

Online Appendix – Asymmetric Labor-Supply Responses to Wage Changes: Experimental Evidence from an Online Labor Market*

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Abstract

Online Appendix for the paper “Asymmetric Labor-Supply Responses to Wage Changes: Experimental Evidence from an Online Labor Market”.

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B Experimental Instructions

In the following, we list all instructions shown to workers on Amazon Mechanical Turk. Since we implemented our experiment as a field experiment in an actual working environment on mTurk, we didn't present participants with explicit *experimental* instructions but rather with working instructions:

1. Entry Page of Our Task on Amazon's Mechanical Turk (see Appendix B.1)
2. Entry Page on the External Page Used for Transcription (see Appendix B.2)
3. External Transcription Website (see Appendix B.3)
4. Wage Change Notification on External Website (see Appendix B.4)
5. Maximum Number of Pictures Reached (see Appendix B.5)

B.1 Entry Page of Our Task on Amazon's Mechanical Turk

Upon selecting our task ("HIT") from the list of possible tasks currently available on mTurk, workers were presented with the following information:

Figure B.1: Initial Description of HIT on mTurk

Transcribe texts from an image. Payment: bonus of \$0.15 per transcribed image plus a flat reward for completing the HIT

Requester: Robert Duncan Reward: \$0.10 per task Tasks available: 0 Duration: 4 Hours

Qualifications Required: Location is US, Text has not been granted

Instructions

This hit requires you to transcribe texts which have been scanned from an old German document (see external link for an example). You can transcribe as many of the texts as you want. You will be paid 0.15 USD bonus for each transcribed text. In addition, you receive the 0.10 USD reward for working on this HIT (this reward is paid once and not for each text). You only get paid if you transcribe at least one picture. Transcriptions will be checked for accuracy before bonus is paid.

Please read the instructions carefully.

Instructions

1. Go to the external website shown below and transcribe as many pictures as you want.
2. You will be shown a text and an empty text box. Please complete your transcription of the text in the text box.
3. Please use the following rules for non-standard characters
 1. transcribe ä as ae, Ä as Ae
 2. transcribe ö as oe, Ö as Oe
 3. transcribe ü as ue, Ü as Ue
 4. transcribe ß as ss
4. If you cannot read some characters or you are unsure about them, please replace them with an underscore _.
5. Please press 'Save picture' after you are finished transcribing the text show on the page; the next text will be shown after you press 'Save picture'.
6. You can stop at any time. Please do not forget to copy your Personal ID to the textfield shown below before submitting and closing this HIT. Your Personal ID number is displayed in the top right corner of each page on the external website. Please note this Personal ID is not the same as your Amazon Worker ID.

Make sure to leave this browser window open while you transcribe texts. When you are finished, you will have to return to this page and paste your Personal ID into the box.

External Link: <http://transcribe.com.w01323d2.kasserver.com/>

Provide Your Personal ID here:

We instructed workers to switch to an external webpage (see URL at the bottom of the HIT entry page) and start transcribing pictures if they are interested in the task.

B.2 Entry Page on the External Page Used for Transcription

Once workers accepted our task and followed the URL to the external webpage we referred them to, we shows them the following instructions and an example of the pieces of text to be transcribed:

Figure B.2: Welcome Message and Instructions on our Website

Transcribe pictures

Personal ID: 789db7d48af873208f7f253a6cd5a24c
Transcribed pictures: 0
Current bonus per picture: 0.15 USD

Welcome.

Thank you for working on this hit. This hit requires you to transcribe texts which have been scanned from an old German document (see below for an example). You can transcribe as many of the texts as you want; a new text will be presented when you hit the 'Save picture' button. You will be paid 0.15 USD bonus for each transcribed text. In addition, you receive the 0.10 USD reward as shown on the Amazon Mechanical Turk page for working on this HIT (this reward is paid once and not for each text). You only get paid if you transcribe at least one picture. Transcriptions will be checked for accuracy before bonus is paid.

To the top right of this web page you see your personal ID. Please submit this personal identifier to Amazon Mechanical Turk in order to complete this assignment.

Instructions

1. Your Personal ID number is shown in the top right corner of each page. Please submit this personal identifier to Amazon Mechanical Turk in order to complete this assignment.
2. You will be shown a text and an empty text box. Please complete your transcription of the text in the text box.
3. Please use the following rules for non-standard characters
 1. transcribe ä as ae, Ä as Ae
 2. transcribe ö as oe, Ö as Oe
 3. transcribe ü as ue, Ü as Ue
 4. transcribe ß as ss
4. If you cannot read some characters or you are unsure about them, please replace them with an underscore _.
5. Please press 'Save picture' after you are finished transcribing the text show on the page; the next text will be shown after you press 'Save picture'.
6. You can stop at any time. Please do not forget to copy your Personal ID to the Amazon Turk Website before submitting and closing this HIT

ve Prozessdaten erfassen seit der Einführung der Abgeltungsteuer nur noch einen Teil der Einkommensverteilung. Analysen der Vermögensverteilung beruhen seit der Abschaffung der Vermögensteuer ausschließlich auf den genannten Haushaltsbefragungen und sind mit entsprechend großen Schätzfehlern verbunden.

Start now

Upon entering this external webpage, we assigned workers a unique personal ID and assigned them randomly to either the control group, the wage increase, or the wage decrease group. The personal ID was shown during every step of the experiment (see top right corner). The assignment to control/treatment groups was not disclosed at any point during the task.

B.3 External Transcription Website

After clicking on “Start now”, we presented workers with the following page to start transcribing and enter their transcription of the first randomly selected picture showing German language text:

Figure B.3: Transcription Website

Transcribe pictures

Personal ID: 59f3ef822da0a2358877584c02bcc98a
Transcribed pictures: 0
Current bonus per picture: 0.15 USD

Instructions

1. Below is a text and an empty text box. Please complete your transcription of the text in the text box.
2. Please use the following rules for non-standard characters
 1. transcribe ä as ae, Ä as Ae
 2. transcribe ö as oe, Ö as Oe
 3. transcribe ü as ue, Ü as Ue
 4. transcribe ß as ss
3. If you cannot read some characters or you are unsure about them, please replace them with an underscore _.
4. Please press 'Save picture' after you are finished transcribing the text show on the page; the next text will be shown after you press 'Save picture'.
5. You can stop at any time. Please do not forget to copy your Personal ID to the Amazon Turk Website before submitting and closing this HIT

Vermögens. Der überwiegende Teil der Vermögensübertragungen findet jedoch unterhalb der Freibeträge statt und ist daher in den Daten nicht enthalten. Außerdem lassen sich einzelne Steuerfälle in der Statistik weder auf der Ebene der Erblasser noch der Vermögensempfänger zusammenführen.

Save picture

After hitting “Save picture”, the transcription was saved and the page reloaded showing another picture for transcription.

B.4 Wage Change Notification on External Website

After transcribing the sixth picture, we presented workers with a treatment notification, which read as follows (exemplarily for the wage decrease group):

Figure B.4: Treatment Notification

Transcribe pictures

Personal ID: 789db7d48af873208f7f253a6cd5a24c
Transcribed pictures: 6
Current bonus per picture: 0.12 USD

Thank you for transcribing these pictures. As written in the introduction, we will grant a bonus of 0.15 USD for each of these pictures.

There are additional pictures that you can transcribe. However, the bonus payment for each additional picture will be 0.12 USD from now on. You will receive 0.15 USD bonus for each of the 6 pictures you transcribed so far, though.

If you want to stop and exit, just copy your Personal ID to the Amazon Turk Website and submit the HIT.

Continue

The notifications for the wage increase group differed only in the new wage (0.18 USD instead of 0.12 USD). For the control group, we reminded workers of their wage rate: “Just as before, the bonus for each additional picture will be 0.15 USD.”

B.5 Maximum Number of Pictures Reached

Workers could stop at any point, return to the mTurk main page, and submit their Personal ID to ensure payment and end the task. If they continued transcribing until the 50th picture, we presented them with the following notification:

Figure B.5: Maximum Number of Transcriptions

Transcribe pictures

Personal ID: 59f3ef822da0a2358877584c02bcc98a
Transcribed pictures: 0
Current bonus per picture: 0.15 USD

Thanks.

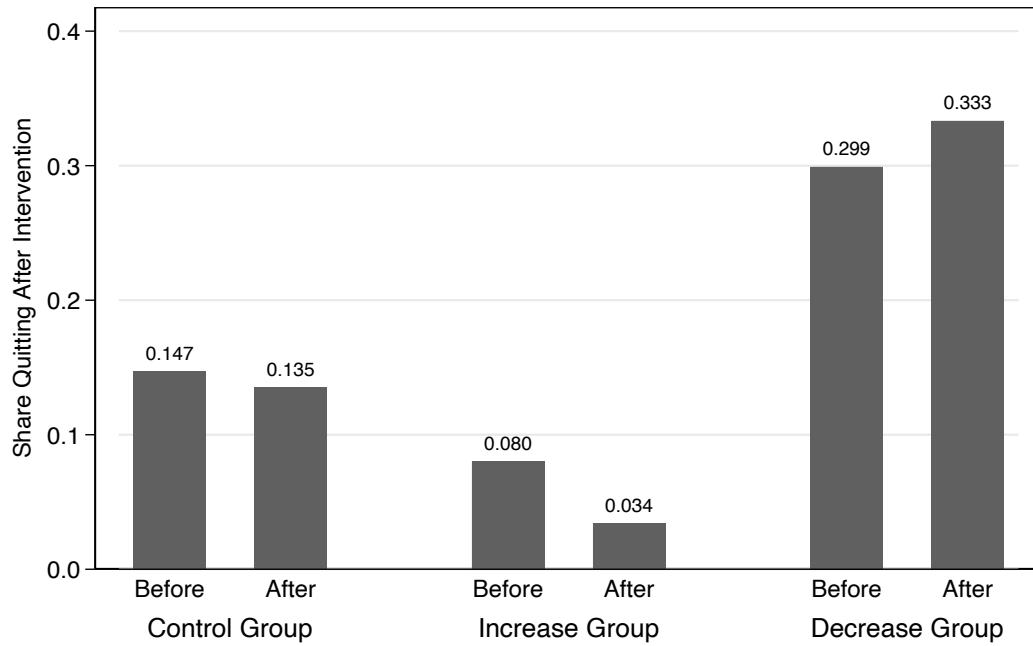
Thank you very much for your participation. There are no more texts available. You will receive your payment as a bonus, after we have checked you work. Please copy your Personal ID and do not forget to submit the HIT on Amazon Mechanical Turk!

Your Personal ID: 59f3ef822da0a2358877584c02bcc98a

We thanked workers and asked them to return to the mTurk main page and submit their Personal ID to finish the HIT.

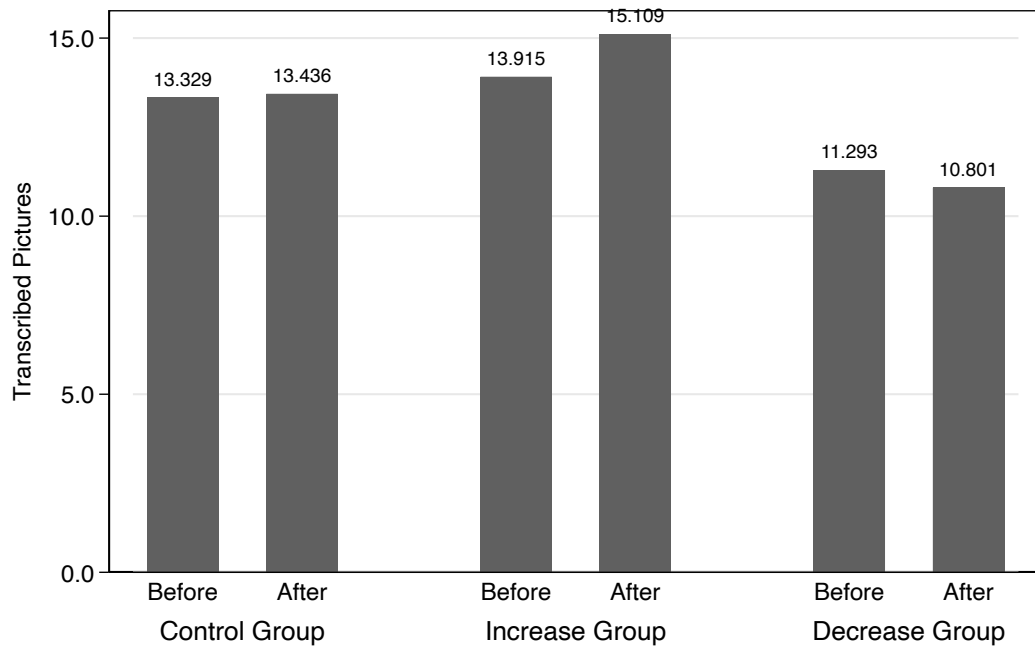
C Robustness: Effect of Forum Post

Figure C.1: Extensive Margin – Before vs. After Forum Post



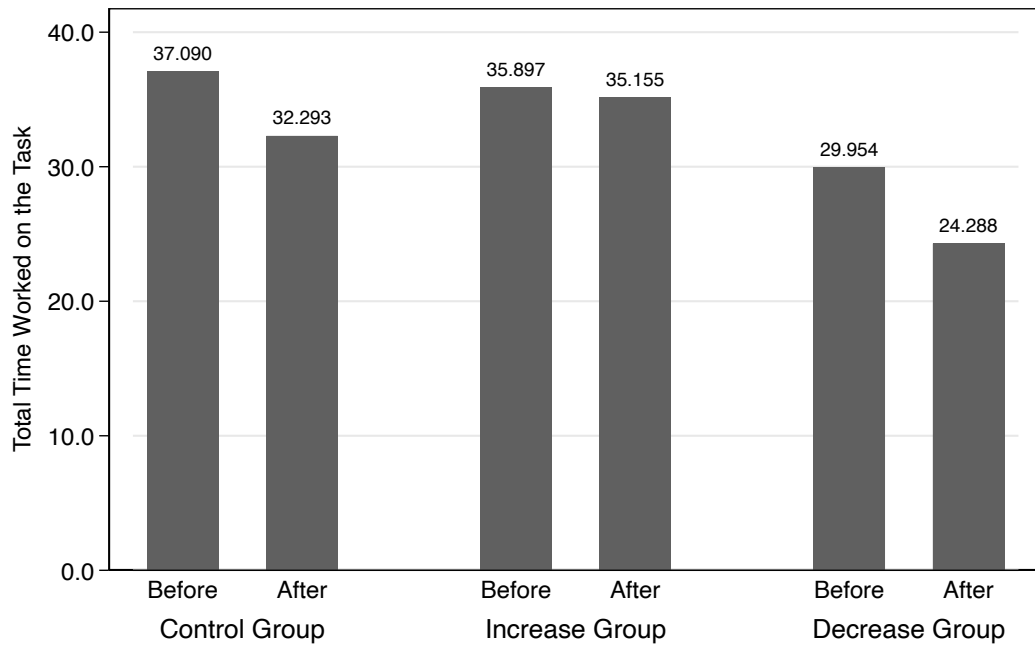
Notes: The figure depicts the share of subjects in each group who quit the labor task immediately after seeing the treatment notification (i.e., share of subjects who transcribed six pictures but not a seventh one). *Before* and *After* indicate whether the observation was sampled before or after the task was discussed online (see Section ??). The number of observations sampled before the forum post is 484 with 152 subjects in the control group, 165 subjects in the wage increase group, and 167 subjects in the wage decrease group. The number of observations sampled after the forum post is 674 with 241 subjects in the control group, 202 subjects in the wage increase group, and 231 subjects in the wage decrease group.

Figure C.2: Number of Transcribed Pics – Before vs. After Forum Post



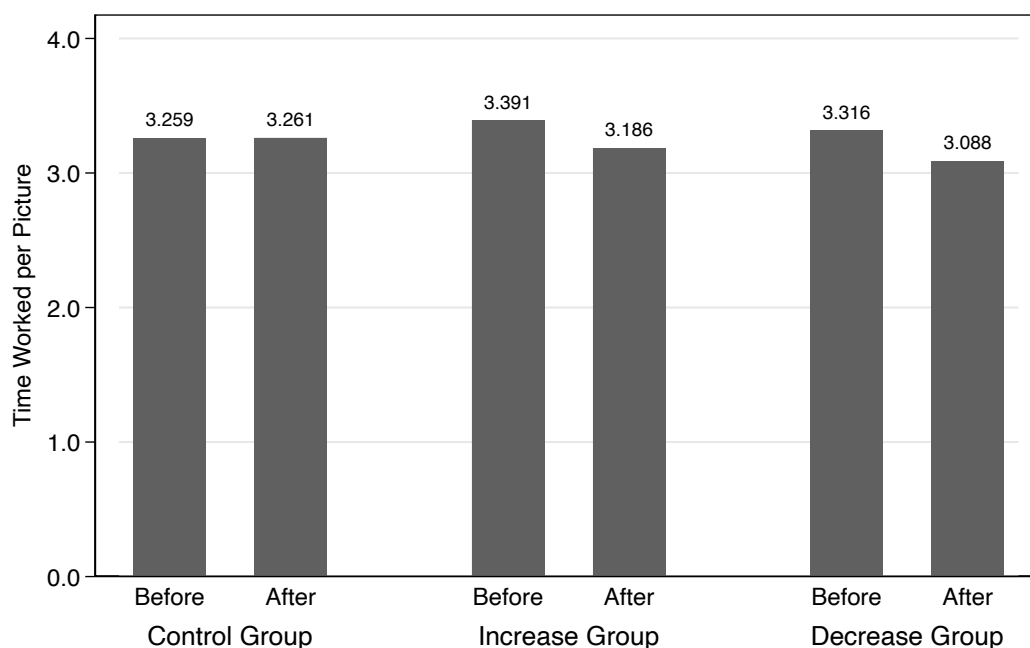
Notes: The figure depicts for each group the average number of images that subjects transcribed. *Before* and *After* indicate whether the observation was sampled before or after the task was discussed online (see Section ??). The number of observations sampled before the forum post is 484 with 152 subjects in the control group, 165 subjects in the wage increase group, and 167 subjects in the wage decrease group. The number of observations sampled after the forum post is 674 with 241 subjects in the control group, 202 subjects in the wage increase group, and 231 subjects in the wage decrease group.

Figure C.3: Total Time Worked – Before vs. After Forum Post



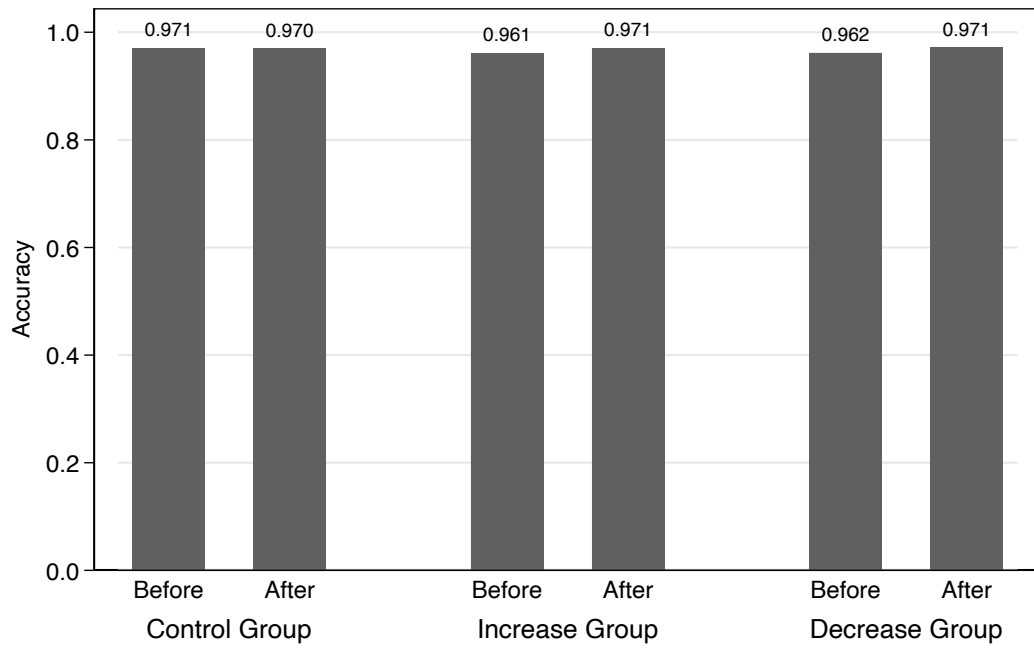
Notes: The figure depicts for each group the average time (in minutes) that subjects totally spent on working on the labor task. *Before* and *After* indicate whether the observation was sampled before or after the task was discussed online (see Section ??). The number of observations sampled before the forum post is 484 with 152 subjects in the control group, 165 subjects in the wage increase group, and 167 subjects in the wage decrease group. The number of observations sampled after the forum post is 674 with 241 subjects in the control group, 202 subjects in the wage increase group, and 231 subjects in the wage decrease group.

Figure C.4: Average Time per Picture – Before vs. After Forum Post



Notes: The figure depicts for each group the average time (in minutes) that subjects spent working on one image. *Before* and *After* indicate whether the observation was sampled before or after the task was discussed online (see Section ??). The number of observations sampled before the forum post is 484 with 152 subjects in the control group, 165 subjects in the wage increase group, and 167 subjects in the wage decrease group. The number of observations sampled after the forum post is 674 with 241 subjects in the control group, 202 subjects in the wage increase group, and 231 subjects in the wage decrease group.

Figure C.5: Accuracy – Before vs. After Forum Post



Notes: The figure depicts for each group the average transcription accuracy, i.e., the average share of characters in each image that is transcribed correctly. *Before* and *After* indicate whether the observation was sampled before or after the task was discussed online (see Section ??). The number of observations sampled before the forum post is 484 with 152 subjects in the control group, 165 subjects in the wage increase group, and 167 subjects in the wage decrease group. The number of observations sampled after the forum post is 674 with 241 subjects in the control group, 202 subjects in the wage increase group, and 231 subjects in the wage decrease group.