Census of Retail Trade (CRT)
- 1982-2007 - Years ending in 2 and 7
- Location - Zip Code (aggregate to [commuting zone](#))
- Sales by 20 departments (clothing, groceries, etc.)

Trade Data

- Source: Longitudinal Foreign Trade and Transactions Database
- Value, Product Code (Harmonized System), Source Country, Importing firm
- Match harmonized system codes to departments [Details](#)
- Focus on imports from China

| Fraction of Sales Imported | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1992 | 1997 | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 |
| All Countries | 1.9 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 5.1 | 6.8 |
| China | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 4.4 |

Notes: LFTTD micro data

Roadmap

Data

Changing Local Markets

Dynamic Structural Entry Model

Measuring Concentration

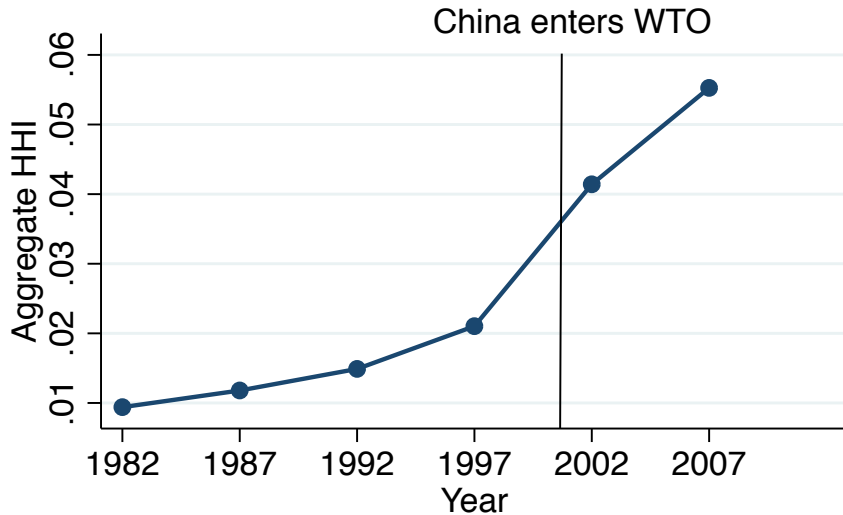
Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

$$HHI^j = \sum_{k=1}^K \left(s_k^j\right)^2 \quad s_k^j : \text{Sales share of firm } k \text{ in department } j$$

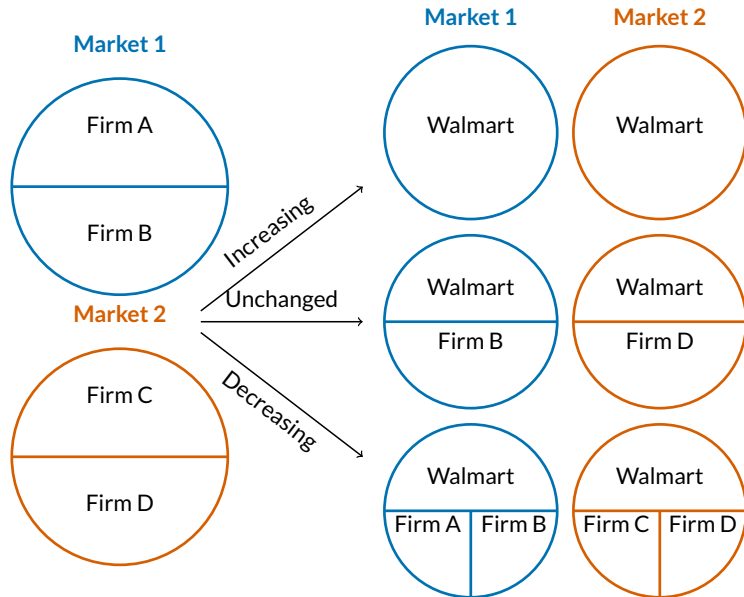
What does the HHI mean?

- Probability two random dollars are spent at the same store

National Retail Concentration



Example: National vs Local Concentration



National HHI Driven by Rise of National Firms

Consider two random dollars x and y spent at retailers.
What is the probability they are spent at the same firm?

$$HHI^N = \underbrace{P(m_x = m_y)}_{\text{Collocation}} \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x = m_y)}_{\text{Local HHI}} + (1 - P(m_x = m_y)) \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x \neq m_y)}_{\text{Cross Market}}$$

- m_x - market of dollar x
- i_x - firm of dollar x

National HHI Driven by Rise of National Firms

Consider two random dollars x and y spent at retailers.

What is the probability they are spent at the same firm?

$$HHI^N = \underbrace{.02}_{\text{Collocation}} \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x = m_y)}_{\text{Local HHI}} + .98 \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x \neq m_y)}_{\text{Cross Market}}$$

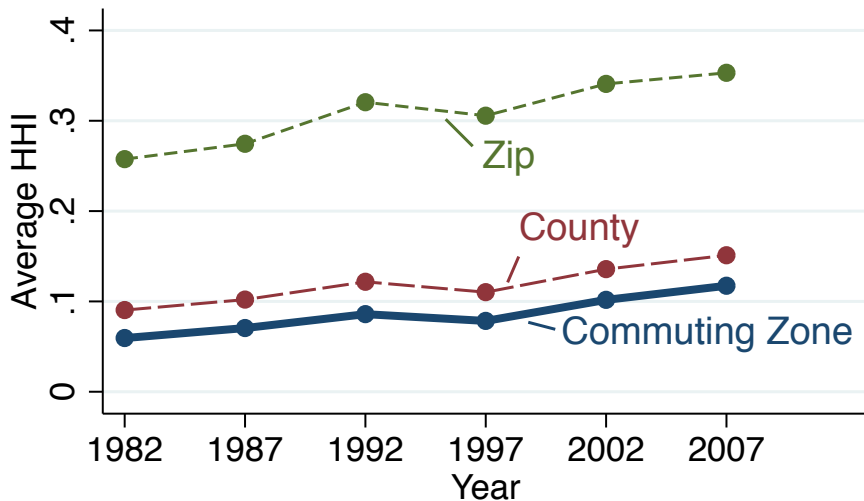
Collocation term is less than 2 percent

- Aggregate index contains little information on local concentration

Increase in national HHI reflects increasing cross market concentration

- **Consumers in different markets shop at the same firms**

Local Concentration



Exit of Small Stores and Expansion of National Firms

Between 1997 and 2007

- Number of small stores decreases by 7 percent
- Number of stores of large firms increases by 40k
- Number of large firms constant (~ 300)
- Markets per large firm increased by 25 percent (114 to 145)

Exit of Small Stores and Expansion of National Firms

Between 1997 and 2007

- Number of small stores decreases by 7 percent
- Number of stores of large firms increases by 40k
- Number of large firms constant (~ 300)
- Markets per large firm increased by 25 percent (114 to 145)

What is the role of direct imports?

Roadmap

Data

Changing Local Markets

Dynamic Structural Entry Model

Model Overview

- Follow Arcidiacono, Bayer, Blevins, and Ellickson (Restud, 2016)
 - Dynamic continuous time model of entry and exit
 - Random move opportunities (rate λ) allow for counterfactuals with large state space
 - Multiple types of stores
 - Local manager assumption
- My Additions
 - Four types of firms: Single-unit, small chain, large, general merchandiser
 - Direct imports as market level state

Markets

- Many markets $m \in \{1, 2, \dots, M\}$
- Population (S)
- Permanent observed type (population growth rate) - c
- Permanent unobserved type - z

State of a Market

$$x = (N^{SU}, N^C, N^L, N^{GM}, d, S, c, z)$$

- Number of stores of each type (N^{SU}, N^C, N^L, N^{GM})
- Direct import penetration (d)
- Population (S)
- Fixed market characteristics (c, z)
- All states are discrete

Direct Imports

- Direct imports are a market (not firm) level state:
 - Fraction of sales in market imported
- Evolution:
 - Flexible function of other states $F(d'|x)$
 - Entry of large stores increases probability state increases

Flow Profits

Flow profits of a firm of type $t \in \{\text{Single-unit, small Chain}\}$

$$\pi(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_S \tilde{N}^S + \beta_C \tilde{N}^C + \beta_L N^L + \beta_{GM} N^{GM} + \beta_d d + \beta_S S \\ + \beta_T (\tilde{N}^S)^2 + \beta_z z N^S$$

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| β_0, β_S | Total Market Demand (function of population) |
| $\beta_{SU} - \beta_{GM}$ | Loss in profits due to competitors |
| β_d | Competition from import exposure |
| β_T | Returns to scale - small stores can share suppliers |
| β_z | Effect of own stores varies with unobserved type |

Value Function

$$(\lambda + \rho)V(x) = \pi(x) + \underbrace{\sum_{j \in \{d, u\}} q_j(c)(V(I(S, j, k)) - V(x))}_{\text{Value if population changes}} + \underbrace{\sum_{d' \in D} F(d'|x)(V(I(d, j, k)) - V(x))}_{\text{Value if imports change}}$$

- ρ : Discount rate
- $q_j(c)$: Population moves
- $F(d'|x)$: Imports move
- λ : move arrival rate

Value Function

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\lambda + \rho)V(x) = & \pi(x) + \sum_{j \in \{d, u\}} q_j(c)(V(l(S, j, k) - V(x)) \\
 & + \sum_{d' \in D} F(d'|x)(V(l(d, j, k) - V(x)) \\
 & + \underbrace{\sum_{h \in \{S, C, L, GM\}} \lambda N^h \sigma_{exit}^h (V(l(h, exit, x) - V(x))}_{\text{Value if competitors enter}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\sum_{h \in \{S, C, L, GM\}} \lambda \mathcal{E}^h \sigma_{enter}^h (V(l(h, enter, x) - V(x))}_{\text{Value if competitors exit}}
 \end{aligned}$$

σ_j^h - probability store type h make decision j , \mathcal{E}^h - potential entrants of type h

Value Function

$$\begin{aligned}(\lambda + \rho)V(x) = & \pi(x) + \sum_{j \in \{d,u\}} q_j(c)(V(I(S,j,k) - V(x)) \\ & + \sum_{d' \in D} F(d'|x)(V(I(d,j,k) - V(x)) \\ & + \sum_{h \in \{S,C,L,GM\}} \lambda N^h \sigma_{exit}^h (V(I(h, exit, x) - V(x)) \\ & + \sum_{h \in \{S,C,L,GM\}} \lambda \mathcal{E}^h \sigma_{enter}^h (V(I(h, enter, x) - V(x)) \\ & + \underbrace{\lambda E \max\{V(x) + \varepsilon_{stay}, \varepsilon_{exit}\}}_{\text{Value if player } i \text{ moves}}\end{aligned}$$

Choice Probabilities

All Firms

- ε_j : Unobserved (to econometrician) profit shock of decision $j \in \{enter, exit, stay\}$

Potential Entrants: Probability a store enters

$$\sigma_{enter}^h(x) = \frac{\exp(V^h(I(h, enter, x)) - f^h(z))}{\exp(V^h(I(h, enter, x)) - f^h(z)) + 1} \quad h \in \{S, C\}$$

- $f^h(z)$: sunk cost of entry

Incumbents: Probability a store exits

$$\sigma_{exit}^h(x) = \frac{1}{\exp(V^h(x)) + 1} \quad h \in \{S, C\}$$

(Value of exit is normalized to 0)

Data

- Longitudinal Business Database
 - Yearly data on industry and employment for all stores
 - 1997 to 2007
 - Stores with more than 5 employees
 - > 90% of sales
 - Two-thirds of stores
 - Much smaller state space
- Yearly imports assigned to a market
- Markets with population under 100k (219 markets)
 - One store per firm
- Focus on clothing and electronics (Clothing results today)

Summary Statistics

| Avg. Number | 1997 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| Single-Unit | 2.74 | 1.96 |
| Small Chains | 1.04 | 0.69 |
| Large Firms | 2.68 | 2.99 |
| General Merchandisers | 6.45 | 8.08 |
| Imports | 1.07 | 3.45 |

- Number of stores of small firms decreases by 30 percent
- Increase in imports corresponds to a 3 percent increase in direct import penetration

Results - Structural Profit Parameters (Clothing)

| | SU | C |
|--|--------|--------|
| Constant (β_0) | -16.87 | -13.44 |
| Number of Single-Unit Stores (β_{SU}) | 1.01 | -0.19 |
| Number of Small-Chain Stores (β_C) | -0.25 | 1.97 |
| Number of Large Stores (β_L) | 0.02 | -0.19 |
| Number of GM Stores (β_{GM}) | -0.28 | -0.06 |
| Direct Import Penetration (β_d) | -0.57 | -0.08 |
| Population (β_S) | 0.53 | 0.08 |
| Number of own type squared (β_T) | -0.07 | -0.14 |
| Unobserved state \times number of own type (β_z) | -0.12 | -0.23 |
| Entry cost (f) | 2.01 | 6.43 |
| Entry cost \times unobserved state | 0.06 | -2.96 |

Counterfactual - Local Markets without Direct Imports

Shutdown direct effect on small stores ($\beta_d = 0$)

- Higher profits for small stores
- Less entry from large stores (more competition from small stores)

Simulate markets for 10 years

- Number of stores of each type
- Local concentration - average sales of each type of store

Behavior of Large Stores

Lower bound on the effect of direct imports on exit of small stores

- Keep entry behavior of large firms unchanged
- Focus on competitive effect of imports on small stores
- Retain competition from large firms

Counterfactual doesn't capture

- Response of large firms to higher entry probability of small firms
- Response of large firms to no direct imports

Counterfactual Results

| | No Unobserved Heterogeneity | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| | Single Unit | Small Chain | Large | GM | Average HHI | Share Large |
| Trade | 3.2 | 2.6 | 9.5 | 6.1 | 0.08 | 0.73 |
| No Trade | 3.5 | 2.7 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 0.08 | 0.71 |

Results

- Number of small stores decreases by 4 percent
- Imports account for **at least** 14 percent of the exit of small firms
- No effect on concentration (preliminary)

Conclusion

- New data on retail competition
- Local retail concentration increasing
- Direct imports important explanation of exit of small firms
- Suggest direct imports benefit consumers

Roadmap

Appendix

Exit of small firms and trade

Intro Backup

Data Appendix

Reduced Form Backup

Estimation Backup

Roadmap

Appendix

Exit of small firms and trade

- Intro Backup

- Data Appendix

- Reduced Form Backup

- Estimation Backup

Do Direct Imports Cause the Exit of Small Firms?

- Number of stores by small firms decreasing significantly
- Direct imports from China increasing rapidly after 2002

| Fraction of Sales Imported | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1992 | 1997 | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 |
| All Countries | 1.9 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 5.1 | 6.8 |
| China | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 4.4 |

Notes: LFTTD micro data

Imports and the Exit of Small Firms

$$E_{im}^{2002-2007} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007} + X_{im} \Gamma' + \varepsilon_{im}$$

- i - store, m - market (commuting zone)
- $E_{im}^{2002-2007}$ - indicator that a store exits before 2007
- $\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$ - change in exposure to direct imports
- X_{im} - controls for store, market, and competitor characteristics
- Separate regression for single-unit and small chains

Measuring Direct Import Exposure

Fraction of competitor's sales that are imported directly

1. Competitors:

- Stores in the same location selling the same department
- Includes general merchandisers

2. Sales weighted average of competitor's direct import penetration

$$d_{im}^t = \sum_{j=1}^J s_j^{imt} \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^K}_{\text{Competitors}} \underbrace{s_k^{imt}}_{\text{Competitor's market share}} \underbrace{\frac{imports_{kjt}}{sales_{kjt}}}_{\text{Competitor's Direct Import Penetration}}$$

Identification

$$E_{im}^{2002-2007} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007} + X_{im} \Gamma' + \varepsilon_{im}$$

- Goal: Causal impact of direct import exposure on probability of exit
- Problems:
 - Firms that import (Walmart, Target, etc) are more efficient for other reasons
 - Importers may enter markets with worse small stores
- OLS overstates the effect of direct imports
- Ideal data: Exogenous increase in competitors' imports

Instrument

Idea:

- Initial sourcing networks
- Exploit variation in which products retailers imported in 2002
- Variation across products in terms of China's increase in exports

Example:

- Store A has competitors that import shirts
- Store B has competitors that import pants
- China's exports of shirts grow
- Store A's competitors ready to take advantage of China's growth
- Store A more exposed to imports than store B

Instrument

Idea:

- Initial sourcing networks
- Exploit variation in which products retailers imported in 2002
- Variation across products in terms of China's increase in exports

Construction:

- Each store's change in import exposure if their competitors' imports in each 6-digit HS code grew at the rate of China's exports to other high-income countries
- Fix competitors in 2002 (no entry)

Threat:

- More efficient retailers disproportionately importing products in which China's exports grew

Exit Regression

$$E_{im}^{2002-2007} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007} + \beta_2 d_{im}^{2002} \\ + \beta_3 \text{pct}_{im}^{\text{GM},2002} + \beta_4 \text{pct}_{im}^{\text{L},2002} + \beta_5 \text{pct}_{im}^{\text{C},2002} + D_{im} \Gamma' + \epsilon_{im}$$

- $E_{im}^{2002-2007}$ - indicator that an establishment exited between 2002 and 2007
- D_{im} - Establishment size, age, top department, and market characteristics
- Controls for competition with big firms

$$\text{pct}_{im}^{\text{L},2002} = \sum_j s_j^{im,2002} s_L^{jm,2002}$$

fraction of competitors that are large

Summary Statistics

| | Single-Unit | |
|---|-------------|-------|
| | Mean | S.D. |
| Change in import exposure ($\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$) | 0.01 | 0.015 |
| Import exposure (d_{im}^{2002}) | 0.01 | 0.013 |
| Probability of exit SU ($E_{im}^{2002-2007}$) | 0.47 | 0.50 |
| | Small Chain | |
| | Mean | S.D. |
| Change in import exposure ($\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$) | 0.01 | 0.017 |
| Import exposure (d_{im}^{2002}) | 0.01 | 0.014 |
| Probability of exit SC ($E_{im}^{2002-2007}$) | 0.36 | 0.479 |

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First Stage

| | Single-Unit | Small Chain |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| $\Delta Z_{im}^{2002-2007}$ | 0.175*** (0.008) | 0.173*** (0.014) |
| d_{im}^{2002} | -0.450*** (0.037) | -0.091* (0.047) |
| Controls for Competitive Environment | Y | Y |
| Top Department Fixed Effects | Y | Y |
| Age Fixed Effects | Y | Y |
| Market Controls | Y | Y |
| R ² | 0.64 | 0.66 |
| Observations | 488,000 | 87,000 |

Results - Direct Imports cause Exit

| | Single-Unit | | Small Chain | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | OLS | IV | OLS | IV |
| $\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$ | 1.006* | 0.775* | 1.006* | 1.728* |
| | (0.129) | (0.325) | (0.249) | (0.805) |
| d_{im}^{2002} | 0.255 | 0.488* | 0.989* | 1.224* |
| | (0.181) | (0.232) | (0.451) | (0.464) |
| Controls for Competitive Environment | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Top Department Fixed Effects | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Age Fixed Effects | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Market Controls | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| R2 | 0.122 | 0.121 | 0.065 | 0.064 |
| Observations | 488,000 | 488,000 | 87,000 | 87,000 |

Standard errors clustered at commuting zone-department-level. * indicates 5 percent significance.

Conclusion

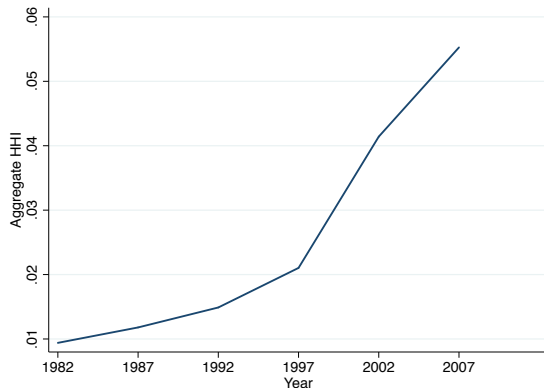
- New data on retailer sales
- Local retail concentration increasing
- Direct imports important explanation of exit of small firms
- Preliminary: Don't increase local concentration
- Suggest direct imports benefit consumers

Intro Backup

1. National Concentration
2. Decomposition
3. Local Concentration
4. Change Distribution
5. Top 4
6. RST Comparison

Back

National Concentration Increasing



National Concentration: Autor, Dorn, Katz, Patterson, and Van Reenen (2017); Foster, Haltiwanger, Klimek, Krizan, Ohlmacher (2015); Hortacsu and Syverson (2015); Basker, Klimek, and Van (2012)

National HHI Driven by Rise of National Firms

Consider two random dollars x and y spent at retailers.
What is the probability they are spent at the same firm?

$$P(i_x = i_y) = \underbrace{P(m_x = m_y)}_{\text{Collocation}} \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x = m_y)}_{\text{Local HHI}} + (1 - P(m_x = m_y)) \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x \neq m_y)}_{\text{Cross Market}}$$

- m_x - market of dollar x
- i_x - firm of dollar x

National HHI Driven by Rise of National Firms

Consider two random dollars x and y spent at retailers.

What is the probability they are spent at the same firm?

$$P(i_x = i_y) = \underbrace{.02}_{\text{Collocation}} + \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x = m_y)}_{\text{Local HHI}} + .98 \underbrace{P(i_x = i_y | m_x \neq m_y)}_{\text{Cross Market}}$$

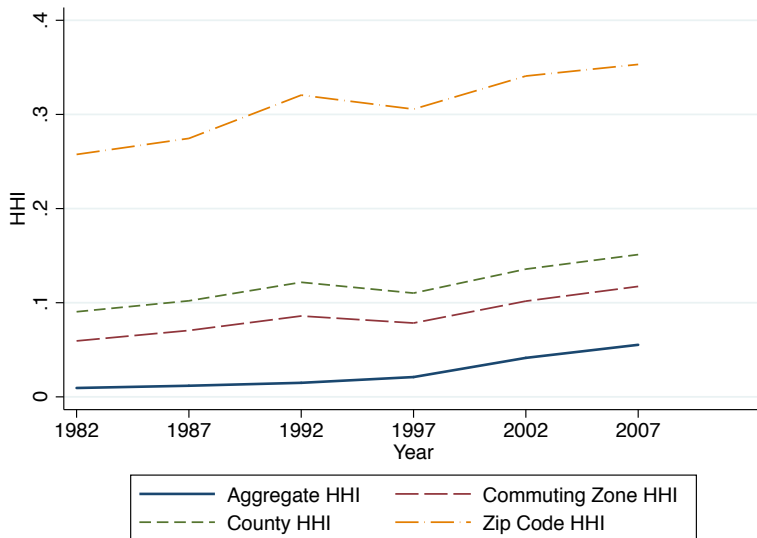
Collocation term is less than 2 percent

- Aggregate index contains little information on local concentration

Increase in national HHI reflects increasing cross market concentration

- **Consumers in different markets shop at the same firms**

Local Concentration



Local Concentration Changes

[Back](#)

Top 4 Share

Back

Comparison to RST

Zip Concentration - RST Methodology

| | Level | Change from 1992 | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|--------|--------|
| RST | N/A | -0.070 | -0.100 | -0.140 |
| All NAICS | 0.507 | 0.024 | -0.018 | -0.019 |
| Sample NAICS | 0.552 | -0.021 | -0.018 | -0.015 |
| Department | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Zip Concentration - Current Period Shares

| | Level | Change from 1992 | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|
| RST | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All NAICS | 0.507 | 0.022 | 0.057 | 0.072 |
| Sample NAICS | 0.552 | 0.026 | 0.067 | 0.083 |
| Department | 0.321 | -0.015 | 0.020 | 0.033 |

Data Appendix

1. List of Departments
2. Commuting Zone Map
3. Imputing Missing Data
4. HS to Department
5. E-Commerce

List of Departments


| Main Departments | Other Departments |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Clothing | Automotive Goods |
| Electronics and Appliances | Services |
| Furniture | Other Retail Goods |
| Groceries | Fuel |
| Health Products | Paper Products |
| Sporting Goods | Jewelry |
| Toys | Luggage |
| Home & Garden | Optical Goods |
| | Luggage |
| | Optical Goods |
| | Non-retail Goods |
| | Books |

Map of Commuting Zones



Imputing Data

1. Collection with Census of Retail Trade (every 5 years)

| Item 10. MERCHANDISE LINES Report sales for each merchandise line sold by this establishment, either as a dollar figure or as a whole percent of total sales. (See HOW TO REPORT DOLLAR FIGURES on page 1 and HOW TO REPORT PERCENTS below) | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|-------|-------|----------|-----------|
| HOW TO REPORT PERCENTS |  | If figure is 38.76% of total sales: | | Mil. | Thou. | Dol. | Per-cent |
| | | • Report whole percents | | | | | 39 |
| | | Not acceptable | | | | | 38.76 |
| Merchandise lines | | Cen-sus use | ESTIMATES are acceptable. Report dollars OR percents. | | | | |
| | | | Mil. | Thou. | Dol. | Per-cent | |
| 1. Women's, juniors', and misses' wear (Report girls' and infants' and toddlers' wear on line 3 and footwear on line 4) | | 230 | 231 | | | | 232 |
| | | 0220 | | | | | |
| 2. Men's wear (Report boys' wear on line 3 and | | | | | | | |

Imputing Data

1. Collection with Census of Retail Trade (every 5 years)
2. Aggregation to departments
 - Goal: Aggregate so industries primarily sell one department

| Broad Line | Department |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Footwear | Clothing |
| Curtains | Clothing |
| Sewing | Clothing |
| Drugs, health aids, etc | Health |
| Optical goods | Optical Goods |

Imputing Data

1. Collection with Census of Retail Trade (every 5 years)
2. Aggregation to departments
3. Imputation - depending on data availability use
 - Sales of other stores of the same firms
 - Sales of the store in other years
 - Industry, kind of business, and multi-unit status

HS to Department

- State with Basker and Van (2010)
- Identify retailers that sell and import different departments
- Correct HS classifications by hand for top 50
- Assign remainder to plurality department

E-Commerce

| Bil USD | 2002 | 2008 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| E-commerce | 44.93 | 141.89 |
| Offline | 3089.40 | 3817.27 |
| Fraction E-commerce | 0.014 | 0.036 |

Notes: US Census E-commerce reports.

Sample Details

- Firms with at least half employment in retail
 - Dropped stores less than 10 percent of sales
 - Avoids manufacturers/wholesalers with a few retail stores
 - Can't calculate direct import penetration for these stores
- Drop auto dealers, gas stations, and non-store retailers
- Type depending on size of firm:
 - **Single-unit:** firm has one retail store
 - **Small chain:** firm has 2-99 retail stores
 - **Large:** firm has more than 100 retail stores

Measuring Concentration

Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

$$HHI^j = \sum_{k=1}^K \left(s_k^j\right)^2 \quad s_k^j : \text{Sales share of firm } k \text{ in department } j$$

What does the HHI mean?

- Probability two random dollars are spent at the same store

Measuring Import Exposure

- Source: Longitudinal Foreign Trade and Transactions Database
- Value, Product Code (Harmonized System), Source Country, Importing firm
- Match HS codes to Departments [Details](#)

Result: Firm-department-level direct import penetration

$$dimpent_{kj}^t = \frac{imports_{kj}^t}{sales_{kj}^t}$$

firm k in department j in year t

Market-level Exposure to Direct Imports

Weighted average of direct import penetration:

$$dimpen_{mj}^t = \sum_k s_k^{jmt} dimpen_{kj}^t$$

- s_k^{jmt} : share of firm k in department j in market m in year t

Store-level Exposure to Direct Imports

Import exposure of store i in department j in market m :

$$d_{imt} = \sum_{j=1}^J s_j^{imt} \text{dimpen}_{jm}^{t,-k(i)}$$

- Weighted average of department-market-level direct import penetration
- $\text{dimpen}_{jm}^{t,-k(i)}$: Department-market-level direct import penetration
 - Exclude the firm of i
- s_j^{imt} : Sales share of department j in the store's sales

$$\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007} = d_{im}^{2007} - d_{im}^{2002}$$

Instrument Definition

Predicted 2007 import exposure:

$$Z_{im}^{2007} = \sum_j s_j^{i2002} \sum_{k \neq k(i)} s_k^{jm2002, -k(i)} \underbrace{\frac{\sum_{h \in H_j} imports_{kh2002} \left(1 + g_h^{CN \rightarrow HI, 2002-2007}\right)}{sales_{kj2002} \left(1 + g_j^{US, 2002-2007}\right)}}_{\text{Firm-department import penetration}}$$

Change in import exposure

$$\Delta Z_{im}^{2002-2007} = Z_{im}^{2007} - d_{im}^{2002}$$

- h : 6-digit HS code
- $g_h^{CH \rightarrow HI, 2002-2007}$: growth rate of product level exports
- Competitor's shares from 2002 - no entry

Full Table

| | Single-Unit | | Small Chain | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | OLS | IV | OLS | IV |
| $\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$ | 1.006* (0.129) | 0.775* (0.325) | 1.006* (0.249) | 1.728* (0.805) |
| d_{im}^{2002} | 0.255 (0.181) | 0.488* (0.232) | 0.989* (0.451) | 1.224* (0.464) |
| pct_{im}^L | 0.066*** (0.019) | 0.125*** (0.011) | 0.042 (0.029) | 0.105*** (0.027) |
| pct_{im}^{GM} | 0.011 (0.020) | -0.109*** (0.018) | -0.056 (0.038) | -0.163*** (0.038) |
| pct_{im}^C | 0.068*** (0.019) | 0.104*** (0.017) | 0.004 (0.035) | 0.014 (0.037) |
| Log Sales | -0.101*** (0.001) | -0.101*** (0.001) | -0.082*** (0.002) | -0.081*** (0.002) |

First Stage

| | Single-Unit | Small Chain |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| $\Delta Z_{im}^{2002-2007}$ | 0.175*** (0.008) | 0.173*** (0.014) |
| d_{im}^{2002} | -0.450*** (0.037) | -0.091* (0.047) |
| Controls for Competitive Environment | Y | Y |
| Top Department Fixed Effects | Y | Y |
| Age Fixed Effects | Y | Y |
| Market Controls | Y | Y |
| R ² | 0.64 | 0.66 |
| Observations | 488,000 | 87,000 |

Results - Direct Imports cause Exit

| | Single-Unit | | Small Chain | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | OLS | IV | OLS | IV |
| $\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$ | 1.006* | 0.775* | 1.006* | 1.728* |
| | (0.129) | (0.325) | (0.249) | (0.805) |
| d_{im}^{2002} | 0.255 | 0.488* | 0.989* | 1.224* |
| | (0.181) | (0.232) | (0.451) | (0.464) |
| Controls for Competitive Environment | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Top Department Fixed Effects | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Age Fixed Effects | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Market Controls | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| R2 | 0.122 | 0.121 | 0.065 | 0.064 |
| Observations | 488,000 | 488,000 | 87,000 | 87,000 |

Standard errors clustered at commuting zone-department-level. * indicates 5 percent significance.

Growth Dependent Variable

| | Single-Unit | | Small Chain | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | All | Continuers | All | Continuers |
| $\Delta d_{im}^{2002-2007}$ | -1.268* | 1.607* | -5.257*** | -2.491 |
| | (0.688) | (0.861) | (1.813) | (-1.965) |
| d_{im}^{2002} | -0.752 | 1.236*** | -1.878* | 0.803 |
| | (0.472) | (0.457) | (0.965) | (1.418) |
| Competitive Environment | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Top Department Fixed Effects | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Age Fixed Effects | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Market Controls | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| R2 | 0.073 | 0.094 | 0.043 | 0.049 |
| Observations | 488,000 | 259,000 | 87,000 | 56,000 |

Robustness

- Results similar with fewer controls (bigger effect), controlling for import status
- Results smaller with county-level regression, 1997 instead of 2002
- Market cluster still significant
- Department cluster loses significance

Simulating Moves

Likelihood of a single observation

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{L}_{mn}(h(\alpha); z) &= \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R \prod_{w=1}^W \left(\sum_{j \in \{-1, 1\}} l_w^{(r)}(0, j) q_j + \sum_i \lambda \sum_{j \neq 0} l_w^{(r)}(i, j) \tilde{\sigma}_{ij} \left(k_w^{(r)}, z, \alpha \right) \right) \\ &\times \exp \left[- \left(\sum_{j \in \{-1, 1\}} q_j + \sum_i \lambda \sum_{j \neq 0} \tilde{\sigma} \left(k_w^{(r)}, z, \alpha \right) \right) \tau_w^{(r)} \right] \\ &\times \exp \left[- \left(\sum_{j \in \{-1, 1\}} q_j + \sum_i \lambda \sum_{j \neq 0} \tilde{\sigma}_{ij} \left(k_{w+1}^{(r)}, z, \alpha \right) \right) \left(1 - t_w^{(r)} \right) \right].\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Objective Function

$$(\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{P}) = \arg \max_{(\alpha, P)} \sum_{m=1}^M \ln \left(\sum_z P(z, k_{m1}) \prod_{n=1}^T \tilde{L}_{mn}(h(\alpha); z) \right). \quad (2)$$

- k_{m1} - initial state of the market
- $h(\alpha)$ - parameters of CCPs

Continuation Values

$$\begin{aligned}\rho V_{jk} &= \pi_{ik} + \lambda \Gamma^2(\mathbf{0}, \sigma_{ik}) \\ &\quad + \lambda \sum_{m \neq i} \sigma_{m,-1,k} [\Gamma^1(\mathbf{0}, -\mathbf{1}, \sigma_{i,\ell^*(i,l(m,-1,k))}) - \Gamma^1(\mathbf{0}, -\mathbf{1}, \sigma_{i,l^*(i,k)})] \\ &\quad + \lambda \sum_{m \neq i} \sigma_{m,1,k} [\Gamma^1(\mathbf{0}, -\mathbf{1}, \sigma_{i,\ell^*(i,l(m,1,k))}) - \Gamma^1(\mathbf{0}, -\mathbf{1}, \sigma_{i,l^*(i,k)})]\end{aligned}$$

Estimation Steps

1. Estimate $\tilde{\sigma}^h(x, \alpha^h)$ for all types
2. Estimate π^h for small stores
3. Change policy
4. VFI using $\pi^S, \pi^C, \tilde{\sigma}^L, \tilde{\sigma}^{GM}$ for σ^S, σ^C

Results - No Unobserved Heterogeneity

| | SU | C |
|--|---------|---------|
| Constant (β_0) | -20.370 | -22.370 |
| Number of Single-Unit Stores (β_{SU}) | 1.501 | -0.095 |
| Number of Small-Chain Stores (β_C) | -0.159 | 2.482 |
| Number of Large Stores (β_L) | -0.318 | -0.192 |
| Number of GM Stores (β_{GM}) | -0.582 | -0.230 |
| Import Penetration (β_d) | -0.625 | -0.401 |
| Population (β_S) | 0.661 | 1.156 |
| Number of own type squared (β_T) | -0.174 | -0.305 |
| Unobserved state \times number of own type (β_z) | | |
| Entry cost (f) | -1.780 | -3.639 |