

# Employment Effects of Offshoring on Belgian Manufacturing Firms

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# Plan

- Offshoring and employment
- Our contribution
- Empirical framework
- Measure
- Results
- Conclusion

# PREVIEW

- increased offshoring in downstream industries is a robust channel of negative employment effects for domestic Belgian manufacturing firms

# **OFFSHORING AND EMPLOYMENT**

# Introduction

- offshoring = cross-border fragmentation of the value chain
- firms start to source intermediates from abroad
- impact of offshoring on wages and/or employment is an important issue in the (empirical) literature

# Offshoring and Employment - Theory

- focus = distributional aspects in terms of relative wages or employment by skill/occupational category (cf. Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg, 2008; Autor, 2011)
- theoretical contributions
  - e.g. Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008), Baldwin and Robert-Nicoud (2010)
  - standard labour market clearing assumption (relative wages of high and low skilled adjust to generate full employment), i.e. assumes away the impact of offshoring on employment levels (Bhagwati et al., 2004)

# Offshoring and Employment - Empirics

- Empirical work largely confirms strong distributional effect : **low- or medium-skilled workers suffer** from offshoring in terms of wages and/or employment levels
  - industry-levels papers: Feenstra and Hanson (1996, 1999), Hijzen et al. (2005), Strauss-Kahn (2003)
  - firm-level evidence for Belgium in Mion and Zhu (2012)

# Offshoring and Employment - Empirics

- Most empirical work seems to confirm that offshoring has **no robust impact on total employment levels**
  - e.g. Amiti and Wei (2005), Hijzen and Swaim (2007); Michel and Rycx (2012) at industry-level, Mion and Zhu (2012) at firm-level
  
- ↔ Hijzen and Swaim (2010) provide some evidence of industry-level effects of materials offshoring and Amiti and Wei (2006) do find a negative impact of service offshoring on US manufacturing employment; firm-level evidence in Görg and Hanley (2005)



# Offshoring and Employment - Empirics

- arguments to explain limited impact on within industry employment levels:
  - i. “... productivity gains from offshoring are sufficiently large that the jobs created by higher sales completely offset the jobs lost by relocating certain production stages to foreign production sites” (Hijzen and Swaim, 2007)
  - ii. Job losses due to offshoring small compared to total job market turnover (Bhagwati et al., 2004)
  - iii. measures of offshoring underestimate real extent of offshoring (OECD, 2007)

# Offshoring and Employment - Empirics

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# **OUR CONTRIBUTION**

# Our contribution

- in literature: focus on within-firm arguments
    - firms start to source intermediates from abroad that
      - they used to produce in-house
- ... but they also might have sourced them from domestic suppliers beyond the boundaries of the firm!**

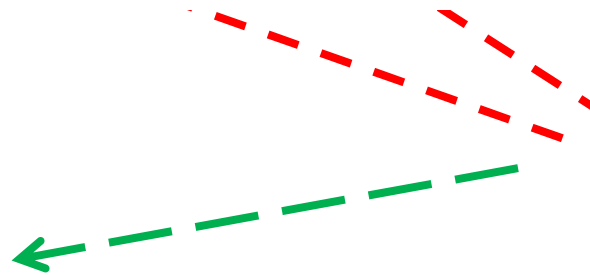


Downstream  
Customer



starts to  
import inputs

Foreign  
upstream  
Supplier



# Downstream employment effects (1)

- **focus on within-industry impact of offshoring on employment in literature**

↔ growing interdependence of firms within value chains

⇒ scope for **indirect employment effect of offshoring**:  
offshoring decision by firm in industry  $i$  likely to affect  
firms in **supplier industries**

- literature has failed to recognise this channel

# Downstream employment effects (2)

- How do we proceed?
  - develop **downstream offshoring indicator**
  - largely follow existing empirical work and augment standard firm-level labour demand equation with it

# **EMPIRICAL FRAMEWORK**



# Labour demand – estimation framework (1)

- Hamermesh (1993) (*cf.* Amiti and Wei (2005); Hijzen and Swaim (2010))
  - standard conditional labour demand equation derived from cost minimisation problem with linear homogenous production function including labour as variable factor and offshoring measures as exogenous demand shifters
  - partial derivative of cost function with respect to wage rate yields labour demand:

$$L = C_w(W, Y, Z)$$

where  $L$  is labour,  $C$  the cost function,  $W$  the wage rate,  $Y$  output, and  $Z$  demand shifters

# Labour demand – estimation framework (2)

- capital = other input factor
  - As common in the literature, capital = quasi-fixed factor (Berman et al., 1994)
- log-linearize for firm  $i$  and augment with offshoring indicators as well as other firm-level controls (exit, age):

$$\ln L_{ijt} = \alpha_i + \beta_1 \ln w_{it} + \beta_2 \ln K_{it} + \beta_3 \ln Y_{it} + \Gamma' OFF_{ijt} + \Omega' X_{i(j)t}$$

- expect immediate impact of offshoring
  - focus on '*short-run*' employment effects of offshoring
  - Labour = freely variable input  
(cf. literature on TFP-estimation, OP1996/LP2003)

# **MEASURING OFFSHORING**

# Standard services and manufacturing offshoring indicators

- traditional industry-level measures  
(Feenstra and Hanson, 1996/99; Amiti and Wei, 2005)
- Manufacturing offshoring
  - share of imported manufacturing intermediates in total non-energy intermediates for industry  $j$

$$off_{jt}^m = \frac{X_{jt}^{f,m}}{X_{jt}^{ne}}$$

- Services offshoring
  - share of imported services intermediates in total non-energy intermediates for industry  $j$

$$off_{jt}^s = \frac{X_{jt}^{f,s}}{X_{jt}^{ne}}$$

# Downstream offshoring indicator (1)

- Based on SUT/IOT
- Let  $G$  be the set of all products  $g$  indexed by  $n = 1, \dots, N$

$$G = (g^1, g^2, \dots, g^N)$$

- from the supply table, we retrieve the output product mix of (firms in) industry  $j$

$$G_j^S \subset G$$

- from the use table, we retrieve the product mix of intermediate input purchases by the downstream or customer industry  $k$

$$G_k^U \subset G$$

## Downstream offshoring indicator (2)

- intersection between these two sets contains all products  $G^n$  produced by industry  $j$  and purchased as intermediates by industry  $k$

$$G_{jk} = G_j^S \cap G_k^U$$

- for any product required in their production process, firms in industry  $k$  have the choice between domestic and foreign sourcing
- since SUT contain both domestic and imported use tables, we have for each product  $g^n \in G_{jk}$  the share  $s_{kn}$  that is imported by firms in industry  $k$

## Downstream offshoring indicator (3)

- calculate  $\Phi_{jk}$  that reflects to what extent imports of intermediates by downstream industry  $k$  affect upstream industry  $j$

$$\Phi_{jk} = \sum_{g^n \in G_{kj}} \delta_{jn} s_{kn}$$

- constructed as a weighted average of  $s_{kn}$  over all products  $g^n \in G_{jk}$  weighted by the share of product  $g^n$  in industry  $j$ 's output mix  $G_j^S$

$$\delta_{jn} = Y_{jn} / \sum_{g^n \in G_j^S} Y_{jn}$$

# Downstream offshoring indicator (4)

- $\Phi_{jk}$  is only defined for a specific downstream industry  $k$
- for our final measure we calculate a weighted average of  $\Phi_{jk}$  s with weights reflecting the relative importance of different downstream industries  $k$  as customers of  $j$

$$of f_{jt}^{down} = \sum_{k \neq j} \theta_{jk}^{95} \Phi_{jkt}$$

- weights = technical coefficients for domestic uses (derived from industry-by-industry IO-tables, share of  $j$ 's output supplied to respective downstream industries  $k$ )
- refer to domestic supply only
  - ⇒ over time affected by offshoring in downstream industries
  - ⇒ avoid distortion of relative magnitudes over time and across industries of our measure by using fixed weights of 1995 for the entire sample period



## Downstream offshoring indicator (5)

$$off_{jt}^{down} = \sum_{k \neq j} \theta_{jk}^{95} \Phi_{jkt}$$

- $off^{down}$  = relative measure that is interpretable in the same way as the Feenstra—Hanson measure:  
(firms in) industries with a larger value for  $off^{down}$  are those that are faced with relatively more downstream offshoring

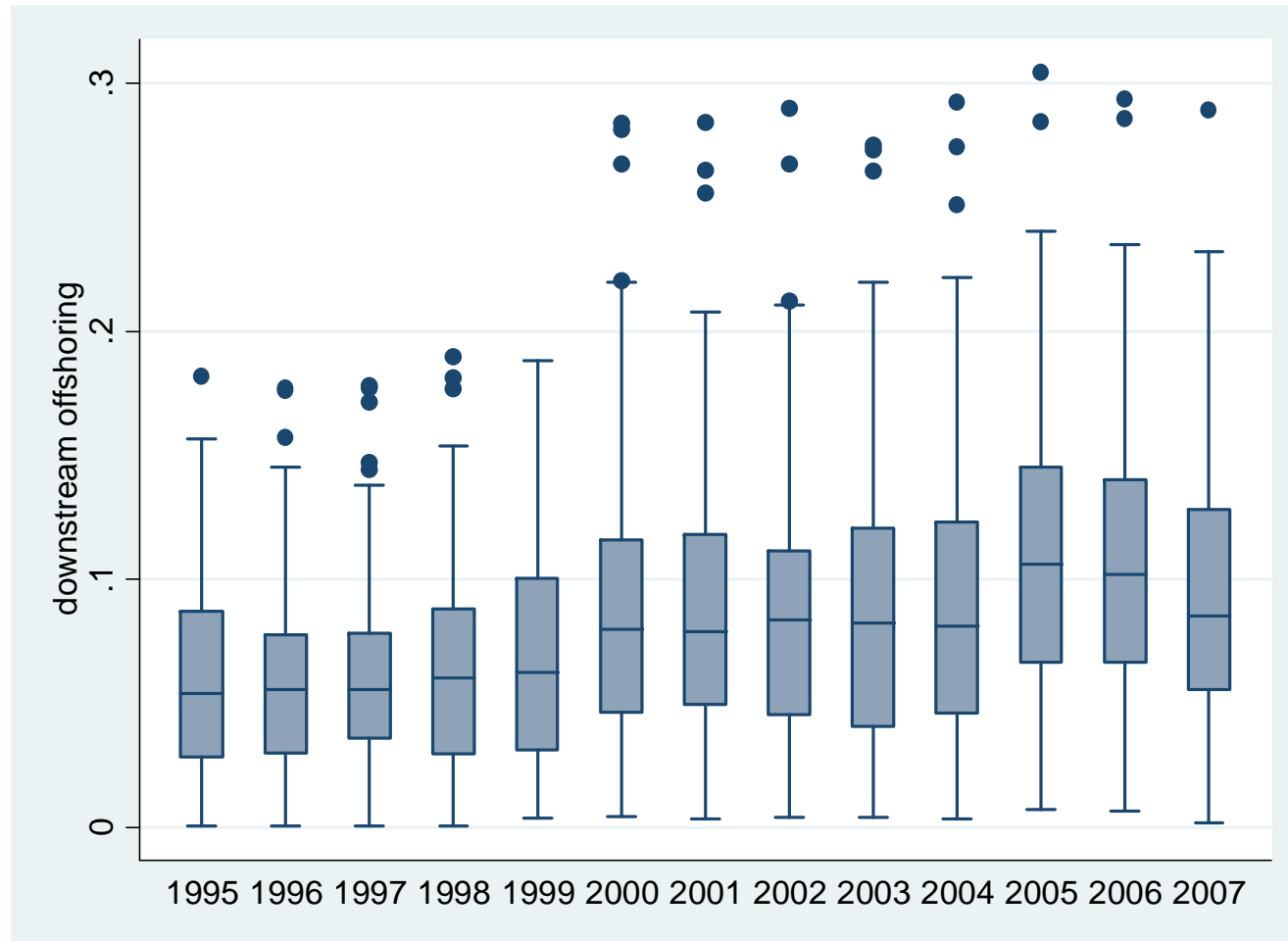
# **DATA AND RESULTS**

# Data

- Combinations of two datasets
  - Supply and Use tables, 1995-2007, FPB
    - Used for construction of industry-level offshoring measures
    - Detailed! (59 manufacturing categories)



# Downstream offshoring in Belgian manufacturing industries



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Panel B - Correlation matrix

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	<i>within industry manufacturing offshoring</i>	<i>within industry services offshoring</i>	<i>final demand import competition</i>
<i>downstream offshoring</i>	0.147	0.134	-0.096
<i>within industry manufacturing offshoring</i>		-0.080	0.162
<i>within industry services offshoring</i>			0.008

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# Data

- **Combinations of two datasets**
  - Supply and Use tables, 1995-2007, FPB
    - Used for construction of industry-level offshoring measures
    - Detailed! (59 manufacturing categories)
  - **Belgian firm-level data, 1997-2007**
    - Source Amadeus database
    - Info on employment, wages, OR, sales, fixed assets, age, exit, foreign, industry, consolidation

## Firm (domestic manufacturing firms)

	Obs	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
<i>number of employees</i>	36710	54.6	16	168.0	1	4885
<i>log real operating revenu</i>	36710	14.99	15.04	1.82	7.10	23.11
<i>log real sales</i>	18431	16.33	16.26	1.29	5.64	23.10
<i>log real capital</i>	36710	12.87	12.95	2.00	1.36	20.52
<i>log real wage</i>	36710	10.54	10.55	0.41	3.18	17.24
<i>age</i>	36710	23.64	19	16.46	3	118
<i>exit</i>	36710	0.01	0.00	0.10	0	1
<i>Herfindahl</i>	36710	927.8	705.3	843.9	129.7	9425.6



# Specification

- ‘Upgraded’ first-differenced model

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta l_{it} = & \beta'_1 \Delta w_{it} + \beta'_2 \Delta y_{it} + \beta'_3 \Delta k_{it} + \beta'_4 \Delta \text{off}_{jt}^{\text{down}} \\ & + \beta'_5 \Delta \text{off}_{jt}^m + \beta'_6 \Delta \text{off}_{jt}^s + \beta'_7 \Delta \text{impcomp}_{jt}^{\text{fd}} \\ & + \beta'_8 \text{age}_{it} + \beta'_9 \text{exit} + \delta'_t - \delta'_j - \varepsilon'_{it}\end{aligned}$$

- IV-estimation (wage)

# *Basic specification*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
real wage					
real operating revenue					
real capital					
downstream offshoring					
downstream offshoring (t-1)					
final demand import comp					
final demand import comp (t-1)					
materials offshoring					
materials offshoring (t-1)					
services offshoring					
services offshoring (t-1)					
exit					
age					
Herfindahl					
Time dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Industry dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	36,710	36,710	36,710	36,710	36,710
R-squared	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.398

## *Basic specification*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
real wage	-0.492*** [0.024]	-0.491*** [0.024]	-0.491*** [0.024]	-0.491*** [0.024]	-0.491*** [0.024]
real operating revenue	0.396*** [0.023]	0.396*** [0.023]	0.396*** [0.023]	0.396*** [0.023]	0.396*** [0.023]
real capital	0.058*** [0.005]	0.057*** [0.005]	0.057*** [0.005]	0.058*** [0.005]	0.058*** [0.005]
downstream offshoring		-0.250*** [0.070]	-0.246*** [0.071]	-0.248*** [0.071]	-0.239*** [0.073]
downstream offshoring (t-1)					0.047 [0.083]
final demand import comp			-0.002 [0.010]	-0.001 [0.010]	-0.001 [0.010]
final demand import comp (t-1)					0.001 [0.005]
materials offshoring				-0.066** [0.029]	-0.064** [0.030]
materials offshoring (t-1)					0.010 [0.033]
services offshoring				0.081 [0.230]	0.095 [0.240]
services offshoring (t-1)					0.084 [0.266]
exit	-0.255*** [0.027]	-0.255*** [0.027]	-0.255*** [0.027]	-0.255*** [0.027]	-0.255*** [0.027]
age	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]
Herfindahl	0.002 [0.003]	0.002 [0.003]	0.002 [0.003]	0.001 [0.003]	0.001 [0.003]
Time dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Industry dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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Time dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Industry dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

*Downstream offshoring measurement?*

# Downstream offshoring measurement?

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	<i>within-industry intermediate supply excluded</i>	<i>within-industry intermediate supply included</i>	<i>within-industry intermediate supply excluded, adjustment for final use</i>
<i>1995 weights</i>			
<i>1997 weights</i>			
<i>average weights (95-07)</i>			
<i>time varying weights</i>			
<i>2007 weights</i>			

Downstream offshoring coefficients based on a specification estimated in first differences. Rows refer to different weighting schemes, columns refer to alternative calculations of technical coefficients that are used to construct our measure of downstream offshoring. See the text for full details. Clustered standard errors in brackets; \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

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<i>1995 weights</i>	-0.248*** [0.071]		
<i>1997 weights</i>			
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<i>1995 weights</i>	-0.248*** [0.071]	-0.215*** [0.062]	-0.071*** [0.022]
<i>1997 weights</i>			
<i>average weights (95-07)</i>			
<i>time varying weights</i>			
<i>2007 weights</i>			

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<i>1995 weights</i>	-0.248*** [0.071]	-0.215*** [0.062]	-0.071*** [0.022]
<i>1997 weights</i>	-0.226*** [0.069]	-0.204*** [0.064]	-0.076*** [0.022]
<i>average weights (95-07)</i>	-0.193** [0.093]	-0.182** [0.083]	-0.055** [0.025]
<i>time varying weights</i>	-0.059 [0.103]	-0.012 [0.086]	-0.012 [0.023]
<i>2007 weights</i>	-0.117 [0.093]	-0.119 [0.077]	-0.035 [0.022]

Downstream offshoring coefficients based on a specification estimated in first differences. Rows refer to different weighting schemes, columns refer to alternative calculations of technical coefficients that are used to construct our measure of downstream offshoring. See the text for full details. Clustered standard errors in brackets; \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

*Alternative specifications?*

# Alternative specifications?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	<i>level</i>	<i>level</i>	<i>level</i>	<i>input price</i>	<i>FE</i>	<i>sales</i>	<i>sales</i>	<i>dynamic</i>
	<i>model</i>	<i>model</i>	<i>model</i>	<i>first dif</i>	<i>first dif</i>	<i>first dif</i>	<i>level</i>	<i>level</i>
				<i>model</i>	<i>model</i>	<i>model</i>	<i>model</i>	<i>model</i>

real wage

real operating revenue

real capital

material input prices

real sales

downstream offshoring

final demand import competition

materials offshoring

services offshoring

exit

age

Herfindahl

employment (t-1)











# Alternative specifications?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	<i>level</i> <i>model</i>	<i>level</i> <i>model</i>	<i>level</i> <i>model</i>	<i>input price</i> <i>first dif</i> <i>model</i>	<i>FE</i> <i>first dif</i> <i>model</i>	<i>sales</i> <i>first dif</i> <i>model</i>	<i>sales</i> <i>level</i> <i>model</i>	<i>dynamic</i> <i>level</i> <i>model</i>
real wage	-0.591*** [0.028]	-0.590*** [0.028]	-0.590*** [0.028]	-0.491*** [0.024]	-0.444*** [0.024]	-0.400*** [0.031]	-0.557*** [0.037]	-0.522*** [0.021]
real operating revenue	0.524*** [0.024]	0.523*** [0.024]	0.523*** [0.024]	0.396*** [0.023]	0.361*** [0.023]			0.425*** [0.023]
real capital	0.063*** [0.006]	0.063*** [0.006]	0.063*** [0.006]	0.058*** [0.005]	0.047*** [0.005]	0.072*** [0.009]	0.102*** [0.009]	0.067*** [0.005]
material input prices				-0.027 [0.019]				
real sales						0.321*** [0.027]	0.451*** [0.030]	
downstream offshoring	-0.249** [0.104]	-0.250** [0.103]	-0.252** [0.102]	-0.229*** [0.072]	-0.238*** [0.072]	-0.284*** [0.083]	-0.390*** [0.148]	-0.252** [0.099]
final demand import competition		-0.013*** [0.005]	-0.012** [0.005]	-0.001 [0.010]	0.002 [0.009]	-0.006 [0.010]	-0.015*** [0.005]	0.010 [0.008]
materials offshoring			-0.014 [0.046]	-0.064** [0.029]	-0.076*** [0.029]	-0.044 [0.036]	0.055 [0.063]	-0.006 [0.043]
services offshoring			0.163 [0.332]	0.090 [0.229]	0.162 [0.230]	0.469* [0.276]	-0.081 [0.407]	0.268 [0.314]
exit	-0.251*** [0.034]	-0.251*** [0.034]	-0.251*** [0.034]	-0.255*** [0.027]	-0.218*** [0.033]	-0.373*** [0.054]	-0.303*** [0.067]	-0.175*** [0.027]
age	-0.011** [0.004]	-0.010** [0.004]	-0.011** [0.004]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.025*** [0.006]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.012** [0.006]	-0.013*** [0.002]
Herfindahl	-0.009 [0.007]	-0.008 [0.007]	-0.007 [0.007]	0.001 [0.003]	0.002 [0.003]	0.006 [0.004]	0.001 [0.009]	0.008 [0.005]
employment (t-1)								0.497*** [0.025]

*Different samples?*

# Different samples?

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<i>sample</i>				<i>balanced</i>	<i>non-exit</i>	<i>exit</i>	<i>exiter</i>
<i>starts 1999</i>	<i>starts2001</i>	<i>ends 2003</i>	<i>ends 2005</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>interaction</i>	<i>interaction</i>

real wage

real operating revenu

real capital

downstream offshoring

downstream offshoring\*exit(er)

final demand import competition

materials offshoring

services offshoring

exit

exiter

age

Herfindahl

# Different samples?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	<i>sample</i>				<i>balanced</i>	<i>non-exit</i>	<i>exit</i>	<i>exiter</i>
	<i>starts 1999</i>	<i>starts2001</i>	<i>ends 2003</i>	<i>ends 2005</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>interaction</i>	<i>interaction</i>
real wage	-0.590*** [0.041]	-0.645*** [0.047]	-0.481*** [0.030]	-0.491*** [0.026]				
real operating revenue	0.389*** [0.021]	0.338*** [0.022]	0.392*** [0.031]	0.396*** [0.027]				
real capital	0.050*** [0.005]	0.039*** [0.005]	0.064*** [0.006]	0.061*** [0.005]				
downstream offshoring	-0.258*** [0.072]	-0.358*** [0.101]	-0.188** [0.095]	-0.253*** [0.078]				
downstream offshoring*exit(er)								
final demand import competition	-0.002 [0.009]	0.001 [0.008]	-0.010 [0.009]	0.005 [0.007]				
materials offshoring	-0.074** [0.030]	-0.098** [0.044]	-0.074* [0.039]	-0.053* [0.031]				
services offshoring	0.043 [0.242]	-0.387 [0.320]	0.026 [0.312]	0.147 [0.233]				
exit	-0.279*** [0.028]	-0.324*** [0.032]	-0.216*** [0.033]	-0.238*** [0.030]				
exiter								
age	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]				
Herfindahl	0.003 [0.004]	0.001 [0.005]	0.003 [0.004]	0.002 [0.004]				

# Different samples?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	<i>sample</i>				<i>balanced</i>	<i>non-exit</i>	<i>exit</i>	<i>exiter</i>
	<i>starts 1999</i>	<i>starts2001</i>	<i>ends 2003</i>	<i>ends 2005</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>interaction</i>	<i>interaction</i>
real wage	-0.590*** [0.041]	-0.645*** [0.047]	-0.481*** [0.030]	-0.491*** [0.026]	-0.488*** [0.028]	-0.504*** [0.026]	-0.491*** [0.024]	-0.496*** [0.024]
real operating revenue	0.389*** [0.021]	0.338*** [0.022]	0.392*** [0.031]	0.396*** [0.027]	0.401*** [0.029]	0.408*** [0.027]	0.396*** [0.023]	0.401*** [0.023]
real capital	0.050*** [0.005]	0.039*** [0.005]	0.064*** [0.006]	0.061*** [0.005]	0.054*** [0.005]	0.056*** [0.004]	0.058*** [0.005]	0.058*** [0.005]
downstream offshoring	-0.258*** [0.072]	-0.358*** [0.101]	-0.188** [0.095]	-0.253*** [0.078]	-0.175*** [0.063]	-0.181*** [0.062]	-0.242*** [0.070]	-0.218*** [0.065]
downstream offshoring*exit(er)							-0.622 [1.366]	-0.391 [0.393]
final demand import competition	-0.002 [0.009]	0.001 [0.008]	-0.010 [0.009]	0.005 [0.007]	0.002 [0.006]	-0.004 [0.007]	-0.001 [0.010]	-0.000 [0.010]
materials offshoring	-0.074** [0.030]	-0.098** [0.044]	-0.074* [0.039]	-0.053* [0.031]	-0.070** [0.030]	-0.075*** [0.028]	-0.067** [0.029]	-0.064** [0.029]
services offshoring	0.043 [0.242]	-0.387 [0.320]	0.026 [0.312]	0.147 [0.233]	0.264 [0.228]	0.205 [0.221]	0.079 [0.229]	0.091 [0.229]
exit	-0.279*** [0.028]	-0.324*** [0.032]	-0.216*** [0.033]	-0.238*** [0.030]			-0.254*** [0.027]	
exiter								-0.072*** [0.007]
age	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]	-0.001*** [0.000]
Herfindahl	0.003 [0.004]	0.001 [0.005]	0.003 [0.004]	0.002 [0.004]	-0.000 [0.003]	-0.002 [0.003]	0.001 [0.003]	0.001 [0.003]

# Size?

numbers:

- coefficient of -0.25
  - one standard deviation increase in  $off^{down}$  results in a decrease of employment of 1.53%
  - increase of 0.0181 in downstream offshoring between 1997 and 2007
    - ⇒ 10.3% of net in sample job loss over 97-07

# Conclusion

- Downstream offshoring seems to be a significant channel of employment effects of offshoring for domestic Belgian manufacturing firms
  - significant throughout all robustness checks
- Industry level offshoring of manufacturing inputs and final demand import competition seem to have a negative impact, but not robust to different specifications
- Industry level offshoring of services inputs is insignificant