

Is Tourism Good for Locals? Evidence from Barcelona

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Tourism is important

- Big part of the economy
 - Accounts for 7pc of world exports and 330m jobs
 - In Spain: Tourism equals 50pc of total goods exports (11pc of GDP)
- Growing part of the economy
 - 50pc increase globally in past 10 years
 - In Spain: Second fastest growing sector
- Increase in export demand ought to be welfare improving?

Local Backlash against Tourism



This Paper: Three Contributions

1. New intra-city spatial **patterns of consumption** for locals and tourists
 - Raw data: 500M electronic payments in Metro Area of Barcelona
 - Bilateral expenditure flows b/w 1,000 census blocks (orig-dest-product-month)
2. Urban **Specific Factor Model** with rich geography
 - Complex spatial patterns of consumption and production
 - Welfare effects depend on trade-off between income effects vs price effects
 - Intuitive analytical expression enabling intra-city welfare analysis
3. **“Hybrid” empirical approach** marrying applied & general equilibrium tools
 - Use GE theory to design non-parametric regressions
 - Use plausibly exogenous variation in tourist composition to estimate them

Literature

Urban Quantitative Spatial Economics

- Ahlfeldt et al. (2015), Monte et al. (2018), Allen and Arkolakis (2016)

Big Data Spatial Economics

- Athey et al. (2018), Athey et al. (2020), Couture (2016), Couture et al. (2020), Davis et al. (2019), Agarwal et al. (2017), Carvalho et al. (2020)

Impact of Tourism

- Almagro and Domínguez-lino (2019), García-López et al. (2019), Faber and Gaubert (2019)

Ricardo-Viner trade models

- Mussa (1974), Mussa (1982), Jones (1975), Kovak (2013), Dix-Carneiro and Kovak (2017)

Outline

1. New Intra-city Patterns of Consumption
2. Urban Specific Factors Model with Rich Geography
3. Empirics & Welfare Effects

New Intra-city Patterns of Consumption

A new Spatial Dataset for Barcelona

- Electronic transaction data from Caixa Bank (CXBK)
 - Account data for customers + point-of-sale data
 - Annually: 165+M transactions, 3B Euros of value (3pc of GDP)
 - January 2017 - December 2019
- Our data:
 - Locals (bilateral): 1095 residential tiles x 1095 cons tiles x 20 sectors x 36 months
 - Tourists: country of origin x 1095 cons tiles x 20 sectors x 36 months
- Other data:
 - Commuting data (from mobile phone locations)
 - Housing prices (from “Spanish Zillow”)

Three Stylized Facts

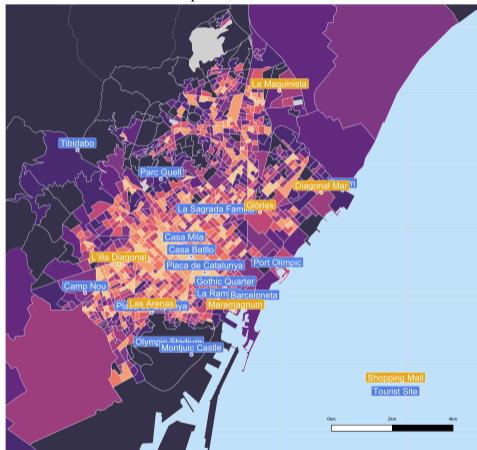
1. Tourism is spatially concentrated
2. Local's consumption geographies differ by residence
3. Tourist consumption crowds out local consumption

Three Stylized Facts

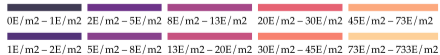
1. **Tourism is spatially concentrated**
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Fact 1: Tourism is spatially concentrated

Local Expenditures in Barcelona

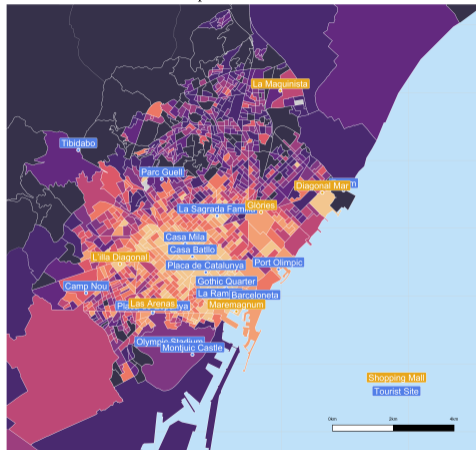


Average Yearly Expenditure per sqm in EUR

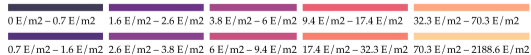


Source: CBRE Forecast Processing (2019)

Tourist Expenditures in Barcelona



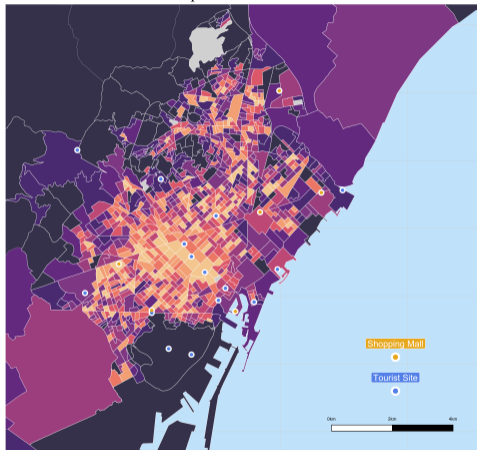
Average Yearly Expenditure per sqm in EUR



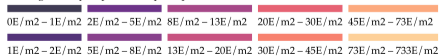
Source: CBRE Forecast Processing (2019)

Fact 1: Tourism is spatially concentrated

Local Expenditures in Barcelona

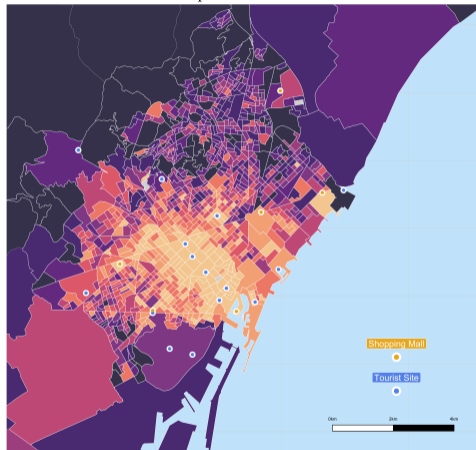


Average Yearly Expenditure per sqm in EUR

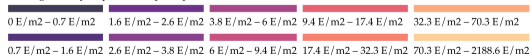


Source: CBRE Forecast Processing (2019)

Tourist Expenditures in Barcelona



Average Yearly Expenditure per sqm in EUR



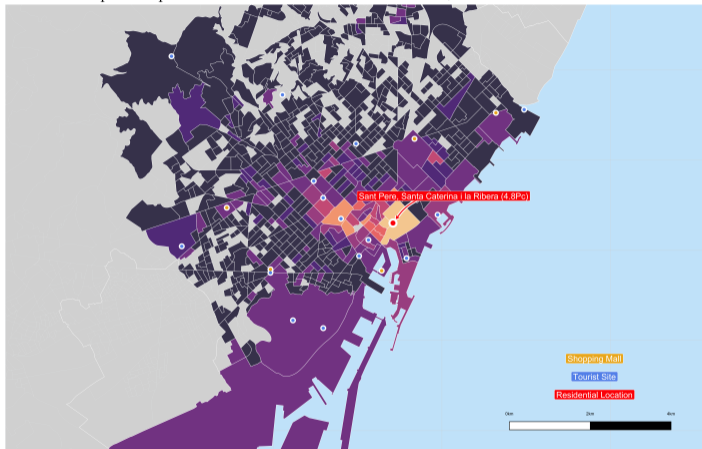
Source: CBRE Forecast Processing (2019)

Three Stylized Facts

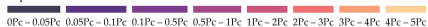
1. Tourism is spatially concentrated
2. **Local's consumption geographies differ by residence**
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Fact 2: Local's consumption geographies differ by residence

Spatial Expenditure Shares for a Resident of Sant Pere, Santa Caterina i la Ribera



Expenditure Share



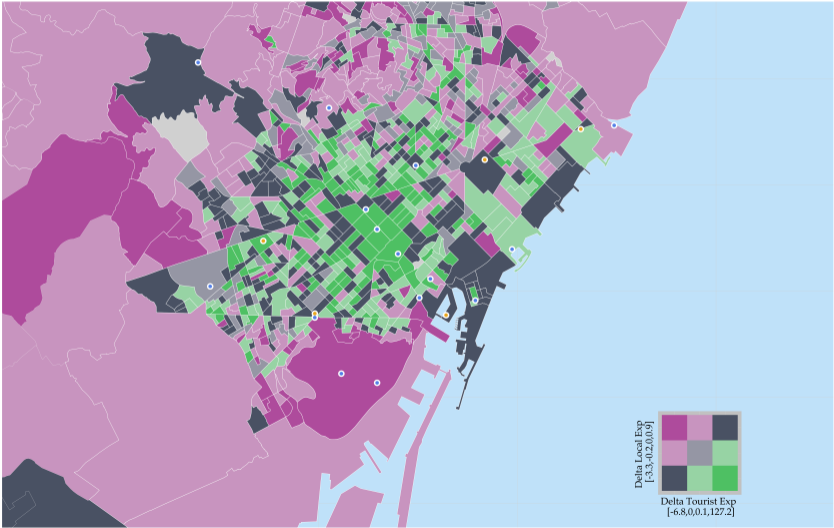
Source: CBM, Empress Processing (2011)

Three Stylized Facts

1. Tourism is spatially concentrated
2. Local's consumption geographies differ by residence
3. **Tourist consumption crowds out local consumption**

Fact 3: Tourist consumption crowds out local consumption

Change Tourist and Local Expenditure (August vs February 2019, Euro/m2)



Urban Specific Factors Model

A Specific Factors Trade Model with rich Urban Geography

- Specific Factors
 - Production requires local labor and an (externally owned) specific factor.
- Trade Model
 - Numeraire sector $s = 0$ costlessly traded.
 - Sectors $s \in 1, \dots, S$ consumed by locals and tourists.
 - Total tourism expenditure exogenously given (tourist “shock”).
- Rich Urban Geography
 - N locations. A good is a sector \times location.
 - A local residing in block n chooses what goods to (spatially) consume & produce.

Intuitive analytical expression for intra-city welfare analysis

Theorem (Welfare Effect of a Shock)

Consider a representative local with **homothetic preferences** residing in block n . Applying envelope theorem to consumption, production optimization problems yields:

$$d \ln u_n = \underbrace{\sum_{i,s} \sigma_{ni,s} \times \partial \ln w_{is}}_{\Delta \text{Spatial Income}} - \underbrace{\sum_{i,s} \pi_{nis} \times \partial \ln p_{is}}_{\Delta \text{Spatial Price Index}}.$$

- Estimating the welfare effects of tourism requires:
 - Commuting data $\{\sigma_{ni}\}_{n=1,i=1}^{N,N}$
 - Spatial Expenditure data $\{\pi_{ni,s}\}_{n=1,i=1,s=0}^{N,N,S}$
 - Estimates of key **elasticities**: $\left\{ \frac{\partial \ln p_{is}}{\partial \ln E_i^T}, \frac{\partial \ln w_i}{\partial \ln E_i^T} \right\}_{i=1,s=0}^{N,S}$

Empirics & Welfare effects

Empirics

1. A “deductive” approach: Simple regressions
 - Advantage: Intuitive
 - Disadvantage: Average elasticities, SUTVA assumption (no GE effects)
2. An “inductive” approach: Theoretical predictions
 - Advantage: Heterogeneous treatment effects for welfare
 - Disadvantage: Additional assumptions (e.g. market clearing, functional form)
3. Hybrid Approach: Theory predicts the welfare effects, data validates.

Empirics

1. **Deductive Approach**
2. Inductive Approach
3. Hybrid Approach

Deductive Approach

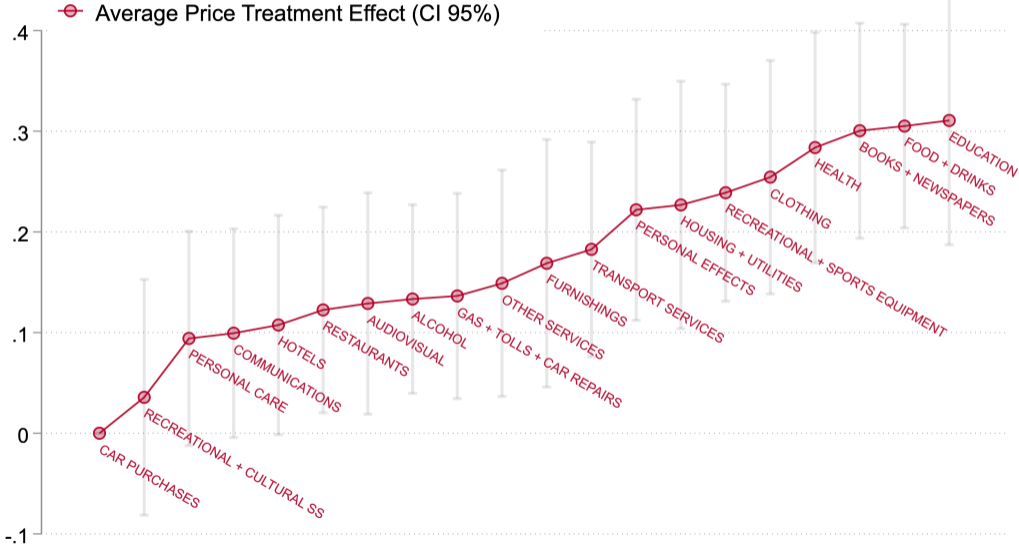
- **Idea:** Recover **average treatment effects** from regressions

$$\Delta \ln p_{ismt} = \gamma_{is} + \gamma_{ts} + \beta_s^p \times \Delta \log E_{itm}^T + \epsilon_{ismt}, \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta \ln w_{imt} = \gamma_{it} + \gamma_{im} + \gamma_{tm} + \beta^w \times \Delta \log E_{itm}^T + \epsilon_{imt}, \quad (2)$$

- Recover prices from gravity fixed effects, i.e. $\Delta \ln p_{ismt} = \frac{1}{1-\sigma_s} \Delta \ln \delta_{istm}$
- Recover wages from gravity commuting model, i.e. $w_{imt} = \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{L_{ni}}{R_n} \right) v_{nmt}$
- Bartik decomposes expenditures into group composition and seasonal demand
 - [Bartik Detail](#)
 - [First Stage](#)
 - [Tourist By Origin](#)
- Note: Empirically impractical to estimate $\left\{ \beta_{i,s}^p, \beta_i^w \right\}$

Average Price effects by Sector (β_S^P)



Empirics

1. Deductive Approach
2. **Inductive Approach**
3. Hybrid Approach

Analytical Expression for Price and Wage effects

Theorem ('Short Run' Elasticities for Prices and Wages)

Imposing market clearing, wage equalization within location across sectors, and keeping expenditure shares and labor allocation constant, we can obtain,

$$\frac{\partial \ln p_{is}}{\partial \ln E^T} = \underbrace{X_{is}^T / y_{is}}_{\text{Direct Effect}} + \underbrace{\sum_n \frac{\nu_n}{y_{is}} \pi_{nis} \sum_j \sigma_{nj} \frac{\partial \ln w_j}{\partial \ln E^T}}_{\text{GE Spillover via Spatial Exp Patterns}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln w_i}{\partial \ln E^T} = \underbrace{\frac{\sum_s X_{is}^T}{\sum_s y_{is}}}_{\text{Direct Effect}} + \underbrace{\sum_j \sum_s \sum_n \pi_{nis} \frac{\nu_n}{y_{is}} \sigma_{nj} \left(\frac{\sum_s X_{js}^T}{\sum_s y_{js}} \right)}_{\text{GE Spillover via Spatial Exp Patterns}} + \dots$$

- Note: In the paper we do long run elasticities too using “exact hat”

Empirics

1. Deductive Approach
2. Inductive Approach
3. **Hybrid Approach**

Hybrid Approach

- **Idea:** GE theory predicts locations that are most/least affected & data validates
- Non-parametric regressions with theory predicted bins

$$\Delta \ln p_{ismt} = \gamma_{is} + \gamma_{ts} + \beta_s^{p,high} \times \mathbb{1}_{is}^{p,high} \times \Delta \log E_{imt}^T + \beta_s^{p,low} \times \mathbb{1}_{is}^{p,low} \times \Delta \log E_{imt}^T + \epsilon_{ismt}$$

$$\Delta \ln w_{imt} = \gamma_i + \gamma_t + \beta_i^{w,high} \times \mathbb{1}_i^{w,high} \times \Delta \log E_{imt}^T + \beta_i^{w,low} \times \mathbb{1}_i^{w,low} \times \Delta \log E_{imt}^T + \epsilon_{imt}$$

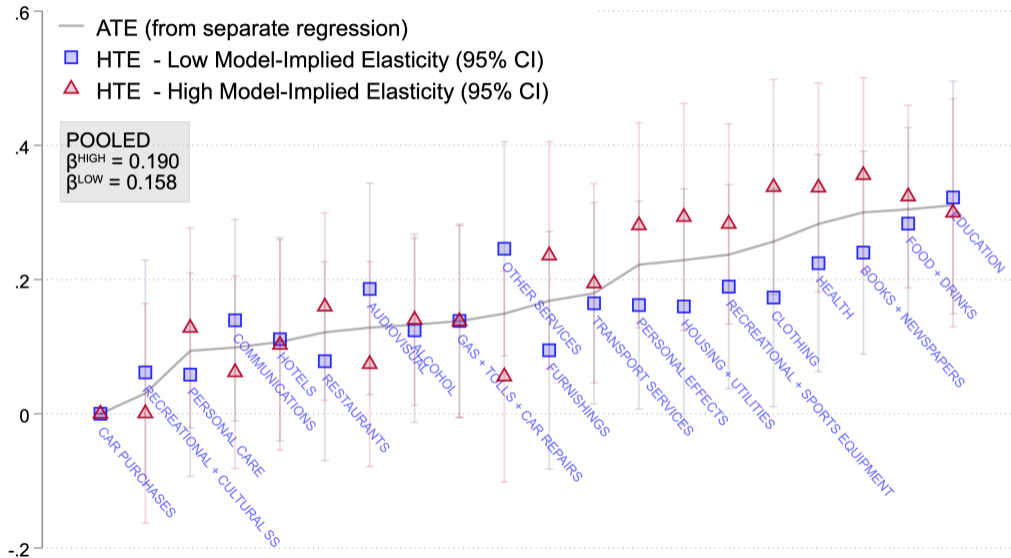
- where

$$\mathbb{1}_{is}^{p,high} = \mathbb{1} \{ \eta_{is}^p > \text{median}(\eta_{is}^p) | s \}$$

$$\mathbb{1}_{is}^{p,low} = \mathbb{1} \{ \eta_{is}^p \leq \text{median}(\eta_{is}^p) | s \}$$

- Non-parametrically identifies **heterogenous treatment effects**

Heterogeneous Price Effects by Sector ($\beta_s^{p,low}$, $\beta_s^{p,high}$)



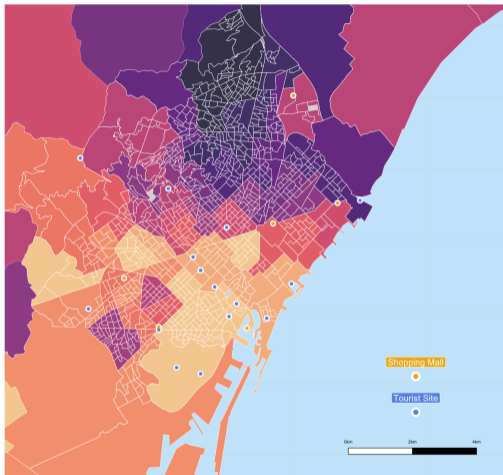
Heterogeneous Income Effects

	(1)	(2)
	First Stage	SR
S.ln(Tourist Expenditures)	0.0530** (0.0173)	0.00326 (0.0109)
x Short Run Wage Elasticity > Median		0.289** (0.0940)
Observations	24238	24238
IV	1	1
FE location-year	1	1
FE year-month-type	1	1
FE location-month	1	1

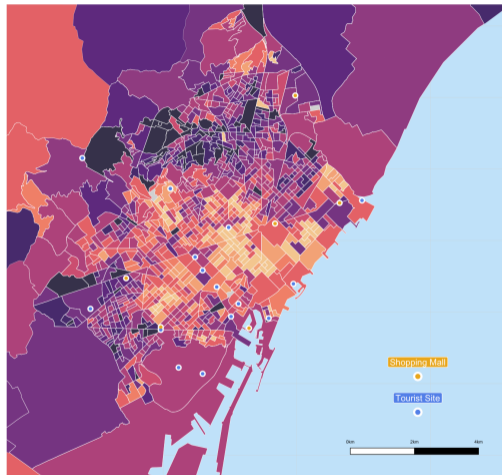
Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

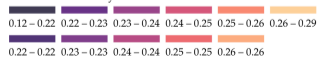
Hybrid: Income and Price Index Effects



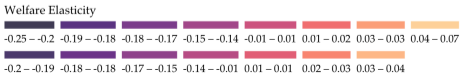
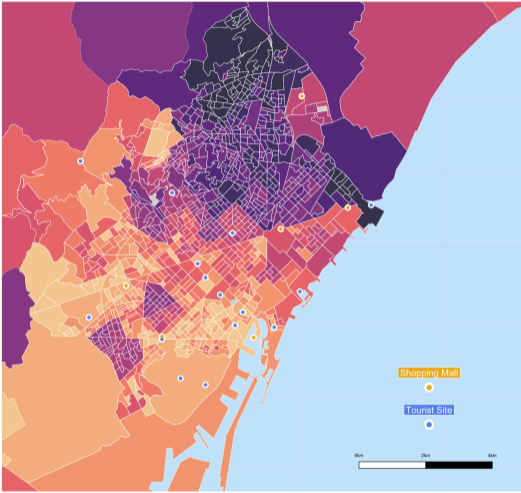
Income Elasticity



Price Index Elasticity



Hybrid: Welfare Effects



Is tourism good for locals?

- Results (February vs July \approx 70.3pc increase in Tourist Exp)
 - Median Welfare deterioration of 8.6pc
 - Substantial heterogeneity
 - 10th percentile: -13.65pc
 - 90th percentile: +2.5pc

Conclusion

Conclusion

New Data

- New intra-city spatial patterns of consumption for locals and tourists

New Theory

- Urban Specific Factors model for intra-urban welfare analysis

New Methodology

- Estimate welfare effects by “hybrid” approach

New Insights

- On average tourism hurts locals, but large heterogeneity

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Additional Data

- Idealista imputed data on housing price trends (Euro/m²)
 - Frequency: Monthly
 - Time Period: January 2010 - June 2020
 - Spatial Resolution: Neighborhoods in Barcelona (Barrios)
 - Available for rental rates and housing prices

Consumption of Locals

- Nested CES preferences across sectors and locations with elasticities $\{\sigma_s, \eta\}$

$$u_n = \frac{v_n}{\left(\sum_{s=0}^S \alpha_s \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_{is} \tau_{isn}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{is}^{1-\sigma_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_s}} \right)^{1-\eta} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}}} B_n$$

- Demand function,

$$X_{isn} = \left(\frac{\tau_{isn}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{is}^{1-\sigma_s}}{\sum_j \tau_{jsn}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{js}^{1-\sigma_s}} \right) \alpha_{n,s} v_n$$

where $\alpha_{n,s}$ corresponds to the nested CES sectoral expenditure share

Consumption of Tourists

- For tourists we abstract from bilateral trade costs and define symmetrically,

$$X_{is}^T = \left(\frac{\gamma_{is}^T p_{is}^{1-\sigma_s}}{\sum_j \gamma_{js}^T p_{js}^{1-\sigma_s}} \right) \alpha_s^T E^T,$$

where α_s^T corresponds to the nested CES sectoral expenditure share

Production and Labor supply

- Production with a Cobb-Douglas production function with a specific factor,

$$Q_{is} = A_{is} L_{is}^{\beta_s} K_{is}^{1-\beta_s}.$$

- Labor Supply is defining disposable income,

$$v_n = \left(\sum_i \mu_{ni}^{-\theta} w_i^\theta \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}}$$

- which generates

$$L_{ni} = \frac{\mu_{ni}^{-\theta} w_i^\theta}{\sum_{i,s} \mu_{ni}^{-\theta} w_i^\theta} L_n$$

Equilibrium

For any initial distribution of residential labor endowment $\{R_i\}$, a given level tourist expenditures $\{E^T\}$, a given level of sector-location factor endowment $\{M_{is}\}$, parameters defining the preference and production structure $\{\sigma_s, \eta, \alpha_s, \beta_s, \theta\}$, and geography $\{A_{i,s}, \gamma_{is}, \gamma_{i,s}^T, \tau_{nis}, \mu_{ni}\}$, an equilibrium is $\{w_i, p_{is}\}$ s.t.

1. Sector-location specific market clearing

$$p_{is} Q_{is} = \sum_n \left(\frac{\tau_{isn}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{is}^{1-\sigma_s}}{\sum_j \tau_{jns}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{js}^{1-\sigma_s}} \right) \alpha_s \left(\sum_i \mu_{ni}^{-\theta} w_i^\theta \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} + X_{is}^T$$

2. Labor Market clearing

$$L_i \sum_s \frac{1}{\beta_s} w_i \left(\frac{L_{is}}{L_i} \right) = \sum_s \sum_n \left(\frac{\tau_{isn}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{is}^{1-\sigma_s}}{\sum_j \tau_{jns}^{1-\sigma_s} p_{js}^{1-\sigma_s}} \right) \alpha_s \left(\sum_i \mu_{ni}^{-\theta} w_i^\theta \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} + \sum_s X_{is}^T$$

	(1)
	S.In Tourists Expenditures
Tourists, group component of ivT	0.602*** (0.106)
Observations	24238
F	32.05
FE location-year	1
FE year-month	1
FE location-month	1

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Inductive Approach: Exact Hat Algebra

- Goods market clearing condition

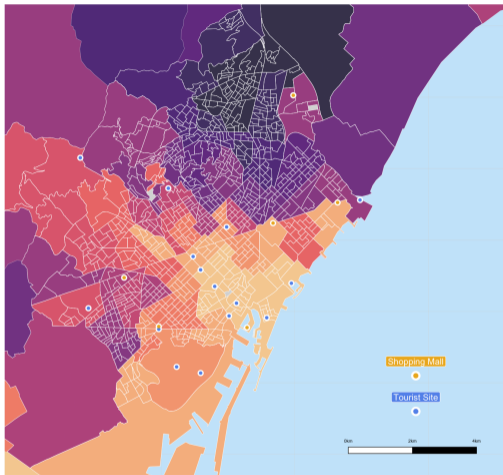
$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{p}_{is}^{\frac{1}{1-\beta_s}} \hat{w}_i^{-\frac{\beta_s}{1-\beta_s}} = & \sum_n \left(\frac{X_{nis}}{y_{is}} \right) \frac{\left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_{nis} \hat{p}_{is}^{1-\sigma_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_s}} \right)^{1-\eta}}{\sum_{s=0}^S \left((\pi_{n,s}) \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_{nis} \hat{p}_{is}^{1-\sigma_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_s}} \right)^{1-\eta} \right)} \frac{\hat{p}_{is}^{1-\sigma_s}}{\sum_j \pi_{jsn} \hat{p}_{js}^{1-\sigma_s}} \\
 & + \frac{X_{is}^T}{y_{is}} \frac{\left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_{is}^T \hat{p}_{is}^{1-\sigma_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_s}} \right)^{1-\eta}}{\sum_{s=0}^S \left(\pi_s^T \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_{is}^T \hat{p}_{is}^{1-\sigma_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_s}} \right)^{1-\eta} \right)} \frac{\hat{p}_{is}^{1-\sigma_s}}{\sum_j (\pi_{js}^T) \hat{p}_{js}^{1-\sigma_s}} \hat{E}^T,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

- Labor Market clearing condition,

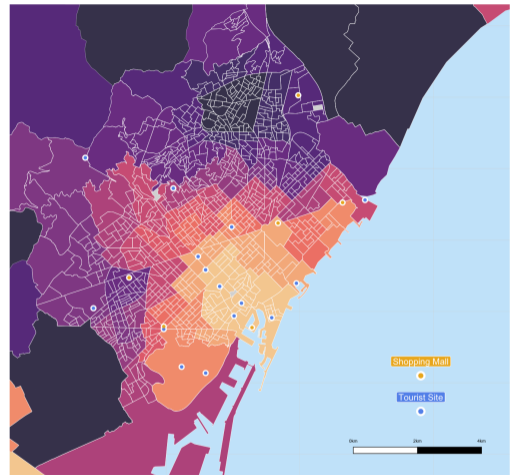
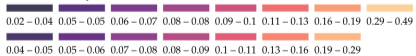
$$\sum_s \left(\frac{\beta_s y_{is}}{\sum_s \beta_s y_{is}} \right) \hat{p}_{is}^{\frac{1}{1-\beta_s}} \hat{w}_i^{-\frac{\beta_s}{1-\beta_s}} = \sum_n \sigma_{ni} \left(\frac{R_n w_i}{\sum_s \beta_s y_{is}} \right) \frac{\hat{w}_i^{1+\theta}}{\sum_j \sigma_{nj} \hat{w}_j^\theta}.$$

Inductive Approach: Calibration

- Factor share of labor, $\beta_s = .66$
- Labor Supply elasticity $\theta = 3.3$ (Monte et al.; 2018)
- Lower nest elasticity of substitution $\sigma_s = 3.9$ (Hottman et al.; 2016)
- Upper nest elasticity of substitution $\eta = 1.8$

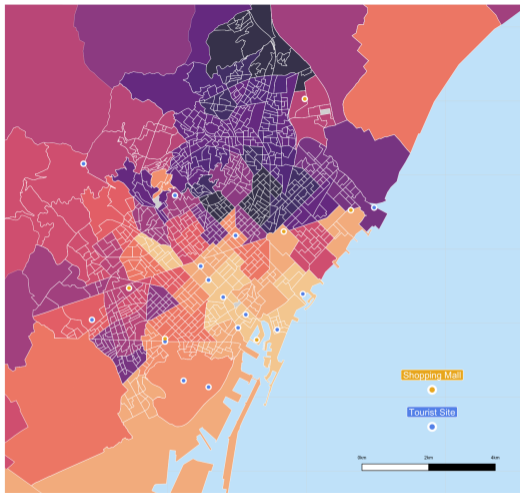


Income Elasticity



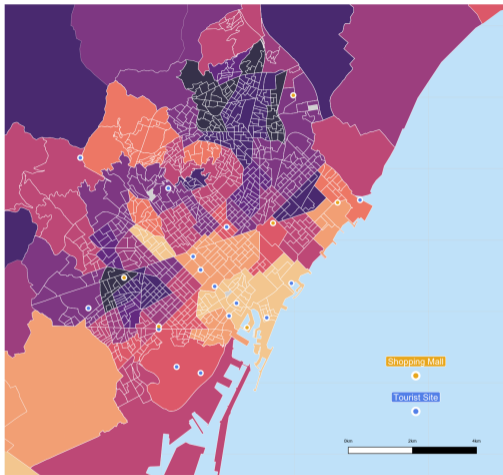
Price Index Elasticity



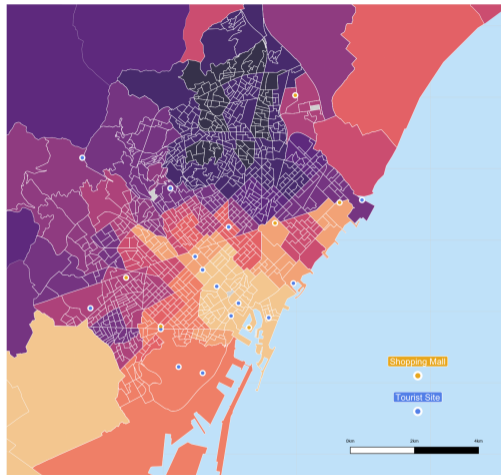
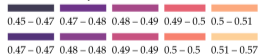


Welfare Elasticity



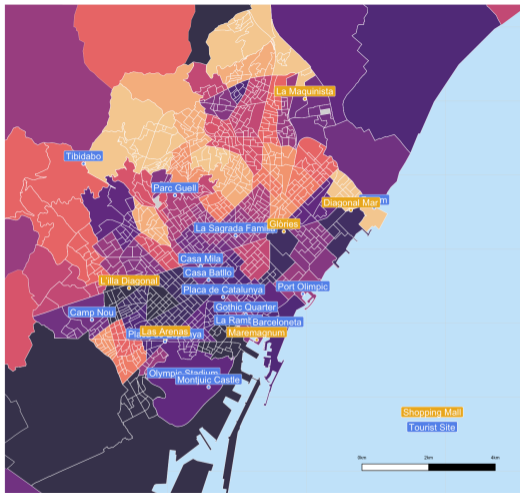


Income Elasticity

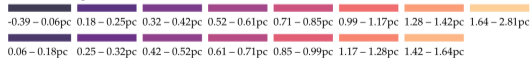


Price Index Elasticity





Welfare Changes



Bartik

- Local Expenditure growth can be decomposed into,

$$g_i^T = \underbrace{\sum_g s_{i,g|i} \times g_{E_g}^T}_{\text{Group Composition}} + \underbrace{\sum_g \sum_s s_{i,s,g|i} \times g_{\kappa,s,g}^T}_{\text{Seasonal Demand}}$$

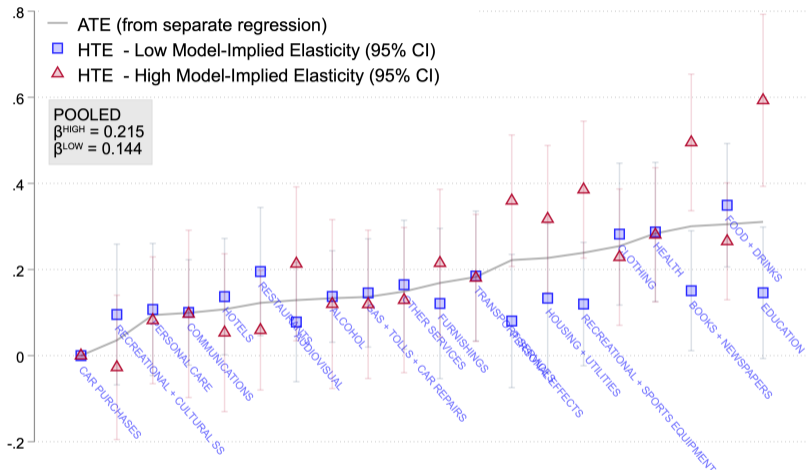
- initial group composition and initial consumption shares are given by,

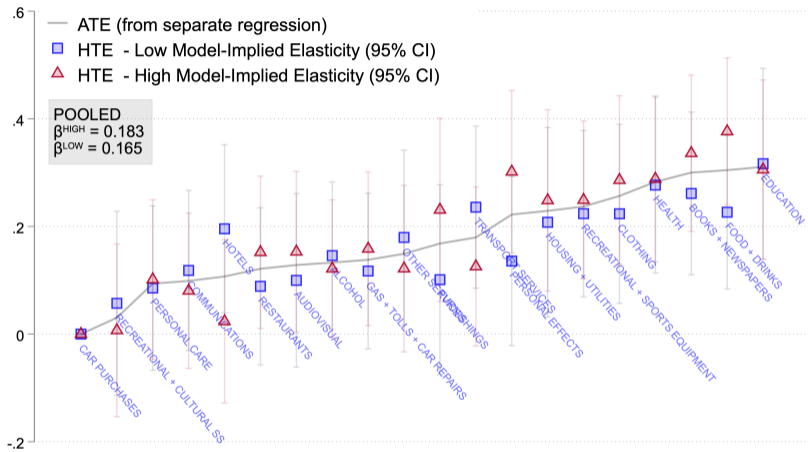
$$s_{i,s,g|i} \equiv \frac{E_{i,s,g}^T}{E_i^T} \quad s_{i,g|i} \equiv \frac{E_{i,g}^T}{E_i^T}$$

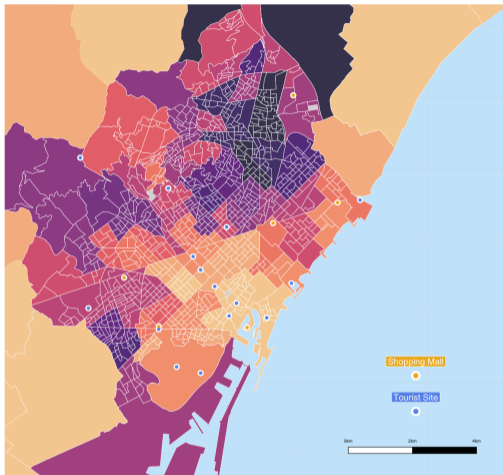
- and where changes in total group's income and in within-group category spending are given by,

$$g_{E_g}^T \equiv \frac{\Delta E_g^T}{E_g^T} \quad g_{\kappa,sg}^T = \frac{\Delta \kappa_{sg}^T}{\kappa_{sg}^T}$$

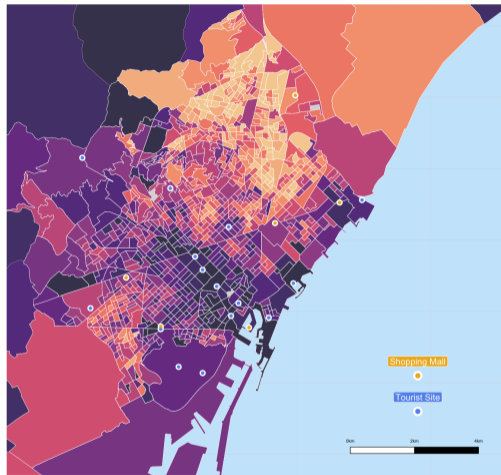
- Initial Shares exogenous i.e. orthogonal to local amenity shifts (Goldsmith-Pinkham et al.; 2018)





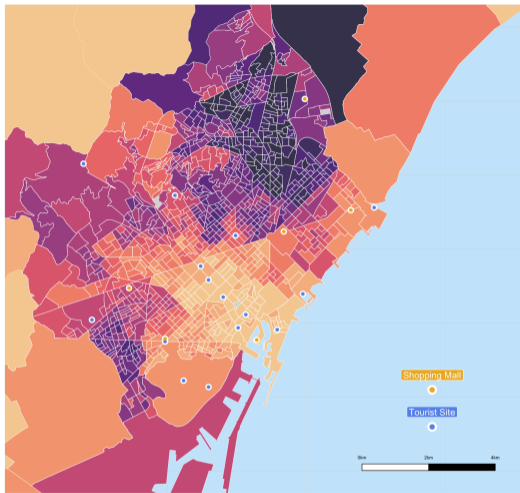


Income Elasticity

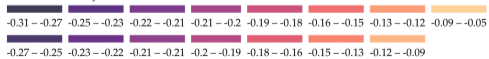


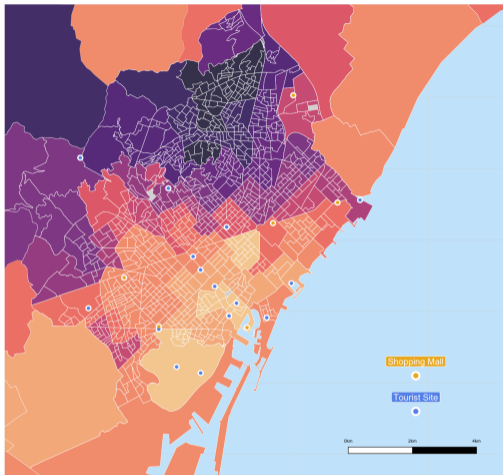
Price Index Elasticity



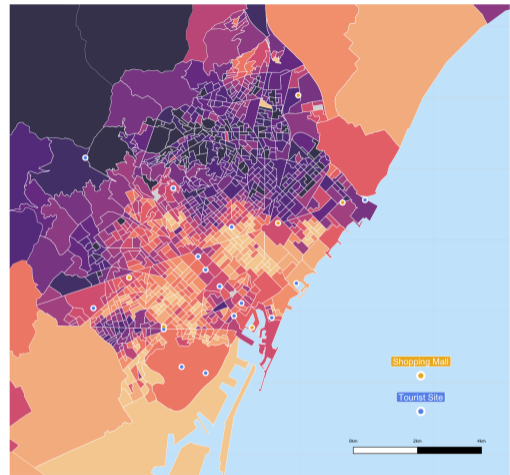


Welfare Elasticity



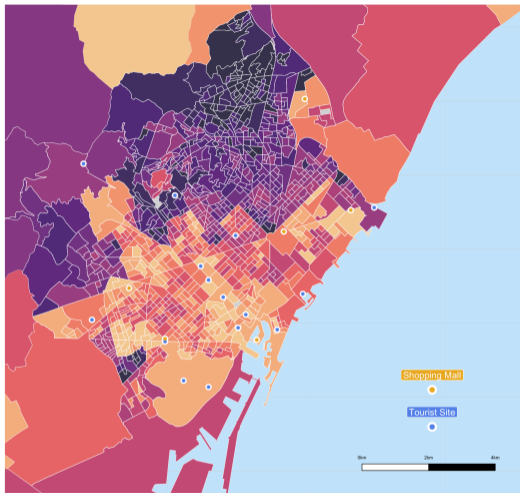


Income Elasticity

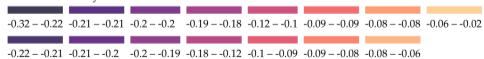


Price Index Elasticity





Welfare Elasticity



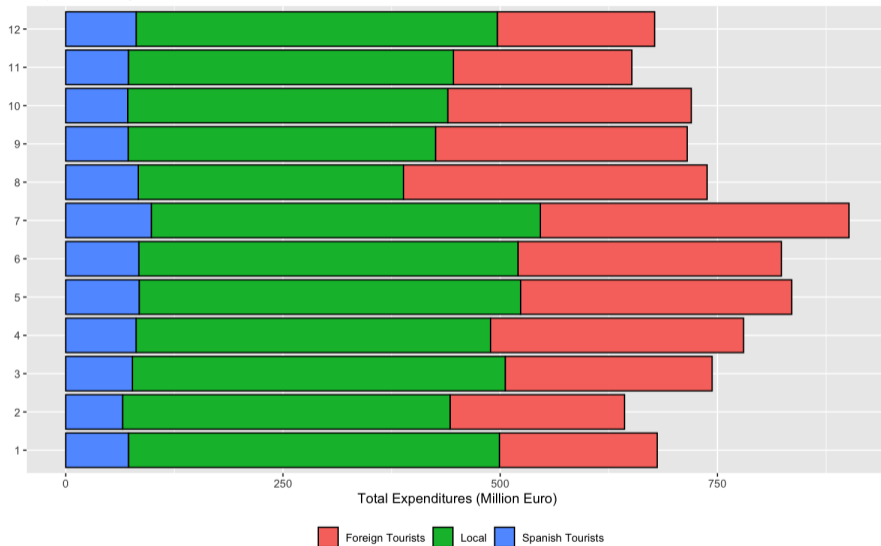
$$\Delta \ln w_{imt} = \gamma_{it} + \gamma_{im} + \gamma_{tm} + \beta^w \times \Delta \log E_{itm}^T + \epsilon_{imt},$$

	(1)
	S.In Income
S.In Tourists Expenditures	0.0530** (0.0173)
Observations	24238
IV Bartik	1
FE location-year	1
FE year-month	1
FE location-month	1

Standard errors in parentheses

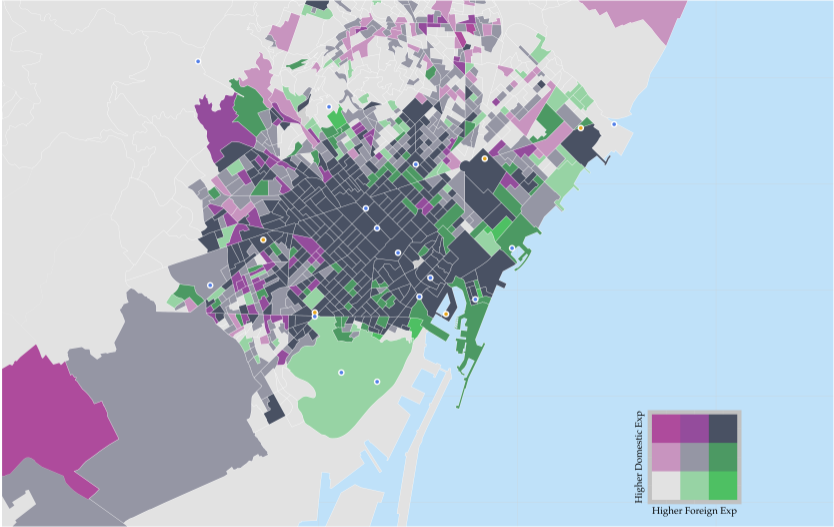
* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Expenditure by Month



Source: CXBK Payment Processing (2019)

Spanish Tourists vs Foreign Tourist Expenditures



Source: CBRE, Payment Processing 2014

Estimate gravity equation for commuting flows

$$\log(\sigma_{ij}) = \alpha \log(\tau_{ni}) + \gamma_n + \delta_i + \epsilon_{ni}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	PPML	OLS	PPML	OLS
Log(Distance)	-4.628*** (0.313)	-2.121*** (0.138)		
Distance			-0.485*** (0.0294)	-0.127*** (0.0156)
Observations	11449	1633	11449	1633
FE: Origin	1	1	1	1
FE: Destination	1	1	1	1

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Simple Theory: Overview

- Change in utility can be expressed as,

$$d \ln u_i = \partial \ln v_i - \sum_s \pi_{is} \partial \ln p_{is}$$

- Applying an envelope condition we can further simplify,

$$d \ln u_i = \sum_s (\sigma_{is} - \pi_{is}) \partial \ln p_{is}$$

- Tourism is beneficial if i is a net producer of the tourist sector
- If residents **allocate their labor** to maximize income, we obtain,

$$d \ln v_n = \sum_{i,s} \sigma_{nis} \partial \ln w_{is},$$

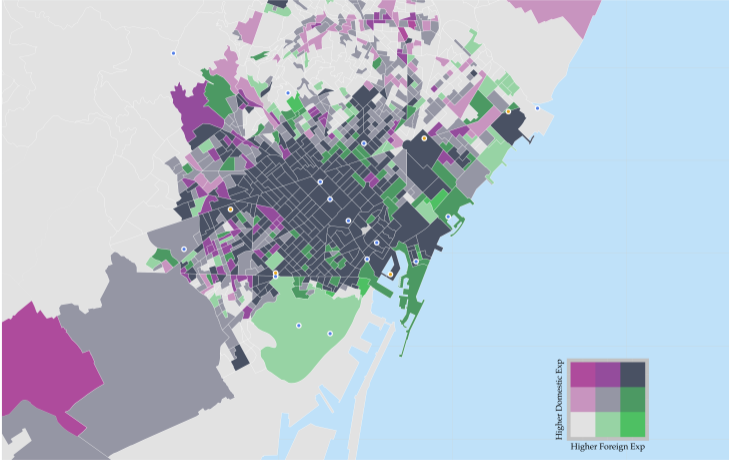
Inductive Approach: Outline

- Quantitative Urban Ricardo-Viner model in exact hat algebra [DEK Equations](#)
- Calibration using literature values [Calibration](#)
- Two exercises:
 - Short-run impact: Adjustment of consumption only [DEK SR Results](#)
 - Long-run impact: Adjustment of both consumption and labor allocations [DEK LR Results](#)

[back](#)

Tourist's consumption geographies differ by their origin

Spanish Tourists vs Foreign Tourist Expenditures

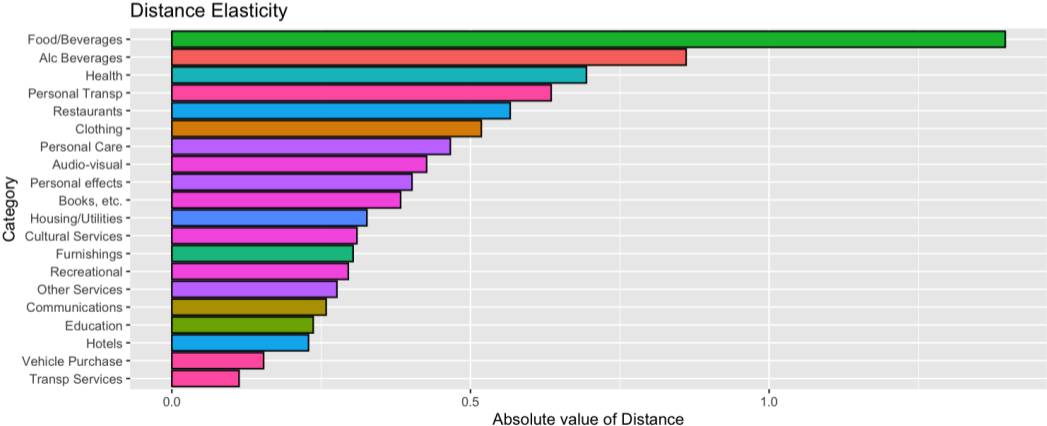


Source: © 2008 Pearson Education, Inc.

Stylized Facts

Estimate gravity equation for consumption flows

$$\log \pi_{nis} = \phi_s \log \tau_{ni} + \log \delta_{n,s} + \log \delta_{i,s} + u_{ni,s},$$



Source: CXBK Payment Processing (2019)